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# GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

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NEWSLETTER

Spring 1997

## FOREWORD BY CHAIRMAN

As the Trust's first Newsletter for 1997 goes to press, I feel that all our Members should be aware of what was achieved by the Board through 1996. In an effort to inform those Members who were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting and, perhaps to refresh the memory of those who did, an abridged version of my first Annual Report might not be amiss.

**1. Administration and Finances:-** The sheer volume of Heritage work required the engagement of our part-time Secretary on a full time basis. The benefits achieved by this important move more than compensate for the inevitable increase in administration costs.

Our Finances showed a welcome increased income of £105,386, but our expenses also increased to £34,003. The resultant excess of income over expenditure of £71,383 included the £50,000 donation received towards the restoration of the exterior of the City Hall. The net excess of income over expenditure was £21,383, a credit to the Board's efforts and the generosity of our supporters, but not sufficient to allow us to embark of any major project on our own.

## 2. Major Projects-

(i) PARSON'S LODGE BATTERY: 1996 saw the completion of Phase I of the Battery's restoration with the opening of the WW2 tunnels and gun emplacements under this complex. We have not, however, been as successful with the management arrangements for this Heritage site, as the contract to put this in place has not been finalized.



(ii) THE CITY HALL: The restoration of the exterior of our most important civic building was completed on schedule. A ceremony was held to mark this important achievement and the occasion was also used to present the 1995 Heritage Awards to the very deserving candidates.

(iii) THE OLD VICTUALLING YARD: This massive and important old building was at risk of being lost to our heritage. Your Board, therefore, took the important decision and opted to take it over as the ideal venue for the proposed Maritime Museum. A 21 year lease for one peppercorn rent was successfully negotiated and this unique building has been saved for Heritage for the foreseeable future.

(iv) THE MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT: This allowed the Trust to effect its first archaeological dig with excellent results when the foundations and walls to the original mosque, built in the 12thC on the site of the present Roman Catholic Cathedral, were uncovered. Plans are afoot to expose, preserve and exhibit these important relics.

### **3. Future Projects:-**

(i) THE FORTRESS GIBRALTAR AND THE SEA PROJECT: This, we believe, is the ideal theme for the proposed Maritime Museum. The Old Victualling Yard needs extensive repairs and sizeable financial investment if this project is to become a reality, but we are confident that, because of its heritage and tourism potential, official support will make it all possible.

(ii) THE KING'S BASTION: The Board is grateful to Government for its invitation to participate in the restoration of this unique bastion which played such a crucial part in our history, particularly during the Great Siege.

(iii) THE CITY WALLS: Despite the ravages of time and insensitive developments, what remains is still in a remarkably good condition. The walls, however, need to be cleaned, restored and floodlit to show them to their deserved full advantage.

### **4. The Setbacks:-**

(i) THE MOORISH CASTLE CAR PARK: Although an obvious improvement resulted in traffic in the area, the breaching of our medieval walls was a serious blow to our Heritage. In an attempt to prevent such a breach the board pursued every possible legal avenue open to it but, regrettably, without success.

(ii) MONTAGU CRESCENT: Here again, and despite strong objections, a new housing development was granted a permit to build against an ancient monument - Devil's Tongue, an original Moorish mole. However, negotiations between the Trust and the developers resulted in the building being set back, away from this ancient heritage site.

(iii) THE RACQUET COURT, ROSIA: This is one of the last constructions of its kind existing within the Commonwealth. Sadly, and despite vigorous objections, its façade and west side have been partially obscured by modern additions and its integrity impaired.

(iv) TRAFALGAR CEMETARY: Although the future of this heritage site is not threatened, its proper upkeep is. The £5,000 p.a. subvention by Trafalgar House PLC ran out in 1993. Efforts to find a new sponsor have so far failed but are continuing.

### **5. Annual Events etc.:-**

(i) THE ANNUAL HERITAGE AWARDS for 1995 were presented to the following:-

(a) Two Group Awards were given, one to Sir John Smith and the Manifold Trust for their support of the City Hall's restoration, and the other to the Turicum Bank for their restoration of their premises at No.315 Main Street.

