



GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Dear Member,

This is the first time that I am writing to you as Chairman of the Heritage Trust. It is a privilege and honour to do so as I am passionate about Gibraltar and proud to be Gibraltarian.

The Trust has, as always, been working hard to achieve its aims and objectives. 2010 has been designated as our Heritage Youth Year. We have scheduled various events, activities and competitions aimed at engaging our youngsters in heritage matters. The Trust is working with the Department of Education and local Middle and Comprehensive schools on a Bird Project that started in October 2009 and will run until the middle of April. The results can be seen on our website: www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi. The participating children should be congratulated on achieving an excellent collective set of results so far.

October of last year also saw our Chief Executive, Claire Montado, accompany me to Winchester to speak to the Friends of Gibraltar Society (FOGS) at their Annual General Meeting. Significant progress was made and mutual goals set for increasing the awareness and support for Gibraltar's Heritage both in Gibraltar and abroad, especially in the UK. We now regularly submit material for their 'Rock Talk' magazine.

A group of members of the FOGS will make their annual visit to the Rock in June.

As reported in our last newsletter, we have created a number of Working Groups whose aims are to tackle projects within the remit of their specialist areas. All groups have been working hard and projects are beginning to come to fruition. The most recent of these being the reopening of the Sally Port at Landport Ditch by the Buildings, Fortifications and Sites group. Work started on the site in October last year when 3 van loads of rubbish were removed as well as a skip full of rubble. Last month the group reopened the Sally Port entrance from Landport Tunnel itself and the works are now almost complete. A full report on the project can be read in this newsletter.

The History; Natural History and Environment; and Culture and Customs Working Groups have also been working hard. Details of their projects will be reported on in future newsletters.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support. One of our main aims this year is to increase the number of members, especially juniors. Why not encourage your friends to become members of the Trust?

Mario Mosquera

REPORT ON TRUST ACTIVITIES

The preceding 12 months have largely been of review and consolidation for the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. As reported in last years review of the year, the close of 2008 saw a number of changes in the staff structure at the Trust and these changes spurred a review of Trust Activities and the proposed way forward.

Towards the end of 2008 a strategic review of the Trust and its work was undertaken. The results of this review have been carefully analysed and over the course of 2009 a strategic plan for the future development of the Trust was produced.

One point that came to the fore in the analysis was the need to continue to further raise the Trust's profile and standing within the community. Some immediate work was embarked upon with encouraging results. The initiative has seen that we have managed to interest some companies in the work of the Trust and as a result we have welcomed some new corporate members.

The analysis of the review highlighted a good number of strengths, though on the downside a number of areas which needed immediate attention came to the fore. The most pressing of these was the future of the Heritage Trust Shop which Trustees concurred needed to be restructured and reopened as soon as possible. This aim was achieved with the Shop re-opening its doors in time for the Christmas sales period.

Another area which received immediate attention was the rationalisation of the website and our electronic address. The Trust now boasts a better structured and identifiable site which is regularly updated. This is an indispensable tool



Stock on display in the GHT shop

and supports our aims of promoting the Trust and lifting the Trust's profile. Still in the digital domain, the Trust recently set up its very own Group on Facebook. In the fast paced world of digital technology it is important that the Trust stays up to date with its members and potential members by providing as many ways for encounters with the work of the Trust and the importance of our Heritage as possible.

The review also highlighted the need to regulate and modernise procedures within the Board of Trustees. This work is still ongoing, but to date a new set of Rules and Regulations for Trustees have been drafted. The Trust now holds indemnity insurance for the Trustees, considered to be a very important matter in this day and age. Other areas dealt with include a more regulated procurement process, improved health and safety processes as well as establishing a staff training and development programme. There is still considerable work to be done in this area of which the Trust is convinced will deliver better value for money and improved efficiency.

Amongst the areas that still require attention is the need for further improvements to the building, especially its fabric. The Gibraltar Government has agreed to fund this work and this was recently re-affirmed by the Minister for Heritage at our AGM last October. However we still await the start date for these much needed works.



