
FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO 68

APRIL 2004

NEW MEMBERS: Mrs Y. Brummer: Mrs M. Dittrich: Wing Commander Gordon Harvey: Sir Albert McQuarrie: Adam Rassim: Robert Tellez: H.J. Wines: Mrs S.W. Leslie Bubb: Mrs B. Brufal: Mrs R. Ferrary Davis: Harvey Johnson: Ms N. Ozanne: Mrs H. Stuart-Black: Stuart Worthington: David Heck: David Arrigo: Nick Thomas: Mrs J. Maltby: John Stacpoole: Jane Stacpoole.

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CHAIRMAN

Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, after ten years as Chairman, will be succeeded by Field Marshal Sir John Chapple. Sir John will be Chairman for a fixed term of three years. The handover will take place this summer.

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LUNCHEON H.M.S. VICTORY SATURDAY 12 June 2004

Due to a misunderstanding there are only 100 rather than 124 covers for this luncheon. This means that the first 100 applications received were successful and the next 36 are on the waiting list. If you have not heard from the organiser then you can assume you are on the waiting list. The lesson to be learnt is that it is the early bird that catches the worm.

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ACCOMMODATION

Ron and Beryl Powell have found a bed and breakfast establishment which is located near HMS Victory. It is The Keppel's Head, The Hard, Portsmouth, PO1 3DT Telephone 023 9283 3231 Fax 023 9283 8688

PICILAVE 2004

Reggie and Emily Norton have invited members to attend the 2004 Picilave at The Hideaway, Hatford Down, Farringdon, Near Oxford on Sunday 4 July. In addition to eating and drinking there will be swimming, cricket, football and volleyball. To book a place, at this stage without commitment, please email Reggie on reg.Norton@rmpc.co.uk

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TERCENTENARY VISIT 30 July-8th August

The following members will be attending;

Admiral Sir Derek and Lady Reffell, Field Marshal Sir John and Lady Chapple, Mr and Mrs Brufal, Sir Albert and Lady McQuarrie, Major-General Simon and Mrs Pack, Mr and Mrs Piercy, Mr and Mrs Maltby, Mr and Mrs Bruzon, Dr and Mrs Abraham, Mr and Mrs Sheppard, Mr and Mrs Troake, Mrs Benady, Mrs Penn, Mr and Mrs Inker, J. Robinson, Mr and Mrs Stacpole, Dr Raeburn, Commander and Mrs Norwood, Ms F. Stuart, Ms M. Hirst, Mr and Mrs Brister, Colonel and Mrs Watson, Colonel and Mrs Eveleigh, Mr and Mrs R. Wells, J MacLachan, Mr and Mrs Parsonson, Mr and Mrs Johnson, N. Thomas, Mrs S. Leslie Bubb, Mr and Mrs Ammundsen, Mr and Mrs Willey, B. Willey, D. Fullerton, D. Viles, Mr and Mrs Reading, Mr and Mrs Baker, J. Forbes, Mr and Mrs Pau, Mrs Gaduzo, Mr and Mrs Iveson, and Mrs C Skippen.

If any other members wish to join the party immediate contact must be made with Kerry Baggley on 023 80828313 or fax 023 80228601 or email .baggley@cadogan-soton.co

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TERCENTENARY BANQUET HMS ROOKE 4 AUGUST 2004

Those members wishing to attend should send a cheque for £37.50 person, made payable to FOGHS, to Michael Brufal, 24 Guernsey Drive, Ancells Farm, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 2TG. It is a Black Tie event.

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SEMINAR

The FOGHS Gibraltar seminar will be held on Saturday 6th November 2004 at the Warwick Arms Hotel. A booking form is at the end of Leafar's Desk section.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS 2004

The annual meeting of members was held in the Gibraltar Government Office in the Strand. Graham Morris, vice-chairman, presided and provided those present with an account of the Society's activities during the past twelve months. Joe Desoisa, chairman of the Gibraltar Heritage Society also spoke.

The following members attended: Joe and Muriel Desoisa, Peter and Valerie Abraham, Vivian Azzopardi, Selene Barstow-Evans, Alex, Anne, Deborah and Tito Benady, John Borda, Michael and Brenda Brufal, John and Linda Bruford-Stubbs, Greg Butcher, David and Mrs. Devenish, Mary Dittrich, Fred and Lilian Everett, Joseph Forbes, Derek Fullarton, Salvador and Violet Gaduzo, Isaac Hassan, Elena Mauro, Les and Elaine Piercy, Charles and Maribel Pou, Ernest and Marcella Reading, Victor and Magda Riso, Derek and Angelina Rooney, James and Laura Schembri, Frieda Stuart, David Viles, Janet Whiteley, John and Maria York, David and Sandra Inker, Elizabeth McCutchan, Suzanne Gordon, Jock and Ann Marie Craven.

John Bruford Stubbs, the acclaimed artist, displayed a selection of his work. This included South end of the Detached Mole (exhibited in the Royal Academy 1996), Gun emplacement on the Detached Mole (exhibited in the Royal Academy 1998), Double curvature steps, Northern Defences, Cook House, Northern Defences, Tower of Homage, Moorish Castle, 10" howitzer, Alameda Gardens, Concrete breakwaters, South Mole – all pastels.

Landport Tunnel and Landport Gate, Prince's Magazine, Northern Defences, Castle Gatehouse – all watercolours.

