



# GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1998

## FOREWORD BY CHAIRMAN

Encouraged by the comments welcoming the abridged 1995/96 Annual Report, which was incorporated into the Foreword of the last Spring Newsletter, I have decided that a similar effort, covering the 1996/97 Report, might not come amiss. In this way I feel the Board can reach those Members who were unable to attend our AGM at the Garrison Library. The Report will also serve as a useful reminder to those who did, whilst informing everyone of the Trust's achievements, its failures and the problems it faces.

**1. Administration:-** The growing interest in heritage related matters has led to the Trust's greater involvement in development projects, participation in the DPC, and in other committees. The result is an increase in the volume of work undertaken by the Trust and in its administrative costs. This expansion has further demonstrated the unsuitability of the Trust's present cramped accommodation. The half vault, on loan from the Gibraltar Museum, is not only too small for the work undertaken there, but also lacks the basic amenities expected in any office in this day and age, let alone the headquarters of the Gibraltar Heritage trust. Sadly, it is dark, damp and devoid of running water, drainage and sanitary facilities. The Board has been addressing this acute problem for years now with a singular lack of success, although, in fairness, our Minister, as promised, is looking into the matter.

**2. Finances:-** At £51,895, there was a reduction in income of £46,150 compared to the previous year's record income of £98,045. Our expenses also decreased to £26, 578 as against the £33,662 spent during 1995/96. The excess of income over expenditure for the year under review was £25,317, considerably less than the £61,383 of the previous year. If,



however, we subtract the Manifold Trust's generous donation of £50,000 from the latter figure, the Trust's efforts produced an excess of income over expenditure well above the similarly corrected figure of £11,383 for 1995/96.

At £26,578, our administrative costs were down on the previous year's figure of £33,662. However, once this figure was corrected to exclude the consultancy fees no longer being paid, our administration costs for the year were up by £2,409.

Subscriptions, at £4,595, were down on the preceding year's £9,243. This latter figure included a large amount in recovered arrears which, naturally, were no longer due this year. There is, however, a continued need for an increase in membership, not only to stimulate interest in Heritage, but also to enhance our finances. It continues to be a cause for concern to the Board that the Government's direct annual grant to the Trust of £ 8,500 remains the same as it has for years now. Credit where credit is due, however, the efforts of Maj. Gen. Simon Pack CB, CBE, and the Government resulted in the entire takings from a second Royal Marine concert, a magnificent £14,700, being donated to the Trust.

**3. Major Projects:-** Progress in these has, sadly, not been as rapid as we had hoped. This is due to the sheer magnitude of the finances required, and the overriding need to obtain Government and/or European Union aid, rather than having to rely exclusively on the Friends of Gibraltar's Heritage Society and on our own limited efforts to arrive at the massive sums needed for such major projects. Here we continue to seek ways of synchronising our efforts with Government's in preference to pulling in different directions to no-one's benefit.

(I) THE MOORISH CASTLE: Undoubtedly Gibraltar's most important heritage asset, yet, because of the adverse effects of the weather over centuries, coupled with the ravages of sieges and years of neglect, important sections of this unique monument are crumbling and in urgent need of restoration. Expert advice has been sought from Europa Nostra's Scientific Committee and Universities nearer to our shores, but, sadly, no recommendations on how to preserve this Jewel in our Heritage



Crown have been forthcoming. Our search for guidance, nevertheless, continues.

(II) PARSON'S LODGE BATTERY: Despite its great potential, the money spent, and all the time and effort put into its restoration, this complex still fails to attract the visitors it deserves. Its true merits, and the Trust's efforts, were, however, recognised by the Europa Nostra's Awards Committee when it granted the Battery its second highest award, a Diploma of Merit.

(II) THE VICTUALLING YARD: By taking over the lease of this magnificent 19th century building the Trust has ensured its protection and saved it for posterity, although its future as a Maritime Museum remains uncertain. However ideal the concept, the problem of financing its refurbishment (estimated, at £680,000) and the cost of fitting it out as a museum remains. The final figure is clearly well beyond the Trust's resources and the creation of the Museum will only be possible with Government and / or European Union Funding.

