



# GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Newsletter

Winter/Spring 1992

## *EXCERPTS FROM THE HERITAGE BALL SPEECH*

(delivered on 28th November 1991 by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Joshua J. Gabay MA (Oxon), in the presence of HE the Governor Sir Derek Reffell KCB, the Hon. Tristan Garel-Jones Minister of State, General Sir William Jackson, Chairman of UK Friends of Heritage and over two hundred distinguished guests).

1. The work of the Trust is undertaken in a purely honorary capacity and the burden is considerable. We function under an Ordinance that is very liberal in its dispensation of august responsibilities but rather parsimonious in the provision of powers or subsidies. Nevertheless, much has been achieved during the last two years by vigorous effort on a variety of fronts....
2. First and foremost, we have increased public awareness of our heritage by means of a multi-faceted programme of activities. Closely involved have been distinguished scholars from abroad, MOD participation, ministerial addresses as well as local talent and expertise. We attach much importance to public consciousness and we are heartened by the favourable response and growing membership. We are firm believers that there is generally far more wisdom in the public will than there is in bureaucratic blue-prints.....
3. At a practical level, we have undertaken a number of tasks directly: ranging from the refurbishment of guard houses to the repair of City Gates. But amongst these, I must single out Trafalgar Cemetery. For a variety of reasons, this hallowed and historic site had been allowed to deteriorate into part jungle and part dump. To such a degree was this so, that a justified feeling of outrage was voiced in the press, both in Gibraltar and in the UK. Today, I am pleased to say, that as a result of the initiatives of the Trust, the Cemetery is recovering its former dignity and evocative ambience. Last month, when the traditional service of Remembrance was held for those who perished at the Battle of Trafalgar, the stirring message from Admiral Collingwood was read out in a setting of which we can all be proud. This, let it be said, would not have been possible, had it not been for the assistance of HE The Governor, the Minister of Tourism and the generosity of Cunard Line. Forgive me if I have laboured this point, but there is a pointed moral here: The prescription for success requires the active participation of HM Government, the Gibraltar Government and major companies operating in Gibraltar. If all proclaim 'poverty', the inevitable result will be degeneration and shame.....
4. I can never resist the opportunity to digress on my vision of conservation. I see it as a concept in which are intertwined the threads of realism, identity and survival. I have never viewed - or ever will view - conservation as the monopoly of narrow-minded élitist clique, enjoying some form of neurotic catharsis, in relentless screams of desecration. The approach must of necessity be balanced, creative and endowed with a sense of compromise. It is as a result of this patient and insistent focus that we have acquired credibility and a democratic base, noticeable in our large membership and governmental attitudes. It is this via media that we should continue to promote, within the parameters of well-known political and economic realities. Unlike Don



Quijote, however chivalrous his intentions, we must not transform windmills into giants or country wenches into grand princesses. Unlike Sancho Panza too, we must learn to transcend imaginatively grovelling reality and myopic expectations. The exact measure of idealism and realism is never easy to achieve, but we might do worse than ponder on the universal values of Cervante's masterpiece. Come to think of it, our larger Iberian neighbour might also draw some profit from the adventures of their immortal hero!!.....

5. At this junction in our history, it would be folly to underestimate the urgency of economic viability and political conviction. Of this we are constantly reminded by our dynamic Chief Minister. In this process, conservation should not lag far behind. The quest for identifiable peoplehood must take account of the tangible features of our heritage that rise up all around us.....

6. Gibraltar is a historic town, we as a people have been fashioned by that history, we as a people owe it to ourselves and the generations to come to protect that history. Our historic monuments mirror our identity as a people. For generations we have lived under the shadow of guns, we have been molded by the exigencies of a fortress town, we want the remarkable symbols of this experience to survive and tell our story. The task is daunting on all fronts - aptly referred to by Sir William as our Battle of Britain - but with our history of sieges we are well equipped with indomitable will.....

7. This is hardly the moment to expound on the constituents of our national personality but, to put it in a nutshell, the spinal cord of our communal personality is the British tradition: its democratic values, its institutions, its customs; further enriched by an amalgam of ethnic attributes, evolving into a type, incontrovertible in its identity and resolute in its poise. The political malevolence of our larger neighbour will never alter this fact of history.....

