



GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Newsletter

Autumn 1991

EXCERPTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

(delivered on 13th June 1991 by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
Joshua J. Gabay MA (Oxon)).

1. As we review the performance of the Trust and its functions since our last Annual Meeting in October 1990, we note a distinctive trend in the growing influence of the Trust in a variety of fields. The basis for this trend was firmly established during our first year of operation through persistent effort and clear vision. On the practical level, a number of fruitful initiatives were taken, such as the enhancement of Trafalgar Cemetery, the refurbishment of Rosia Guardhouse, the reconstruction of City Gates, the establishment of the Bacarisas Gallery, the inauguration of Trust Offices and the recovery of a variety of cannon from building sites. On the theoretical level, we have consolidated a philosophy of heritage that embraces our identity - a philosophy that regards our architectural monuments as the very mirror of a unique national personality. This dual focus on the practical and the philosophical I have dealt with at length and in depth in the media and in conference speeches and we have noticed interesting repercussions in the form of expanded public consciousness of the complementary facets of the heritage compound.
2. Let me turn at this point to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society. The Society constitutes an important pillar of support in the UK. The Patron is His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester and the President is Sir Eldon Griffiths. Vice-Presidents include the Archbishop of Southwark, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Varyl Begg, Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, Admiral Sir David Williams and General Sir William Jackson, as well as the renowned Gibraltarian song-writer Albert Hammond. Sir William Jackson, former Governor, distinguished historian, and, above all, a true friend of our people, plays a leading role as Chairman. We are indeed indebted to him for the persistence of his efforts on our behalf.
3. The Gibraltar Museum requires special mention. After the drastic administrative changes brought about by the 1989 Ordinance (whereby responsibility is shared by the Trust and the Tourist Agency) the difficult process of adaptation to the new requirements of the law has been as smooth as possible and despite inevitable anxieties, the Museum has continued to expand in the form of the Bacarisas Gallery and every likelihood of further

expansion into adjacent buildings. This has only been possible through the understanding of the Chief Minister and the financial support of the Minister for Tourism. No mention of the Museum is ever complete without reference to the Curator Joaquin Bensusan. His many skills and selfless dedication throughout so many years are known to us all. The Museum has been primarily the labour of love of one man. As a result of administrative changes, the last couple of years have not been easy for Joaquin Bensusan and yet he has shown throughout the virtues of a stoic. As he nears retirement, we are aware of the impending loss, but we confidently trust that his vast experience and love for the Museum will still be available to us in his capacity as a Trustee. However, we need to look forward to a new era for the Museum. Dr Clive Finlayson, the Curator Designate, is a man with high academic credentials and above that it was made an absolute requirement that he should obtain a Curator's degree at Leicester University. As was to be expected, he has acquitted himself with great distinction, and we look forward to his contribution towards the care and expansion of the Collection which is, by Ordinance, the responsibility of the Trust.

4. It is also under the auspices of the Trust that archaeological excavation is currently going on at Gorham's Cave. A team of experts, under the direction of Dr Jill Cook, Keeper of the Quaternary Section of the British Museum, is hard at work. Involved in the research work are archaeologists from a variety of countries who enrich the project with highly specialised scientific knowledge. But most encouraging is the participation of local scholars, such as Dr Finlayson in bird ecology, Dr Cortes in terrestrial ecology, Dr Darren Fa in marine ecology and Mr Alex Menez in mollusca. Commendable as well is the group of Members toiling down in the Cave in support of Dr Cook.

There is every reason to believe that the work might make a significant contribution to scholarly research on questions of the behaviour and capabilities of Neanderthal Man, his extinction, the peopling of Europe by fully modern humans and environmental change in Southern Europe during the late Pleistocene period. These are matters of great historical consequence and Gibraltar offers unique possibilities in academic attempts to solve many an enigma.

5. On the level of political contacts, we were pleased that the Gibraltar Group of MPs expressed a desire to meet members of the Board and a lengthy, wide-ranging discussion took place. We stressed the need for tangible help in the conservation of our monuments; they represent a bi-national heritage in which we are by far the smaller and less wealthy partner; if pride is shared in the conservation of such heritage (so symbolical of the grandeur of a Pax Britanica) words of sympathy are not quite enough. A small community



such as ours, subject to a wind of change and limited resources, will find it very difficult to cope adequately with the extensive demands of conservation in a City so steeped in history. Their Chairman, Mr Michael Colvin, offered his services and emphasised his commitment to help wherever possible in the political hierarchy.

