



## **GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST**

### ***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.



The Journal for 2006 (No 13) is still at the printers, the delay due unfortunately to a package having been lost in UK. We have a re-print of No. 2 which we again thank Gibtelecom for sponsoring.

Parsons Lodge Battery was open to the public for most of the year despite being a great financial burden to the Trust. We have spent nearly 20% of our reserves on the site. This drain has led the Board to look at ways of increasing the visitor numbers to make this historical site more viable. Suggestions were made to create a commercial licensed restaurant and tavern, but after extensive deliberations the Board did not consider this to be the best option. At present the Trust is in discussion with Government with the view of using the site as a field centre connected with the ongoing cave explorations. I would like to assure members that the integrity of the site is not being compromised and we are committed to it being kept open to the public. Indeed, we would like to see more efforts to attract visitors beyond Main Street and the normal Rock Tours. It would be good for 'Gibraltar plc' to entice more tourists to areas like the 100ton Gun, Museum and Parsons Lodge.

For some time now, the Trust has been in discussion with Government after receiving a request for the surrender of the lease on the Victualling Yard. The Trust has laid down conditions, which include that the building must be listed.

Throughout the summer, Territorial Regiments visited for the annual Marble Tor exercises. Some did Heritage Trust inspired community jobs. Parsons Lodge Battery as usual had a clean up. The railings around the Cross of Sacrifice were re-painted. Work was done by the Royal Artillery on the 5.25 inch anti-aircraft guns at Princess Royal Battery. The railway gully was cleaned by 37 Signal and the 100ton Gun was repainted the correct colour by the 101 Battalion REME Regiment. They did a sterling job which included repairs to a wooden staircase which had been broken for months. A big thank you goes out to David Seed (SO Protocol, HQBF) who co-ordinated all the projects.

I am pleased to announce that the Trust and the Friends have committed themselves to a £50.00 a month grant for the restoration of some of the damaged books in the Gibraltar section of the Garrison Library, which are used by many researchers and students.

My own pet project of having the red information plaques re-painted with financial assistance from the Tourist Board has also been undertaken. We still have work to do regarding the authenticity of the information, but at least visiting tourists can take a decent photograph.

I am very keen on upgrading plaques and monuments, a role that may not be continued by future chairpersons, who may prefer to concentrate on listing and policy matters. While I am involved with the Trust, I would like to continue in this important Heritage field. We have a couple of old projects that are in the process of being completed, viz the Marshman Murals in the Convent and the Sacred Heart School Chapel. The Trust is grateful to the Government for providing part of the funds for this latter project. Other possibilities are in the pipeline including a permanent tribute to the Royal Marines. We are in discussion with other parties on this idea.

The Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society are on a similar course to our own, and communications have greatly improved. The Minister for Heritage, The Hon F Vinet, the Director of the Museum, Clive Finlayson, and myself joined the Autumn Board meeting of the Friends' council. Sir John Chapple restated his Board's sentiment that the Friends would still prefer to channel funds through the Trust. My own presentation at the Warwick seminar was exactly this and I hope to report soon that more funds are coming to Gibraltar to assist in improving our overall historic tourism product.

The Board appoints members to sit on the Development and Planning Commission and Heritage Action Committee. The Trust has presented to Government a list of buildings and sites that we feel should be added to appendix A or B of the Heritage Trust Ordinance. This list will be updated periodically as more sites in need of protection are identified.

### Government Projects

The Heritage Trust Ordinance, which pre-dates the Ministry for Heritage and the Heritage Division, has had its power dissolved over the years. However, the Trust is the first port of call for members of the public. Depending on the matters raised, the Trust makes representations to bodies like HAC or DPC. If issues are urgent we contact heads of departments such as the Town Planner, the Director of the Museum or the Government's Heritage Projects Officer. All respond promptly. One example, the metal sign structure attached to Kings Bastion was a clear breach of the Ordinance. This was brought to the Trust's attention by a few members of the public. Because it is a Government led project, the Trust could only raise objections with the Government's Project Officer. However, the outcome was good for all. These signs, which are fixed to the mortar, will be removed when the Kings Bastion project is complete and the whole wall made good.