Parsons Lodge Battery (exhibited Royal Academy 1998), The Tower, Naval Base, Fortifications, Moorish Castle (Ink and Pastel), Mid 17th Century Guard Turret, South Mole – all ink.

Archway at the highest point of Charles V's Wall – pencil.

'Jimmy' – charcoal.

The Society would like to thank Albert Poggio for allowing the meeting to take place in the Gibraltar Government Office.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS 2005

This will be held in the Gibraltar Government Office in the Strand at a date to be announced sometime during the first quarter of 2005.

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OBITUARIES

The death has been announced of George Benstead. The Society sends its condolences to all members of his family.

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Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy

Maurice Xiberras writes:

Comparisons are odious but few Gibraltarians can resist making them, when it comes to Governors they have known.

For a man not professionally schooled in the ways of diplomacy, Sir John was Governor in times that placed a premium on diplomatic skills.

From my perspective as Leader of the Opposition in the period beginning almost at the same time as his tenure and ending shortly after its completion, three main issues faced Gibraltar:

1. Repairing of relations between Government and Opposition following the bruising 1972 election, and establishing the then considered essential machinery of consultation through the Governor;
2. The growth in Trade Union militancy and the campaign for equality between Gibraltarians and UK workers employed in the UK departments;
3. Gibraltar's response to the first stirrings of a democratic Spain, and the Foreign Office's gradually increasing pressure to achieve a 'more flexible' response from Gibraltar.

In all three, Sir John could claim a large measure of unassuming success. Not a brusque authoritarian like Varyl Begg, nor boasting the academic background of his successor the much loved Sir William Jackson, Sir John brought an imperturbability and much social skill to the job.

His qualities contributed in significant measure to ensuring that Government and Opposition worked together in matters of overall Gibraltar concern, according the Opposition its rightful constitutional place. From the very start, he recognised my right to 'go public', all other avenues having been exhausted, if in my view either the FCO or the Chief Minister proposed to act in a manner I considered not in the public interest, and he trusted me not to abuse the undoubted leverage which that gave me.

The fight for parity of wages took Gibraltar to the brink of civil disorder, and it was his ability to keep his head that averted the Army's intervention. To my knowledge, he typically never made a value judgement about the concept, leaving it to the elected politicians to find a way to deal with both the demand and the eventual achievement of this legitimate aspiration. It was to stand Gibraltar's industrial stability in good stead.

Sir John was no dove. When the Strasbourg Process, as it became known, was first mooted, he was respectful of my insistence that talks with Spain were to be about 'the modalities of lifting the Spanish restrictions' and not about sovereignty. Fully aware of my suspicion of the likes of Dr David Owen and his Minister, Roy Hattersley, whose infamous memorandum had destroyed the Integration with Britain Party I led, he trusted me to accompany Sir Joshua Hassan to the Strasbourg and Paris. The increasing pressure from these two ministers to start 'discussions in sovereignty' received, so far as I know, no comfort from Sir John. I believe he departed Gibraltar with his hands clean.

The relationship between Sir Joshua and me, which he had contributed to forming, endured in spite of the serious strains upon it, under his successor until my departure in 1979.

At a personal level, we enjoyed a respectful and warm relationship. He did not turn a hair if I turned up at the Convent in my working clothes, dusty from coming straight from the hold of a ship, for an urgent consultation. He asked me to the Governor's Cricket XI against some visiting side, and much later after 1979, as Governor of Windsor Castle, he invited my family, including our two very young and unabashed sons, to a memorable lunch in St George's Tower at Windsor, at which Lady Cecile insisted on serving us personally, in spite of her medical condition which made her lose her balance alarmingly. His private museum in the Tower proudly displayed memorabilia of their time in Gibraltar. My then wife and I were simple teachers then with no political influence, and I will always remember this personal kindness.

There is a photograph of World War II in the Battle of Britain corner of the Imperial War Museum in the Elephant and Castle. It shows five or six fighter pilots walking away like the heroes they were, from a Hurricane or a Spitfire. I pointed Sir John out to my students, adding that he was the Museum's Chairman. Eager for celebrities, they pressed me to contact him again. An attendant brought me back his private telephone number and the message that I was to call him as soon as possible. I am sorry that I never made that call.

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CADOGAN HOLIDAYS
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The best company to travel to Gibraltar with is award-winning **CADOGAN HOLIDAYS**, the first company to promote tourism to the Crown Colony over 50 years ago. It has had a strong presence ever since. **CADOGAN HOLIDAYS** is part of the International Bland Group, which is based on the Rock. Since it was founded in 1810, but particularly since its acquisition by the Gaggero family in 1891, the group has seen steady expansion of its interests in air and land transport, hotels and shipping. These interests include the grande dame of Gibraltar's hotels, the 4-star superior Rock Hotel, GB Airways, Bland Travel and Motor Transport, Airside Services at Gibraltar airport and maritime services in the Western Mediterranean and UK. GB Airways, flying in the colours of British Airways, is the major carrier to the Crown Colony.

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It will tailor-make a holiday to your precise requirements, whether it be for 2 or for 56 nights, to one destination or a combination of several, and arrange private transfers or a hire car for you. Cadogan guests receive a lot of valuable extras; they range from child, family or group discounts to the waiver of supplements for single travellers, from room upgrades to free nights or meals, from special rates on golf and spa packages to wine and fruit on arrival. All those booking an inclusive holiday receive a wallet with quality labels, map, guide book and discount card.

