



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

usual the event was extremely popular. The pupils of St Mary's First School participated, as has now become traditional. It was a useful educational experience as they were able to benefit from seeing and learning about a local site directly connected with an important episode in naval history.

A tour of Rosia Bay was also organised, led by Trustee Denis King. Denis also gave a presentation at Parson's Lodge Battery prior to the special Trafalgar Day Dinner that took place on 21 October, for which tickets sold out.

The Calpe Conference, organised by the Gibraltar Museum, was held over the weekend of 28 October and was attended by members of the Board of Trustees and of the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society. It was dedicated this year to "Sentinel of the Mediterranean: Gibraltar, The Navy and the Strait". The topics on Nelson and Trafalgar were addressed by a group of very eminent academics and were a great success.

A statue to the great admiral was erected to the south of Referendum Gates opposite the Trafalgar Cemetery and was unveiled by the Chief Minister, The Hon Peter Caruana, in the presence of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Alan West and other dignitaries.

As part of the celebrations there was also a very successful exhibition, 'Trafalgar 200', held at the Casemates Hall, in which the Trust participated. Apart from providing various exhibits, Trustees Stanley Flower and Denis King set up a 'classroom' and gave talks on the subject to over 1000 schoolchildren.

- ♦ **Trafalgar Cemetery** has been greatly enhanced through the kindness of Mrs Betty Parkinson, whose generous donations have enabled the Trust to erect a rose arbour at the north entrance to the cemetery, as well as to provide four park benches in the upper lawn of the cemetery. Our thanks to this generous benefactress.

A plaque to commemorate the seamen who died as a result of wounds received at the Battle of Trafalgar and who are buried in a communal grave to the north of the cemetery has been placed on the wall behind which their grave is sited. Taylor Woodrow, to whom the Trust is most grateful, has kindly sponsored the plaque.

- ♦ **King's Bastion.** The old Generating Station has now been demolished, revealing the Bastion, which is being refurbished and restored to its original state. The Trust is being consulted throughout the works.
- ♦ **The Main Guard.** Plans for the refurbishment of the whole building to house the offices of the Trust are well advanced and are shortly to be passed to the Chief Minister, through whom the building has been made available to the Trust. The Trust is grateful to architect John Langdon for providing these and other drawings as and when required.
- ♦ **The Victualling Yard.** The Trust is currently engaged in discussions with the Government over their request for the surrender of the remaining portion of the lease held on this building. The main issues are the award of a realistic annual grant to compensate the Trust for loss of earnings and firm assurances that this important heritage asset will be protected and preserved, and not damaged in any way in the future.
- ♦ **Parsons Lodge Battery.** This historical asset has now been re-opened for over a year and refurbishment works have been undertaken, mainly of a health and safety nature. New toilet facilities have been provided and other maintenance work carried out. The Trust is grateful to the MOD for the assistance provided in this respect by visiting regiments on training assignments and to Terry Penfold, the caretaker of the site, who has organised and supervised these works and carried out many of them himself.
- ♦ **Calendar 2006.** This calendar portrays scenes of daily life in the 1820's from a collection of pen and ink drawings by Lt Sandham, and has been reproduced by courtesy of the Marrache Foundation Trust. The photography is by Professor Clive Finlayson. The Calendar is available to members at £4 each (with envelope).
- ♦ **The Heritage Page** in the Gibraltar Chronicle continues to be published on a fortnightly basis, for which we are grateful to that newspaper. It enables the Trust to publish snippets of information on a regular basis and we hope that members will have welcomed this. Should any of them have material that could be considered for publication please make it available at the offices of the Trust.