Trust offices at the Main Guard

Some of the points produced by the analysis have been converted into projects and a number of these have been successfully executed. These include:

- The completion of the first phase of works to the exhibition hall, which has now been refurbished and allows us to hold meetings on our own premises. The room can also be made available for certain heritage related exhibitions. The ESG used the exhibition room to show school environmental projects and raise awareness in September as part of their 'Clean Up the World' Campaign.



ESG Exhibition

- The newsletter to members has been given a facelift and is a much friendlier publication. This has generated positive feedback from a broad cross section of the membership.

- Redistribution of office accommodation which has enabled us to improve storage facilities both for shop stock and Trust files.

- A project of note has been the commencement of work cataloguing our now extensive collection of paintings which has been generated by the Trust's annual painting competition. 2009 saw the 20th anniversary of the competition and the Trust has a built up a notable archive of artworks.

- The Board has also established working groups to work within interest areas of the Trust. Details of some of the projects undertaken by these groups can be read about later in this newsletter.

Having taken the necessary immediate action to help consolidate the existing resources, a strategic plan covering a five year period has been produced. This has already been approved by the Board of Trustees and it is intended to circulate details to members in the near future. It is a broad based plan covering a multitude of areas, but focuses on 7 main action points:

- 1) We will safeguard and enhance the quality and condition of Gibraltar's historic & natural environment
- 2) We will promote wider understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of Gibraltar's historic & natural environment
- 3) Enhance Gibraltar's Sense of Place
- 4) Encourage relevant bodies to make Gibraltar's historic areas better places to live, visit and to invest in
- 5) Work with others to amplify the impact of wider initiatives to improve the city.
- 6) Work towards the implementation and enforcement of new heritage legislation, policies and guidelines
- 7) We will be open, responsive, transparent, effective and efficient in our work

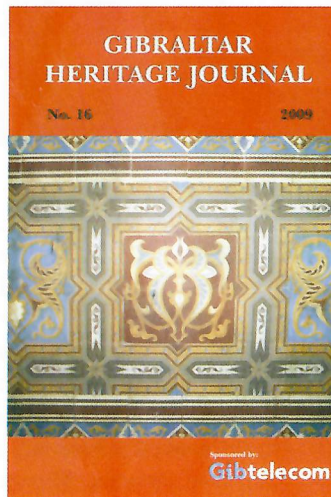


Cleaning out the Sally Port

Each of these points has been broken down and qualified with the focus being on keeping aims achievable and their impact measurable as far as possible.

The development work has not been confined to the Main Guard building. The Trust has completed a number of small maintenance and refurbishment projects, led in the main by our Trustee Gil Podesta, in response to reports from our members. Some of these such as the refurbishment of three marble plaques at the Boulevard, a clean up at West Place of Arms and maintenance at the Trafalgar Cemetery, were reported on in our last newsletter.

On the research front, Heritage Journal No 16 was published towards the end of 2009. Once again the Trust's thanks go out to the editor Dr. Jennifer Ballantine and to the journal sponsors Gibtelecom.

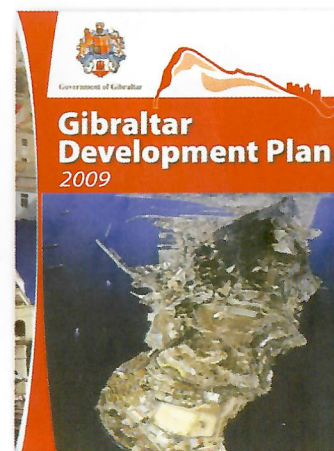


The Gibraltar Heritage Calendar for 2010 has once again proven to be very popular with stocks virtually selling out. This year's images were taken from a selection of early 20th Century photographs of Gibraltar, owned by trustee Gil Podesta, with a focus on the 'then and now'.