6. The Heritage Movement, because of the reasons I have given and because of the many personalities involved as well as a substantial membership, has gone well beyond the statutory obligations of the Trust and well beyond the rigid limitations of the Ordinance. Some of that effort has been in the forefront of public life, more so it has been in the corridors of power where much persistence and pressure has characterised that effort. Despite the pressing and understandable priorities of a vigorous Government, more and more heed is being paid to our concerns. Even at a time when we are going through crucial transformations in the economy, when major development schemes are the order of the day, reassuring remarks have been coming from Government Ministers with regard to heritage and the environment. It is up to all of us to fan that flame of interest; it is up to us all to continue to work with ideals in mind - but yet ideals tempered by reasonableness of approach and balance of judgment.

7. The future shape of Gibraltar will not be solely the product of a governmental blue print - it is more likely to be the result of public will and public involvement within an established framework. The Channels are opening up and it is up to us to move confidently along those channels and widen their scope. Representation of the Trust in the Planning and Development Commission is a landmark in the process of public participation and for this much credit goes to the Government as well as the diligence of the Trust. As it is constituted today, the Trust is apolitical and free from party politics. We feel free to criticise vehemently the powers that be when the need arises - it is our duty and our right. Equally so, we feel free to commend and cooperate when a line of action is deemed appropriate. Heritage conservation is dear to us; this is why we are so deeply committed. However, it would be folly to consider it the only dimension of life. Life is complex and multi-faceted. Our element is essential but it must be put into relief within a context of important competing forces. To make of heritage a monolithic imperative is to implant the very seed for its destruction.

8. Allow me to digress a little, after this list of names, on the theme of art and heritage. There should be an inextricable bond between the two. The artistic representations of our monuments, whatever the medium, serve to focus attention on original angles and indigenous interpretations. Some capture the essence of the spirit and individuality of our monuments,



landscapes and seascapes. For this reason, we would want to establish and promote the involvement of local artists in the heritage movement. There is an exciting role for them to play in the domain of aesthetics and interpretation.

This year's Painting Competition was a great success. The theme was Wellington Front and it attracted many established artists and, very significantly, many a young and promising painter. I single out this event because it also spans the dividing line between sensitive art and practical steps. The Trust has rejected plans that would have diminished the noble structure of the Front and pursued (with the cooperation of Mr Pilcher and Mr Feetham) the study of an alternative plan that would provide a promenade, suitably restored and enhanced, that would link with the Line Wall Boulevard right up to Hambros Bank. It is the intention of the Trust to work towards the uncluttering and restoration of the City Walls - perhaps the major characteristic of our Town. We must try and emulate the care and pride that other walled Cities take in their historic defences - Avila and Carcassone come readily to mind.

9. We are indeed fortunate in having His Excellency the Governor as our Patron. Without being cynical in my remark, it must be admitted that quite often the incidence of a distinguished Patron becomes a mere dignity or a social embellishment. In the case of His Excellency, his active help and his constant concern are a source of comfort and encouragement, and much has been achieved through his direct involvement. Despite his many commitments, he always finds time to come to our help in a creative manner. It is therefore my duty and my pleasure to express our gratitude to His Excellency, as well as to Lady Reffell.

NB Full copies of the Annual Report may be obtained at the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Office, Wellington Front (price £2).

Recall my usual message:

"Our heritage is the mirror of our identity, the symbol of our history and a reminder to future generations of what it is to be a Gibraltarian. Help the Trust in its mission to achieve the widest possible recognition in the community by encouraging friends and relatives to become members of the Trust. Whether Gibraltar sinks into the anonymity of senseless development or whether it retains its historic charm, is up to each individual".

So please renew your subscriptions and encourage friends and family to become members. You may do so at the Trust's office in Wellington Front (opening hours Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm) or at



the Gibraltar Museum (opening hours 10 am to 6 pm weekdays; 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays). You may also renew your membership by mail, enclosing your cheque and quoting your name and membership number.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

The events which have been organised for the period October to December are the following:

Saturday 19th October	Tunnel Tour
Tuesday 22nd October	Talk on the City Plan
Tuesday 12th November	Unveiling of Plaque at Trafalgar Cemetery
Saturday 16th November	Outing to Windmill Hill
Tuesday 26th November	Talk on French Fortifications
Saturday 7th December	Tour of Places of Worship

Please note that members wishing to attend these outings should register their names at the Gibraltar Museum either in person or by ringing 74289.