- ♦ **The Annual visit of the “Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society”** was arranged to coincide with the Trafalgar/Nelson celebrations and was a great success. Over ninety members came out and a varied programme was organised by the Trust for them. This included a visit to the San Fernando Naval Museum and to Cape Trafalgar. Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, the former Chairman of the Friends, took advantage of this opportunity to lay a wreath there. The Friends also attended the Calpe Conference and visited places of interest in Gibraltar.
- ♦ **Battlefield Tours.** Three tours were organised by Hugh Arbuthnott, a member of the Trust based in Spain, and were this year led for the first time by a member of the Board, Trustee Denis King. This involved the visit to sites of military and naval history connected with the Battle of Trafalgar. It was innovative, well worth doing and highly successful. The participants were most enthusiastic and their appetites for more knowledge on sites like the Victualling Yard and other sites in that area were amply whetted.
- ♦ **Rosia Tanks Housing Development.** The Trust has been deeply disturbed by the approval of a scheme to build a block of flats over the Rosia Tanks. The Tanks, which date back to the mid 1700's, form an integral part of the Victualling Yard/Rosia Bay complex, which provided the logistic base in Gibraltar, in support of the Fleet. It is the only remaining system of its kind and therefore an extremely important and unique facet of British naval history. The Yard stored the food, clothing and spares for the ships, and the roofs of the Building provided the catchment area for the water, which was channelled into these tanks for subsequent supply to the Fleet. For some to say that the tanks have no heritage value is a total misrepresentation of historical realities. In fact the whole of this area should be declared a listed site in the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Ordinance. The Trust is actively pursuing this.
- ♦ There are still a number of unfinished projects from last year: The Rooke Statue still needs to have the enclosure completed, and floodlighting installed. This is currently being pursued.

The Sacred Heart School Chapel. A contractor has been asked to render the exterior walls in order to deal with the dampness. Some interior works are also

to be carried out. Once these works are completed, the restored stained glass windows will be re-installed.

- ♦ Heritage Awards. The awards this year were:
- ♦ **Senior Award:** To Joseph J Rosado ED, in recognition of his unstinting support for Gibraltar's heritage over the years and in particular for his research into and organisation of tours of The Convent for both local and overseas visitors, which has enhanced the knowledge of this heritage site.
- ♦ **Group Award:** To Royal Air Force Gibraltar (General Engineering Section), in recognition of the retrieval of the memorial plaque to General Sikorski and its donation to the people of Gibraltar. Other works such as the refurbishment of the Boyd Memorial near King's Bastion are also recognised by this Award.
- ♦ **Junior Award:** The Pupils of Bayside School, in recognition of the very successful project entitled “Walk Through History” carried out by the school's history department during the Tercentenary Year.

Participation in the business of the Development and Planning Commission keeps our Chairman and other Trustees quite busy. The Heritage Action Committee, which is chaired by the Minister for Heritage, meets every other month. Three Trustees are members of this Committee and the other members are provided by the Heritage Division of the Government, the Archivist, the Town Planners and the Ministry of Trade, Employment and Communications.

Concerns have been expressed within this committee about the increase in unauthorised works carried out on premises and a plea has been made for these transgressions to be dealt with. Suggestions as to how this may be effected have been made and we trust are being considered. If a remedy is not found, the credibility of the authorities concerned will be severely undermined to the detriment of the law abiding!

Our relations with the Government's Heritage Division continue to be good, and this year in particular this relationship was enhanced by the collaboration between our two entities in organising and setting up the bicentenary exhibition ‘Trafalgar 200’ mentioned above, which was such a resounding success.

Once again the Trust acknowledges the support given by Gibtelecom for its sponsorship of the Heritage Journals which I have been assured will continue into the future; the Editorial Committee of the Journal; Gibnet (now SapphireNet) for free Internet access; the Ministry of Defence for the continued assistance given to the Trust by Major David Seed and the visiting Service Units. This year these were the '35 Signals Regiment (95 Signals Squadron)', the 3(V) Military Intelligence Battalion and the 168 Pioneer Regiment, and many other persons who wish to remain unnamed.

Our thanks are also due to our members without whose co-operation and assistance the task of the Trust would be even more difficult. Amongst these we especially appreciate the support of Richard Garcia, Tito Vallejo, Pepe Rosado, Keith Farrell, and John Murphy in providing the lead in various events in our programme. Also John Frendo who is always ready and willing to step in as our 'multi-trade' craftsman and handyman. Thank you all.

Thanks are also due to our hardworking Secretary, who bears the brunt of our day-to-day operations and without whose knowledge, experience and expertise, the work of the Trust would be increasingly difficult to perform. This also applies to our Honorary Treasurer whose meticulous account keeping and good advice is much appreciated. To you both, my most grateful thanks.