Willis's Road, 1925. The month of August in the 2010 Calendar

The Trust is very pleased to see the Government finalise and adopt the Gibraltar Development Plan. The plan has been through a long period of drafting and consultation of which the Trust has been one of the consultative bodies. Of high importance to the Trust are the comprehensive guidelines on works within the old town area. These now give homeowners, landlords, business owners and developers' a clear guidance on what is acceptable development of the Old Town Area. This is an important document for Gibraltar and the Trust commends the Government on its production. We continue to work closely with the Town Planning Department and the Development and Planning Commission on items of heritage importance. Take some time to read the document on line at www.gibdevplan.gov.gi



What is sorely needed now, and has been for many years, is the redrafting of the Heritage Act. Gibraltar's current heritage laws are antiquated and largely ineffective in meeting the needs of today's historic environment and the pressures put upon it by the need for development. The Trust has been working closely with Government for a number of years now and is keen to see the process completed. The Trust continues to work towards this goal whilst at the same time highlighting the fact that along with the drafting of a new Act comes a commitment to provide the resources to implement and enforce the new law.

The Trust gave consideration to and submitted feedback to the Gibraltar Government on its Transport plan. In brief, the Trust's main concern with the plan as proposed is the lack of information on the location and appearance of the multi-storey car parks proposed in the plan. Multi-storey car parks are by their very nature large and tall buildings. Many of the proposed locations are within what the Trust views as heritage sensitive areas and the Trust is concerned at the impact that these new constructions will have on the historic environment. Many of the concerns of the Trust can be addressed through sensitive design and integrated use of landscaping. An example of a successful integration of a multi-storey car park into a historic urban environment was achieved by Government in 2008 with Willis's Road Car park. Here the architectural treatment given to the external façade of the building has successfully blended the car park into the upper town landscape. The Trust posed a number of specific questions with regards to exact locations, massing, archaeological supervision and re-provision of green areas. We await a response.

The Trust has had a very busy year and we have a very busy time ahead of us. What is clear is that we will need as much support as possible to achieve our goals, support which members have been lending for so many years. We look forward to continuing and strengthening these links and working together to the benefit of Gibraltar's Heritage.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The period 2009-2010 saw a change in Trustees on the Board. Outgoing: Dr Diane Sloma, Mr Peter Jurado and Mr John Murphy. We thank them for their time and dedication. New to the Board: Mr Peter Jackson, Mr Richard Labrador, Mr Alan Brownbridge.

STAFF

Michelle Pardo, the Trust's Administrative Officer left us at the beginning of February this year to take on a new challenge of starting her own business. The Trust is sad to see her go, but we wish her all the best in her new venture and thank her for dedication during her time at the Trust.

After a round of interviews with a number of very high calibre candidates, the Trust welcomed Germaine Smart into the post at the Trust. Germaine comes from an administrative background and brings a great deal of experience to the role.

ACCOUNTS

As reported by our Hon. Treasurer at this the Trust's AGM in October 2009, the Trust's accounts continue to be healthy. Accounts are currently with the Government Auditor and will be tabled at Parliament by the Minister for Heritage as soon as they are passed.

GOVERNOR AS PATRON

His Excellency Sir Adrian Johns has kindly agreed to continue the tradition of lending his patronage to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

Sir Adrian, a former senior officer in the Royal Navy reached the rank of Second Sea Lord from 2005 to 2008.

Sir Adrian's links with heritage are strong as during his time in the UK he served as Chairman of the Naval Heritage Committee (as sub-committee of the Navy Board), and he also chaired the steering group for the formation of the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

Sir Adrian visited the Main Guard last month and met the serving members of the Board of Trustees.



Vice-Admiral Sir Adrian Johns KCB CBE

TRUST SHOP RE-OPENS ITS DOORS

December saw the re-opening of our shop on the ground floor of The Main Guard. The response from members and the general public has been overwhelming, with many positive comments and suggestions being put forward.

In the next few months we plan to increase our range of stock to include items for children, newly released publications and gifts which celebrate Gibraltar's rich social, historical and natural heritage.

The shop currently stocks heritage related cards, prints, publications, stamps, coins, souvenirs, gifts and of course our popular range of journals, on which members enjoy a 40% discount. You can also renew your membership and find out about upcoming Trust events.

So next time you are in town, why not pay a visit and see what is on offer for yourselves. We are open from 10:00am to 2:00pm Monday to Friday.

Gibraltar Heritage Trust Shop
The Main Guard, 13 John Mackintosh Square

Open Monday to Friday 10am - 2pm

Selling cards, prints, publications, stamps, coins, souvenirs, gifts, journals and membership

PROJECT UPDATE

Sally Port

Sunday 31st January saw the Buildings and Fortifications Working Group complete the latest phase in one of their hands on projects with the re-opening of the entrance to the Sally Port Tunnel.



