



Deputy Chief Minister

PRESS RELEASE

No: 685/2015

Date: Monday 5th October 2015

Honouring a Generation: Thousands of Evacuation books distributed to schoolchildren

The Government has now distributed over 5500 books on the wartime Evacuation to all Government schools and to the College of Further Education.

These have already been handed out to schoolchildren by some schools and will be used as the basis for lessons on the evacuation by others.

The remainder of the books will be made available by the Government on a first come first served basis at the offices of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust in John Mackintosh Square as from today Monday 5 October. The opening times of the office are 9.00am to 2.00pm. The books are free of charge and will initially be limited to one per person.

The book was published by the Government to mark the 75th anniversary of the evacuation of women, children, the elderly and the infirm from Gibraltar in a process which started in May 1940 and did not come to a close until the last Gibraltarians were repatriated in 1951.

Commenting on the distribution to our schools, the Minister for Education Gilbert Licudi said: "This will help our younger generation understand how so many Gibraltarians were uprooted and transported far away sometimes with only what you could carry in a suitcase. It is part of our local history and has undoubtedly helped to forge our psyche as a people. The books are another example of how local history is being introduced into our schools."

The Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia, who has led for the Government on the different Evacuation projects said:

"I would like to thank my colleague the Minister for Education, the Department and the schools for the evident enthusiasm with which they have taken the books on board. I am also grateful to my office who organised and carried out the entire distribution. The Government would also like to thank the Heritage Trust for agreeing to give out the last batch of books from their centrally located headquarters in John Mackintosh Square. This is yet another example of the close cooperation and positive relationship that exists between the Government and the Trust.

We were determined to make sure that this watershed in the evolution of the people of Gibraltar was properly marked in its 75th year and I think we have achieved that. The exhibition and the Memorial event in May were both very well attended and the concert last month was a great success. It is important to remember the Evacuation, to honour those who made the sacrifice in wartime and also to make sure that future generations of Gibraltarians are made aware of these traumatic events.”