(IV) KING'S BASTION: The co-operation with DTI to clear and restore this great battery, has all but fizzled out, but certainly not due to any lack of interest or commitment on our part. The idea of retaining the now derelict Generating Station and converting it and the Battery (which was of singular importance during The Great Siege) into a leisure centre runs counter to the Trust's advice and hopes over many years.

(V) THE NORTHERN DEFENCES: The restoration of this complex, at an estimated cost of £10 million, is clearly also beyond the Trust's means. They are, however, too important to be forgotten and the creation of a franchise arrangement or a direct Government/European Union initiative appear to be the only plausible solutions to this intractable problem.

#### **4. OTHER PROJECTS**

(I) THE CITY HALL: Following the successful restoration of the exterior, we are now seeking to restore the Council Chamber and the Mayor's Parlour. A photographic record of both chambers has been commissioned and their restoration is currently being planned. This will





be jointly financed by the Friends and ourselves.

(II) THE CITY WALLS: Our repeated requests for Line Walls to be cleared of extraneous accretions, cleaned, restored and flood-lit appear, at long last, to have been heeded, as plans for these works to proceed are now in place.

(III) MAIN STREET: The foundations and walls of the original mosque and of the entrance to La Barcina (the old town), discovered in a joint Trust/Museum archaeological dig, has prompted the question of how best to show these important relics. Their exhibition under glass is being actively considered.

(IV) THE THEATRE ROYAL: This cultural heritage gem needs to be restored as a matter of urgency. Its main drawback is its private ownership which makes a Trust input controversial. Should this matter be resolved, it could provide a major challenge for the restoration of a non-military building.

**5. THE SETBACKS:-** Sadly we have to record what we consider to be a serious loss to our Heritage and the possibility of yet another.

(I) LOVERS' LANE: Despite numerous representations to Ministers and through the Press, putting across the Trust's views against the widening of this part of Line Wall Road, the works went ahead and this quaint, winding lane with its charming arches and an ambience steeped in Heritage has been lost for ever.

(II) KING'S BASTION: Although the Board, as well as the majority of the Trust's Membership, in answer to the Government's trawling of public opinion, opted for the demolition of the old Generating Station with a view to exposing this important Battery, the result of this public sounding has never been published. It is understood, however, that the majority of opinions expressed, in common with the Trust's views, were for the demolition of the old Generating Station. It, therefore, remains to be seen whether the expressed wishes of the many to enhance and protect



our heritage will be heeded.

**6. THE GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST ORDINANCE, 1989 :** Following the Board's strong representations to Government on the shortcomings of the present Ordinance, the Government and the Trust are engaged in the drafting of a Bill to create a new Ordinance which, it is hoped, will ensure our Heritage is better protected. This Bill seeks to create a new Heritage Commission which appears to be a new advisory body to Government. Since this advisory function falls on the Trust, under section 10 of the present Ordinance, it is feared that this could create something of a dichotomy. The Board is also looking to this bill as a vehicle to obtain more equitable financial support from Government.

## **7. ANNUAL EVENTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

(I) THE ANNUAL HERITAGE AWARDS for 1996 were the following:-

- (a) The Senior Award went to Maj. Gen. Simon Pack CB, CBE, for his interest in and avid support of Gibraltar's Heritage.
- (b) The Group Award was given to Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd. for their excellent restoration of the Alameda Gardens and their unrelenting work in preserving Gibraltar's flora.
- (c) The Junior Award could not be given as there were no nominations.
- (d) A Special Nomination was given to young Mr. Matthew Wassell for an interactive programme on Parson's Lodge Battery.

(II) PROGRAMMES OF EVENTS: The sub-committee responsible for these, produced varied and interesting programme of events, all of which were successful and well attended.

(III) THE ANNUAL PAINTING EXHIBITION: This year's theme "The Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned" attracted a high number of entries and, as in previous years, proved a great success.