(b) The Senior Award went to Mr. Lionel Culatto for his organisation and realisation of the Fortress Study Group's visit to our shores and his commitment to heritage.

(ii) PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:- A full programme of events for 1997 is included as part of our Newsletter.

Finally I must thank the hard working Members of the Board for their support, our Secretary Mrs. Brenda Soiza and our Hon. Treasurer Mr. William Jardim for their own hard work, and last, but by no means least, our past Chairman, Lt. Col. Eddie Guerrero for all he achieved during his term in office.

In ending this Foreword I know I am echoing the feelings of all our Members when I publicly congratulate Miss Marjorie Hoare on her being honoured in her Majesty's New Year's Honours List. Marjorie was bestowed the MBE for her long dedication to public life and we in the Trust can vouch for her dedication over many years to preserving Gibraltar's Heritage.





Shop fronts divorce the ground floor from the upper parts of the buildings. Unsympathetic extensions dominate the buildings they sit on and the roof lines.

Modern developments within the city have in most cases demolished important buildings or built up open spaces with unsympathetic, oversized buildings such as the I.C.C., Centre Plaza and Cornwall's.

Twenty years on, the Gate House is still a dumping ground and wasting away. It is about time that we reached the stage when we appreciate the beneficial effects that conserving our heritage will have on the overall well-being of Gibraltar.



## NEW BOOKS ON GIBRALTAR

*by Sam Benady*

### **The Streets of Gibraltar** (Gibguide No. 4) *by Tito Benady*

Gibraltar Books, 1996

This fascinating little book traces the history of many of the streets of our town via the different names given to them by the inhabitants; but there is much more. There are many anecdotes which give insights into the lives of our ancestors, and the whole book is charmingly illustrated with paintings and sketches by George Felipes, as well as many old photographs and plans.

As we have come to expect from Tito, the book is entertainingly written, but also well documented, with an extensive bibliography. It is an essential addition to the bookshelf of anyone who has an interest in our past.

### **Stories from the Rock** *by Thomas J. Finlayson*

Aquila, 1996

This is a compilation of episodes, some light and some serious, from the history of the Rock and its people. It is illustrated with many contemporary photographs and postcards. Some of the stories may have been heard before in his regular programmes on radio and television, but here they are in permanent form, and very welcome they are too. One gets the feeling that it only needed a little 'glue' to join the episodes into a much needed social history of the Gibraltarians. Let us hope that this will be Tommy's next project.

### **Gibraltar** *by Maurice Harvey*

Spelmount, 1996

There is a need for modern, authoritative, well researched history of Gibraltar and the Gibraltarians. This is not it. This book is a lavishly produced, beautifully illustrated coffee table book. Those who go further than admiring the pictures will be disappointed: the research is sketchy, and old myths long since disproved are resuscitated. This is yet again a military history of Gibraltar and its various conquerors: the people get less attention. Their story is yet to be told - perhaps one of the authors of the two books reviewed above will undertake the work: they are both eminently qualified to do so.

### **Gibraltar - Britain's Precarious Stronghold** *by Bill Bryson*

National Geographic Magazine, Vol 190, no. 5, pp 54-71

The November 1996 issue of National Geographic Magazine includes an article on the Rock by America's most entertaining travel writer. Bill Bryson does take due notice of the Gibraltarians, and his style is amusing and sympathetic, but never patronizing. The article is illustrated with the excellent photography which we have come to expect from the national Geographic.



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1997

*Thursday, 20th February*

### "THE SETTLEMENT OF THE GENOESE IN GIBRALTAR"

A talk by Tito Benady. First floor exhibition room. John Mackintosh Hall at 8.30pm.

*Thursday, 6th March*

### "TOUR OF THE FIRE STATION"

Led by the Chief Fire Officer, Mr L. Edmonds. Meet at the Fire Station at 8.30pm.

*March*

### "OPEN DAY AT THE MOUNT"

By kind permission of the Commander British Forces, Major General S.J. Pack C.B.  
Date and details to be announced.

*Saturday, 12th April*

### "VISIT TO THE NORTHERN DEFENCES"

Led by Lionel Culatto. Meet at the bottom of Crutchett's Ramp at 10.30am.