CADOGAN HOLIDAYS is pleased to offer all FOGHS members special rates on BA/ GB flights to Gibraltar or its inclusive holidays to the Rock, as well as on any other arrangement in its many brochures. If you wish to make a booking, order a brochure or would like further information, then Kerry Bagglely will be happy to hear from you on 023-80828313 or by fax on 023-80228601.

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TERCENTENARY PROGRAMME

All details are on this website : www.gibraltar2004.gov.gi

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BICENTENARY OF ADMIRAL LORD NELSON'S DEATH

The annual visit to the Rock will take place from 18-30 October 2005. On the 21st October, after attending the ceremony at Trafalgar cemetery, the Party will be driven to Cape Trafalgar where Admiral Sir Derek Reffell will lay a wreath. The Friends will repair to a nearby restaurant for a luncheon after which will be drunk the toast - the Immortal Memory.

On the 28th October there will be a suitable ceremony to mark the bicentenary of the arrival of HMS Victory into Rosia Bay containing the body of Admiral Horatio Nelson pickled in a barrel of cheap Spanish brandy. Colin White, the world's greatest expert on Nelson says that there is no evidence to support the theory that Nelson's body was brought ashore at Rosia Bay. He told this newsletter that the only way for this theory to be proved is for someone on the Rock to produce contemporary documentary evidence. On the other hand there is no evidence to say that the body remained on board.

This might take the form of a letter saying that the writer had seen the Nelson corpse on shore. That evening there will be a dinner at the Lord Nelson restaurant in Casemates.

The FOGHS will be working closely with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the Nelson Society and the Royal Marines Regimental Association.

Reservations, without commitment, are now being taken. Please telephone Brenda Brufal on 01252 621948.

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HELP WANTED

Richard Martin, a journalist, will be flying down around 12 May, to sail back to the Mother Country by yacht. Whilst on the Rock he proposes to research a story on Nelson to use before 2005.

One that springs to mind is the dispute between Pepe Rosado and Colin White as to whether Admiral Nelson's body came ashore at Gibraltar

If any member has any views on this subject or has another idea for the programme contact should be made with Richard. His email address is richard.martin@itv.com

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PILGRIMAGE TO MADEIRA

The Bishop of Gibraltar has invited FOGHS members to join the pilgrimage to Madeira which takes place from 13th to 21st August 2004. The climax will be the installation of Our Lady of Europe in Madeira by Bishop Charles Caruana and the Bishop of Madeira. Pilgrims can stay at the five star Savoy Hotel (£665) or the Villa Ramos Hotel (£580). The price includes return transfer by air-conditioned coach to Lisbon, return flight Lisbon - Madeira, transfers in Madeira, bed and breakfast, cocktail party, optional excursions and entertainment.

For those wishing to fly direct London to Madeira then a special price can be quoted.

Anyone interested, without commitment at this stage, should telephone Brenda Brufal on 01252 621948.

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PERSONAL VIEW – JOHN BORDA

Our NEGLECTED 300 Years

300 years of British rule has certainly left its mark on Gibraltar, on Gibraltarian culture and education, these things will never fade they have made us what we are. However, what is fading and some will say fading fast is the very stone and mortar these years and those before them, have left behind. These things have also contributed to making us what we are, but years of decay and neglect are taking their toll. Last week a fifteen year old student from Bayside school on work experience with PANORAMA highlighted the appalling state of Governors Cottage, wasted potential he called it. Wasted potential is something we seem to have a lot of in Gibraltar, today we highlight another area of shockingly wasted potential: Kings Bastion. This historic bastion was built in 1772 by General Boyd, governor of Gibraltar and successor to General Elliott. It was the project which launched the Soldier Artificer Company forerunners of the Royal Engineers and instrumental in the winning of the Great Siege. Today, incredibly, the body of General Boyd lies buried between two rotting fuel tanks.

The Kings Bastion is visited every year by Military enthusiasts from all over the world, retired Generals and military historians, world leaders in their field. This April, members of the Swiss fortress study group will be travelling to Gibraltar to visit our military installations. Kings Bastion should be one of the high points of the visit (it contains unique examples of military paraphernalia, some not found anywhere else in the world) but what they will find is shown on this page - a neglected and abandoned site Any other city in the world would have poured resources into places such as this, but not Gibraltar.

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EUROPEAN-ATLANTIC GROUP

Mrs Elma Dangerfield has agreed that FOGHS members can attend the European Atlantic Group dinners and luncheons. The website can be visited at www.eag.org.uk

Any member wishing to attend should contact Justin Glass on 0207 352 1226.

Friday, April 30 Luncheon-Debate: The Athenaeum Club

Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites on 'Has Education run into the Buffers'.

Monday, May 17 Dinner-Debate: St Ermins Hotel

Ann Clwyd MP on 'Iraq'.

Friday, May 21 Luncheon-Debate: The Athenaeum Club

General Sir Jack Deverell on 'The New Conceptual Thinking needed in the Military'.

Tuesday, June 22 Dinner-Debate: St James's Court Hotel

Admiral Sir Alan West, The First Sea Lord

Monday, June 28 Dinner-Debate: St Ermins Hotel

Digby Jones, Director-General of the CBI

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RESTORED ANCHOR AT ROSIA

Peter Penfold, at the behest of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, lovingly restored the anchor at Rosia Bay.

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ALBERT POGGIO

The Society wishes to thank Albert Poggio and express appreciation for the superb planning and organisation of the service of Thanksgiving and Celebration to mark the 300th anniversary of the British presence at Gibraltar held on 2 March at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand.