Finally, may I wish all our members a very Happy and Prosperous 2006, and thank them for their continued support in the unending task of looking after our unique heritage.



The Chairman, Joe Ballantine presents a farewell gift to Eric Canessa, who has served as a Trustee since 1991.

[In the background, left to right – Marjorie Hoare, Doris Torres, Anita Flower, Stanley Flower (who was also presented with a farewell gift after serving as a Trustee for the past 2 years), Joe Desoisa and Laurie Canessa]

BOOK REVIEW

By Sam Benady

Gibraltar, sur de España y Marruecos en la fotografía Victoriana de G. W. Wilson & Co.

By Rafael Garófano Sanchez

Fundación Provincial de Cultura, Diputación de Cádiz, 2005.

This book reproduces a host of photographs – "albumen prints" – published in the 1870s by the firm started by a remarkable pioneer of photography – George Washington Wilson, who started out as a painter of miniatures, but was soon converted to the new art of photography. The photographs themselves were taken by JH Mann, a photographer who had established himself in Gibraltar, who also produced stereoscopic slides of local views, and illustrated "The History of Gibraltar and its Sieges", by Frederic Stephens.

The book includes a biography of Wilson and his firm, and interesting essays on Victorian photography and on the pictures themselves.

But it is the photographs that make the book – page after page of amazingly detailed views and studies of people. 25 of the full-sized pictures show Gibraltar as it was in 1870, and there are a dozen or so more shown in reduced size. They provide an invaluable visual record of the time, as do the many other photos, many of the Campo area, and others from further afield in Andalusia, as well as a whole section of photos of Morocco.

This book is a must for all those who are fascinated by the Gibraltar of our great-grand-parents. It brings it to life.

A Short History of Loreto in Gibraltar
By Dorothy E Prior

The Loreto Nuns have a history of over a century and a half in Gibraltar. In that time they provided education for several generations of Gibraltar girls (and younger boys), and this account is long overdue, adding as it does a valuable piece to the still patchy jigsaw puzzle that is the social history of our Rock.

Unfortunately, much of the written record of the local nuns disappeared during World War II, and Dorothy Prior is to be congratulated on reconstructing the fascinating story of these devoted women, their many triumphs and the occasional vicissitudes they faced. She has done this by meticulous and wide-ranging research, not only in Gibraltar, but also in the central archive of the Order in Ireland.

The book is illustrated with many photos, in some of which the reader may recognise relatives who were pupils of the nuns. Others include the ship the first nuns came in, and a notable Spanish bandit of the 19th century. What a lot of research has gone into this book!

It might be supposed that this book would be a dry recital of historical facts. Not so. The author has a lively style, and the way in which she deftly inserts into the story accounts of the historical events that would have affected the nuns and their pupils at the time makes the book a true chronicle of Gibraltar in the 19th and 20th centuries, and fascinating reading for all those interested in our history.

Heritage Trust - Programme of Events 2006

(Note: Members are requested to check dates and times before the event by calling the Trust's office on 42844)

DATE	TIME	EVENT	MEETING PLACE
Saturday 21 January	10.30am	Visit to Flat Bastion Magazine, led by Freddie Gomez	Flat Bastion Magazine
Saturday 25 February	2.30pm	Tour of the 'Old Red Light District', led by Tito Vallejo	Hospital Steps (outside 'Anything Goes')
Saturday 18 March	10.30am	Visit to Forbes Quarry, led by Clive Finlayson	Forbes Quarry (Max 20 members; phone 42844 to book). Wear sensible footwear
Saturday 22 April	10.30am	Visit to the Supreme Court, led by Richard Garcia	Supreme Court
Saturday 6 May	10am to 5pm	17th Annual Heritage Sketching /Painting Competition. Theme: 'Cathedral Square'	Registration and Rules on site as from 9.30am
Tuesday 9 May	6pm	Official opening of Painting Exhibition	Casemates Exhibition Hall (open to participants and invited guests only)
Wednesday 10 May till Wednesday 17 May	11am to 7pm	Exhibition of Competition entries	Casemates Exhibition Hall
Saturday 27 May	10.30am	Monuments and Guns tour, led by Pepe Rosado	Cross of Sacrifice

