



HERITAGE TRUST NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 1993

INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on the 20th May 1993, when I will submit to the membership a full report on the year's work. In the interim and this being my first year as Chairman I would like to make use of this bulletin to brief our members on what has transpired during the past six months. I deem this necessary as some very important work has been undertaken by the Board during the period in question. Also I hope that the contents of this report will be to generate purposeful discussions at the Annual General Meeting.

When I took over as Chairman last June, my predecessor made me fully aware of the many problems facing the Trust. A clear exposition of the situation was given by Joshua Gabay in his final report to the Trust which was published in our last bulletin.

Armed with the knowledge imparted by Joshua and that of the others whom I consulted, I carried out my own appreciation of the situation and I subsequently wrote a paper for the Board outlining the problems confronting the Trust, how I viewed them and a possible way ahead.

Fundamental to the work of the Trust is the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Ordinance. The provisions of the Ordinance, under which the Trust is established as a statutory body, should provide the tools to enable the Trust to carry out the task of preserving and enhancing Gibraltar's Heritage. Whoever cares to read the Ordinance will realise that it is a worthless piece of legislation. It would not be an exercise in trying to look for the loopholes - the shortcomings are so blatantly obvious. It is true that when the present Ordinance was being drafted, the views of the Board were sought but sadly most of the recommendations made by the Board were ignored.



In essence the Ordinance makes the Trust fully responsible for preserving Gibraltar's Heritage, but without adequate powers or the resources to do so. It is therefore not surprising that most of the discussion in my paper to the Board, evolved around the inadequacies of the Ordinance.

Until such time as the Government agrees to enact a new Ordinance to give the Trust the powers and the resources that it needs, the Trust will not be able to carry out the task of preserving our heritage. Essential in the new Ordinance would be the incorporation of a creditable system for listing which would guarantee the inclusion of all our historical buildings and sites. This must therefore be our primary objective and all the members of my Board have worked relentlessly during the last six months towards the attainment of this objective.

The Board developed a very detailed plan of action. The first thing that we had to do was to establish a meaningful dialogue with the Government of Gibraltar. This we found rather difficult as the responsibility for heritage rested with more than one Minister. Luckily at that time the Minister for Tourism was given the environmental portfolio which included responsibility for all heritage matters. This made my task much easier as this meant dealing with only one Minister.

My first meeting with the Minister was very fruitful. He assured me that he was fully committed to the preservation of Gibraltar's Heritage and he expressed tremendous enthusiasm to help the Trust as much as he could. He agreed that we should meet on a regular basis and that for this purpose we should set up a Heritage Commission. The Commission is already in full swing although the scope of it has been extended to include all environmental matters.

As a result of setting up the Commission the following has already been achieved:

a The Minister has agreed that a revision of the Ordinance should be investigated. To this end a sub-committee has been set up to produce proposals for a new Ordinance, Our Trustee Eric Canessa is leading on this matter.

b The Minister has also agreed that the study of the Ordinance should include a review of the listing system and the Board hopes that this will lead to the listing of all our historical buildings and sites. To this end the Board has already commissioned an independent expert from UK who has already submitted a report on a listing system and his suggestion as to what should be listed. This is now being examined by the Board.



c The Chairman of the Trust is now a full member of the Development and Planning Commission. Previously the Chairman sat on a personal capacity and was unable to divulge to his Board the proceedings of the Planning Commission. This was a ridiculous situation which happily has now been resolved. I must however mention that the D & P C only deals with development projects undertaken by the private sector. Gibraltar Government and MOD projects are not tabled by the Commission. However the Minister has agreed to rectify this in order to keep the Trust fully informed on projects planned by the Government. He has also urged the MOD representative in the Heritage Commission to request MOD to do likewise.

I am moderately happy with the progress so far made in the Heritage and Environment Commission. It is however premature to predict what will happen as regards a new Ordinance but I am optimistic. Although there is now much more consultation from Government we are still haunted by some unfortunate decisions previously taken by them. A classical example was the destruction of the Dockyard Gates which occurred when we initiated the dialogue with the Government. The demolition was a well kept secret, even kept away from the new Minister of the Environment.