*Saturday, 3rd May*

### "ANNUAL HERITAGE PAINTING COMPETITION"

The Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned. Registration from 10am onwards.

*Friday, 20th June*

### "THE KING'S CHAPEL"

Visit to King's Chapel on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the King's Chapel Club. Talk by the Staff Chaplain, the Rev. C.W. Howard, followed by refreshments. Meet at The King's Chapel at 8.30pm.

*Thursday, 21st August*

### "NELSON - THE IMMORTAL MEMORY"

Talk by Colin White M.A., A.M.A., Chief Curator, Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth. Charles Hunt Room, John Mackintosh Hall at 8.30pm.

*Saturday, 20th September*

### "NUN'S WELL - OPEN DAY"

2pm - 5pm. Organized by Mr. F. Gomez.



*Saturday, 4th October*

### "TUNNELS' TOUR"

Led by Tito Vallejo. Meet at Maida Vale at 2pm. The tour will end at the Shell Depot at William's Way. Please take torches, sensible shoes and £1 for insurance.

*Thursday, 16th October*

### "ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING"

Garrison Library at 8.00pm.

*Friday, 24th October*

### "FLAG DAY"

*November*

### "VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY"

By kind permission of The Speaker. Details to be announced.

### *Addendum:*

A History Conference, lasting two full days, is due to be held at Elliott's Hotel on the 22nd and 23rd August. Details are available from the G.H.T.





## H.M. VICTUALLING YARD

The original Naval Stores Depot, constructed in 1740, was integrated into a section of what was then the main defensive wall at Casemates. The Victualling Depot was situated in Cooperage Lane, whilst "the clerk to the check and storekeeper" operated out of the Naval offices in the old Whitefriars Convent.

During the Great Siege (1779-1783) all the Naval Victualling Storehouses became so vulnerable to enemy fire that ships were forced to unload or take on stores at Camp Bay to the south-west of the Rock. Consequently, the Commander-in-Chief at the time, Admiral Sir John Jervis (later Lord St. Vincent), ordered the construction of a new and much larger Storehouse on a site at Rosia, near to Camp Bay. Working from plans submitted by the Royal Navy and Army, a local contractor/architect, John Maria Boschetti, began the task in 1807 and completed the purpose built complex in about 1812. In addition to the main Storehouse, this comprised a courtyard, a small house and office for the Agent Victualler and the huge reservoir, begun in 1799.

Built during the reign of George III (in the period when Beethoven was working on his Fifth and Sixth Symphonies and Britain was preparing for a Napoleonic invasion) the Storehouse, measuring 190ft by 160ft, was specially designed to resist heavy bombardment. Distinguished by eleven vaulted bays on each of its two storeys, the thickness of its walls also ensured that the temperature within the building remained constant - ideal for provisions.

Today, with most of its 19th century machinery dismantled or stolen, cleared of its victuals, racking, and wooden pallets, the Storehouse stands empty, like a great mausoleum awaiting the next episode in its destiny: a monument to the kind of endeavour that has not only helped shape the course of Gibraltar's turbulent history, but also stamped an indelible mark on some of its most imposing military architecture. With the current MOD exodus gathering momentum some of this architecture is again threatened, this time from the enemy within. Exposure to those market forces which harbour greed, ignorance and indifference, seldom results in a true appraisal of an old building, a real appreciation of its cultural and historical significance. Consequently, many of the essential features relating to its architectural style, origins and function can be lost forever.

The fate of too many of these glorious buildings (e.g. South Barracks' House, Bruce's Farm etc) still hangs precariously in the balance. It is up to those of us who really care for this aspect of our heritage to ensure that whenever the right use is found for these buildings their architectural integrity is always respected and protected. If not, we alone bear the responsibility for impoverishing what so many of us purport to hold dear and what is still a rich legacy.

