



GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Newsletter 2005

Introduction by the Chairman
Joe Ballantine

I have much pleasure in introducing the 2005 Newsletter, as your newly elected Chairman, in succession to Joe Desoisa, who has just completed five years of dedicated work on behalf of the Trust. I am sure that he will be missed because of the enthusiastic manner in which he tackled all the projects with which he was associated, and I shall try to ensure that the progress that has been made during his tenure of office will continue into the future.

In continuation I feel that I can do no better than to summarise the events of 2004, which in a more detailed manner, formed part of my predecessor's report to the Annual General Meeting in November last.

Projects during 2004, the Tercentenary year, included:

- The launch of the Trust's calendar for 200⁴5 by the Chief Minister, in the presence of His Excellency The Governor, at a special exhibition at the John Mackintosh Hall. The calendar was a great success and was totally sold out.
- A great deal of work was carried out in the project to erect a bust of Admiral Sir George Rooke. As time progressed this blossomed into a full-length statue, which was commissioned from Sharon Keenan, a well known sculptor, and after a lengthy gestation period was completed late in October. The final version of the statue was accepted by the Chairman of the Trust in November, transported to Gibraltar in mid-November and placed on a plinth manufactured by local monumental mason Glen Cano. The unveiling was carried out by the Minister for Heritage, on behalf of the Chief Minister, who was away from Gibraltar on important international duties, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, on the 29 November 2004.

The statue is situated close to the Devil's Tongue Battery at Waterport. The project was jointly financed by the Trust, the Government of Gibraltar and the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society. The Trust is also grateful for sponsorship received from GB Airways, Transport Services Ltd, Masbro and Middle Sea Insurance Companies, Monteverde and Sons, Fairhomes Ltd and Sharrock Shand Ltd. Other agencies contributing to the project were: Technical Services Department, The Tourist Board, the Chief Minister's Office and the Royal Gibraltar Police. It is of interest to note that of all the projects and events that have been held throughout 2004, the Rooke Statue is the only permanent memorial to the Tercentenary!

- The trust organised a Ball at the Convent in June, which was very well attended.
- The Convent was used as the subject for the annual painting competition, by kind permission of HE the Governor and was well patronised.
- The annual visit of the "Friends" was organised to coincide with the celebrations on the Tercentenary on the 4th August, and was marked by a joint Gala Dinner held at the Gibraltar Officers Mess, Rooke. The event saw the retirement of Sir Derek Reffell as Chairman of the "Friends", and the assumption of these duties by Sir John Chapple.
- With the help of the Engineering Section of the RAF in Gibraltar, Boyd's Tomb at the Line Wall Boulevard was restored to its former glory. Our thanks go to those involved.
- Parson's Lodge has reopened to the public in the summer. Refreshments and meals are now available to members and the public in general. Refurbishment and health and safety measures continue to be improved and the site is now becoming a more attractive place for Tourists and locals to visit. It is of interest to note that this site is maintained solely by the Trust and enjoys no Government subsidy whatsoever, a matter that needs addressing.
- The trust is disappointed at not having been able to complete the restoration of the Sacred Heart School Chapel, and will make every endeavour to do so this year.

The most important development this year has been the decision of the Chief Minister to make the whole of the Main Guard at John Mackintosh Square available to the Trust, which already occupies the first floor as the offices of the Trust. We are very gratified by this decision and plans are currently being prepared for the refurbishment of the building, as well as, for ways to make the best possible use of the facilities now becoming available.

So much for the year that has now passed: what about the future and what challenges await us in 2005?

First of all it is another significant year for Gibraltar in that it commemorates the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Gibraltar is justly proud to join in these celebrations having played a role of vital strategic importance during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

To commemorate the occasion, the Government has accepted the Trust's proposal to erect a statue to Admiral Lord Nelson in the area of the Trafalgar Cemetery - the exact spot still to be decided.

In addition, the Calpe 2005 Conference will be devoted to the theme of "Gibraltar and the Sea", and it is hoped that the Trust will be able to contribute to the programme of the Conference. The Trust's 2005 Calendar is totally devoted to Nelson, his life and time. The Trafalgar Cemetery is being given a face-lift with contributions by the Royal Navy in Gibraltar, and by the Probation Service of the Government's Social Services Agency. It is hoped that Cemetery will be in pristine condition by October 2005.