The Sally Port entrance visible below the Land Port drawbridge had been neglected for many years and the tunnel had seen a large amount of rubbish accumulate along its length. In October of last year the group cleared out the accumulated rubbish and rubble, which

as we were able to date had been accumulating since 1989! Three van loads of rubbish and a skip of rubble later the Trust was able to make plans for phase II of the project which was to recover the upper end opening of the tunnel which was within Landport Tunnel itself. The ultimate aim of the project was to recover the tunnel, which had been blocked up for years. Pedestrian access through the tunnel is not possible however people can now see both ends and the addition of an information panel in the near future will allow for the appreciation of the importance of this tunnel in the defence of Gibraltar.

What is a 'Sally Port'?

"Sally ports" were a feature of castles and fortresses, a closely-guarded opening or door in the wall of a fortified building (or in this case defensive wall) designed for the quick passage of troops. One of the primary uses of these doors was to mount quick attacks on whatever enemy might be besieging the castle. "Sally," comes from the Latin

"salire" meaning "to jump," and was originally a sudden rush out of a besieged position, a lightning attack designed to surprise the enemy.

It was through this Sally Port that the Garrison of Gibraltar left the Fortress under cover of darkness on the night of the 'Great Sortie' 27th November 1781. As the moon was setting, the troops marched through the Landport Tunnel and down the Sally Port Tunnel, mustering under the cover of the Landport Ditch before setting off in silent darkness across the isthmus to pull a surprise assault on the Spanish Lines, spiking the cannon and destroying the ammunition magazines. The success of the assault raised the morale of the Garrison.



Works to re-open the tunnel

The Sally Port Tunnel forms an 's'- shape, sloping south to north. The tunnel is designed to facilitate exit from the Fortress and slow entry. The small size of the Sally Port would require a charging enemy to slow and duck to enter the tunnel – a horse would not fit through this opening. Once inside the enemy is further slowed by the slope. The 's' shaped tunnel works in two ways, both to slow the advancing speed of any enemy that enters it, and also makes it impossible to fire a gun shot straight down the tunnel. Adding further to the defensive strength of the tunnel are two overhead wells positioned at intervals in the tunnel. The function of these were two-fold in letting light into the tunnel but also doubling up as 'murder holes' down which projectiles and other materials could be thrown onto advancing enemies.



Fitting the gate

A great number of individuals have been involved in this phase of the project, but the Trust would specifically like to acknowledge the corporate support of Energy Replay Ltd, Fill-a-Skip, and Chubb Fire.

OTHER ISSUES

The Trust is continuously bringing items of concern to the attention of Government through the forum of the Heritage Action Committee and in many cases pressing for the improvement and maintenance of heritage sites and monuments.

St. Jago's Arch

The sandstone arch located on the side of the western façade of St. Jago's Stone block is an item that the Trust has been raising at meeting of the Heritage Action Committee for some time now. The arch is in a poor state of repair, having suffered from weathering and effects of pollution for many years.



Detail showing weathering of the sandstone

More recently, the Trust was concerned that the rate of decay of the arch is so rapid that it is visibly appreciable after each rainfall. The recent rains had rather alarmingly created perforations in the arch which will in turn serve to accelerate the rate of deterioration even further. This newly exposed surface will continue to weather. With the advent of the warmer dryer weather the humidity levels in the stone will drop which will lead to the drying out and further flaking of the surface which will then in turn be washed away again with the next rainfall. This is an active cycle that can only be stopped and consolidated by treatment of the stone.

The arch is listed as a monument in the 1989 Gibraltar Heritage Trust Act and as such is conserved by statute therefore making the need for conservation all the more pressing.

Continue on page 16

Saturday 10th April

Tour of Alameda Botanical Gardens with visit to the Dell

Led by Dr. John Cortes

Meet: 10am at George Don Gates

Details: A tour of the gardens, an important oasis in Gibraltar. Laid out in 1816 they have played an important role in the conservation of Gibraltar's natural heritage.