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Treasurer/ Membership Secretary:

Please note that John Borda will be moving again in April, hopefully for the last time! Please direct all correspondence to:

FOGHS Treasurer/Membership Secretary (as appropriate)
c/o Gibraltar Government Office
179 Strand
London WC2R 1EH

They will either redirect or hold mail for him. Please note that while Royal Mail will redirect mail addressed to him, they may not do so for mail addressed to FOGHS.

Membership:

As I review last (financial) year, we had 29 new members, so far we have 36 this year, so all is going well. Thank you to everyone who signed up for Direct Debit, it will mean less paperwork for me (and for you) next year! If you have not signed up, you can get a form from the website, under "Contact Us" section. It also includes a Gift Aid section, which allows us to reclaim tax from the Inland Revenue.

Reminders will be sent to all members not on Direct Debit after the house move, which should be on the 17th April DV.

Treasurer:

It's that time of year when I need to finalise accounts, so more busy work. I have also sent in the tax refund claim for last year, which should be several hundred pounds. However, I'll believe it when I have the cheque in the account!

Webmaster: (www.foghs.org.uk)

Every Gibraltar link I know of I put into the Open Directory Project (ODP), so that search engines will find it. ODP is a human-edited directory, and I have been the editor of the Gibraltar section for some years now. So the quickest way to find any Gibraltar web-site is to go to:

<http://dmoz.org/Regional/Europe/Gibraltar/>

Please note you are free to add sites I haven't found yet! All get vetted (by me) before they appear.

News:

www.chronicle.gi

www.iberianews.gi

www.panorama.gi

Tercentenary website: <http://www.gibraltar2004.gov.gi/>

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AVAILABLE

A very fine collection of Gibraltar postcards, amounting to over 350 older cards and a number of modern. Some of the old cards are as featured in Richard Garcia's book 'Looking Back'. The cards, many in black and white and sepia, as well as colour date from about 1910 (View of Field Marshal Sir George White on horseback returning with troops from North Front).

PRICE £ 350

To view contact Michael Wood on 01934 751260

The collection was for many years on display at the Society Seminar at Warwick. This is a private collection – No dealers – No offers. A % will be made to Society funds if sold to a member.

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SIR DAVID ROBERT CAMPBELL DURIE KCMG GRANT OF ARMS

The Arms were granted by the senior Scottish Herald, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, with the assistance of Alastair Campbell of Airds, a junior Scottish Herald known as Unicorn Pursuivant. Sir David chose the Scottish College of Arms because of his Scottish ancestry, the fact that he was born in Glasgow and was largely brought up in Scotland. By coincidence Alastair Campbell and his brother Patrick had been pageboys at Sir David's parents' wedding.

The Scottish rules of heraldry require that a junior member of a family or clan should matriculate arms which relate closely to those of the head of the family in this case the Durie of Durie. A prominent separate part of Sir David's ancestry comes through the Campbells of Fairfield who in turn are descended from the Campbells of Loudon. The shield bears both references with predominance owed to the Durie of Durie. In consequence, the shield is *Azure, a Chevron Argent in chief two crescents Or, in base a roundel gyronny of eight Ermine and Gules*. The shield of the Durie of Durie contains three

crescents Or. In Sir David's case the third crescent has been replaced by the Campbell of Loudon roundel gyronny of eight.

Likewise the motto has to derive in some way from that of the Durie of Durie, which is "CONFIDO". Sir David has taken the motto "AS A ROCK MY FAITH" which of course also refers to Gibraltar of which he was both Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Arms, or more properly, the Ensigns Armorial, are completed by the riband and badge of the KCMG pendent from the shield and above the shield by a knight's helm with a "Mantling Azure doubled Argent" (the two principal colours on the shield) and on a wreath of the liveries is set for crest a triple castle Gules, door and window sable having a key Or pendent from the door. This again is reference to Gibraltar whose arms contain centrally the symbols of the castle and the key.

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LETTERS IN THE NATIONAL PRESS

Andy Smith writes in **The Daily Telegraph**

'It is absurd that, after 300 years, Spain has still not come to terms with Gibraltar's sovereignty. The fact that the Union flag flies over the Rock is nothing to do with 'colonialism' or power politics but a recognition of the Gibraltarians' desire to remain within the British family of nations. Gibraltarians simply do not want to be ruled from Madrid, as the referendum result – an almost 99% rejection of 'shared sovereignty' - demonstrated all too clearly.

Spanish accusations that Britain will be 'celebrating the capture of a colony' by marking the tercentenary of British Gibraltar are wide of the mark. What Britons and Gibraltarians will be celebrating is the bond of friendship between us that has endured these past three centuries – and will, I am sure, continue for many more years'.

The Marques de Lendinez writes in **The Daily Mail**

'It's not only the Foreign Secretary who is snubbing the Crown Colony of Gibraltar and its inhabitants. Tony Blair has never found the time to meet Gibraltar's Chief Minister to discuss the Gibraltar problem. Instead he has held many meetings with the Spanish Prime Minister and they came up with the joint sovereignty solution.

This is totally unacceptable to every Gibraltarian. Michael Howard is adamant that any deals struck between the British and Spanish governments will be abrogated by the next Tory government.

No 10 says the Prime Minister has no plans to visit Gibraltar this year. Furthermore he advised the Queen not to travel there. However Her Majesty is sending the Princess Royal as her personal representative and she will receive an ecstatic welcome'.

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REMINISCENCES

Roger Taylor reports that there is a Rock Church on Priory Street in the City of York. The board outside shows the name of the church set within a profile of the Rock itself.