Through the kind generosity of Mrs Betty Parkinson, an arbour has been created at the north entrance to the Cemetery in memory of her late husband, George. The structural ironwork is already in place and plans are in hand to plant red and white roses in the very near future, which this ironwork will support.

It is hoped that during the course of 2005, closer relations will be established as a matter of routine with the Government Heritage Division which will hopefully lead to greater co-operation in the fostering of Heritage-friendly projects, and which is after all what both the Trust and the division are there for.

Further efforts need to be made about illegal works and the methods that should be applied in pursuit of those that contravene building and heritage regulations. I hope that this problem will be addressed in earnest and will result in the preservation of buildings (and parts of buildings), which today suffer from this ailment!

It is right and proper to give thanks for the generosity of sponsors:

So it is with pleasure that the Trust acknowledges the assistance of Gibtelecom for its sponsorship of the annual Heritage Journals, which we hope will continue into the future; Jimmy Imossi of Gibnet for free internet access; Nick Keeling and Gabrielle O'Hagan, of DentonWildeSapte for their legal advise and assistance; Mr Streatfield-James, of Barclays Bank for his donation of £700 raised as a result of the Tercentenary Treasure Hunt organised by the Trust; the Ministry of Defence for the assistance given to the Trust by Major D Seed and the visiting Service Units (13 Geographic Squadron, Royal Engineers); and many other persons who wish to remain nameless!

Members will have become aware by now of the proposed funicular project. Since it was first mooted some 20 months ago, the Trust has strongly objected to this ill-conceived idea. Having a funicular railway from Landport all the way to Rock Gun and its pertinent infrastructure (stations, piers etc) would forever destroy our most important and valuable heritage assets, the Northern Defences and the famously unique skyline of our Rock. The application for Gibraltar to be awarded World Heritage Status will stand no chance of success. The Trust will continue to express its total opposition to this project.

Finally, may I wish all members of the Trust a very happy 2005 and thank them for their continued support in our never-ending task of looking after our Heritage. We appreciate any suggestions that you can supply us with and please keep them coming.



However, the commanders quickly decided that the task of taking Cadiz, whose defences had recently been strengthened, was well beyond them. Instead the expeditionary force landed to the north of Cadiz and, meeting little opposition, then advanced along the bay into Puerto de St Maria. Here the soldiers soon found the well-stocked wine and brandy cellars and the warehouses full of merchandise ready for export and were as quickly transformed into a rampaging mob intent on wholesale looting and destruction in which not even churches and convents were spared. The results scandalised the whole of Europe and extinguished any hope that the Spaniards would rally to the Allies' cause.

Prince George was in despair when he heard of the looting and sent to London a damning report on the conduct of the officers. Rooke, suffering from an attack of gout and much upset by the news of his wife's death, pessimistically reported that *'the inhumane plundering of Port St Mary made a great noise here by sea and land, and will do so throughout Christendom'*.

The troops were re-embarked but on the way back to England Rooke learnt that the Spanish treasure fleet and its escorting French squadron had been diverted to Vigo. The Allied fleet succeeded in breaking through the boom protecting the inner harbour, while Ormonde occupied the batteries guarding its entrance. Most of the bullion had already been unloaded and dispatched into safety but the outcome was truly calamitous for the already weakened French navy. The French and Spaniards set fire to their ships and escaped to the shore; but many were too late, and were blown up with the ships. *'For some time there was nothing to be heard or seen but cannonading, burning, men and guns flying in the air, and altogether the most lively scene of horror and confusion that can be imagined'*.

Rooke returned to England in November 1702 and, upon taking his seat in the House of Commons as member for Portsmouth (which he had represented since 1698), received the thanks of the House for his success at Vigo, and was nominated a member of the Privy Council.

In June 1704, Rooke again led another Anglo-Dutch fleet of some 40 ships and carrying some 1800 marines, the majority being English, into the Mediterranean. This time his orders were to assist the Duke of Savoy in an attack on the French naval base of Toulon. He was once again accompanied by Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt who had previously served Carlos II as viceroy of Catalonia.

On the way to Nice, Prince George persuaded Rooke to go first to Barcelona, convinced that the mere appearance of the fleet would be sufficient to promote a rising in favour of the Archduke Pretender to the Spanish throne. However, although there was some degree of support for the Archduke, Francisco de Velasco, the Spanish governor, refused to yield even after Rooke had landed more than fifteen hundred marines and bombarded the town. The marines re-embarked and the journey towards Nice was about to be resumed when Rooke received news that the Duke of Savoy had abandoned his plan to attack Toulon.