This tour involves 2 hours of easy walking.

Saturday 15th May

21st Annual Painting Competition

Theme: Europa Point

Registration on site: Between 9am and 12pm

Details: Painting/ Sketching competition open to all ages. Paintings must be started and completed on the day of the competition between 9am and 5pm. Childrens (age 10 and Under), Junior (age 11 to 16) and Adult categories (age 17 and over). Participants must supply their own art materials. Entries should not be larger than 76cm x 60cm. Full rules available upon registration or on the Trust's website.

Saturday 5th June

Visit to the Northern Defences

Led by Dr Darren Fa

Meet: 9:30am Khoeler Gun at Casemates Square

Details: This area of the North cliffs have been in use since at least the 13th Century and underwent major alterations in the British Period when a series of tunnels and defences were blasted through the area. The complex includes 19th Century powder magazines, embrasures and barrack blocks through to WWII searchlight and command posts.

This tour involves 2 hours of moderate walking and some rambling. Please wear appropriate footwear. Not suitable for those unsteady on their feet.

Places strictly limited to 30, please call in advance to book your place. Bring a torch.

Saturday 3rd July

Gibraltar from the Sea

Led by Prof Clive Finlayson

Meet: 9:30am Bianca's, Marina Bay

Details: A chance to see the Rock from the Sea on a tour that will cover aspects of the geology of the Rock, prehistoric landscapes and the evolution of the city and fortress of Gibraltar. If sea conditions allow the tour will pass by Gorham's Cave.

Places limited to 49. There will be a fee of £3 per person, tickets can be picked up from the Main Guard when you book your place.

Saturday 18th September

City & Walls Walk

Led by Pepe Rosado

Meet: 10am Queen's Hotel

Details: A walk along and around part of the City and Western Defence walls.

This tour involves 2 hours of moderate walking.

Saturday 9th October

Rock and Fortress, World War II Tunnel tour and Willis' Magazine

Led by Rock and Fortress Licensed Guides

Meet: 10am Hay's Level

Details: A guided tour of the WWII complex to include Jock's Balcony and a visit to the 19th Century Willis' Powder Magazine.

This tour involves 1.5 hours of easy walking.

There will be a fee of £3 per person, payable at the GHT offices before hand. Tour limited to 40 places. Some limited parking available at Princess Caroline's Battery.

A coach transfer is available to members who pre-book with the Trust. Contact the Trust office for further details.

Members are advised to check dates and times before the event by calling the Trust's office on Tel: 20042844
All tours last approximately two hours
Whilst every effort is made to ensure tour safety, attendance on Trust events is at member's own risk.

The Gibraltar Heritage Journal has served as a platform for the publication of Gibraltar-related research, memoirs and reminiscences since its inception. It aims to explore and stimulate discussion and debate on all aspects of Gibraltar's heritage, and in doing so functions as a collective archive of historical narratives that may otherwise remain unrecorded.



The Gibraltar Heritage Journal is the brainchild of Graham Morris and Tito Benady, who in 1993 produced a Journal for the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society for presentation at a fundraiser ball. The Journal was so well received that it went on to become an annual publication.

The Journal has grown in the ensuing years and is now a peer reviewed publication, with articles reviewed by independent researchers. This said, however it is equally committed to publishing articles on histories of local families and businesses, pictorial articles with descriptions of Gibraltar and reminiscences by witnesses of events of historical importance. These articles provide an invaluable insight into Gibraltar Society and one that is rarely collected in official sources. It is therefore of key importance that the Journal also provides a framework within which memoirs, correspondence and eye-witness accounts can be brought together.

Journal No 16 once again sponsored by Gibtelecom was published in December 2009 and contains a variety of articles. The edition features articles on:

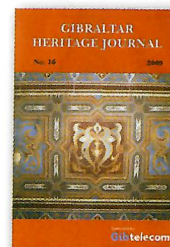
- El Calpense – 'Un Paseo de Gibraltar a La Linea' por Un Calpense with an introduction on the history of *El Calpense*.
- Gibraltar's Weather Records: The *Gibraltar Chronicle*, Letters, Diaries and Publications.
- Gibraltar's Heart Cut Coinage.
- Henry Ince: Soldier, Tunneller and Methodist (1736-1808).
- Garrison of Gibraltar II.
- Twice around the Rock sequence: a pictorial view of Gibraltar taken between 1959-1961.
- HMS Calpe 1965 to 1993.