Saturday 3 June	10.30am	Visit to the House of Assembly & the City Hall, led by Richard Garcia. The City Hall murals explained by Joe Desoisa	House of Assembly
Saturday 1 July	9.30am	Visit to Carteia & Tarifa (connected with Peninsular War), led by Denis King.	Coach Park, Waterport. (£8 per person, max 40 members; phone 42844 to book)

SUMMER BREAK

Saturday 30 September	10.30am	Visit to Gate of Granada & King's & Queen's Galleries, led by Carl Viagas	Casemates, by Koehler Gun
Saturday 14 October	9.30am	Visit to Cape Trafalgar & the Museo Naval, San Fernando, led by Joe Desoisa & Denis King	Coach Park, Waterport. (£8 per person, max 40 members; phone 42844 to book)
Saturday 21 October	10.30am	Visit to the WWII & 18th Century Tunnels, led by Richard Desoiza	Hays Level (finish in town; town; if necessary, courtesy bus will take visitors back to Hays Level)
Thursday 9 November	6pm	Annual General Meeting	Garrison Library
Saturday 18 November	10.30am	Visit to the King's Chapel, led by Pepe Rosado	King's Chapel

Board of Trustees BALLANTINE OBE RD RNR(Rtd) (Chairman) EVESON(Vice-Chairman) ALMEDA MBE BENADY CLINTON DESOISA ELLUL HAMMOND KING MOR SKINNER SLOMA TORRES	Commander Joe 1 Electra Flats, Scud Hill Mr David PO Box 289 Mr Alexis 37 Irish Town Dr Sam Woodlands, Buena Vista Road Mr Roy 13 Barley Hill House Mr Joe 4 Victoria Tower, Brympton Mrs Isobel 14 Sunset Close, Windmill Hill Road Mr Denis 19 Walnut Lodge, Montagu Gardens Mr Glen 8/11/ Buena Vista Road Mr Colin 38 Irish Town Dr Diane 10 Dexterous House, Queensway Quay Mrs Doris 4D Malvasia, Vineyards	Tel 77759 47840 75705 74433 42805 78766 71838 51125 76957 72909 79385 70716
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Newsletter 2007

Introduction by the Chairman

David G Eveson

No one can underestimate the difficulties the Trust had to overcome in 2006, mainly as a result of the loss of the Rosia Tanks. Calls were made for the whole board to resign but as the Trust cannot dissolve itself, it left those remaining members of the Board in an unenviable position. Nevertheless, the Trust has continued to pursue the issues of Listing (including procedures and grading), the necessary consultation and meetings to discuss planning and development. The Government are in the process of creating new laws connected with Heritage and it is hoped that these requirements will be incorporated. The Trust also provides information and awareness of Gibraltar's history by promoting the restoration and beautification of memorials and plaques.

The Trust's Performance

Throughout 2006, as part of its educational role, the Trust arranged many site visits both at home and as far afield as Cape Trafalgar. Our annual painting competition was a great success with the theme of Cathedral Square. Our thanks must go to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society who sponsored the prizes and to the Minister for Heritage, The Hon F Vinet, who kindly opened the exhibition and presented the prizes in Casemates Vaults Exhibition Hall.

The annual Heritage Awards once again were very popular and the Trustees had great difficulties in choosing winners. In the end awards went to Albert Traverso and Ted Archer for their book 'Education in Gibraltar 1704 – 2004', BDO Fidecs for the restoration of the former premises of the Montagu Sea Bathing Pavilion, and the Junior Award went to Bayside School for their Siege Machine produced for the 3 Kings Cavalcade. A special merit award went to WO2 Pete Jackson for his conservation ideas and WW2 tunnel guide roles. Congratulations to all. This year's Award winners will be announced shortly.

The Heritage page has been produced on a regular basis, articles are informative and educational; all contributors deserve acknowledgement and appreciation goes to Trustee Isobel Ellul Hammond who co-ordinates, and to the Gibraltar Chronicle who publishes.

Again for 2007 the Trust produced a Heritage Calendar which has sold really well and has received many favourable comments locally and from abroad.