The talks will be held at John Mackintosh Hall and will commence at 8.30 pm.

NB A special fund-raising ball will take place in the UK on Thursday 28 November 1991. Members are encouraged to apply for tickets, using the form included in this newsletter.

TUNNEL TOUR

Date: Saturday 19 October
Venue: Meet at Hole in the Wall Police Post Southern end of Dudley Ward Tunnel
Time: 9.00 am/11 am (Two groups)
This tour has been organised by kind permission of Capt John Davies of Fortress Headquarters. The tour will visit MOD tunnels at the Southern end of the Rock and will include visits to
Monkey's Cave Convalescent Hospital
Arrow Street - a series of workshops, observation platforms, storage chambers and accommodation chambers connected by a lorry-sized access tunnel



REME chambers - workshop and storage area. The largest chamber in the tunnel system.

The tour starts and finishes at the Hole in the Wall Police Post. No parking is available at the police post, but lots of room along Europa Advance Road.

Members are reminded to wear comfortable walking shoes and to bring torches. No cameras are allowed. No children below the age of 10 will be allowed due to the limits of insurance cover. Members attending must pay £1 for insurance cover.

Due to the nature of the outing, members are limited to two groups of 30 maximum. The first group will commence the tour at 0900 am and the second at 11 am. Each tour will last approximately 1.5 hours.

Please contact the Gibraltar museum to enrol, either in person or by telephone (74289).

TALK ON THE CITY PLAN

Date: Tuesday 22nd October
Venue: John Mackintosh Hall
Time: 8.30 pm

Earlier this year, there was an exhibition of the draft City Plan, and members of the public were invited to express their views and make comments on it. The final plan is now in the process of being prepared.

The Trust is delighted that Mr Paul Origo, Town Planner at the Department of Trade and Industry, will be addressing us on the concept of the plan, how it has developed, and what the revised plan sets out to achieve. Members will recall that two of the principal ideas behind the draft plan was the introduction of a number of development zones, which would each receive separate treatment; and the identification of an Urban Renewal programme for the old city.

This meeting will offer a valuable opportunity to all members to express their views direct to the Town Planner and to hear what is envisaged for the future of Gibraltar.

The City Plan will be the blueprint for the intended development of Gibraltar, and this must include the protection of our principal monuments and indeed of our unique architectural vernacular. This meeting must therefore be of substantial interest to all members.



OUTING TO WINDMILL HILL

Date: Saturday 16th November
Venue: Lathbury Barracks, Entry Post
Time: 10.30 am

This outing has been organised by kind permission of the Commanding Officer of the Gibraltar Regiment, and in conjunction with the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society. The meeting point will be at the junction of the road leading to Lathbury Barracks with Europa Road.

Windmill Hill is a fascinating area, both on account of its natural history and of the military fortifications. Two of our experts in these matters, Dr John Cortes and Mr Lionel Culatto, will point out the most interesting features. These include 18th Century defences, and two of the four Russian Guns which were given to Gibraltar. (The other two are the ones on display at the Line Wall Road War Memorial).

The geological significance of Windmill Hill will also be explained, and some of the interesting habitats and flora will be identified for members.

The visit will include a fair amount of walking, so comfortable walking shoes suitable for fairly rough terrain are advisable. Children are welcome, provided they are accompanied by an adult.

UNVEILING OF PLAQUE AT TRAFALGAR CEMETERY

Date: Tuesday 12 November
Venue: Trafalgar Cemetery
Time: To be announced

As most of you will agree, Trafalgar Cemetery has been much enhanced since the Trust assumed responsibility for its upkeep. The respect due to this historic site has been recovered and a fine example of care is being set.

The generous financial assistance the Trust has received from the Cunard Line (Trafalgar House) has been a major contribution towards the pleasing transformation.

In order to express our appreciation, HE the Governor Admiral Sir Derek Reffell KCB, will be unveiling a plaque in recognition of the generosity shown by Cunard. Tuesday 12 November has been chosen for the ceremony because



the Cunard Princess will be making her inaugural call at Gibraltar and her Master, Captain Keith Stanley, will be present on this occasion.

It is of interest to note that the Cunard Princess was used in the support of troops during Operation Desert Storm and that Captain Stanley received honourable mention from General Schwarzkopf. Besides, Cunard has been visiting Gibraltar for some hundred years and has a natural affinity with the Rock and its heritage. The Trust is proud of this traditional bond.