As well as the usual Gibraltar Bookshelf 2009, Cumulative index and a revived notes and queries section notes.

The Journal continues at the special *member only* price of £3.

Contact the Trust office for overseas postage rates.

If you are interested in contributing an article for a future edition of the journal contact Dr. Jennifer Ballantine, Journal Editor at journal@gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi



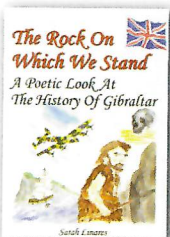
"Heritage Journal Number 16" - A diverse collection of articles ranging from Gibraltar's weather to its coinage.



"Spirit of the Phoenician the Story of a Gibraltar Family" - Joe L Caruana



"Wings Around Gibraltar the Story of Gibraltar's Airfield and Airport" - Ted Archer & Jon Mays



"The Rock on Which We Stand a Poetic Look at the History of Gibraltar" - Sarah Linares

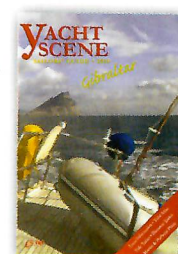
"The Gibraltar Financial Services Handbook" - Diane Sloma



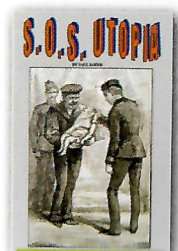
"The Gibraltar Maritime Services Handbook" - Diane Sloma



"Yacht Scene Gibraltar" 2010 - Diane Sloma



"SOS Utopia an Account of the Sinking of SS Utopia in Gibraltar March 1891" - Paul Baker





Bird Project 2010

The Trust has been working very hard with the local middle and comprehensive schools to raise awareness about Gibraltar's natural heritage and the need to protect it.

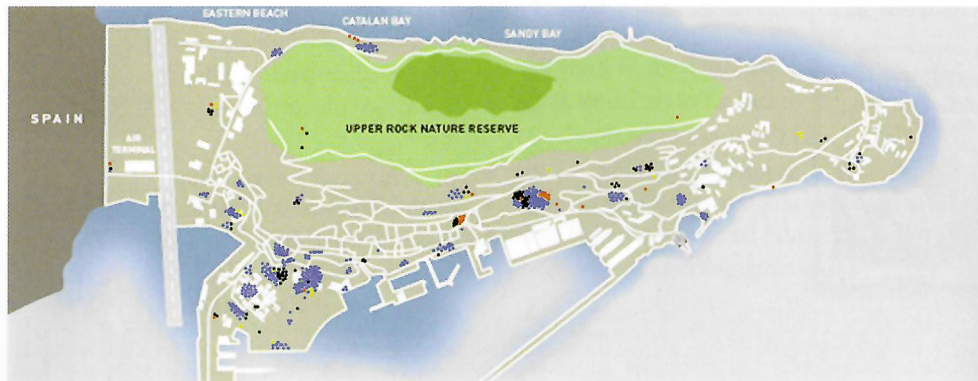
In October 2009 a Bird Project was launched and is being operated by the Trust with the aim of creating a record of sightings of 4 easily identifiable species of birds.

The aims of the project are two fold:

- To create an awareness of Gibraltar's rich natural heritage and emphasise the variety which surround us
- To produce a piece of work which has been created by many individuals working together and therefore fostering and emphasising the importance of teamwork.

The species of bird selected for the project are: the House Sparrow and the Blackbird and the Robin and the Black Redstart; the former can be found in Gibraltar all the year round whilst the Robin and Black Redstart are with us from October through to April.

Overall, just under 100 boys and girls have returned observations and these have been plotted onto a map of Gibraltar. The blue dots correspond to House Sparrows, the black to Blackbirds, red are for Robins and yellow for the Black Redstarts. The results are very accurate because they show concentrations of House Sparrows and Black Redstarts in housing estates and built up areas. The Robins and Blackbirds, which prefer gardens and greenery, are located in areas such as the Alameda Gardens, Trafalgar Cemetery and green areas in estates. Progress on the sightings can be found on the Gibraltar Heritage Trust's website.