The demolition of the Dockyard Gates was a disastrous event. It clearly demonstrated the lack of consultation on the part of the Government. Although the gates were not listed, whoever decided to destroy them displayed a marked lack of sensitivity. In all sincerity there was nothing much that the Trust could do at the time other than protest most vociferously to the Government of Gibraltar. This is the sad reality that we face and we hope that our current efforts to attain a new Ordinance will once and for all stop this wanton destruction of our heritage. It was sad that a certain sector of our news media chose to mount a very strong attack against the Trust. I feel that the attack was wrongly directed. It should have been aimed at the Government who by their legislation and lack of consultation have rendered the Trust virtually ineffective. The following quote from the press release issued by the Trust at the time of the incident is very pertinent - "The Trust would like to remind the general public that the Gibraltar Heritage Trust is a statutory body set up under the laws of Gibraltar. The Trust is charged under an Ordinance with the preservation of Gibraltar's Heritage and to advise the Government of Gibraltar on such matters. It is therefore ironic that the Government which sets up the Trust should fail to consult its statutory body on the demolition of such an historic site".

The comments in the press clearly identified a lack of public awareness on the workings of the Trust. There is the misconception that the Trust is an all powerful



organisation with all the means at their disposal to preserve Gibraltar's Heritage. The blame for this misinformation must be assumed by the Trust for failing to inform the public especially on the constraints under which it has to operate. We must address this situation and by doing so gather the support of the general public and the media to assist us in our efforts to compel the Government to give us the powers and the resources to carry out our task.

Despite directing most of our efforts in trying to amend the Ordinance, the Board has nevertheless continued with their efforts to carry out some preservation work. The following are some examples:

a Trafalgar Cemetery. The Trust is now fully responsible for the management and maintenance of the Cemetery. On the 16th October 1992, HE The Governor unveiled the memorial to the Battle of Trafalgar. This project was funded by the Gibraltar Naval Trust (£500) and the Trust (£385). The upkeep of the cemetery is now in the hands of the firm Greenarc who already have carried out some excellent work in pruning trees and planting. An irrigation system has also been installed at a cost of £3700 paid for by the Trust. Repairs to some of the tombs are also in hand. Generally the cemetery is now clean and tidy and well kept. Further enhancement work is also in the planning.

b Mediterranean Steps. The Trust contributed £1000 towards the clean up and refurbishment of these steps in the Upper Rock.

c 5.25 Gun at Princess Anne's Battery. The Trust organised and financed (£1000) the restoration of one of the Guns. The work was undertaken by the Royal Artillery.

d Southport Gates. The missing gate will be replaced this coming March. The work will be undertaken by the Royal Engineers and the Trust will bear the cost (£3000).

e Aqueduct Vent - Rosia Road. This vent was damaged as a result of a traffic accident. Arrangements are in hand to have it restored under the direction of a professional.

We have established very close links with the Gibraltar Conservation Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman Mr. Lionel Culatto and Mr. John Langdon for all their assistance and advice which they are always most willing to give. The Society has drawn up a scheme to refurbish the Moorish Castle Gatehouse. The project has the full support of the Trust.



On the 11th November I was invited by the Friends of Gibraltar's Heritage Society in UK to attend a reception in the House of Commons hosted by Mr. Michael Colvin, the leader of the All Party Gibraltar Group in Westminster. It was a very successful gathering where it was very forcefully put across to the MP's, the need to get the British Government to assist in the preservation of Gibraltar's Heritage, most of which was handed down to us by the MOD. The function was attended by our Chief Minister and amongst the guests were three past Governors, Sir John Grundy, Sir David Williams and of course Sir William Jackson.

In the latter part of November, I attended the 6th International Conference of National Trusts held in New Zealand. This trip was made possible as a result of sponsorship received from a local business firm that wishes to remain anonymous.

This movement of National Trusts was formed in 1974 by the National Trust of England and Wales and the National Trust of Scotland. Originally membership was limited to Commonwealth Countries, however now it is very international. Japan, Denmark, France, Germany, USA and Holland to mention a few have since joined.

The theme of the conference was - Managing Change, Conservation into the 21st Century. Many topics relating to the theme were discussed but what I found most interesting were the informal workshops where we all tabled and discussed our own individual problems like lack of Government support and lack of funds etc. I chaired one of the central sessions of the conference as well as one of the informal workshops. I gave a presentation on Gibraltar and on the Gibraltar Heritage Trust explaining what we are trying to achieve and the many difficulties that we face. All the delegates exposed their various problems in trying to preserve their heritage. We all had similar problems, however, on legislation, funding and listing of historical buildings and sites, our problems were more acute than those experienced by other Trusts. Our legislation, namely the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Ordinance was found very wanting and the delegates agreed with me that it is inadequate to safeguard our heritage. Delegates were also very surprised to learn that we do not receive any direct funding from our Government. They agreed that it was very difficult to raise funds from business firms and the general public if the Government is not prepared to take the lead. They were also alarmed at our system of listing buildings and of the fact that so few historical buildings and sites are actually listed. To this end both the National Trust of England and Wales and the National Trust of Scotland agreed to assist and support us in our case.