So it was a fairly dejected council of war that met on the *Royal Katherine*, Rooke's flagship, under pressure from the Archduke and the king of Portugal to produce positive results. Various proposals were discussed including a landing at Port Mahon, another attempt at Barcelona and even going again to Cadiz. In the end with Rooke arguing for and Byng against, but really for want of a better alternative, it was agreed to make an attempt on Gibraltar in the name of the Habsburg Archduke Charles, despite the fact that England and the United Provinces had previously recognised Louis XIV grandson, Philip of Anjou, as the rightful king of Spain. In fact Gibraltar had all along been on Rooke's list of potential targets and he had come prepared with a letter demanding its surrender signed by the Archduke using the ancient formula *'Yo el rey'*.

The fleet crossed over from Tetuan on the 30th July and the first step in the reduction of Gibraltar *'to the King of Spaine's obedience'* was the entry into the bay on 1st August 1704 of a squadron of sixteen ships under the command of Rear-Admiral Byng, and a further six under the command of Rear-Admiral Vanderdussen and anchored about a mile from the Gibraltar defences. Admiral Rooke stayed with the rest of the fleet anchored off Punta Carnero to ward off any possible French intervention. The plan of action was that Prince George should land on the isthmus with a total force of about 2,300 consisting of 1,800 marines and some 500 others, presumed to be Catalans, who had joined the fleet at Barcelona after the failed Anglo-Dutch attack on the city.

The marines under Prince George landed that same afternoon. They were challenged by about 50 horsemen who rode out of the Landport entrance to the town but quickly made off after one of their number was hit. Gibraltar was now cut off from the mainland and forces in the nearby hills were dispersed by fire from two ships sent to the east side of the Rock. That night, Captain Whitaker of the Dorsetshire, led a boat party to destroy a French privateer, the *St Francois*, moored on the Old Mole that had been firing at the marines on the isthmus.

In just three days, Gibraltar fell to the Anglo-Dutch attack which, ironically, began with an assault on the very same Torre del Tuerto fort on the New Mole whose ineffectiveness Rooke had noted eleven years earlier. On the morning of the 4th August the Spanish garrison marched out of Gibraltar with their arms and baggage. Those inhabitants prepared to take *'an oath of fidelity to Charles III, their legitimate king and master'* were promised to remain unmolested if they chose to remain. Few believed or accepted the offer.

Less than a week after the capture, Rooke received intelligence that a French fleet under the command of Admiral Toulouse, an illegitimate son of Louis XIV, was approaching Gibraltar. Leaving half his marines to defend the newly won prize, Rooke immediately set off to engage the French. The outcome of the action that followed, the Battle of Malaga, was indecisive. Not a single vessel was sunk or captured on either side but the mutual battering left many ships barely seaworthy and casualties on both sides were high. Byng's squadron, having

expended so much ammunition in the previous bombardment of Gibraltar, was obliged to quit the line.

The French fleet disappeared from the scene and Rooke was fearful that it might have gone ahead of him to Gibraltar. In fact, the French had returned to Toulon claiming a great naval victory. Louis XIV and his courtiers sung a Te Deum and a medal was struck in the French Admiral's honour. The reality was, however, that by retreating to Toulon the French turned what had been a tactical stalemate into an Allied strategic victory because after the Battle of Malaga the French Navy never again emerged from port in full strength.

After refitting his disabled ships and providing for the defence of Gibraltar, leaving behind two thousand English and Dutch marines and some 300 Catalans, with guns, stores, and provisions, Rooke sailed for England with the main body of the fleet towards the end of August. Under the command of Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt, the men that Rooke left behind successfully defended the Rock in the siege of 1704-1705 against a force of over twelve thousand Spanish and French troops.

Thus Admiral Rooke had not only taken Gibraltar and saved it when the British hold on it was at its most precarious, he also provided for its defence during its most severe trial. The Tories fully understood the significance of these actions and hailed Rooke as a hero and Queen Anne commissioned a Gold Trophy (there is a replica of it in the Gibraltar Museum) for him as a mark of gratitude.