There is a village called Bramham a few miles south of Wetherby. Within the village is an area of housing, previously occupied by the Jubilee Works of a local firm called Batty's. During the Second World War, Higgs and Hill, then a Leeds building company, subcontracted Batty's to make doors for barracks in Gibraltar. Alas Roger has been unable to find the name of the barracks. Can any member provide this information?

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HANDS AROUND THE ROCK

Dr Peter Abraham was so fascinated by the concept of 14,000 people of Gibraltar holding hands in a link which will stretch round the Rock that he conducted research into this custom.

The results are:

1. Wirksworth holds its annual custom of Clipping the Church on the Sunday nearest to the 8th of September. It involves surrounding the ancient Church, which is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, by holding hands. The custom was revived in 1921 after a lapse of many years, and it is supposed to be an outward display of affection by the parishioners, for their church. Its origins are unknown.

After a morning service the vicar and choir start a circuit of the building, with the churchgoers following, holding hands, forming a complete ring whilst singing 'We love thy place O Lord in which Thine honour dwells'. Sometimes there is a procession through the town, joined by church dignitaries.

A similar custom takes place at Burbage Parish Church, near Buxton, on the last Sunday in July.

2. Saint Oswald's day is celebrated at Guiseley Parish Church by the custom of 'clipping the church'. During the 9:30 am service on that day, (the first Sunday in July) the congregation led by the choir, churchwardens, and clergy process out of, and around the church singing 'Saint Oswald's Ballad'.

Then all join hands to encircle (clip) the church and say 'God Bless our Church' three times.

3. Rogationtide Although the rituals of blessing the crops probably go back to pre-Christian times and the Romans prayed for a good harvest in June, Rogation originated in the early Church as three fast days, being the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day with the preceding Sunday, the fifth after Easter being known as Rogation Sunday. Mamertus, bishop of Vienne, is said to have instituted processions, with litanies, on those days after earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and plagues devastated his diocese in about AD 467. Thus it gets its name from the Latin *rogatio* meaning 'intercession' - to ask or beseech. In AD 511 the first Council of Orleans extended the custom to the whole of Gaul and from there the practice quickly spread through the Western Church reaching England in the early eighth century. Later, in the Church of England, it became a time for perambulations around the parish to bless fields, allotments, gardens and even the sea. The old name for Rogation days is Gang Days from the Anglo-Saxon *gangen* meaning to 'go' or 'walk'.

After the Reformation, Elizabethan clergy were allowed to continue to beat the bounds and to preach or offer prayers at certain points along the way. So Rogation also became a chance to preserve established parish boundaries at a time when maps were scarce and the simplest way of remembering where the limits lay was to walk round them once a year. Young people would have this firmly impressed on their memories by being bumped on stones, thrown into water, dragged through hedges and over walls and made to climb up rooftops. Later they would be compensated by being given gifts of money or goods. Bread, cheese and ale was served after the ceremony. Such an experience would be firmly etched in their memories. It was important that parish officers knew the limits of their administration for burial and poor-law purposes so that should any boundary dispute arise at a later date they would remember quite clearly the markers where they received such rough treatment. Poole, in Dorset, still has a ceremony of 'Beating the Bounds' which originated to establish who had jurisdiction over the harbour. In London one of the markers in the parish of St Clement Danes is now below ground level so that a choirboy has to be lowered by his heels to reach it.

Rogation was also a time when by walking in neighbourly companionship any differences and quarrels could be reconciled. At South Petherton, in Somerset, villagers linked arms and danced around the church in a ritual known as the 'Clipping Ceremony' designed to reinforce friendship.

Rogation and bound-beating became intertwined because as boundary marks such as stones, trees or ponds were reached the parson paused to give thanks for the fruits of the earth. Some fields which contained these marks still retain names like Gospel Amen and Paternoster. A Gospel Oak was a tree which acted as a boundary marker and under which the clergyman read from the Gospel.

In parts of Somerset and Wiltshire, famous for their lush grasslands and rich dairy produce, Rogation Monday was the time for selling summer grazing and haying rights. At Wishford the sale takes place in the church porch with the buyers being summoned by the church bell a quarter of an hour before sunset and the sale being made to the last bidder precisely as the sun goes down.

In coastal parishes the sea and fishing industry would be blessed too. At Brixham, in Devon, there is a waterside service on Rogation Sunday. In Kent, Northumberland and at Mudeford, in Dorset, clergy and choirs sail out into the harbour to bless the boats. At Wyke Regis and Abbotsbury in the same county children make garlands of flowers and skip through the streets to hang them on the fishing boats. When they sailed the garlands would be thrown on to the waters of West Bay. In Brighton and Hastings, Sussex, services to bless the nets and mackerel are held on the beach.

Rogationtide services have, for the most part, died out although they were revived in some places after the second world war, for example in East Anglia and I can recall taking part in some in Wiltshire. They tended to be rather ecumenical affairs with most of the local congregations uniting for an evening service. They often started in one place of worship and ended at another. In between the congregation processed through the countryside making stops to bless arable crops, grassland, a garden, a farmyard and a well. If there was not a well available then a cattle drinking-trough had to do instead. At each stop a prayer would be said, a lesson read and a hymn sung. After the service there would be a Rogation Supper in the village hall or large farmhouse kitchen.