On the subject of Kings Bastion the Trust has been kept informed by Carl Viagas. We must congratulate him and the Government for giving a new lease of life to this very important fortification whilst keeping its original features. Purists would wish to keep the site as the original 1772 structure but we have to be realistic, and use our land to the good of Gibraltar. If this means using the inner court yard for a leisure activity, it is better than having the site demolished and new structures built.

Orange Bastion - this area is looking very interesting now, more city walls being beautified and revealed to the public. Congratulations to Carl. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent on these. Funds the Trust could only dream of. But we can all be proud of the results.

The Trust was indeed disappointed with the reported withdrawal of the application for World Heritage Status for Gibraltar. Our organisation has not been consulted in the time that I have been involved. However, I understand that a possibility still exists to attempt to gain recognition of individual heritage sites; we await Government's comments and would appreciate an opportunity to assist if we can.



The Trust's own headquarters, the Main Guard building, already handed over to your charity is to be refurbished very soon. The Tender documents are currently being processed. We are waiting for a reply to our request for a lease. This would secure the offices of the Trust for future members, also giving us a mini exhibition room and possibly a retail outlet. We thank the Government for this.

### People

We must thank all the Board Members that we lost during 2006, whatever their reasons for leaving. They all wished the Trust well and indeed are still assisting behind the scenes, especially Denis King who continues to be very active. Sam Benady, who had been with the Trust since 1992, decided to call it a day after the Trust's AGM but still supports the Trust in whatever way he can. He is a fount of knowledge in most aspects of our history and was one of the founders of the Gibraltar Heritage Journal to which he has contributed many articles over the years. More recently he has been instrumental in finding a qualified restorer for the damaged books in the Gibraltar section of the Garrison Library and he continues to co-ordinate the restorations as an ongoing project. Roy Clinton also left us after only one year but his contribution was most useful. We thank them all and wish them well.

The Trust must also recognise other individuals who assist in making the organisation function, viz John Murphy who is a source of great knowledge and assistance; Damian Sanchez who opens the Trafalgar Cemetery gates; Roy Potter who the Trust turns to for minor refurbishments; Paul Baker, Richard Desoisa, John Frendo, Richard Garcia, Freddie Gomez, Pepe Rosado and Tito Vallejo, just to mention a few. I also thank Carol, my own 'personal assistant' for her invaluable help especially with word processing.

Five new trustees have joined us - John Carreras, Manolo Galliano, Benjamin Marrache, Gil Podesta and George Russo. They have been proving themselves very valuable, meeting the Trust's challenges with refreshing enthusiasm.

The remaining Board members had many difficult decisions and increased work load due to low numbers. I thank them on behalf of the members and myself. Our Treasurer Roy Harding must have special thanks; the condition and promptness of his computations are surely the envy of many businesses in Gibraltar.

Our only employee, Brenda, like the rest of us, has been put under tremendous pressure and makes sure the Board and the Trust's functions are run efficiently, not an easy role, and we must thank her.

My own debt of gratitude is to my deputy Diane Sloma - the voice of the Trust in the Development and Planning Commission, a tower of strength and a relentless worker, who puts Gibraltar and the Trust first. The Board members and I owe her a big thank you.

### Conclusion

During our conversations early in 2006, Diane and I shared our sentiments. We thought that if we could just keep going, enlist some new Trustees, sort out our role in society and get the financial resources, we could come out of a difficult situation as a stronger organisation. Well we now have our charter, new Board members and our finances will soon be greatly improved. The Government has agreed an increase in our annual subvention which we shall hopefully receive before the end of this month. Our membership now stands over the 500 mark, one of the biggest organisations of this type in Gibraltar; when you consider that family members are added to this number, this gives us a huge following. We hope we are serving you well.

Last but by no means least, many thanks to you, our members, for your support.



Proposed façade (Drawing by John Langdon)

The Main Guard, John Mackintosh Square  
(The premises of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust since 2001)

The Trust is pleased to announce that plans are now well in hand to repair the Trust's premises and it is grateful to the Gibraltar Government for its generous support for this project. The following are brief historical notes on this building, the oldest in the square.