However, less than two weeks after the capture of Gibraltar the Duke of Marlborough inflicted a crushing defeat on the French at the Battle of Blenheim. The Whig majority in the House was determined that the Duke's victory at Blenheim would not suffer comparison with Rooke's successes at Gibraltar and Malaga. It was an easy matter for the Duchess of Marlborough, an ardent Whig and the Queen's *confidant*, to dissuade the Queen from honouring Rooke. Whilst the Duke was loaded with honours and was ultimately rewarded with a magnificent estate, Rooke was even denied his Cup.

The result was that Rooke was superseded from the command, and was not employed again. He retired to his family estate in Kent where he died in January 1709. Rooke was three times married, but only by his second wife did he have issue; a son, George, who himself died childless in 1739.

Rooke's only previous memorials were a marble bust in Warriors' Corner in Canterbury Cathedral and his portrait, painted by Michael Dahl, which is in the painted hall at Greenwich. Now, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of British Gibraltar we have erected a magnificent bronze statue of the Admiral and sited it close to the spot from which the French privateer fired on Allied marines during the events of August 1704.

BOOK REVIEW

By Joe Ballantine

THEY WENT TO WAR

By Eric Canessa

When reading the list of contents, you get the first surprise in Eric Canessa's book. It reveals the large number of Gibraltarians who volunteered to go to war (92), in some cases not to survive that conflict, and I am sure that in percentage terms, as compared with the population at the time, this must have been quite high.

The next thing that struck me was how many of them were well known personalities about town, crossing your path on a daily basis, and in many cases good friends, about whom we have now learnt other facets of their lives. Isn't life strange?

We must, therefore, be so indebted to Eric's tenacity, patience and research acumen over the past ten years for this invaluable addition to "Gibraltariania", which should in my view adorn every bookcase in Gibraltar, and which I have no doubt will be of such benefit to future researchers.

I found the contents of this book fascinating, could not put it down until finished, full of personal Gibraltar history, and recommended reading for every Gibraltarian.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Sam Benady

AARON CARDOZO: LIFE AND LETTERS

Edited by Tito Benady

Gibraltar Books, 2004

Although Tito Benady only claims credit as editor of this book, he has himself contributed a valuable biography of Cardozo as an introduction.

Aaron Cardozo is important in the history of Gibraltar as one of the first of the civil inhabitants to exercise real influence in the affairs of the Rock, and as the builder of one of our most prominent buildings, the City Hall.

This biography is followed by letters and testimonials which Aaron had collected, from the Duke of Kent downwards, and a Treaty with the Bey of Oran, signed by Cardozo as Ambassador. On behalf of General Fox, the Lieutenant-Governor of Gibraltar, and Admiral Lord Nelson. These are annotated by Cardozo himself, and were published by him in 1830.

Aaron Cardozo's importance to Gibraltar was summarized by the Duke of Kent:

He was always distinguished as the most active and zealous individual on the rock, to promote the service of government, without considering the sacrifice of private fortune; that his liberality has always been proverbial there, though every class of society.

But his influence extended beyond Gibraltar. In 1824 Louis XVIII created him Knight of the Legion of Honour, for "services during the Peninsular War."

A VIEW OF THE ROCK

By Philip Dennis
Gibraltar Books, 2004

Philip Dennis has been writing about Gibraltar and its peoples for many years. This book, however, is about his view of the Rock as a teenager in the 1930s. His father was a major, but in spite of this, Philip was able to gain some insight into the life of Gibraltarian civilians - a rare achievement in those days. He therefore provides a small window into pre-war Gibraltar, both in his text and in the many black and white photos, many taken by him and therefore unique.

He also includes some statistics, and a view from Gibraltar of the Spanish Civil War.

THE QUINTAS OF MADEIRA - WINDOWS INTO THE PAST

By Marjorie Hoare
Francisco Ribeiro & filhos, Funchal, 2004

This beautifully produced book can truly be described as a labour of love. Marjorie Hoare has for many years conducted a love affair with the magical island of Madeira and its historical country houses - the quintas, and she has spent long hours researching the stories of these historic and often beautiful buildings, and this book is the result.

Each Quinta is lovingly described in eloquent and sometimes emotional language, and both the exteriors and interiors of the buildings are illustrated by a profusion of colour photographs, most of them taken by the author, who demonstrates a talent for photography which is only matched by her facility with words - there is even a poem by her, "The Return to Quinta Magnolia," which charmingly evokes her youthful memories of war-time Madeira.

