



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry of Tourism, Public Transport and the Port
Suite 631
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Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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GIBRALTAR INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

The first Gibraltar International Literary Festival will take place from 25th to 27th October 2013. The Festival, which will form part of our annual calendar of cultural events, will bring together a number of world-renowned writers who will take part in debates, discussions, interviews and talks on a variety of subjects.

The announcement follows discussions with the organisers of The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival and The Blenheim Palace Literary Festival at Woodstock, who have been contracted as special advisers to the Gibraltar Festival. An agreement was entered into with the advisers during a recent visit by the Hon Neil Costa, Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port, to the Festival at Woodstock. There, the Minister also met with authors Lord (Paddy) Ashdown, John Julius Norwich and Paul Preston and cookery writers Madhur Jaffrey and Ken Hom. All have indicated their interest in being part of the Gibraltar Festival. Local authors will also be invited to participate.

The headquarters of the Festival will be established in the Garrison Library, which will also be used for some of the events in the programme. Other venues around Gibraltar will also be used.

Present in Gibraltar for the announcement of the Festival are historians Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch and Professor Sir Paul Mellars and Donald Sloan.

“I am thrilled that the idea of establishing a literary festival in Gibraltar has come to fruition”, said the Hon Neil Costa. “With its rich cultural heritage, Gibraltar is perfectly well placed to host such a prestigious event. A testament to its potential success is the amount of positive interest that our conversations of the last few months have generated. The Festival will be designed to ensure it appeals to a wide spectrum of interests for both young and old. The event is another example of the Government’s commitment to increase event tourism to Gibraltar.”

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch is a leading church historian and television presenter and is famous for his six-part BBC 2 television series, *A History of Christianity, the First Three Thousand Years*. He is Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford University. Other books include *Reformation: Europe's House Divided 1490-1700*; *Christian History: An Introduction to the Western Tradition*. His forthcoming book is *Silence in Christian History*.

Donald Sloan is co-founder and Chair of Oxford Gastronomica which is based within the Oxford School of Hospitality Management, at Oxford Brookes University

Food and drink, and the rituals surrounding their consumption, lie at the very heart of our cultures. Through academic enquiry, educational provision and consultancy, Oxford Gastronomica, a specialist centre for the study of food, drink and culture, works to enhance our relationship with food and drink, and to celebrate their place in our lives.

Professor Sir Paul Mellars is Emeritus Professor of Pre-History and Human Evolution at The University of Cambridge. Former Master of Corpus Christi College. Fellow of The British Academy. He has visited Gibraltar three times in relation to its Neanderthal remains.