

FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO 77 AUGUST 2006

Newsletter No I was published in August 1986: twenty years ago.

NEW MEMBERS; John Traynor; A.J. Taussig; Ryan McDowell; Anthony Wise; Norman Deas; Jill Patricia Deas; Andrew Garcia; Simon Campbell-Smith; Michael Reggler; R.G. Burton; Cecilia Slater; Katherine Wykes-Sneyd; David King

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FOGHS VISIT TO GIBRALTAR

This will be from 10 to 17 June but the final dates depend on the date of the Garden Party. It is also too early for prices to be firmed up. But anyone thinking, without commitment, of joining the tour please contact Mike Brufal on 01252 621948 or email lendinez@aol.com

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WEB MASTER'S REPORT

Useful websites

www.chronicle.gi
www.gibnews.net

www.thegibraltarmagazine.co

www.panorama.gi

www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi

www.cosqui.com

www.foghs.org.uk

www.gibfocus.gi

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and Buffet Reception will be held at 1800hours on Wednesday 7th February 2007 at the Gibraltar Government Office, Arundel Great Court, 178-179 Strand, London WC2R1EL. A ticket costs £15. Reservations to Ernie Reading Email ernie@reading171.fsnet.co.uk Tel 020 8206 0120

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For those who do not pay by 'standing order' please note that all subs are due on 1st April each year and those who have not renewed, will not be included on the mailing list for the newsletter.

Please send your subscription of £15.00 per person to the Hon. Treasurer, David Inker, 'Macausland House', 15 Skye Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants. PO6 3LT

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HELP

Does any reader know if there are any Walker cannon on the Rock. It is not easy to identify a Walker cannon. Before 1855, cannon makers were not permitted to advertise company details on their cannons. However the Walker cannon have the initials 'W.Co' on the round end of the left trunnion (the part of the cannon which fastens to the gun carriage). Please contact lendinez@aol.com

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PRESENTATION

During the unofficial visit to the Rock Brenda Brufal presented Charles Douglas' mess tin to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

Major Douglas used to run the Swiss Watch company from what is now the Angry Friar where he lived with his wife and three children – Charles, Suzanne and Carlos. The latter became an actor and well known for his parts in such series as 'Mind Your Language' and for roles in the Carry On film series.

Suzanne is a keen member of the FOGHS and has accompanied the Friends on their annual visit to the Rock on many occasions. On one memorable visit to the 100 Ton Gun she became excited at seeing the

Ack Ack gun also on the site as she had manned a similar gun on the South Downs during the second World War when she served as a WRAC.

Charles, her other brother, was taken prisoner by the Japanese and while in captivity his father sent him a postcard of the Rock of Gibraltar – this became a memento of home and sustained him during his years of suffering.

One of his companions in the prisoner of War camp proved to be a gifted engraver who reproduced the picture onto Charles' mess tin and so whenever the Japanese guards deigned to give him food he would also look at the most famous Rock in the world.

Last year both brothers died and Suzanne decided to present the mess tin to the GHT. As she was unable to come out this year she asked Brenda to make the presentation.

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OBITUARY

JOHN CROOKSHANK an appreciation by the editor.

For the majority of the 300 years that Gibraltar has been British it was governed by the military with the Convent as the seat of power and the Governor as supreme ruler.

After the Second World War the military was forced to accept the new world order and lessened its stranglehold on life on the Rock. This process was started by Lieutenant General Sir Kenneth Anderson and accelerated a decade later with the arrival of General Sir Charles Keightley and his personal staff of Major Peter Lendrum, AMS, and Captain John Crookshank, ADC.

John Crookshank died on May 1st, aged 74, after an illness borne with his customary fortitude.

John was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, Repton and the R.M.A. Sandhurst where he was commissioned into the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. In 1958 he was appointed ADC to the Governor and from his first day went out of his way to open up the social life at the Convent to Gibraltarians. He loved telling stories about life in the Convent which included visits from many world famous personalities such as General Montgomery and Winston Churchill.

He was a first class sailor and was the tactical brains behind Sir Charles' foray into Victory class racing at the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club. Despite John's presence in the crew, the General, as skipper, usually finished amongst the also rans.

John was an accomplished skier won the 6th Armoured Division's Downhill Challenge Cup and took part in the Cresta run His other main hobbies were bird watching and Gibraltar's heritage .

When he left the Army his love of ocean racing led him to enter maritime and yachting publishing: a job he enjoyed until his retirement.

John maintained a lively interest in Gibraltar's politics as well as its heritage and wrote countless letters on these subjects to the national press. He was a frequent visitor to Gibraltar and always renewed his many friendships amongst those in the local yachting community.

'Cringle', as he was affectionately known, would never be deviated from his wish to present Gibraltar's case for genuine self determination to a wider audience.