Although of necessity invitations will be restricted, members are encouraged to watch the proceedings from the periphery.

SOME FRENCH FORTIFICATIONS COMPARED WITH THOSE IN GIBRALTAR

Date: Tuesday 26 November
Venue: John Mackintosh Hall
Time: 8.30 pm

Lionel Culatto, a recently elected committee member of the Fortress Study Group, an international organisation concerned with gunpowder fortifications, will give a talk supported with slides illustrating some fortifications in the South West of France including the Charente Maritime, comparing them to the extensive fortifications designed by Marshal Vauban, one of the most respected Military Engineers of modern times. Not to be missed.

VISIT TO CITY CENTRE HISTORICAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

Date: Saturday 7 December
Venue: West entrance of Holy Trinity Cathedral
Time: 10.30 am

This event will conclude the visits to the principal places of worship, begun earlier on in the year with tours of the synagogues and the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned. The itinerary on this occasion will include visits to King's Chapel; the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity; St Andrew's Church of Scotland; and the Methodist Church.

Familiarity breeds contempt, it is said. Perhaps for this reason, we do not attach as much significance as we should to our principal historical Places of Worship. The morning ramble will help to remedy this. Each of these beautiful and fascinating churches holds a very special place in the history and development of Gibraltar, from the 16th Century onwards.



The history of each church will be briefly explained, and points of interest will be elucidated. One of the leaders of this tour will be Mr Richard Garcia, one of the Trustees. The rendezvous will be outside Holy Trinity Cathedral (West entrance).

Following the elections held at the Annual General Meeting and the nominations made by HE the Governor (as prescribed by Ordinance) the composition of the Board of Trustees is as follows:

LIST OF TRUSTEES

Joshua Gabay (Chairman)	6 Sunnyside House, Naval Hospital Road, Tel: 78720
George Felipes (Vice Chairman)	56 Governor's Street Tel 74850 (work) 77639 (home)
Joaquin Bensusan	18 - 20 Bomb House Lane Tel 74289
Eric Shaw	18 Gavino's Dwellings Tel 73719 (work) 70094 (home)
Marjorie Hoare	1 Sunnyside House Tel 75847
Richard Garcia	302 Main Street Tel 72289 (work) 40389 (home)
Tommy Finlayson	21 Sandpits House, Upper Witham's Road Tel 79461 (work) 73582 (home)
Lionel Culatto	9-3 Horse Barrack Lane Tel 78363 (work) 74096 (home)
John Cortes	8/8 Buena Vista, Tel 76818 (home)
Eric Canessa	501 Trafalgar House, Rosia Road Tel 72172
Jill Keohane	c/o AG Office 17 Town Range Tel 78882
John Langdon	17a St Bernard's Road Tel 73890



LIST OF OFFICIALS

Katie Dawson 510 Neptune House Tel 78808 (work)
(*Secretary*) 78916 (home)

Joseph Canessa 9 Scud Hill Steps Tel 74469 (home)
(*Treasurer*)

Clive Finlayson Gibraltar Museum 18-20 Bomb House Lane
(*Curator*) Tel 74289 (work) 71918 (home)

MEMBERS

The number of members now stands at 1,200

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Help your Trust by purchasing your Xmas Cards from the fine collection advertised in the enclosed brochures.



MEMORABLE QUOTATIONS

".... In a rapidly changing world an historic town cannot survive unless there is popular support and understanding of the purpose and strategy for conservation!"

*HRH The Duke of
Gloucester GCVO*

".... I think that there should be a great deal of thought given to each project to ensure that a little of our identity does not end up on the rubble every time the ball and chain takes a swing!... The importance of our unique identity can only be saved by making absolutely sure that our city maintains its own uniqueness together with that of its people".

Albert Hammond

".... no nation, any more than a single individual, has the right to dispose at will of property that may concern men of tomorrow as well as men of today".

*Source: "Pictures from a Living Past"
UNESCO 78*

Alluding to some of Gibraltar's historic buildings

".... In the context of British Naval History, Gibraltar's Victualling Yard and its setting at Rosia, etc are also of "International Importance".

Jonathan Coad FSA

*Inspector of Ancient Monuments & Historic Buildings (English Heritage)
Vice President of the Society of Nautical Research*

"The past could be Gibraltar's "growth industry" for the 21st century".

The Times

Referring to Britain's Heritage

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

The trust would like to thank CEP SA (GIB) LTD for their
generous sponsorship of this publication