Sightings map as at 30th January 2010



Mist nets in place

The next phase of the Bird Project is for participating children to attend bird ringing sessions at the GONHS Jew's Gate research centre. The Trust is very grateful to the GONHS and Mr. Steve Norman, the principal bird ringing officer at Jew's Gate, for giving of their time and facilitating the visit.

Birds are caught in special nets called Mist Nets. They are then carefully removed by the ringer and placed in a cotton bag until they settle down. They are then taken to the research centre where they are, amongst other things, weighed and measured and have a small metal ring placed on one of their legs before being let free once again. These rings have a unique number to the bird. If re-caught, the ring will identify where the bird was originally ringed. In this way ornithologists can track bird migration patterns.

Throughout the month of March the Trust hosted migration watching sessions for any members or school children who wished

to watch the Bird of Prey migrations that take place at this time of year. Though a slow weekend in terms of usual numbers of migrants passing over the Rock, a total of 510 Short-Toed Eagles were seen in the space of 2 hours. Quite a spectacle to behold!

Look out for more natural history trips in the future!



Iberian Chiff Chaff & Common Chiff Chaff



St. Jago's Arch after the recent rains

The Trust is pleased to have had recent confirmation that Government will be starting works imminently on the arch, with the works being carried out by a specialist conservator being overseen by the Gibraltar Museum.

Graffiti on City Walls

The Trust has been reporting on graffiti on heritage monuments at the Heritage Action Committee. A number of these have been actioned by the Environmental Agency under the supervision of the Gibraltar Museum. Progress on removal is not as fast as we would like but we continue to send lists of areas in need of attention as and when reported.

Devil's Tower Plaque:

We had a number of calls from concerned members on the works at Eastern Beach in the vicinity of the location of Devil's Tower. The Tower itself was demolished during World War II however its location was marked with a plaque. The Gibraltar Museum has been closely monitoring the works for the new road and roundabout that is to go in this area with a view to recording any archaeological finds. The location of the plaque has been recorded with GPS and the plaque itself has been removed for safekeeping until such a time as the project is complete.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Gibraltar's Heritage impacts our daily lives on so many levels, be it the route the you or walk to work, dominated by the City Walls; the profile of the Rock and vistas and views of it (and from it) the historic town centre ; the tourists drawn to Gibraltar each day feeding into our economy, or the businessman drawn to the steadfast, reliable image of the Rock; the meals eaten; the turns of phrase used; all combine to make Gibraltar the unique place it is.

Your membership is important to us.

As a member you are not only eligible to attend tours and outings organised specifically for Trust Members, but you also support us in our work to promote a wider understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of Gibraltar's historic environment

We rely on your support to achieve our aims of safeguarding and preserving Gibraltar's historic environment.

With this newsletter you should have received our renewal form for the 2010/11 membership year. We have also enclosed a membership leaflet which we hope you will pass onto a friend, buisness or family member which may not already be aware of the Trust and the important work we do.

We are also relaunching our junior membership section. Young members will receive a small goody bag and should look out for specially tailored events coming soon!



GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

ERIC CANESSA

Eric, Canessa, who served for a long period as a Trustee of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust (GHT), passed away on Friday 8th October after a long illness bravely endured.

Eric had a long history of serving Gibraltar in a number of capacities, both professional and voluntary. For the GHT he was probably the longest serving Trustee when he retired at the end of 2006. He formed part of the editorial board of the Gibraltar Heritage Journal from 1999 to 2006; he also published a book, "They Went to War: The Story of Gibraltarians who Served in His Majesty's Forces in WW2 away from their Homeland, in 2004, which included lists and biographies of those, many of them little known or recognised in Gibraltar, involved in action. Eric's well researched book is indeed an important addition to the growing bibliography of books on Gibraltar.

For his hard work for the Trust, and in appreciation of his contribution heritage, Eric was appointed a Life Trustee during my time as Chairman of the Board: an appointment that was well received by all and particularly by Eric and his family. His retirement from Heritage Trust activities was precipitated by illness.