4. Laetare, or Mid-Lent Sunday, is a day when Christians can relax from self-imposed penitence and celebrate motherhood.

Mothering Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent. It is traditionally a time for children to give gifts, flowers and cards to their mothers and for the whole family to spend time together. In the old days, servants would be given time-off and worshippers would present offerings to their Mother Church. It was an especially important day in the calendar's of apprentices, farm labourers and girls in service, because it meant that they could return home and share a meal with their parents.

"Every Midlent Sunday is a great day at Worcester, when all the children and god-children meet at the head and cheife of the family and have a feast. They call it the Mothering-day." Diary of Richard Symonds (1644)

Another popular ceremony on this day was church-clipping (meaning to clasp or tightly grip the church), when people would express their love for their house of worship by forming a circle and walking round the building holding hands. It has been suggested that this custom was pagan in origin but it seems more likely it was a symbolic act of friendship and love.

In a revival of a ceremony dating from Tudor times, young people still receive flowers and Simnel cakes at a service in the Chapel Royal at the Tower of London. These cakes were once baked by daughters throughout England - the name coming from the Latin *simila*, meaning 'fine flour' - who would also decorate their mother's homes with violets, primroses, daffodils and other spring flowers. They would often prepare egg custard, comfits, lambs' tails, white sugar sweets, fig pies and wafers, and give their mothers nosegays of wild flowers that had been blessed in church.

"I'll to thee a Simnell bring. 'Gainst thou go'st a mothering."

Ceremonie in Gloucester by Robert Herrick (1648)

5. The **Clipping Feast** of Painswick, Gloucestershire, also known as the Clipping Ceremony, is an unusual, early medieval ceremony that anthropologists think may have begun in the dim Celtic prehistory of Britain. Every September**, a month that coincides with the harvest ceremonies of pagans, adults and as many children as can be mustered hold hands in a circle around St. Mary's Anglican Church. The circle moves first one way, then the other, and the participants sing hymns and pray out loud in a celebration of thanksgiving. Participants and observers come from all over the region to take part in this important rite.

** *A Sunday near the Feast of Title of the Parish Church – The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th).*

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PERSONAL VIEW – John Bruford Stubbs**Conservation of Buildings along Prince's Lines (Northern Defences).**

The fabric of the buildings along Prince's Lines should be preserved as they are by careful maintenance, without altering their present appearance and without the introduction of modern building materials unless essential for structural reasons and even then new structure should be designed so as to be hidden.

The insertion of new limestone blocks would be very obvious (fortunately the existing stonework is in good condition). Re-rendering should be ruled out entirely, because such new layers, also new and insensitively designed mortar joints, would destroy the powerfully visual sense of history that exists at buildings such as Prince's Magazine.

Plants growing out of roofs (Bombproof Barracks in particular) may have to be controlled or even removed, with careful attention being given to discreet but localised patching to maintain waterproof integrity of the roofs concerned, and to maintain structure.

Should the Prince's Lines ever be opened to the public, access into and along the existing pathway should be controlled and monitored; and access to the various buildings including their wall surfaces (graffiti !) should be prevented where necessary by roping off (Prince's Magazine) or by total exclusion (Cook House). On no account should handrailing be fixed to the outer edge of the Double Curvature Steps (if the public were to be allowed to ascend them, a handrail should be fixed to the wall side).

Summing up, the group of buildings comprising the Cook House, the Bombproof Barracks and Prince's Magazine; and further west the Double Curvature Steps; are a vital part of Gibraltar's heritage, and their future maintenance should reflect this.

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GIBRALTAR HERITAGE JOURNAL NO 10

Gibraltar Heritage Journal is now out, another bumper edition edited by Paul Baker full of fascinating articles on different aspects of Gibraltar's past.

These include:

'Two Views on the Arab Invasion and Tariq/Tarif' by Hammo Sassoon.

Dennis Beiso gives a story of the Spanish Civil War in his account of The 'Jose Luis' incident.

Tito Benady gives the second part of his potted biographies of the early governors – Sabine, Columbine and Hargrave: and also there is a reprint of his history of the Convent originally published in the *Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research* complete with plans of the accommodation.

Malcolm Beanland edits fascinating extracts of his great-aunt Harriet's diary for the years 1874 to 1876.

In his Women of Gibraltar, Sam Benady writes about Juliet de St Laurent (the Duke of Kent's lover); Cordelia Ainslie: Caroline Nicklin, the only female subscriber to the Exchange building; Lady Don; Simi Cohen (the nun of Medina Sidonia); Simy Benatar (on whom Blasco Ibanez drew for Luna Benamor), Margaret Cresswell (Gibraltar's first high ranking civil servant); and Dorothy Ellicott.

Larry Sawchuk and Leah Walz produce a seminal work in their 'The Gibraltar identity and early 20th century marriage practices'.

Arthur Addis gives a humorous account of his wartime experiences in 'Pedro and the GDF Honey Wagon'.

Juan Manuel Ballesta lists the name of people in Gibraltar before 1530.

In 'Edwardian architecture in the Campo de Gibraltar', Dr Ana Aranda describes the British-style villas built by Gibraltarians in Algeciras at the beginning of the 20th century.

Copies available from Tito Benady on 01933 663820

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SAPPERS ON THE ROCK by GEORGE GALES

The weekend of 19th – 21st March 2004 saw a wonderful gathering of ex-Sappers and their wives to attend the Royal Engineers Gibraltar weekend.

Some 200 members of REA branches from all parts of the United Kingdom made the trip to be present at this historic occasion which celebrated both 300 years of British rule and was the birth of the Royal Engineers which when first formed was known as the Company of Soldier Artificers.