(IV) THE GIBRALTAR HERITAGE JOURNAL NO. 3: This joint



Trust/Friends publication was sponsored by Gibtel and is also proving to be a popular success.

In ending I feel compelled to express my gratitude to the Government, the Services, the many firms and individuals who, in their many ways, have helped the Trust in its work. I am also indebted to our Secretary Mrs. Brenda Soiza and our Hon. Treasurer Mr. William Jardim for their dedication and excellent support throughout the year. Lastly, and by no means least, my thanks to your hardworking Trustees who have given unstintingly of their time and energy to help in the protection our Heritage.

Alexis Almeda  
Chairman, G. H. T.



## GIBRALTAR BOOKSHELF

### Gibraltar y su prensa

by Francisco Tornay de Cozar. Dip de Cadiz, 1997

This book is by one of the foremost historians of the Gibraltar area, Francisco Tornay, who is the La Linea Archivist.

Sr. Tornay reviews the history of the Press in Gibraltar in fifty pages. Unfortunately, a large part of the book is occupied by a rather biased "epilogue" by Sr. Tellez, which adds little of use to the subject.

As far as Tornay's text is concerned, it contains much of interest, but is far from being the last word on the subject. Many of the journals which appeared briefly towards the end of the last century are not mentioned, for example El Mono, El Mico, and Vox Populi (the last was even more strident in its complaints than its near namesake today). The Gibraltar Guardian, mentioned as a Spanish paper, was in fact also published in English on a separate occasion for several months. But this is mere carping. This well produced and illustrated book is a valuable addition to the rapidly increasing list of books on aspects of our social history.

### Gibraltar - Approximacion a un estudio sociolinguistico y cultural de la Roca

by Eduardo Fierro Cubiella. U de Cadiz, 1997.

I picked up this book eagerly, hoping for new insights into our way of speaking and living. I was disappointed. This book is merely a belatedly published thesis written in 1984. As such, it is rather old hat, and offers little that is new to the Giblartarian Reader. The linguistics section leans heavily on other sources, notably JD Stewart's *Gibraltar - the Keystone*. The cultural section is particularly dated.

The book has, perhaps, some limited value in that it provides a snapshot of Gibraltar (through a Spanish lens) just before the frontier was reopened.

Sam Benady.





## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1998

*Thursday, 5th March*

### "THE STATE OF THE ARTS IN GIBRALTAR - A HISTORICAL SURVEY"

A talk by Mario Finlayson. Lecture Room, John Mackintosh Hall, at 8pm

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*Saturday, 4th April*

### "PRINCIPAL PLACES OF WORSHIP"

A walk led by Richard Garcia.  
Meet at Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (main entrance) at 10.30am

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*Saturday, 9th May*

### ANNUAL HERITAGE OPEN AIR ART COMPETITION

Theme: "THE GARDENS AND EXTERIOR OF 'THE MOUNT'"  
Registration will start at 10am at 'The Mount'

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*May (Date to be announced)*

### ANNUAL HERITAGE PAINTING EXHIBITION

Entries for 'The Mount' competition will be on display.  
John Mackintosh Hall.

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*Saturday, 27th June*

### TOUR OF THE NORTHERN DEFENCES

Led by Lionel Culatto. Please bring torches and sensible shoes.  
The terrain is difficult. Not suitable for prams nor push-chairs. Meet at the bottom of Crutchett's Ramp at 10.30am.



*28th - 29th August*  
(Details to be announced)

Heritage Conference - "Gibraltar and the Neanderthals 1848 -1998"

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*Saturday, 5th September and Saturday, 19th September*

### "TUNNELS' TOUR"

Led by Tito Vallejo. Please bring torches and sensible shoes.

Meet at Maida Vale at 2pm.  
All those interested must book at  
Wellington Front office (Tel 42844)  
(maximum 30 persons each day)

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*Thursday, 24th September*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8pm at the Garrison Library

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*Thursday, 15th October*

### "THE LOST CITY OF GIBRALTAR"

A talk by Pepe Rosado.  
Charles Hunt Room, John Mackintosh Hall at 8pm.

