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# HERITAGE TRUST NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1994

## INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

Lt. Col (Retd.) E. Guerrero OBE

Despite the many difficulties facing the Trust in the execution of its statutory duties, I have always in my contributions in this newsletter tried to paint an optimistic picture. This has always been very difficult if one is to be honest and sincere. However, I believe that I can now firmly assert that the tide has turned and the Trust is now establishing its position in our society as a body with credibility, common sense and with a realistic approach to the preservation and enhancement of our heritage. We have in the past failed due to two important aspects. Firstly by adopting a very dogmatic and inflexible approach to our task and secondly by creating castles in the air without realising that the best way to achieve credibility and support is by practical results no matter how small those might be. The important thing is to get something done which will spur the Government, the business community and the ordinary citizen to lend their support to our work. The Trust has through dialogue and negotiation established with Government a forum for prompt consultation on all matters relating to our historical buildings and sites. This does not mean that the Government will always heed our advice but at least there is the willingness on behalf of the Government to listen to us and to give us the opportunity to establish our case.

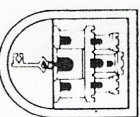


We must also be very careful not to adopt an inferiority complex so prevalent in other aspects of our society. I firmly believe that we are not the poor relations in comparison to the rest of the world. Gibraltar is blessed with an abundance of historical buildings and sites. The majority are still standing and not beyond repair. Our track record is very good in comparison to other countries where much has been desecrated. This was brought home to me at an international heritage conference which I attended in December 1992. However, we must not be complacent, much still needs to be done to safeguard our heritage and we must some day draw up with Government a heritage blue print for Gibraltar. This is paramount to safeguard our most important historical buildings and sites.

I stressed earlier the importance of achieving practical results. In this context I am happy to report that the refurbishment of Parson's Lodge Battery is progressing according to our schedule. Soon the site will be opened to visitors. Everyone in Gibraltar is now fully aware that the Parson's Lodge project is being steered by Christopher Terry. Christopher has now decided to settle in Gibraltar and work full time for the Trust as our Projects Manager. He is the sort of person that Gibraltar needed to get us off the ground in terms of restoration. His experience in this field will enable us to embark on new projects.

The City Hall is our other major project. Planning is progressing but we desperately need more funds to enable us to make a start. Our scheme will entail the complete refurbishment of the exterior of the building to restore it to its former grandeur.

Fund raising is now one of our major tasks. Without adequate funding we shall be unable to complete Parson's Lodge and make a start on the City Hall. I would therefore like to urge all our members to help us in this important task. The Board is now drawing up plans to organise specific fund raising events. These will require the full support of all our members.



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

*Wednesday, 14th September, 8pm. The Charles Hunt Room,*

*John Mackintosh Hall*

**"PARSON'S LODGE - A VIRILITY TEST".**

A talk by Christopher Terry on the importance of the success of the Parson's Lodge project, and its development to date. Christopher Terry has also been involved in the rescue and restoration of another listed building, Brougham Hall in Cumbria, and brings a refreshing attitude to conservation.

*Saturday, 17th September, 10.30am. Entrance to St. Michael's Cave.*

**OHARA'S BATTERY**

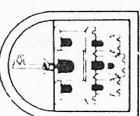
Eddie Vincent will conduct a tour of the battery and talk about its history, the operation of the 9.2 gun and other installations.

*Wednesday, 12th October, 8pm. The Charles Hunt Room,*

*John Mackintosh Hall*

**"GIBRALTAR'S PRE-HISTORY AND EARLY HISTORY".**

A talk by Dr. Clive Finlayson, Director of the Gibraltar Museum. Gibraltar has long acted as a magnet and focal point for humans. The fossil record tells us that Neanderthal lived here during the glacial periods and they were in turn replaced by modern humans who emerged out of Africa around forty thousand years ago. As climatic conditions stabilized so these people settled and developed farming industries, first using stone tools, later tools made by of copper, bronze and iron. These native people were visited much later on by mariners from the East, certainly Phoenicians in the 7th century B.C. and perhaps even Mycenaeans, 1500B.C. This lecture tells the story of human occupation on the Rock, commencing one hundred and thirty thousand years ago and ending with the Romans in the 5th century A.D.





*Saturday, 29th October, 3pm. Entrance to the House of Assembly*

**"A TOUR OF GIBRALTAR'S MAJOR CIVIC BUILDINGS".**

Richard Garcia will be your guide on visits to Commercial Square (The Piazza), the City Hall, the House of Assembly, the Police Station and the Guard House.

*Thursday, 10th November, 8pm.*

***The Charles Hunt Room, John Mackintosh Square***

**"THE HISTORY OF THE TELEPHONE SERVICES IN GIBRALTAR".**

A talk by Malcolm Bealand of Nynex, illustrated with overhead slides and film. 1996 will see the commemoration of 70 years of a telephone service in Gibraltar.

*Saturday, 12th November, 10am. Entrance to the City Hall*

**"A TOUR OF THE HAVEN AND CITY HALL**

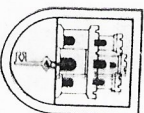
**TELEPHONE EXCHANGE"**

Visitors will see the System and Digital Exchange at the City Hall, including Test Desk (193), Operators' Switchboard (100/195) and Computer Centre.