## *The Main Guard: Historical Notes*

By Sam Benady

It is not clear when the building was constructed. The first references to it date to the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Dr Robert Poole visited Gibraltar in 1748 and stayed in a hotel on the "Parade", probably on the South junction with Main Street, where Griffiths Hotel was later situated:

"A little below my lodging is what is called the grand guard house, which is one of the neatest buildings in these parts, though it is but low, being but one storey high, which indeed is the common height for the buildings in the city... Before the guard house, a little upon the Parade, is the whipping post, where almost every day soldiers are brought to feel the scourge...."

In a plan of the parade made in 1750 by Thomas James (published in 1770) it is clearly visible, labelled "Main Guard Room," with soldiers mustered outside it.

It is depicted in the 1753 plan of the Town as "The Main Guard".

It was almost certainly severely damaged by the bombardment during the Great Siege, and the second storey was probably added when it was rebuilt. The two-storeyed building, with soldiers on guard, is shown in the Carter print of the Commercial Square (1830).

In the late 1860s, Henri Regnault, one of France's most promising painters, was a regular visitor to the Main Guard, whose officers he had befriended. He painted three pictures for them, and these hung in the building for many years. Eventually they were taken to the Museum, where they remain. When the building is repaired and redecorated, it is to be hoped that these paintings can be returned to their original home. Regnault returned to France to fight in the Franco-Prussian War, and was killed in the last battle. Two of his paintings can be seen in the Orsay Museum in Paris.

The 1885 Gibraltar Directory says:

The Main Guard, a plain Building, stands in the Commercial Square. On the ground floor are the Men's Guard Room and the cells... On the upper storey is the Officers' Room

It was still being used as a Guard House in 1896 (Gibraltar Directory). Kenyon, writing in 1911, refers to the Main Guard in the past tense; evidently it had by then ceased to be a Guard House. He mentions that the 'Black Hole' or punishment cells had been nearby, possibly under the Haven.

It was used as the City Fire Station between the wars.

Post WWII, it was used for a time as a public bath-house.

Throughout most of the 2nd half of the 20th century, it was the payment office for public utility bills.

It became the headquarters of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust in February 2001.

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## **BOOKS REVIEWS (Section 1 of 2)**

By Joe Desoisa

**The Keys of the City** (An episode in the history of Gibraltar) - A novel by  
Sam G. Benady

This narrative derives from the consequences of religious intolerance and more specifically from the canker of anti-Semitism that has disfigured the veneer of European civilisation even to modern times.

Jews in Medieval Spain were confronted with a stark choice; either they abandon their ancient beliefs or face expulsion, often without time to gather their belongings together. But even if they did opt to convert to Christianity they continued to be persecuted, despised and stigmatised as conversos or, more insultingly, marranos; perhaps for generations after the original conversion.

It was against this desperate background that in 1474 a group of Conversos from Cordova were beguiled by an offer from the Duke of Medina Sidonia to sell them the right to live in peace in Gibraltar, which had finally been recaptured from the Moors in 1462. It has been truthfully written that the Duke 'sold his feigned humanity at an exorbitant price'. Predictably, wishing to prevent Gibraltar falling into the hands of the Spanish King, the Duke attacked the City in 1476 and expelled the Conversos.

The facts of this episode in the history of Gibraltar were contemporaneously recorded and were revisited and published by Diego Lamelas in 1976. In 1992 Sam himself translated and published Lamelas' book as 'The Sale of Gibraltar in 1474'.

What Sam has done in this later work, his first novel, is to convert the bare historical facts into an engaging tale of romance and tragedy by peopling it with convincing characters, in a manner that is truly captivating. At the end of the tale one ponders the fate, on which history is silent, of the cruelly cheated Conversos; did they fall victims to the Inquisition or did some of them, at least, escape to North Africa from whence their descendants returned to Gibraltar after its capture by the British in 1704



This is a truly fascinating book which breathes life into the dusty archives of history. It paints a vivid picture of Spanish life during the final stages of the Reconquista and fires the imagination.