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*Friday, 13th November*

### FLAG DAY



## **Familiarity: Contempt or Concern?**

In a place like Gibraltar, steeped in history, it is perhaps hardly surprising that some of our most outstanding architectural features should be taken for granted. We seem to labour under the misconception that whatever their state of dereliction these landmarks will endure in our midst forever. The reality is, of course, very different: time takes its toll of everything, even solid fortifications, especially those that have been long neglected, and sadly the King's Bastion falls into this category. Considering its glorious history it deserves better from the citizens whose town it helped to defend.

The Arabs were the first to recognize the importance of this site on the Rock's western seaboard. The Spaniards had even more ambitious plans for it, and in the reign of Philip II employed the Italian engineer Giacomo Frattino to survey and improve the defences in the area. These were further strengthened in the 18th century during the early years of the British occupation.

In 1773 work began on the construction of a bastion on this same site - the initiative of Colonel (later Major-General) William Green, General Elliott's Chief Engineer. Named the King's Bastion, after the reigning monarch, George III, the task of building this massive structure was assigned to the Company of Soldier Artificers (forerunners of the Royal Engineers) which Green himself had been empowered to raise in the previous year. Built with stone blocks imported from England, the bastion was completed in 1776, three years before the commencement of the Great Siege (1779-1783). Among its many features it possessed a formidable arsenal of cannon and howitzers, and bombproof casemates spacious enough to accommodate 800 men. The bastion, which also served as Elliott's command post, survived all the onslaughts and bombardments directed at it throughout the siege. When hostilities ended it was selected as the venue for a ceremonial investiture that took place



there on St. George's Day, 23rd April, 1783. The Order of the Bath was the only honour conferred on General Elliott for his services in defending Gibraltar. He was however created a peer in 1787 and became Lord Heathfield, Baron Heathfield of Gibraltar. A laconic entry in Captain John Spilsbury's journal of the siege describes the day of the investiture as being notable for the ".....worse feu de joye fired by troops, worse weather, worse musick, worse fireworks, or worse entertainment?" Was he also perchance 'the worse' of pessimists? Elliott's Deputy, Lt.-General Robert Boyd, who was subsequently honoured as well, expressed the wish to be buried within the bastion after his death. Boyd died in 1794, and his remains are interred there still.

The story of the King's Bastion warrants more than just a passing reference. If all the human dramas associated with it were to be known, we might take an even greater pride in its history. Let us hope that now, at long last, when its future is being decided, we will seize the opportunity to restore its integrity and transform it into the kind of landmark worthy of those who lost their lives in the defence of it and of Gibraltar. Shamefully we continue to squander too many of our architectural assets, we can ill afford to neglect or lose any more.

**Marjorie Hoare**



# LIST OF TRUSTEES

ALMEDA	Mr. Alexis (Chairman) 37 Irish Town	Tel: 75705
BENADY	Dr. Sam Woodlands, Buena Vista Road.	Tel: 74433
CANESSA	Mr. Eric (Vice-Chairman) 501 Trafalgar House, Rosia Road	Tel: 72172
CORTES	Dr. John JP 8/8 Buena Vista	Tel: 76818
GALLIANO	Mr. Paco OBE 8, Bishop Rapallo Ramp	Tel: 74907
GUERRERO	Lt. Col (Retd) E. OBE J P. 'E' Devil's Gap Upper Rock	Tel: 72509
HOARE	Miss Marjorie MBE 1 Sunnyside House	Tel: 75847
LANGDON	Mr. John 17a St. Bernard's Road	Tel: 73890
ROSADO	Mr. Joseph ED 2 North Pavilion. South Bks Parade	Tel: 42303
SHAW	Mr. Eric 18 Gavino's Dwellings	Tel: 70094
TORRES	Mrs Doris C. 4D Malvasia The Vineyards	Tel: 70716
WHITELAND	Miss Genevieve 17a St. Bemards Road	Tel: 73890
JARDIM	Mr. William (Treasurer) 1. Woodford Cottage	Tel: 71135
SOIZA	Mrs. Brenda (Secretary) 6 Chusan House	Tel: 42844/72132 Fax:42844
VALLEJO (co-opted)	Mr. Tito 24 Rosia Dale	Tel: 71871





## GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

### NEWSLETTER

#### FOREWORD BY CHAIRMAN

Those of our members who occasionally glance at the gutter press may have noticed that one weekly was kind enough to award "The Gibraltar Heritage Society" - they couldn't even get our name right - the "Useless Eustace Award" for 1998.