*Marjorie Hoare*



## LIST OF TRUSTEES

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GUERRERO	Lt. Col (Retd) E. OBE 'E' Devil's Gap Upper Rock	Tel: 72509
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WHITELAND	Miss Genéviève 17a St. Bernards Road	Tel: 73890
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JARDIM	Mr. William (Treasurer) 1. Woodford Cottage	Tel: 71135
SOIZA	Mrs. Brenda (Secretary) 6 Chusan House	Tel: 42844/72132
VALLEJO (co-opted)	Mr. Tito 24 Rosia Dale	Tel: 71871





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## GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

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# newsletter

### Foreword By Chairman

As the Board of Trustees prepared for the 1996 Annual General Meeting, it felt that an attempt should be made to obtain some form of international recognition for the magnificent efforts made to save our architectural heritage, especially since some of these dedicated works had been carried out, not only by Government, but also by private firms and, indeed, our own Trust.

Enthused by the idea, the best recent restoration works were considered and the well - tried criteria applied to them, i.e. whether an important heritage building had been saved, the quality of the restoration effected, and the sensitivity and fidelity shown to the building's design and past.

The choice fell on four very different but all excellently well restored buildings, namely:-

- (i) The Government's South Barracks, a two hundred and fifty odd year old building which had been converted into a modern educational complex whilst retaining the Barracks' impressive original frontage and buildings;
- (ii) Turicum House, an early 19th century building converted into a modern bank with great care and



S U M M E R  
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sensitivity by its new owners, Turicum Private Bank Ltd.:

(iii) The exterior of the City Hall, restored by the Government with funds collected from various Trusts, firms and individuals by the Trust and the Friends in UK; and

(iv) Parson's Lodge Battery, an abandoned 18th. century battery restored by the Trust to its original design.

Having decided on our four choices, it was agreed to submit them for judging by Europa Nostra. This is a Pan-European organisation created by the 1991 merger of the original Europa Nostra with the International Castles Institute. This organisation's specific aims are the protection and enhancement of the European Cultural Heritage, both architectural and natural, and the encouragement of high standards of architecture, Town and Country Planning in the service of European Heritage. Its membership is made up of over 200 non-governmental organisations, supported by a further 100 allied members and over 800 individual members, all actively dedicated to Europe's cultural heritage.

With such a cultural pedigree, one can well imagine the Trustees' pride and satisfaction when informed that our Parson's Lodge entry had been awarded a Diploma, the second highest award and one of only twenty-five such Diplomas awarded by the Europa Nostra Selection Committee out of one hundred and twenty-three entries from throughout Europe.

The Selection Committee's decisions were jointly announced by HRH Prince Hendrick, Prince Con-



sort of Denmark and President of Europa Nostra, and Sr. Marcelino Oreja, the EU Commissioner for Heritage and Culture, at the Organisation's Annual Conference held in Madrid last April. Our award is to be presented locally later this year by Professor Gianni Perbellini of Verona, Italy, who, as Chairman of the E.N. Scientific Committee, is coming out specifically for that purpose.

Looking back on the success of the Parson's Lodge restoration and its international recognition, one must not lose sight of the tremendous effort put in by so many members, volunteers and Service personnel, as well as the financial backing to the Trust, without which the saving of such an important monument would not have been possible.

The immense prestige such an international award has given our Trust's 'Flag Ship' has come as a welcome boost to spur our Trustees and Members to renewed efforts to 'Save our Heritage'.

## looking after our past

.....

..... for a better  
future





## Gibraltar Connections

The ties between Britain's heritage and Gibraltar's were further strengthened earlier this year when The Gibraltar Heritage Trust became the temporary custodians of "The Evelegh Great Siege Collection".

When members of The Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society in the UK visited the Rock in June, Lt Col Robin Evelegh presented the Trust with a unique collection of family heirlooms relating to the Great Siege. All the items in this collection, loaned to the Trust for an indefinite period, were acquired by one of the Colonel's forebears: Captain John Evelegh RE, who was stationed in the Garrison from 1779 - 1783 and acted as ADC to the Governor, General Sir George Augustus Eliott. Captain Evelegh was also responsible for supervising the construction of the first Great Siege tunnel, brain-child of Sgt Major Henry Ince.

This fascinating collection of siege memorabilia includes seven miniature model guns, so perfect in every detail that they are capable of firing to this day; there are carriages, unmounted cannon barrels and a set of gunners' tools together with other implements. The seal of the Master General of Ordnance would make the eyes of any collector light up. A silver medal commemorating the Siege, and several intelligence reports incorporated into a book written by Captain Evelegh himself complete the collection.