The descriptions of the quintas are embellished by fascinating and often romantic anecdotes of the people who owned them. These were often English merchants who had established themselves on the island, and the book also serves as a chronicle of the British presence on the island, from the legendary Robert Machin and Anna d'Arfet in the 14th century, onwards. There is even a connection with a Gibraltar family - the Abudarhams, one of whom established himself in Madeira and founded a dynasty there.

This book is bound to fascinate those whose families were evacuated to Madeira during World War II, but its charm will also attract a far wider audience. Indeed, there are parallels to be drawn between the fate of some of the quintas, and the fate of many of the old houses of Gibraltar, a subject which is also very close to Marjorie's heart.

The book is now available in bookshops in Gibraltar. I challenge you to go and leaf through its pages. You will not be able to leave the bookshop without it.

BOOK REVIEW

By Colin Skinner

Education in Gibraltar 1704-2004

E.G. Archer & A.A. Traverso
Gibraltar Books, 2004

Published to coincide with the tercentenary, this book provides a comprehensive account of the evolution of education in Gibraltar over the last three hundred years.

It is of interest on two levels. It is liberally illustrated with group photographs of students and teachers and these will no doubt provoke more than a few wry smiles of recognition. There are also numerous references to those who have made their mark on the education system in one way or another, many of whom will be recalled with affection.

But on another level this book fills an important void, dealing as it does with an aspect which has surely been such a key factor in Gibraltar's social development. And those directly involved in the field will be particularly interested in its coverage of more recent developments such as the introduction of comprehensive education, the abolition of the points system and the implementation of the National Curriculum.

BOOK REVIEW

By Geraldine Finlayson

Underwater Gibraltar: A Guide to the Rock's Submerged Sites

By P. Smith and D. Fa

This book is much more than just a guide for divers. Its appeal to the non-diver lies in the fact that it contains not just information on diving, but also a short history of the local geography and construction of the harbour. It deals with the local marine life, artefacts that can be seen (from plates and bottles, to cannon and anchors), ship construction and wreck layout, and gives an insight into underwater surveying techniques. It also chronicles the important survey and research work which finally identified the remains of an armed trawler lying in the Bay of Gibraltar, which was sabotaged during WWII. This work won the first ever Nautical Archaeology Society's 'Adopt a Wreck' Award in November 2003. The authors have been diving the area for over twenty years: Phil Smith is a British Sub-Aqua Club National Instructor and self-confessed wreck diving addict and Dr Darren Fa is an Advanced Instructor with a Doctorate in Marine Biology. Both are qualified Tutors for the Nautical Archaeology Society.

REPRINTS OF OLD BOOKS

Review by Sam Benady

With new technology, it is possible to buy through the internet facsimile editions of antiquarian books, which are often printed out as and when the book is ordered. These are obviously far less expensive than the originals, which are often very rare.

Three examples with a Gibraltar flavour are:

Diary of Colonel Bayly 1796-1830

Naval and Military Press, no date (original published in 1896)

Most of this book deals with the Indian campaigns, which may interest those who have read the early campaigns of Richard Sharpe, and in fact only the last 10 pages or so deal with Gibraltar, but Bayly was here during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1828, and has many comments which reflect the prevailing lay opinions about the epidemic.

Reminiscences of Gibraltar and the Egyptian War

Naval and Military Press, no date (original published in 1893)

This is set in the 1880s, and in fact the first four chapters describe life in the ranks in the Gibraltar Garrison, while the rest of the book describes Egypt, and the battles of Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir.

These books can be ordered from www.naval-and-military-press.com

El martirio de la jóven Hachuel, la heroína hebrea

By D. Eugenio María Romero

Fénix editions, 2004

(Originally published by Imprenta Militar, Gibraltar [ie the Garrison Library] 1837)

This book is very different to the previous ones. It tells in flowery Spanish the true story of a fourteen-year-old Jewish girl, Sol Hachuel, who was murdered by the Moroccan authorities for refusing to renounce her religion. Her grave thereafter became a place of pilgrimage for Jews and Moslems alike, as she was considered a model of constancy.

Though this may be considered only of marginal Gibraltar interest, but in fact, the tragic story had resonances in Gibraltar among Jews and those of other faiths, as can be seen from the fact that it was published by the Garrison Library, and that the list of subscribers includes many non-Jews. In addition, a play based on this book was produced in Gibraltar a few years later.