*Saturday, 10th December, 10am - Noon. Main Entrance*

**"TOUR OF THE CONVENT"**

Led by Pepe Rosado and Richard Garcia. Members wishing to attend are asked to first register their names and membership card numbers at the GHT office, Wellington Front, by Friday, 2nd December. Membership cards must be presented on the day.

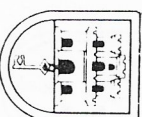


**"WHAT'S IN A NAME".**

The origins of Gibraltar's place names and buildings have provided more than one local writer with some colourful material about our past. E.F.E. Ryan (a former editor of 'The Gibraltar Chronicle') and historian Dorothy Ellicott have both researched the subject in a modest way, and were probably among the first to draw our attention to it. Younger writers have yet to respond to the challenge on a more comprehensive scale, but it's doubtful whether the average person is prepared to do anything more than take most of these household names for granted. A place like Witham's Road is an obvious example. However familiar the locality it's unlikely that anyone living there today would know much about the man after whom it is named. Yet the history books tell us that Captain Witham was one of the most able and energetic artillery officers to serve in the Garrison during the Great Siege. A man whose enthusiasms on the batteries and elsewhere ensured that he was sometimes best avoided, not just by those in his line of fire, but also by any of his contemporaries afflicted with an aversion to work.

There are some place names, however, which have clearly fired the public's imagination, possibly because many of the stories attributed to them are more apocryphal than honest. St. Vincent House, with its great Naval traditions, falls into this category. Ince's Farm, presented to the redoubtable Sgt. Major Henry Ince in recognition of his work on the Upper Galleries in 1782, also occupies a special place in our affections. But, without the kind of memory that scores points in Quiz programmes, one might be hard pushed to remember the name of the Town Major in 1810 who owned another attractive property that also survives to this day. It was this officer, Major Bruce, who gave his name to the only other farm in the vicinity. Like their owners, Ince's and Bruce's Farms have now passed into history, and, as buildings of some character, are both worthy in their own right of being included in our stock of architectural treasures.

Governors may come and Governors may go, and in many cases their names are commemorated in mortar and stone. "Woodford" Cottage is testimony to this, but trying, off the top of one's head, to reel off something more substantial about the Governor in question could prove frustrating





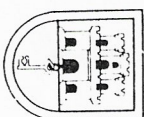
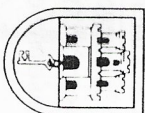
Certainly Major General Sir Alexander Woodford, appointed Governor in 1835, was known to have extended his masonic activities well beyond Europa Road where his Cottage is situated to the Lighthouse at Europa Point. For it was there in 1838 that Sir Alexander laid the foundation stone, without recourse to a D.I. Y. kit, but with some assistance from an attendant Masonic Order.

It doesn't require much imagination to speculate on the reasons why Bedlam Court, at the northern end of Main Street, received it's unflattering name. But, given its even noisier environs, why was that particular spot saddled with the description? Was it originally the site of a notorious tavern, an asylum, or an 18th Century equivalent of a generating station supplying candlepower to the community? Whichever, the centre of bedlam in Gibraltar today has shifted and regrettably become mobile. The bizarre combination of car-radios, motorbikes and seagulls has seen to that. Perhaps the time is fast approaching when we should consider renaming some of our main thoroughfares and squares. After all, Europa Road can just as easily be identified as the Cacophonic Cycle Circuit and the environs of South Barracks more accurately described as the Solarium for Acidic Seagulls. There is clearly more to a name than meets the eye or, as the unsuspecting might well discover, decends upon the head.

Marjorie Hoare,  
July 1994.

## LIST OF TRUSTEES

BENADY	Dr. Sam Woodlands, Buena Vista Road.	Tel: 74433
CANESSA	Eric (Vice-Chairman) 501 Trafalgar House, Rosia Road	Tel: 72172
CORTES	Dr. John JP 8/8 Buena Vista	Tel: 76818
DAVIS	Oscar 212 Portland House, Glacis Road	Tel: 44430
GALLIANO	Mr. Paco OBE 8 Church Lane	Tel: 74907
GUERRERO	Li Col (Reid) E OBE, (Chairman) E Devil's Gap Upper Rock	Tel: 54442
HOARE	Miss Marjorie 1 Sunnyside House	Tel: 75847
LANGDON	John 17a St. Bernards Road	Tel: 75890
RODRIGUEZ	Mario 9a Cordington Road, Elliot's Battery	Tel: 70060
ROSADO	Joseph 2 North Pavillion, South Barracks Parade	Tel: 42303
SHAW	Eric 18 Gavino's Dwelling's	Tel: 70094
TORRES	Mrs Doris 4D Malvasia, The Vineyards	Tel: 70716
VALLEJO	Tito 24 Rosia Dale	Tel: 71871
WHITELAND	Miss Jenny 17a St. Bernards Road	Tel: 73890
FARROW	David (Treasurer) Hamro House, Line Wall Road	Tel: 74850
SOIZA	Mrs. Brenda (Secretary) 6 Chusan House	Tel: 42844/72132



**BECOME A GUARDIAN OF GIBRALTAR'S HERITAGE  
BY HELPING TO SAVE IT!**

*"Having to save the old that's worth saving, whether in  
landscape, houses, manners, institutions or human types, is  
one of our greatest problems, and the one we bother  
least about."*

John Galsworthy

*"Such prosperity as we have known up to the present is the  
consequence of rapidly spending the planet's  
irreplaceable capital."*

Aldous Huxley