8. The way ahead must lie in the realisation of a major project - A project of the magnitude of the WW2 tunnels, the Northern Defences, Parson's Lodge or King's Bastion. Their potential is undoubted; eloquent evidence is afforded by the Save Report and a succession of eminent advisers, from Lord Eden to Howard Taylor of Jorvik. To expedite success, the three major role-players must come to the forefront: HM Government, the Gibraltar Government and major firms.....

9. With regard to HM Government - the senior partner in this epic story of shared glory and shared sacrifice - tangible assistance would not be misplaced. Much of the architecture of the Rock is military and reflects the grandeur of the largest empire the world has known; every inch of the Rock bears the imprint of a remarkable period of history. Its conservation should be as dear to the hearts of Britons as it is to the hearts of Gibraltarians. The junior partner feels entitled to a degree of material assistance in the field of conservation. Within the parameters of the prospective Gibraltar Heritage Plan, mentioned by Sir William, there should be ample scope for such assistance.....

10. A word of tribute to the Board of Trustees. The twelve Trustees, all of whom lead very busy lives, make a remarkable effort to further the ideals of the Trust. They are knowledgeable and committed, and persevere in their allotted tasks. We are of course particularly fortunate in having Your Excellency as our Patron and I would like formally to express our deep gratitude to you for your constant encouragement of our cause, your tempered advice and active help. We feel secure in your attachment to Gibraltar and your understanding of our aspirations.....

*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 10am to 1pm) or at the Gibraltar Museum (opening hours 10am to 6pm weekdays; 10am to 2pm Saturdays). You may also renew your membership by mail, enclosing your cheque and quoting your name and membership number.

#### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

The Winter and Spring Season of outings and talks for members of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust has now been finalised. The following are the dates for your diary:

Saturday 18th January	SAT 8TH FEB	An introduction to the work of Gustavo Bacarissas
Tuesday 28th January		A talk on the Alameda Gardens
Thursday 13th February		Talk on French Fortifications
Saturday 22nd February		A visit to the Moorish Castle and the Moorish Walls
Tuesday 10th March		A talk on the work of the Gibraltar Museum
Saturday 21st March		World War II Tunnels Tour - a further selection
Thursday 9th April		A talk on Gibraltar's flora
Saturday 18th April		An outing to Europa Flats
Friday 1st May		3rd Annual Heritage Painting competition
Tuesday 5th May		A talk on Gibraltar's coinage
Saturday 16th May		Visit to the 9.2" Guns at O'Hara's Battery
Saturday 6th June		Annual "pilgrimage" to the Northern Defences
Thursday 11th June		Annual General meeting of the Trust

As the Calendar of Events has to be completed many months in advance, some of the items in this programme may change and there may be additional events organised. Notification of such changes will be given by the news media.

A brief description of each of the items on the programme now follows:

#### PROGRAMME OF OUTINGS

Saturday 18th January  
**An introduction to the Life and Work of Gustavo Bacarissas**  
 Meeting Place: Outside the Gibraltar Museum, 10.30am

Mr Mario Finlayson will give a talk on the paintings of Gustavo Bacarissas which are on display at the Museum. He will briefly outline the life of the great Gibraltarian painter, and point out facets of the paintings in the Museum collection which are particularly noteworthy.

Following this, the party of members will then transfer to the City Hall to view the large





masterpiece by Gustavo Bacarisas which hangs in the Mayor's Reception Room.

In addition to Mr Finlayson's on-the-spot introduction to Gustavo Bacarisas, Mr Eric Canessa - one of the Trustees - will talk to members about the City Hall, a building which would be able to tell the most intriguing stories if only bricks and mortar could talk!

Saturday 22nd February

**A visit to the Moorish Castle and the Southern walls of the Middle Castle.**

Meeting place: Outside the Tower of Homage, at the top of Willis's Road, at 10.30am. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

The guide on this occasion will be Mr Lionel Culatto, the Trustee who is an expert on Gibraltar's military history.

The visit will commence with a tour of the inside of the Tower of Homage, and then a walk out on to the sentry round, and the roof terrace. These areas of the castle have been closed to the public for many years, and this outing will afford a rare opportunity for members to get a feel for the castle and its importance.

Members will then walk down Willis's Road and Tank Ramp to see the outside of the original Moorish gatehouse to the Castle and the interesting Moorish walls and turrets which form the southern part of the Middle Castle.