I am quite sure that none of our members can have taken this seriously, but it provides an opportunity to list our achievements over the past year. Much of our work is done quietly behind the scenes, and has to remain confidential - we do not go in for extravagant claims, spurious "revelations" and self-important communiques - but we can lay claim to a series of solid achievements in the preservation of our heritage.

#### HERITAGE SITES:

**Parson's Lodge** has been reopened to the public, thanks to the hard work and devotion of one of our members, Alan Lieb.

**The City Hall**, the external façade of which was recently restored on the initiative of the Trust, is now having a much-needed restoration of the interior. This is being done by the Trust with financial support from the Government, the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society and other generous donors.

**Nun's Well** is soon to be cleaned up, restored and opened to visitors. There will be a tea-room on the site, and should prove to be a useful tourist attraction.

**Witham's Road Cemetery**, where many important residents of Gibraltar in the 19th century are buried, has been restored and cleaned up by the Trust, with generous help from MOD.

**The City Walls** were the subject of a detailed report from the Trust to Government, and we are pleased that work in clearing and beautifying has already started. These walls are our largest and most prominent historical monument, and properly enhanced, can add much to the attractiveness of Gibraltar as a tourist destination.

**King's Bastion**, the restoration of which has for a long time been recommended by the Trust, is now being cleaned up by Government, and we can look forward to further refurbishment and restoration of this site in the future.





**The excavations at Casemates**, which were the subject of a particularly stupid attack in the above mentioned paper, have now been completed. They have revealed a Moorish "atarazana" or galley-house which is unique world-wide, and on the Trust's recommendation, the Government are arranging for part of it to be covered over by a transparent canopy for display to visitors, with suitable interpretation boards, and a small display room of the finds made during the excavation. It will thus form a fitting introduction to the new Gibraltar Museum premises at Casemates Barracks.

**The Moorish Castle complex** is an important but sadly neglected part of our heritage, and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust is at the forefront of plans to develop this area.

Many of the "behind-the-scenes" activities of the Trust cannot be divulged at present for reasons of confidentiality. The Trust has been consulted by the Heritage Minister on a new **Heritage Bill** which will strengthen its powers to ensure that our Heritage is preserved, and sits on the Government's **Heritage Commission**, as well as the **Development and Planning Commission**, which has the power to stop developments which are harmful to Heritage. We don't win them all, to be sure, but if we weren't there Gibraltar would lose the lot! The Trust is also represented on the Ministry of Culture's **Millennium Committee**, and has proposed, among other suggestions, to erect a statue to the **Evacuation**, paid for out of Trust funds, if a suitable site is granted.

1998 saw many of the Trust's usual activities carried out successfully. In particular, the **Open Painting Competition** had an unprecedentedly large entry, and the artists, together with many non-painting visitors, had an unusual opportunity to enjoy the Mount gardens.

These are just some of the activities of the Heritage Trust, whose Board members continue to work tirelessly to preserve the heritage of Gibraltar for future generations.

We feel sure that all members will agree that we should return the "Useless Eustace Award" to the kind donor, who clearly deserves it far more than we do.

One final thought: A British Prime Minister once said, talking of the Press: "Power without responsibility, the prerogative of the courtesan throughout the ages!", All of us in Gibraltar can be grateful that the periodical in question, though it is totally lacking in responsibility, is equally lacking in power, and so can hardly be compared to an influential courtesan, but rather to a far humbler member of the same profession.