Order from: www.alapage.com

GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Programme of events 2005

NOTE: Members are requested to check dates and times before the event by calling the Trust's office on Tel. 42844

DATE	TIME	EVENT	MEETING PLACE
Saturday 22 January	10.30am	Tour of the South District led by Richard Garcia	St Joseph's School, South Barracks
Saturday 19 February	2.30pm	Visit: World War II Tunnels, led by Tito Vallejo	Casino car park (Bring a torch and £2 for Insurance)
Saturday 5 March	10.30am	Visit: Forbes Quarry, led by a member of The Museum team	Forbes Quarry (Max: 20 members). Phone 42844 to book. Wear sensible footwear
Sunday 20 March	9.30am	Visit: Cape Trafalgar, led by Joe Desoisa	Coach Park, Waterport. £5 per person. (Max: 40 members). Phone 42844 to book
Saturday 16 April	2.30pm	Tour the "Old Red Light" District led by Tito Vallejo	Hospital Steps, outside "Anything Goes"
Saturday 7 May	10am to 5pm	16th Annual Heritage Sketching/Painting Competition. Theme: Rosia Bay	Registration and Rules on site as from 9.30am
Tuesday 10 May	6pm	Official opening of Painting Exhibition.	Casemates Exhibition Hall - Open to participants and invited guests only
Wednesday 11 May till Wednesday 18 May	11am to 7pm	Exhibition of Competition entries	Casemates Exhibition Hall
Saturday 14 May	10.30am	Visit: The Convent, led by Denis King	The Convent. (By courtesy of H.E. The Governor)
Saturday 14 May	10am to 6pm	Museum Open Day	Gibraltar Museum
Saturday 11 June	10.30am	Visit: "125 years of the Police Force", led by Cecilia Baldachino	Irish Town Police Station

SUMMER BREAK

DATE	TIME	EVENT	MEETING PLACE
Thursday 22 September	6pm	Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Heritage Awards 2005	Garrison Library
Saturday 24 September	10.30am	Tour of Rosia Bay and Parson's Lodge, led by Keith Farrell	7th Rosia Battery (opposite IPA Club)
Monday 3 October till Friday 7 October	11am to 7pm	Exhibition: Trafalgar 200	Casemates Exhibition Hall (To be confirmed)
Thursday 6 October	8pm	Talk: Cathedral of The Holy Trinity, by The Dean. (To be confirmed)	Cathedral of The Holy Trinity,
Friday 21 October	9pm	Special Trafalgar Day Dinner 'a la Nelson'. £55 per person.	Parson's Lodge (To be confirmed) Phone 42844). Max: 30 members.
Saturday 22 October	9.30am	Visit Cape Trafalgar, led by Joe Desoisa	Coach Park, Waterport. £5 per person. Max: 40 members. Phone 42844 to book
Friday 28 October till Sunday 30 October	9.30am to 7pm	Heritage Conference: Calpe 2005. Theme: Gibraltar and The Sea	John Mackintosh Hall
Sunday 20 November	10.30am	Tour 100 ton Gun and Engineer Battery, led by John Murphy	100 ton Gun
Sunday 4 December	10.30am	Visit the City Hall, led by Joe Desoisa	City Hall, John Mackintosh Square

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GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Newsletter 2006

Introduction by the Chairman
Joe Ballantine

What a momentous year this has been. Lots of hard work for your Trustees, tackled with extreme enthusiasm and efficiency, and exemplary dedication. For this I thank them all.

As you know, just shortly before 2004 had ended, the saga of the funicular development surfaced. On Christmas Eve the bundle of documents pertaining to this development was passed to members of the Development and Planning Commission for consideration.

The events that followed have been fully covered in the media and elsewhere and I do not intend to rehearse them here. Suffice to say that the combined efforts of the Trust, the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, the Environmental Safety Group and the good sense of the people of Gibraltar ensured that the project did not come to fruition. But it did take some five months of effort, which could have been spent on other matters.

There were of course other projects and events in which the Trust was either involved in or undertook on its own. These are summarised hereunder:

- ♦ **The Bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, and the Death of Lord Nelson** was commemorated in a variety of ways.

The Programme of Events for the year included two visits to Cape Trafalgar and the Naval Museum in San Fernando, Cadiz - they attracted a lot of interest from our members and were very successful. This event has been included again in the 2006 programme.

The theme chosen for the annual Painting Competition was "Rosia Bay". As