During the Siege the Governor apparently had several dining-room tables made from wood salvaged from the junk ships. John Evelegh managed to obtain one and this is now in the possession of the head of the Evelegh family. The burnt splinter holes in the wood were skilfully plugged with diamond shaped infill and polished.

The Evelegh family are again mentioned in the diary kept by Mrs Green, wife of Colonel William Green, the Chief Engineer during the Great Siege. Here are some extracts from it:

**11th Jan 1780.** We were engaged to pass the evening at Capt Evelegh's house, met a large party and had a cheerful evening. One of their youngest children appeared not very well.

**15th Jan 1780.** Or Baynes called and greatly alarmed us by telling of the smallpox being again broke out upon a child of Captain Evelegh of the Corps of Engineers. This is a fine boy of seven years old. He did not seem very well when we supped with them on last Thursday evening. They have two younger children to have the disorder. We hear that the Governor will not yet allow any inoculation.

**17th Jan.** Captain Evelegh's son very ill.

**22nd Jan.** More of the small-pox appeared. Capt Evelegh's children all layd down in the disorder. He is obliged to leave his home for the time.

How remarkable to think that 210 years after those



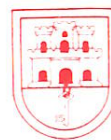


words were written a later generation of the same family returned to the same Rock where their ancestor had endured so many privations, and where today we can live unthreatened by smallpox and, thanks to those like Captain Eveleigh, free from the terrible dangers that confronted the participants of the Great Siege all those years ago.

Gibraltar was the birthplace of another famous man with an interest in explosives: the distinguished British scientist William George Penney, whose work on the atomic bomb earned him international recognition.

Ironically, his first home, within a block of soldiers' married quarters situated in Naval Hospital Road, was partially destroyed in a raid carried out by French aircraft one Autumn morning in 1940, a reprisal for the agonies inflicted by the British upon the French fleets at Oran and Dakar earlier in that fateful year. The bomb sliced through the block, leaving one half of it still standing – a gutted spectre that was to haunt the neighborhood for many years after the war ended. Fortunately, its four-tiered counterpart, 'E' Block, situated only a few yards down the road, survives to this day, intact but unused. Augmenting Gibraltar's stock of interesting buildings its distinctive verandahs and open arcades provide an excellent example of the military housing of the pre-war period and serve as a reminder of what the ill-fated 'A' Block, where Penney once lived, looked like.

At the time of the tragedy, Penney, who was born in Gibraltar on the 24th June, 1909, was Reader in Mathematics at Imperial College London, a post



by Marjorie Hoare

he held from 1936 to 1945. Between 1944-45 he worked on the USA atomic bomb project at Los Alamos in New Mexico, concentrating on its use, effects and the height at which it should be detonated. In the 1950's he was Director of atomic-weapons, research and development at Aldermaston. He retired as Chairman of the Board of the Atomic Energy Authority in 1967, and accepted an invitation to become Rector of Imperial College, a post he held for six years. Described as a man who was friendly and amiable, with a keen sense of humor, he received many honours during his lifetime, including honorary degrees from five universities. In 1967 he was made Baron Penney of East Hendred and died there in March 1991. "Penney House", the block of flats which now stands on the site of his old home in Gibraltar, is of course named after him.

## Books About Gibraltar

### A ROCKY PASSAGE TO EXILE

by Lourdes Galliano  
Aquila, 1997

This charming book tells the story of a teenage girl and her family as they face up to the trauma of being displaced from their homeland during the Second World War. The evacuation of the civilian population from Gibraltar has already been faithfully documented by Tom Finlayson; but the present book adds another dimension to the story of what was undoubtedly the most significant event in the history of the Gibraltarians this century.

The author tells her story simply and without pretensions, and this conversational style makes the book much more effective; this is not, and does not pretend to be, a retelling of great events in history, but the





simple story of one young girl far from her native land, and as such it is very successful. It brings back bittersweet memories to those of us who were old enough to experience the evacuation. It should be on every bookshelf in Gibraltar. Those old enough to remember need to be reminded and those too young need to be told of those momentous days.