## BOOK REVIEWS

by Sam G Benady

**Gibraltar**, by R Montgomery Martin, is the latest in a series of reprints of important works on Gibraltar produced by Gibraltar Books.

The book reproduces the section on Gibraltar in Martin's encyclopaedic **History of the British Colonies**, first published in 1835, and includes a biographical note about the author by Anthony Seymour. Montgomery Martin was one of the many individualists - some might say eccentrics - which Britain produced in the 19th Century, and this section thus makes interesting reading.

The historical section relies heavily on Drinkwater's **History of the Great Siege**, but the later sections, on natural history, health, sanitation, the weather and commerce, are invaluable for anyone interested in life in Gibraltar in the early nineteenth century.

The section on health was contributed by Dr Gillkrest, the Principal Medical Officer of the garrison, and deals, among other things, with the epidemics of yellow fever which afflicted Gibraltar in the first part of the century.

A fan of the Duke of Kent, Martin devotes 18 pages to his hero's time as Governor, and includes a brief biography, as well as the long-drawn-out saga of the Duke's unsuccessful attempts to clear his name.

Martin's final comment on Gibraltar is worth quoting:

**The foregoing details sufficiently illustrate the importance of Gibraltar to Great Britain, whether it is to be viewed politically or commercially: by British valour it has been acquired, and by British statesmanship preserved. May the day be far distant when treachery or dissension at home shall cause this noble fortress - the protector of our flag, honour and trade in the Mediterranean, to be neglected or contemned; for upwards of a century it has been a part and parcel of our oceanic Empire, enabling us the better to hold our footing in the Eastern part of Europe, and to wield with effect the destinies of the world.**

We need a Martin today speaking for us in the UK! It should be added that he was by no means an imperialist, and was strongly in favour of self-government in the Colonies.

The book is available in bookshops in Gibraltar, at £13.95.





**The Postal History of Gibraltar**, by Richard Garcia and Edward B Proud is the fruit of many years of research into the subject by a Gibraltar author who is well known for his encyclopaedic knowledge, and his English collaborator. It is a lavish production, and is profusely illustrated with black and white reproductions of prints and postcards of Gibraltar in bygone days; it is a shame that some of the prints have not reproduced well.

The subject matter has been thoroughly researched, and much of the information is of great interest to non-specialists, as it reveals much of the day-to-day problems of life in Gibraltar in the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the later lists and statistics, although they make for dry reading, must be of immense interest to the postal historian and philatelist. This is not a book to read through in one sitting, but to dip into time and time again for fresh insights into our past.

One would like to have learnt more of some of the characters (and characters many of them were!) who people the pages. Take Miss Margaret Creswell: she was postmistress for 30 years (and it must have been almost unprecedented in Victorian times for a woman to be in charge of a Government Department). How old was she when she started? What did she do when she retired? What of other members of her family? It would have added an extra dimension to this book if more human interest had been injected into its pages.

But this is mere carping. This is an excellent book which is destined to become the bible of the Gibraltar collector. It is published by Postal History Publications, and is on sale at £45 at bookshops in Gibraltar.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1999

Thursday 4th March at 8pm

“AN INTRODUCTION TO HERALDRY: What is it, What is it not?”

A talk by Mr Richard Penner von Kader. Lecture Room, John Mackintosh Hall

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Saturday 17th April at 10.30am

TOUR OF THE STREETS OF GIBRALTAR

Led by Mr Richard Garcia - Meet at The Piazza

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Saturday 15th May- 10am to 5pm

10th ANNUAL HERITAGE OPEN AIR ART COMPETITION

Theme: The Alameda Botanical Gardens.