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### **General Sir George Don**

*And the dawn of Gibraltarian identity* - A biography by Sam G Benady

George Don was a general who won no great battles, but by the time he came to govern Gibraltar had proved himself an efficient military officer, an expert in fortifications and, perhaps most important of all, a fair, able and caring civil administrator.

When Don arrived in Gibraltar in October 1814 to take up his post as Lieutenant Governor he was unable to go ashore immediately because the town was in the grip of an outbreak of yellow fever. The Gibraltar of the first two decades of the nineteenth century was a most unsavoury place which had been variously described as 'a dungheap', a 'dark corner of the world' and 'a pest house'. The destruction caused during the Great Siege had not been repaired and, despite the town's vigorous commercial activity, it lacked proper sanitation, was overcrowded and subject to the ravages of disease.

During the seventeen years of his tenure of office as Lieutenant Governor, Don recast the Gibraltarian landscape and laid the foundations of the modern city it is today. His first priority was to provide adequate accommodation for the troops but soon he was directing his insatiable energies to slum clearance, improvements to public services and the reform of the legal system. Don's enduring monuments include St. Bernard's Hospital, the Alameda Gardens and the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

Arguably, however, Don's most valuable, if less tangible, contribution to Gibraltar life was the creation of a sense of pride in the community. He laboured to dissolve the barriers that existed between groups deriving from disparate origins, and helped forge a community whose distinct identity he was the first to recognise with the appellation 'Gibraltarian'.

In researching and writing this biography, Sam has paid a long-overdue tribute to a man of vision whose work fostered civic consciousness among the inhabitants of this small parcel of territory and transformed the original squalor of its environs into what one later observer was moved to describe as 'a delicious oriental garden'. This book is a must for anybody interested in Gibraltar's history.

## **BOOK REVIEWS (Section 2 of 2)**

By Sam Benady

**The Fortifications of Gibraltar 1068-1945** by Darren Fa and Clive Finlayson.  
Osprey Books, 2006.

This book, which is one of the latest to be issued by the well-known publishers of militaria, Osprey Books, immediately invites comparison with that comprehensive work on the fortifications of the Rock, *Strong as the Rock of Gibraltar* by Hughes and Migos. Although it is altogether a more modest work, it goes beyond that work in some ways, notably the first chapter, which deals with the fortifications of Moorish and Spanish Gibraltar, from 1068, when the first tower was ordered to be erected, to the capture of the Rock by the Prince of Hesse and Sir George Rooke in 1704.

The other striking features are the illustrations: With the resources of the Gibraltar Museum to draw upon, the prints and photographs reproduced, and the magnificent illustrations by Adam Hook, make this book a pleasure to leaf through. The text is easy to read, and provides a continuous narrative of the progress of fortifying Gibraltar over the centuries: This is a book to be read and enjoyed, while *Strong as the Rock of Gibraltar* is a reference work for consultation.

One minor quibble: Lt. Koehler's famous gun-carriage should surely be called a depression carriage, as Jackson has it, and not a 'depressing carriage,' - although it might have had the latter effect on the besiegers that it was aimed at!

All in all, a book for anyone interested in the often violent history of our home. Read it, and you will see how the phrase "Strong as the Rock of Gibraltar" has become proverbial.

**Cabbages and Kings** by Mary Chiappe HKB Press, 2006.

And now, as they used to say in Monty Python, for something entirely different. Indeed, the wonderful cover illustration is Pythonesque, with the magnificent Louis XIV (I think), holding one of those humble vegetables, while others are strewn casually at his feet. Or maybe it's Daliesque. Whatever it is, it begs you to take up the book and open it.

And you won't regret it. Most of you will be no stranger to Mary's articles in the Gibraltar Chronicle every Friday: Witty, perceptive, often poignant, they are always fascinating reading.

Well, here is an anthology, selected by the author, of the best articles - those that you enjoyed and thought you would never see again, and those that you missed.. Here is Mary's view on world affairs, on current fads and fancies, on the lost days of her - our - youth, and, of course, the saga of her visit to India, which has since then led her to collect funds to help the underprivileged there. And there is much, much more - and I challenge you to read even a few pages without a tear in your eye or a chuckle escaping your lips, or maybe both.