All in all it was a very successful conference where my aim of seeking international support and standing was achieved.



I hope that the above report will give our members an insight into the problems we face and our efforts to overcome them. Our task is not an easy one but we must persevere. We have a long struggle ahead of us but I believe that we are slowly but surely progressing towards achieving our aims.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

The events which have been organised for the period February to June are the following:

Saturday 13th February	Visit to King's Bastion
Saturday 6th March	Visit to Water Catchments
Thursday 18th March	Talk - The Changing Face of Gibraltar
Saturday 3rd April	Guided Tour of the Alameda Gardens
Thursday 22nd April	Talk - Everyday Life in early 19th Century Gibraltar
Monday 3rd May	4th Annual Heritage Painting Competition
Thursday 20th May	Annual general Meeting of the Trust
Saturday 5th June	Annual Visit to the Northern Defences

VISIT TO KING'S BASTION

Date: Saturday 13th February
Venue: Meet at Line Wall Road at the top of the hill leading down to King's Bastion
Time: 10.30 am

The King's Bastion is still occupied by the Gibraltar Electricity Department, although they no longer generate any electricity in the premises which are used as offices and as a distribution centre.

The Trust has earmarked the site as one with potential to be developed as a Heritage site with commercial enterprises and is actively looking for potential developers.

The Bastion itself was built by Lieutenant-Colonel (later Major General) William Green, General Elliott's Chief Engineer, who arrived on the Rock in 1761. Having



obtained approval for the project from Robert Boyd, Gibraltar's Lieutenant Governor at the time (who is buried in the King's Bastion), works were commenced and finalised in 1776.

The Bastion played a major defensive role during the Great Siege of Gibraltar of 1779-1783. The Bastion formerly incorporated a battery of 30 cannon and howitzers and the adjoining barracks could accommodate up to 800 men.

The battery underwent some minor reforms during 1870 when smooth bore artillery was replaced by the rifled muzzle loading (RML) guns. The battery housed a 38 ton 12.5 inch RML gun and four 18 ton 10 inch RML guns.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, a small generating station was erected in the Bastion and in the late 1960's a diesel generating station was built.

VISIT TO WATER CATCHMENTS

Date: Saturday 6th March and Saturday 13th March
Venue: Entrance to the waterworks at the top of Willis's Road, almost opposite the Moorish Castle
Time: 10.00 am

The date of this outing is Saturday 6th March, however, there is a limit to the number of persons who can be accommodated on the trip: 50 persons. It is likely that there will be a greater demand for places, so a second date has been provisionally arranged, Saturday 13th March. Please note that the 13th March outing will only take place if all the places for the 6th March outing are taken up.

There are thirteen enormous reservoirs inside the Rock. The entrance to each opens out onto a straight half-mile tunnel, which pierces the Rock from west to east. After an introduction to the organisation and distribution of the water supply to Gibraltar, the tour will lead through the tunnel, visiting two of the reservoirs, and coming out on the eastern side of the Rock in the middle of the water catchments.

All told the tour will last about 2½ hours. Those wishing to attend should give their names at the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Offices at Wellington Front either in person or by ringing 42844. Members of the Trust are reminded that the Heritage Trust Offices at Wellington Front are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Please wear flat waterproof shoes.



TALK - THE CHANGING FACE OF GIBRALTAR

Date: Thursday 18th March
Venue: John Mackintosh Hall (The Theatre)
Time: 8.30 pm

With the help of some one hundred and fifty slides, Mr. T J Finlayson, the Government Archivist, demonstrates how certain parts of Gibraltar have changed dramatically in the past century and a half. Many of the photographs on view were taken in the mid-nineteenth century.

The main factors promoting these changes were:

- a an ever increasing population;
- b the need to cater for the constant increase in vehicular traffic;
- c the construction of the Dockyard and enclosed harbour at the turn of the century; and
- d the construction of the airfield in the early 1940's.

VISIT TO THE ALAMEDA GARDENS

Date: Saturday 3rd April
Venue: Grand Parade (Outside Cable Car Station)
Time: 10.00 am

The historic Alameda Gardens, which date back to the early 1800s, were a focus of Gibraltar's life. Well known for their beauty, they subsequently suffered from neglect until late 1991 when their management was taken over by Wildlife (Gibraltar) and the project to convert them into a botanic garden began. Eighteen months later there are many changes to be seen, and much of the old can now be better appreciated. Pines, Dragon Trees and Olive, trees from Australia and climbers from South Africa, cacti and succulents from around the world and the growing collection of the Gibraltar flora can be seen. Gibraltar Botanic Garden Director Dr. John Cortes will take the party through all this and show some of the behind-the-scenes work as well, ably assisted by Curator Brian Lamb and Horticulturist Andrew Abrines.