Numbers are limited for this visit, so members intending to go on this outing are asked to book at the Gibraltar Museum either in person or by telephone, on 74289.

Saturday 21st March

**World War II Tunnels Tour**

Meeting point: Outside the tunnel entrance at Maida Vale at 10am. Everyone is asked to wear flat, rubber-soled shoes. Torches must be brought by everyone. Hard hats will be provided.

There is a charge payable at the start of the trip of £1 per head. This is to cover compulsory MOD insurance. It is regretted that no children under the age of 10 will be allowed to go on this outing.

The tour will commence at Maida Vale and take you round the World War II systems including accommodation, hospital, Calpe Power Station, Brigade Headquarters and Wilson's Cave. Eventually you will join the old 18th Century tunnels by Jock's Battery and from these proceed down narrow tunnels to William's Way.

The tour will involve a considerable amount of walking and could take up to 3 hours.

Numbers are limited for the visit, so members intending to go on this outing are asked to book at the Gibraltar Museum either in person or by telephone on 74289.

Saturday 18th April

**Europa Flats Outing**

Meeting Point: The mound at Europa Point, just West of the lighthouse at 2.30pm. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

This outing will be a repeat performance of the highly successful visit to the area two years ago.

The sites which will be visited are:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Europe

Lower Europa

Nuns' Well

It is possible that the Defensible Barracks may also be visited.



Those going on this outing will be split up into small groups, visiting each of the areas of interest in turn. Trustees will marshal the groups. At each of the sites, one of the Trustees will deliver a short introduction on either the historical points of interest, or in the case of Lower Europa, on the natural history of the area. Members will get an opportunity to see the Strait of Gibraltar Bird Observatory.

There is a remarkable concentration of points of interest, and as much as possible will be taken in.

Members will also get an opportunity to inspect the lighthouse at close quarters, and examine the foundation stone.

Friday 1st May

**May Day Painting Competition**

1st May 1992 falls on a Friday. All members, young and old, are therefore invited to start off the Bank Holiday weekend participating in the 3rd Annual Heritage Trust Painting Competition on a heritage theme.

There are cash prizes for the first three prize winners in both the senior and junior categories.

Details of the subject for the competition, any special rules being introduced this year, and the rendezvous will be announced in the press shortly before May Day. The competition will start at 10am and finish at 5pm. All the entries will then be exhibited at the John Mackintosh Hall, as part of the Gibraltar Festival 1992.

Saturday 16th May

**Visit to the 9.2" Guns at O'Hara's Battery**

Meeting point: Outside the gates leading into O'Hara's Battery at the Southernmost point of the ridge of the Rock at 10.30 am. Members' footwear should have non-slip soles.

This visit has been arranged by kind permission and with the help of Captain Frank Galliano of the Gibraltar Regiment.

The 9.2" gun at O'Hara's Battery is in excellent condition. Persons who have actually fired the gun will be on hand to explain what was entailed in firing these monsters. The visit will include a tour of the small museum attached to the Battery. The curios on display include a fascinating forerunner of the computer!

Saturday 6th June

**Annual visit to the Northern Defences**

Meeting point: Bottom of Crutchett's Ramp, at its junction with Main Street, at 10.30am. Members must wear non-slip shoes and it is essential that everyone bring torches as the tunnels to be visited are unlit.

The visit this year will be slightly different, as the route to be taken will include some of the Middle Galleries and the Entrenchment Wall.

This is a popular visit with everyone, as it shows one of our most interesting historical complexes. Although it is in a wild state, the potential of the area can readily be appreciated, and its history will be outlined by Mr Lionel Culatto, aided - if it is necessary to divide the party into two groups - by Mr Richard Garcia.



**PROGRAMME OF TALKS**

All talks will be given at the John Mackintosh Hall, and will commence at 8.30pm



Tuesday 28th January  
**The Alameda Gardens**  
Speaker: Dr John Cortes

It is well known that the Alameda Gardens are in the process of being completely re-shaped, and that the programme of works which has started is the most comprehensive re-build of the gardens in their 175 year history. Not many of us know exactly what is planned, and how the improvements are to be effected.

The Director of Alameda Gardens is Dr John Cortes, one of the Trustees, and he will be delivering an illustrated talk looking back on what the Gardens once were, the programme which is presently in hand and what the future has in store.