### **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2007**

This programme was issued to members on 8th January 2007. Events that have already taken place have been deleted.

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 28 April	11.00am	A tour from Casemates to the Upper Town, led by Richard Garcia	By Koehler Gun, Casemates
Saturday 12 May	10am to 5pm	18th Annual Heritage Sketching/Painting Competition. Theme: 'Orange Bastion'	Registration and Rules on site as from 9.30am. (Top of American War Memorial steps, Line Wall Road)
Tuesday 22 May	6pm	Official opening of Painting Exhibition.	Casemates Exhibition Hall (open to participants and invited guests only)
Wednesday 23 May till Tuesday 29 May	11.30am to 6.30pm	Exhibition of Competition entries	Casemates Exhibition Hall
Saturday 16 June	10am	Visit to Victoria Battery and Fire Station. (Members only - maximum: 20). Please register before 14 June 2007 at the Trust's office (Tel 42844).	Outside Fire Station, Red Sands Road.

### **SUMMER BREAK**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	MEETING PLACE
Saturday 29 September	10.30am	A cultural tour of the South of town, led by Manolo Galliano	Outside Ince's Hall
Saturday 6 October	10.30am	A tour of our City Walls, led by Carl Viagas	By the Koehler Gun, Casemates
Thursday 8 November	6pm	Annual General Meeting Garrison Library	Garrison Library
Saturday 10 November	10.30am	A look at our 'Patio Culture', led by Jennifer Ballantine Perera	John Mackintosh Square (in front of House of Assembly)

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mr David G.	EVESON
Dr Diane	SLOMA
Mr Alexis	ALMEDA MBE
Mr John	CARRERAS
Mrs Isobel	ELLUL HAMMOND
Mr Manuel	GALLIANO
Mr Benjamin	MARRACHE
Mr Glen	MOR
Mr Gil	PODESTA
Mr George	RUSSO

### **HONORARY LIFE TRUSTEES**

Mr Eric	CANESSA CEng FICE
Mr Francis L.	GALLIANO OBE
Miss Marjorie	HOARE MBE

### **CO-OPTED TRUSTEES**

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Eddie GUERRERO OBE JP
Mr John LANGDON

### **HON. TREASURER**

Mr Roy	HARDING FRICS
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### **SECRETARY**

Mrs Brenda	SOIZA JP
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**GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST**

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GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

NEWSLETTER 2008

Introduction by the Chairman  
David G Eveson

In contrast with the very controversial and unfortunate events of 2006, last year, 2007, was one of consolidation with few issues causing major friction with Government or developers. Our finances have been put on a much stronger footing and the Trust is firmly placed to continue in its appointed role of guardian of Gibraltar's heritage.

In keeping with the now traditional practice, the Minister for Heritage agreed to address our membership at the Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2007. The Trust is grateful to the Hon E Reyes for this gesture, especially so soon after being appointed as the new Minister for Heritage.

The Trust welcomes the Government's commitment to the beautification of the City Walls, Orange Bastion and King's Bastion especially. We cannot praise enough the attention to detail on embrasures and firing steps. Members have expressed concern regarding the glass windows on Orange Bastion and the RML gun mountings not being authentic. Regarding the windows, on any future enclosures the angle of glass will be tilted to allow a better view. It is a pity that glass is used in the first place but society's disregard for artefacts means that they have to be protected. Regarding the gun carriages, we fully understand that spending upwards of £40,000 on a gun carriage would not seem logical when money could be better directed elsewhere. This is perhaps where the Trust can assist. We are trying to outsource the construction of metal carriages with help from the MOD and little cost to Gibraltar.

Congratulations must be given on the external appearance of King's Bastion. Who would have thought a couple of years ago that this structure would one day be brought back to life, giving an opportunity to describe to visitors the actions that took place years gone by, and utilising the inner yard as a public place. As ever, minor details are brought to our attention which we take up with the project leader, but overall a job well done.