TALK - EVERYDAY LIFE IN EARLY 19TH CENTURY GIBRALTAR

Date: Thursday 22nd April
Venue: John Mackintosh Hall
Time: 8.30 pm

Much has been written about the military history of Gibraltar, to the virtual exclusion of the social history. Yet, the people of Gibraltar who supplied the Garrison were a lively crowd, and developed as a people to an important extent during the 19th century. The talk will first of all consider aspects of what it was like to live in Gibraltar in the early years of the century, by reference to diaries kept at the time. The field will then broaden to consider how people made their living and this part will be spiced with anecdotes gleaned from the Chronicle, letters written at the time and other primary sources.

The speaker will be Mr. Richard Garcia, one of the Trustees of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

ANNUAL HERITAGE PAINTING COMPETITION

Date: Monday 3rd May
Venue: Front Garden of Garrison Library
Time: 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

This year the May Day Public Holiday is on Monday 3rd May and the Trust has chosen "Governor's Parade" as the theme for this year's competition. The area is quite big and people taking part may choose any aspect of the parade or its surrounds, including the Garrison Library, St. Andrew's Church or the old shuttered pre-war houses as the main subject of the painting/drawing.

Details of rules, prizes will be made available on the day. The competition will start at 10.00 am and finish at 5.00 pm. All the entries will then be exhibited at the John Mackintosh Hall as part of the Gibraltar Festival 1993.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday 20th May
Venue: The Garrison Library
Time: 8.00 pm



Full details of the Annual General Meeting will be publicised 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.

VISIT TO NORTHERN DEFENCES

Date: Saturday 5th June
Venue: Meet at the bottom of Crutchett's Ramp, at it's junction with Main Street
Time: 10.30 am

Members must wear non-slip shoes, and it is essential that everyone bring torches as the tunnels to be visited are unlit.

Once again we shall make slight variations to this now annual event.

LIST OF TRUSTEES

BENADY Dr. Sam
Woodlands, Buena Vista Road Tel 74433 (Home)
BENSUSAN Joaquin
18/20 Bomb House Lane Tel 41379
CANESSA Eric
501 Trafalgar House Rosia Road tel 72172
CANESSA Peter
5 Scud Hill Steps Tel 41212(Work)
CORTES John
8/8 Buena Vista Tel 76818 (Home)72639 or 74022 (Work)
FELIPES George (Vice Chairman)
56 Governors Street Tel 77639 (Home) 74850 (Work)
FINLAYSON Tommy
21 Sandpits House Upper Withams Road Tel 73582 (Home) 79461 (Work)
GARCIA Richard
302 Main Street Tel 40387 (Home) 72289 (Work)
GUERRERO Eddie (Chairman)
'E' Devils Gap Upper Rock Tel 54442 (Home) 54210 (Work)
HOARE Miss Marjorie
1 Sunnyside House Naval Hospital Road Tel 75847
SHAW Eric
18 Gavino's Dwellings Tel 70094 (Home) 73719 (Work)
WHITELAND Jenny
4a St Johns Court Tel (73890) (Home) 956 78324 (Spain)
FARROW David (Treasurer)
Hambro House Line Wall Road Tel 74850(Work)

1993 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Once again we would like to remind all members that subscriptions for 1993 are due and may be paid 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 2 pm Saturdays). Please encourage friends and family to become members too.



HERITAGE AWARD – 1992

As you may know, we are proposing to make an annual Heritage Award to a person, group or company that has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation of Gibraltar's heritage. The first award will be made for an achievement during the year 1992.

The Board of Trustees felt that such an award was appropriate to partly balance the fact that so many of our actions have, of necessity, to be of a negative nature (such as withholding our approval to a proposed development, or complaining about damage done to our physical heritage), and that a positive contribution to our heritage should also be recognized.

The award itself will consist of a trophy which is being designed and will be specially produced, and the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society are kindly making a substantial contribution towards its costs. We hope that, in time, the Award will gain considerable prestige value. the Trust, of course, will reserve the option not to make any award at all in any one year in which the standard of achievements is not sufficiently high.

The Board also decided that the general public should be given the opportunity to submit nominations for the Award, and to this end a press release will be issued shortly, inviting the public to make such nominations. Forms for the purpose will be made available at the Gibraltar Museum.

We hope that members of the Trust, in particular, will take the opportunity of proposing candidates for the Award.