Eric was also a committed member of the Rotary Club of Gibraltar and rarely missed a meeting.

Eric carried out his studies at the Gibraltar Grammar School. After passing his School Leaving Certificate in 1946 he stayed on at school to sit his Higher School Certificate, which enabled him to proceed to read for a degree in civil engineering at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom. He remained in England following his graduation, but returned to Gibraltar shortly after to take up the post of civil engineer at the City Engineers Department. Eric was shortly after promoted to City Engineer although his stay in Gibraltar was but a brief one. Eric then took up a post in the Netherlands before taking up a technical appointment with the World Bank in Washington, a post which involved extensive travelling to South and Central American countries, and Africa. His knowledge of Spanish gave him a significant advantage in obtaining his appointment with the World Bank and it no doubt held him in good stead in carrying out his duties thereafter.

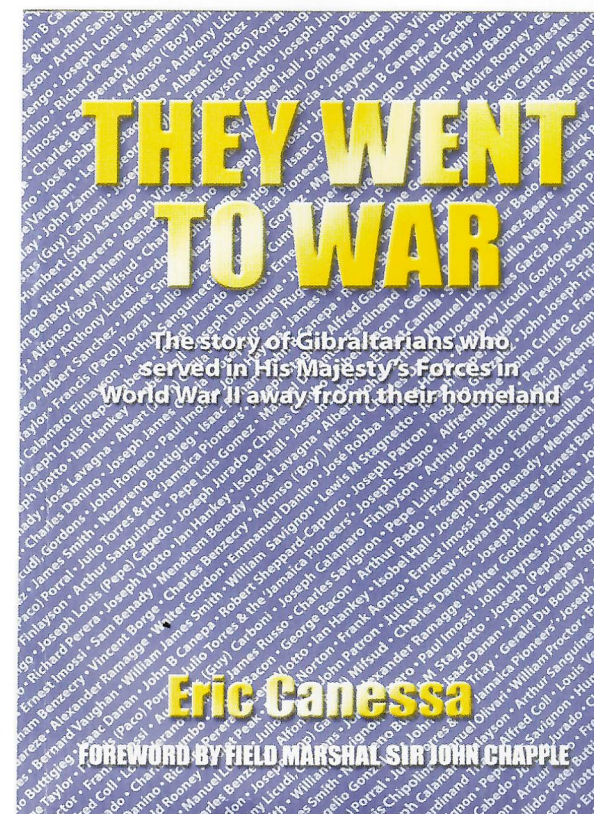
When the Volunteer Reserve of Officers was implemented in the Gibraltar Regiment, Eric was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and served with distinction as a Gunner. He was also appointed ADC to his Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Varyl Begg, from 1969 to 1973. I remember well the good advice he gave me on the ceremonial functions of ADC's when I myself was appointed as ADC representing HMS Calpe in 1973. Eric retired in the rank of Captain.

Another of Eric's loves was Scouting, an activity that was somewhat curtailed by his academic studies. We both joined the same scouting group and were members of the bugle and drum band, of which he was the bass drummer. And he sure kept us playing rhythmically! We eventually reached the exalted heights of obtaining our King's Scouts Badge, which was the pinnacle of a scouting career, and later formed part of the Gibraltar contingent that participated in the 7th World jamboree (*Le Jamboree de la Paix*), 1947.

Eric was born in Gibraltar on 24th April 1932, and had two brothers, both predeceasing him, and a sister. He was the

youngest member of his family. Eric married Laurie Xerri on 6th November 1956. They had four and one son who have in turn blessed them with twelve grandchildren. Eric will be sorely missed by his family and friends, and we offer them our most sincere sympathise and prayers. May he rest in peace.

Joe Ballantine



Annual Painting Competition 2010

Dust off your paintbrushes, pencils and crayons and enter the Gibraltar Heritage Trust's 21st Annual Painting Competition.

This year's Theme: Europa Point

Date: Saturday 15th May 2010

Registration on site between 9am and 12pm

Participants must supply their own art materials.

Entries should not be larger than 76x60cm

Rules available upon registration or from the Trust's website



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