Thursday 13th February  
**Some French Fortifications compared with those in Gibraltar**  
Speaker: Mr Lionel Culatto

Mr Culatto, Trustee, and Committee Member of the Fortress Study Group, an international organisation concerned with gunpowder fortifications, will give a talk supported with slides illustrating some fortifications mainly in the South West of France and many designed by Marshal Vauban (17th Century) one of the most respected and influential Military Engineers of Modern times and comparing them with Gibraltar's extensive collection. Interesting and educational. Not to be missed.

Tuesday 10th March  
**The Gibraltar Museum - Extinct Dinosaurs or lifeless Androids?**  
Speaker: Dr Clive Finlayson

The Gibraltar Museum opened its doors to the public for the first time on the 23rd July, 1930. Since that time its collections have augmented and its policies have been modified in accordance with the times. Dr Clive Finlayson was appointed Director of the Gibraltar Museum on 1st September, 1991, and in his presentation he will take us briefly through the history of the Gibraltar Museum and its main collections. This will be followed by an analysis of the Museum's functions today which will include a summary of the nature of the work carried out. The final part of the presentation will revolve around the plans for the future and will develop the theme of the museum's role in modern society. This presentation will be fully illustrated and there will be a chance to participate in the questions and answers session at the end.

Thursday 9th April  
**Gibraltar's Flora**

Speakers: Messrs Leslie Linares and Arthur Harper

The collection of colour slides of Gibraltar's flowers and plants which has been built up by Mr Linares and Mr Harper is breathtaking. Members will be given a real treat, and will find it hard to believe just how beautiful are some of the flowers which grow in Gibraltar. The talk will, of course, be illustrated.

Emphasis will be given to the sorts of plants and flowers which can be found on the paths up the Rock where the Trust has organised outings in the past, so that members can see just how much they missed on the rambles, and hopefully, just how much they will see next time they go to the same area!

Tuesday 5th May  
**Gibraltar's Coinage**  
Speaker: Mr Richard Garcia

What Gibraltar did for money in the 19th century is something which is very little known. It is



hard to find anything written on the subject, and yet it is fascinating. Mr Garcia will share the fruits of some of his research, and will review that most turbulent century - the 19th century - which started off with Merchants' Tokens circulating in Gibraltar, and ended with a radical re-think on currency, and of British Sterling.

What happened in between is a tale with many twists to it, and quite a few anecdotes - some rather humorous.

Thursday 11th June  
**Annual General Meeting**

Full details of the Annual General Meeting will be published in the media shortly before the meeting.

The last annual meeting was poorly attended and we would ask members to turn up for what is indeed the most important meeting of the year, when a number of Trustees are elected to the Board.

#### THE JUNIOR HERITAGE CLUB

Environmental issues have now become an integral part of the school's curricula and in order to assist in this process the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society have joined forces and instituted a Junior Heritage Club.

A wide-ranging programme of activities has been arranged in direct contact with Mr Denis King, Deputy Headmaster of St Joseph's School, to whom we are grateful for his keen initiatives! Certificates and prizes will be awarded to the junior members for meaningful and enthusiastic participation in the field of natural and man-made heritage.

At this point, membership is restricted to 12 year olds (year 7) for reasons of management, but it is intended to provide information material to the full age range in our schools

#### THANKS

Our expression of gratitude to Mr George Felipes, Vice Chairman, and Mr Richard Garcia, Trustee, for their keen labours in the preparation of this Newsletter.

#### LIST OF TRUSTEES

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Eric Shaw	18 Gavino's Dwellings Tel 73719 (work) 70094 (home)
Marjorie Hoare	1 Sunnyside House Tel 75847
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Tommy Finlayson	21 Sandpits House, Upper Witham's Road Tel 79461 (work) 73582 (home)
John Cortes	8/8 Buena Vista Tel 76818 (home)
Eric Canessa	501 Trafalgar House, Rosia Road Tel 72172
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Katie Dawson (Secretary)	510 Neptune House Tel 78808 (work) 78751 (home)
Joseph Canessa (Treasurer)	9 Scud Hill Steps Tel 74469 (home)
Clive Finlayson (Curator)	Gibraltar Museum 18-20 Bomb House Lane Tel 74289 (home) 71918 (home)

#### 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*

#### EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

The Trust would like to thank THE HOLCAN-GROUP-OF-COMPANIES  
for their generous sponsorship of this publication.