



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20051739; Email: pressoffice@gibraltar.gov.gi

PRESS RELEASE

No: 105/2015

Date: 23rd February 2015

HMGOG and the Trustees of the Calpe House Trust Announce a New Calpe House for GHA Sponsored Patients

- Capacity will increase from 8 ensuite bedrooms to 36
- The Calpe House Trust will continue to Own & Operate the facility
- Government is fully supporting the acquisition by the Trustees

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar and the Trustees of the Calpe House Trust are pleased to announce the acquisition of a new set of buildings in London.

The development which will see the amount of space available for sponsored patients more than quadrupled from the 8 ensuite rooms available now to 36.

The new facilities are located in Norfolk Square, a short distance from St Mary's Hospital.

The Trust is exchanging contracts on the acquisition of the new buildings and is being supported by the Government in the bridging finance necessary to exchange and complete the purchase of the new buildings.

These will require extensive refurbishment to become the 36 modern and entirely ensuite, facilities which the Trust wants to be able to offer Gibraltar sponsored patients.

The old Calpe House buildings in Princes Square in Bayswater were acquired by the Calpe House Trust and have been a home away from home for Gibraltarian patients of the Gibraltar Health Authority since 1989. The original acquisition was made possible by the extraordinary fund raising efforts of the original Trustees the support of the GSLP Government with Hon Joe Bossano then as Chief Minister pledging that the Government would match each pound raised by the charity.

Calpe House will continue to be run by the Trust with the support of the GHA Sponsored Patients Department.

The Trustees and the Government will hold a press conference on Monday at midday at No6 Convent Place.

Chairman of the Trustees, Mr Charles Tilbury, said: "The Trust has come a long way since we dared to dream of offering a home away from home for Gibraltarians in London some twenty five years ago. We have already provided a facility that has been a lifeline for many to over five thousand Gibraltarian GHA sponsored patients. This next step in the acquisition of the new buildings is a very positive development and will enable us to modernise the service we offer and more than quadruple the number of ensuite rooms available. We are very much looking forward to finalising the acquisition and starting the refurbishment. In doing so, we will once again be looking to rely on the generosity of the whole of our Community."

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP said: "I am delighted that we are going to be able to financially support the acquisition by Calpe House of the new facilities in Norfolk Square. This is a huge step forward and it is a particular pleasure to see this charity flourish and expand in this way once again. Calpe House immediately it was launched, became a part of Gibraltar and all the Community took to heart the Trust's purpose of offering a home away from home for Gibraltarians who were GHA sponsored patients in London. The service provided this first successful quarter of a century, has been exactly what was required and if there was an issue with Calpe House it has been that it quickly became a victim of its success and there was often not enough space for those who needed the accommodation. As we increase the offer of services available to Sponsored Patients in London, expanding the room at Calpe House in supporting the Trustee's expansion programme is an absolute pleasure. This is one of my proudest moments as Chief Minister and one thing I sincerely believe everyone in our Community will be able to unequivocally support. A sincere 'Thank You' from the whole of Gibraltar to all the Trustees for the excellent work and service they have provided our people this first quarter century of their operations."

Notes to Editors:

- Background on The Calpe House Charitable Trust and Calpe House follows below:
- Calpe House is a home-away-from-home for the residents of Gibraltar who are undergoing medical treatment in London
- The Calpe House Charitable Trust is a charity registered in Gibraltar and in England. Its aim is to run a home in London for the benefit of patients referred to London hospitals by the Gibraltar Health Authority.
- The present Calpe House is an end of terrace building at 47 Princes Square, Bayswater, W2 4PX. The five storey building has two bedrooms and a shared sitting room, kitchen and bathroom on each floor, and two separate flats in the basement.
- Up to twelve families can stay at Calpe House at any given time, but even so, due to the huge demand, it cannot house everybody that needs accommodation in London whilst a GHA sponsored patient.

The Trustees of the Calpe House Charitable Trust are:

Charles Tilbury, Chairman
Olga Zammit
George Desoiza
Albert Poggio
Charles Marfe
Beverly Black
Lord Hoyle

The Friends of Calpe House

The Friends of Calpe House was registered as a charity in order to assist the Trustees in meeting the cost of running the home. Although the Government of Gibraltar is one of the main supporters in funding the running of the home, money raised through private donations is still required to make ends meet. Membership fees provide a valuable regular income for the Trust and other fund raising activities, such as Flag Days, Fun Days, and so on, are organised by the committee.

The Friends hold an Annual General Meeting which members and the public are urged to attend. Anyone wishing to give further of their time may seek nomination to the Committee at the next Meeting of the Friends.