### THE LAST PINK BITS

Harry Ritchie

Hodder & Stoughton, 1997

This book is the result of the author's travels to seven of Britain's remaining independent territories - the "last pink bits" of the title. Its publication was presumably timed to coincide with the return of one pink bit to China - Hong Kong - although he didn't bother to go that far on his travels.

The title of Chapter Four - "The World's largest Pebble: Gibraltar" - gives a taste of the rather flip and superficial style of the author. The 87 pages which he devotes to Gibraltar under this heading offer few new insights: for the reader already familiar with Gibraltar. The other chapters, about Bermuda, Ascension, the Falklands, Turks and Caicos, Tristan da Cunha and St Helena, were more interesting, although one would suspect that to the inhabitants of these "pink bits" the treatment given to them must have seemed equally superficial. Only an optional extra for any Gibraltar bookshelf.

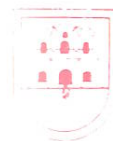
### THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

LA Sawchuk & S D A Burke

Memoirs GIBCEMED vol 1 No 1

This monograph, subtitled "An Anthropological reaction of the Roots of the Gibraltarian People" is

by Sam Benady



published by the Gibraltar Centre for Mediterranean Studies as the first of a series of scientific papers on the subject of Gibraltar and the Western Mediterranean.

This work is by Professor Larry Sawchuk whose work on the people of Gibraltar has spanned many years, and his student, Stacey Burke, who is fast becoming as much an adopted Gibraltarian as Larry is.

They tell the story of Gibraltar at the beginning of the 19th Century, and the terrible Yellow Fever epidemic which ravaged the Rock in 1804, and how this scourge altered the make-up of the Gibraltarian, through decimation of the old population and subsequent immigration; in a very real way, the epidemic and others that followed it made us what we are today.

## News of Future Publication

The Heritage 1998 calendar, which should be out by the end of summer, will feature a set of prints of the book "The Rock" by Major Hort. These prints date back to the 1830s and feature Gibraltar and its environs. This calendar should prove as popular as the 1994 calendar featuring the Carter Prints.

The fourth number of the Gibraltar Heritage Journal will appear this autumn. There are over a dozen articles on all aspects of Gibraltar history, from the Bedenham explosion to the complaints of an 18th Century Chief Justice. There is also reprinted a description of Gibraltar in 1777. The Journal will be on sale at £5 from bookshops, and at £3 for members at the offices of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

The Ministry for Heritage intends to publish the proceedings of the "Calpe 97" conference.



**Thursday 21st August**  
**NELSON - THE IMMORTAL**  
**MEMORY**

Talk by Colin White M.A, A.M.A. Chief  
Curator, Royal Naval Museum,  
Portsmouth. Charles Hunt Room,  
John Mackintosh Hall at 8.30pm.

**Saturday, 20th September**  
**NUN'S WELL - OPEN DAY**  
2pm - 5pm. Organized by Mr. F.  
Gomez

**Saturday, 4th October**  
**TUNNELS' TOUR**  
Led by Tito Vallejo. Meet at Maida  
Vale at 2pm. The tour will end at the  
Shell Depot at William's Way.  
Please take torches sensible shoes  
and £1 for insurance.

**Thursday, 16th October**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Garrison Library at 8.00pm.



**Friday, 24th October**  
**FLAG DAY**

**Friday, 31st October at 6.30pm.**  
**VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
by kind permission of the Speaker, The Hon.  
Judge J.E. Alcantara O.B.E. who will give a  
short address.

**Middle to Late November (Final Date**  
**to be Announced)**  
**VISIT TO THE CONVENT BY KIND PER-**  
**MISSION OF HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**THE RT. HON SIR RICHARD LUCE D.L.**

Both the visit to the house of Assembly and  
The Convent will be for limited numbers and  
available for paid up members only. Kindly  
advise the Trust's Secretary at least one  
week in advance.

The Trust is also sponsoring a Musical  
Evening on Friday 22nd August at 9pm at  
the Alameda Open Air Theatre.  
This event will feature the Youth Orchestra  
"Just in Time" and the ever popular "Rooke"  
Volunteer Band.



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<b>VALLEJO</b> (co-opted)	Mr. Tito 24 Rosia Dale	Tel: 71871



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