The whole weekend was hosted by Captain Paul Dixon OC MES Gibraltar and WO1 Jack Noble and their staff. The organisation was of the highest standard. Excellent assistance was provided by the Gibraltar branch of the REA.

Proceedings started on Friday afternoon with a Meet and Greet in the Mess at Devil's Tower Camp, where old friends were able to meet each other, in many cases, for the first time in some 30-40 years. The guest of honour was Lt Gen Sir Scott Grant KCB, the Chief Royal Engineer.

On Friday evening, transport was laid on to take the party up to St Michael's Cave for a grand charity concert, performed by the band of the Corps of Royal Engineers and the Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment. The compere for the evening was Richard Astbury of BFBS. The concert was recorded and was broadcast on BFBS2 on Easter Sunday.

On Saturday morning at 10 a.m. there was a service in the King's Chapel which was packed to capacity.

Because the Royal Engineers were given the Freedom of the City in 1972, it was intended to parade at Navy No 1 sports ground and to march through the city with the Mayor taking the salute in front of the House of Assembly. Alas, the Rock was on Amber Security Alert and the whole parade was switched to Devil's Tower camp. Transport was provided.

The parade was attended by H.E. the Governor, Sir Francis Richards, the Chief Royal Engineer, the Chief Minister, the CBY Gibraltar Commodore Richard Clapp R.N., and the Mayor.

The Mayor was invited to inspect the Parade which consisted of 60 HQ and Sp Sqn, R.E. and a contingent of REA members complete with branch standards and the band of the Corps of Royal Engineers. The Mayor took the salute at the march past. The whole parade was impressive with the North face of the Rock as a background. This was followed by a Mayoral reception at City Hall.

On Saturday evening there was a formal dinner in the Mess at North Front attended by over 200 people. A five course meal was served. Dinner entertainment was by the Jazz Trio of the Royal Engineers' band which was followed by a performance of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Corps of Drums. I understand the last guest left the Mess at 3.30 a.m.

On Sunday evening the Gibraltar branch of the REA organised a farewell supper which was attended by some 300 people where gifts between branches were exchanged. I think someone underestimated the capacity of the ex-sappers as the bitter ran out by 11 p.m. but the alternatives were just as acceptable.

There were also guided tunnel tours and an excellent Royal Engineers exhibition in the Garrison Library covering the 300 years of Engineers on the Rock.

As nobody wanted the weekend to end, a further farewell was organised as the mess in devil's Tower Camp on the Monday morning.

As an ex-gunner, I was proud to have been adopted by the Sappers for what was a memorable weekend.

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LES PIERCY VISITS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

On January 7th I left London to visit the Falkland Islands. Some may enquire for whatever reason? The answer is they have always had appeal because of their location and curiosity to discover them enhanced by the conflict of 1982. Subsequently I had two opportunities which I missed and then through FOGHS I encountered and joined the Falkland islands Association. I did this because having supported the right of the Gibraltarians to self determination I believe that these Islanders similarly have a right to determine their future status in the World. In common with Gibraltar the Islands are a British Overseas Territory. I believe that as with Gibraltar these were territories over which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's policy was for the British Government to relinquish sovereignty; in Gibraltar's case to the Spanish Government, and the Falkland Islands to Argentina. It followed that I needed to get to know the Islanders as well as I know Gibraltarians. When in August 2003 an opportunity to visit arose through the Association, I grabbed it. My wife was unable to accompany me because she suffers from a bad back.

The tour party comprised 8 persons including the leader and I was the exception in my primary interests which were the terrain and the people. The others were more interested in postage stamps and the wild life.

My first impression was one of surprise at the new road from Mount Pleasant to Stanley which is two lane and has a gravel surface save for places where for short distances the surface is concrete. I suspect these are for overtaking. The speed limit is 40mph and with deep gullies on either side and the gravel surface one can understand the notices which describe it as a dangerous road. I judge that a fair statement.

Stanley is a very pleasant place the size of a large English village. Its inhabitants number 1,600. It is clean, nice and today and a very safe place. Cars and vehicles are left unlocked and homes likewise. Business life commences early, 08.00/08.30 – the Court sits at 0900 and ends at 17.00. Falklanders are very hospitable and friendly. They love a chat. They have a great love of the islands and an affinity with those 'in camp'. In Camp is anywhere in the country; the settlements in particular. One could say anywhere out of Stanley. It is said there are 700 living in camp but I wonder at this figure. Mount Pleasant is the military base and there are about 3,000 service personnel and in the main they stay there. Travel time to and back from Stanley involves 3 hours or just a little less, although the distance

between the two is 45 miles. Stanley is without a cinema or theatre, it has some pubs and a few places for eating. Mount Pleasant contains all the facilities needed by the service personnel.

As one would expect the wind is constant and noticeable. It lessens in strength during the early morning but after 08.00 gains strength and is never less than force 5, more often 6/7, and less often gale force or more. It seems to vary in direction only slightly from due west to about 5 degrees either side. Trees are absent but in the settlements efforts have been made to create wind breaks by the use of suitable trees and bushes in sheltered spots.