Meet at The Cottage for Registration, Rules, etc

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Tuesday 18th to Friday 21st May

ANNUAL HERITAGE PAINTING EXHIBITION

Entries for “The Alameda Gardens” Art Competition will be on display. John Mackintosh Hall - Lower Exhibition Room

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Thursday 20th May at 9pm

HISTORY OF ROWING IN GIBRALTAR

A talk by Mr Lionel Gomez. Venue - the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Europort Road





Wednesday 9th June at 8pm

**"ONE ASPECT OF THE EFFECTS OF THE PENINSULAR WAR ON  
GIBRALTAR"**

A talk by His Lordship the Bishop Rt Rev Charles Caruana - John Mackintosh  
Hall, Charles Hunt Room

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Thursday 10th June at 8pm

**"EXPLORING OUR DEEPEST HERITAGE - In the Beginning....."**

A talk by Dr Clive Finlayson - John Mackintosh Hall (Charles Hunt Room)

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Thursday 24th June at 7pm

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Garrison Library. There will be pre-meeting drinks as from 6.30pm

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Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September

Calpe '99 Conference - "GIBRALTAR, THE STRAIT AND al-ANDALUS,  
711AD to 1492"

*(Further details to be announced)*

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Saturday 18th September at 2pm

**Tunnels' Tour**

Led by Mr Tito Vallejo. Meet at Maida Vale. Will exit at Princess  
Caroline's Battery. Please bring sensible shoes, a torch and £1 for Insurance. All  
those interested must book at Trust's Office (Wellington Front, Tel 42844).  
Maximum 30 persons.

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Saturday 16th October- 10am to 3.30pm

Flat Bastion Magazine - Open Day - Organised by Mr Freddie Gomez



"Where Have All The Flowers Gone.....?"

I ended my walk at South Barracks lamenting the fact that concrete has replaced  
so  
many open spaces where once wild flowers and trees flourished. Brympton and  
Buena Vista had provided sad examples of this. Consequently the presence of the  
trees on the periphery of the former South Barracks parade-ground was a welcome  
sight. It was reassuring to see the great eucalyptus tree which dominates it, the row  
of young plane trees struggling without enough water, and the sturdy yet gracious  
pepper tree with its mass of evergreen, feathery leaves; all nature's indispensable  
gifts without which we ourselves cannot survive.

Whilst I was taking a second look at the brown fruiting heads on the largest plane  
tree in the square, a friend suddenly appeared on the scene. We exchanged views  
about trees and their uses, and she promised to give me a copy of an anonymous  
inscription found on one in Portugal. Here it is then, by courtesy of Mrs Cynthia  
Richman, hopefully serving to enrich the pages of this Newsletter, as the trees have  
also helped to endow South Barracks with its special quality.

'Ye who pass by and would raise your hand against me,  
harken ere you harm me.  
I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights,  
the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun,  
and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.  
I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table,  
the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat.  
I am the handle of your hoe,  
the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle,  
the shell of your coffin.  
I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty.  
Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: harm me not!'

.....nor debase my roots with your rubbish!

Marjorie Hoare  
15 February 1999



## LIST OF TRUSTEES

ALMEDA	Mr Alexis (Chairman) 37 Irish Town	Tel: 75705
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CANESSA	Mr Eric 501 Trafalgar House, Rosia Road	Tel: 72172
CORTES	Dr John JP 8/8 Buena Vista	Tel: 76818
GALLIANO	Mr Paco OBE (Hon Life Trustee) 8 Bishop Rapallo Ramp	Tel: 74907
GUERRERO	Lt Col Eddie OBE JP 'E' Devil's Gap, Upper Rock	Tel: 72509
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ROSADO	Mr Joseph ED (Vice-Chairman) 2 North Pavilion Road, South Barracks Parade	Tel: 42303
SHAW	Mr Eric FGS FRGS 18 Gavino's Dwellings	Tel: 70094
TORRES	Mrs Doris 4D Malvasia, Vineyards	Tel: 70716
VALLEJO	Mr Tito FRGS 24 Rosia Dale	Tel: 71871
WHITELAND	Miss Genevieve 17a St Bernard's Road	Tel: 73890
GOLDWIN	Mr Robert (Hon Treasurer) 8/5 Buena Vista Road	Tel: 77552
SOIZA	Mrs Brenda (Secretary) 6 Chusan House	Tel: 42844