The settlements are extra-ordinary and I think of them as being the nearest one can now get to conditions in the American Wild West. This is because of their self-reliance. Settlements have hot and cold running water, central heating, flush toilets with a septic tank system, electricity from wind or diesel powered generators, fax and computers, - they are keen users of the internet -, high frequency radio receiver/transmitter sets, 4 wheel drives, motorbikes and buggies. Horses have been replaced but dogs remain for sheep driving. Of course they have television. People in the settlements are the most hard working folk that I have ever met. In the settlements time is an hour earlier than in Stanley where it is three hours in front of GMT. Their day commences at 0600 and finishes at sundown and they never seem to have nothing to do. Mischievously I say they are very happy. During the whole of my time in the Falklands I never heard a moan from a Falklander. They may talk factually about difficulties but never a complaint.

I must give you an idea of settlement populations on the basis of my visits. Fox Bay on West Falkland is in three sections, East, West and Village with a population of 40 in each section. Port Howard, a little further north has 24. Pebble island has 10, Saunders Island 8, Carcass island 3, Sea Lion island - with the staff of the lodge - 10, Darwin 4, Goose Green not known but many less than in 1982. All the islands are served infrequently by ship, the Tamar and more often by the Falkland Islands Government Air service - FIGAS. Stanley Airport has the appearance of one but everywhere else is served by landing strips consisting of the cleared area, a windsock and a hut in which is housed a trailer containing fire extinguisher equipment. This trailer is connected up to a 4 wheel drive vehicle and out on standby for the landing and take off of every aircraft. The tour party's number was limited to 8 because that is the passenger capacity of the Britten Norman SN3 aircraft in use. Each pilot is an enthusiast. They claim it is the best paid pilot's job in the world. The pilot does everything after leaving Stanley. He is responsible for passengers and baggage, their unloading and loading. Time on ground at a strip is about 15 minutes. Never a moment is spared. I never had a moment's apprehension in their hands. They describe their job as being one of real flying rather than managing a machine. This comment I understand.

Wild life is abundant. Birds feature prominently. Upland geese native to the Falkland islands are everywhere and regarded as pests, a bounty being paid for every bill. In the spring they eat the wintersown grass to the detriment of the sheep. This policy is changing because the cull will never succeed and also the estimated damage is less than the cost of the cull. Penguins fascinate. Gentoo, King and Rockhopper penguin comprise birds in hundreds. I must have seen over 1,000. King numbers are less numerous. Magellanic penguins live in burrows and are not so noticeable, although they burrow too in colonies. Black brow albatross were seen in colony and among other seabirds, petrels and sheerwaters. Grebe black crowned Night Heron, teal, the Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck, Turkey vulture, the Carcara both crested and striated, wrens, finches, the familiar house sparrow, Falkland thrush and pipit, and the red breasted long tailed meadowlark were seen among others. Mammals seen were fur and elephant seals, sea lions, 3 killer whales, dolphins and porpoises. My companions were busily taking photographs most of the time.

The Falklanders do not talk of Argentina unless the subject is introduced. They distinguished between the Argentine Government for whom there is opposition and the people. Those who visit to attend at war graves are regarded with sympathy. Argentine is 300/400 miles away across the sea and the Islanders have confidence in the retention of their status helped by the presence of the Military base although this is being run down. They suspect that mandarins in the FCO now regard the Islands as being of value because of the fishing grounds, the possibility of recovering oil which has been found but not in sufficient quantities to enable economic marketing. The position of the Falkland Islands puts them at the apex of a triangle extending south into Antarctica and its mineral wealth in an area claimed by the United Kingdom.

I wish to visit again but to extend the trip to cover the islands of Ascension and St Helena.

Any member wishing to know more about the Falkland Islands or indeed go on an escorted tour should contact Peter Pepper, Falkland Islands Association, Douglas House, 16-18 Douglas Street, LONDON SW1P 4PB Tel: 0207 592 0022 Fax 0207 592 0033 email, peter@johnpepper2.freemove.co.uk.

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TERCENTENARY CONCERT

Folk singer songwriter Suzanne Vega will perform in Gibraltar as part of her 2004 summer tour later this year. Promoters, Word of Mouth, yesterday announced the concert would be held in St Michaels Cave on June 15 “for an exclusive live and acoustic performance”.

“The concert will form part of Suzanne’s 2004 summer tour which also includes performances at the Glastonbury Festival, The Isle of White Festival, Roskilde and a host of top European Capitals,” said a spokesman.

A great advocate of modern folk, Suzanne is often credited with paving the way for other singers within her genre. Her greatest hits include the eighties smash “(My Name is) Luka.

“The show is set to be one of the smallest venues that Suzanne plays on this tour and it is an extremely rare opportunity to see her in such an intimate and unique setting. Word of Mouth acknowledge the kind assistance of Suzanne’s agency, London based Solo, in making this date a possibility,” added the spokesman.

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PRESENTATION

John Bruford Stubbs has presented to the Gibraltar Government two watercolours in a single frame – ‘Landport Tunnel and Landport Gate’:

to the British Forces in Gibraltar, a pen and ink drawing – ‘The Tower, Naval Base’ :

to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, a pastel sketch – ‘At Rooke Battery’.

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HELP PLEASE

Dr John Fredriksen is writing an almanac of the American revolution and is seeking an illustration of General Charles O’Hara, Gibraltar’s famous governor who became known as ‘Cock of the Rock’. Any member able to help should email him at jfredriksen@sisna.com

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The FOGHS would like to thank Cadogan Travel and Mr Albert Poggio MBE for paying the postage of this newsletter.

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Father Michael Fava Archbishop Michael Bowen

**Sharen Keenan,
the sculptor,
in front of the
bust of Admiral
Sir George Rooke
in Canterbury
Cathedral**