When he was ADC he became friendly with the archaeologist younger brother of the Marques de Tamaron and through his good offices the Spaniard was able to visit places which otherwise he would have been prevented from entering. As soon as the Marques de Tamaron was appointed Ambassador he made a point of inviting John to both the set piece glittering public receptions at the Embassy and also to intimate dinners. John wrote a letter about the Gibraltar problem which was published in The Daily Telegraph. This displeased the Ambassador and John was never invited to another event at the Embassy. 'Cringle' was disappointed in not speaking to Tamaron again but accepted that in the political jungle this was the price to pay for supporting the Gibraltarians.

He is survived by Diana, his wife, their children Charles and Antonia and four step children Caroline, Sarah, Patrick and Miranda.

John will be greatly missed . Gibraltar has lost a formidable lobbyist.

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LOIS BAILEY

Mary Hirst writes: Lois Bailey was an interesting woman, she joined The Friends after reading a letter about the organisation in her daily newspaper, *The Daily Mail* . The Annual Meeting 2005 was the first gathering she attended and she joined us again for the Annual Lunch at Greenwich. She also attended the Annual Meeting in 2006. Her interest stemmed from her time in the WRNS in World War Two and that Admiral Lord Nelson was her hero.

Towards the end of last year she moved house from Fleet to live in Cambridge, to be near one of her two sons. She looked forward to living in Cambridge because she was interested in jazz and understood that there would be opportunities for her to enjoy her interest.

It is sad that her life there was cut short. That she was in her 84th year indicates what a lively mind she had and it is sad for our organisation that she was a member for such a short time.

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THE NEXT GOVERNOR OF GIBRALTAR

Lieutenant General Sir Robert Fulton KBE, on the eve of taking up the appointment of Governor and Commander in Chief, Gibraltar, is profiled by the Editor.

Nine years have slipped by since the departure of the last military Governor and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office appears to have listened to Gibraltar's wishes and appointed Lt. General Sir Robert Fulton as the next Governor. He arrives on the Rock towards the end of September but has already entered the record book as he will be the only Governor to have run up to the top of the Rock. This took place in 1973 during a rest and relaxation visit after exercises in Turkey.

Will the arrival of a former serving officer make any apparent difference? The answer would appear to be not much as will be shown in this profile.

Sir Robert has not been back to Gibraltar since 1995 and for the 22 years since he first set foot on the Rock there have been visits on ships and the occasional exercise. He admits that he does not know Gibraltar well and certainly has no knowledge of the new look Gibraltar created during the last decade. However the Rock left an indelible impression on him and as he puts it; "a totally different view of the Rock is obtained by running from the bottom to the top and then down. It is such a unique feature and combines striking physical attributes with such an evocative history. Not much imagination is needed to see Gibraltar's role in the panoply of world history. Every civilisation has used the Mediterranean as its motorway and to many this was the limit of the known world'.

Sir Robert, 57, was educated at Eton and the University of East Anglia.

At Eton membership of the Combined Cadet Force was voluntary and he joined to find that it was Army dominated and leaned heavily towards the Brigade of Guards and the Green Jackets. However it provided an useful introduction to service life. His uncle had joined the Royal Marines and was killed at Gallipoli whilst his father had served in the Army during the Second World War. Part of his childhood was spent in Singapore as his father then worked for the Foreign Office and sent him to the Army school. As he flew out and returned by sea via the Cape of Good Hope due to the Suez crisis he missed the opportunity of calling in at Gibraltar. He went to St Peter's Preparatory School in Seaford, Sussex. At University he read Social Studies which included social studies, economics, economic history, philosophy and sociology. At that time he was going to become a captain of industry and so, on coming down, he worked for an American pharmaceutical company but after some thirty months decided that whilst the job was interesting for a 21 year old it did not look as if it would appeal in the decades ahead. Fortunately he decided that his vocation lay in the Royal Marines and was able to join in 1972 just ahead of the age limitation date. This was where he was introduced to Gibraltar by virtue of the Royal Marines badge and history.

All Royal Marines with the exception of the Band Service are Commando trained and so wear the coveted green beret. This means that all have to pass the commando course, but once passed it does not have to be taken again. Nevertheless, all officers have to lead and so have to remain as fit as their men, if not fitter, throughout their career. This includes those who find themselves working behind a desk, including the Ministry of Defence, for several years. Sir Robert continues to work hard to retain a reasonable level of fitness.

After being commissioned he became a Troop Commander of 42 Commando (1973-75), then Second in Command of a company followed by a period as a Signal Officer in 40 Commando (1976-78) and after that as instructor at the School of Signals, Blandford followed by Army Staff College, Camberley (1980-81) and then an instructor at the Junior Division Staff College at Warminster (1981-83). He was a Company Commander in 42 Commando (1983-85) followed by appointment as SO2 Operations at HQ Training, Reserves and Special Forces Royal Marines (1985-87). He was then SO2 Commitments in the Department of the Commandant General, Royal Marines in the MoD (1987-90) which was followed by SO1 Directing Staff of the Army Staff College, Camberley.

This meant that Sir Robert was away from the Royal Marines for several years. After a staff job in Portsmouth involving operational planning he was posted to London for more operational planning. This was his baptism by fire as London is the introduction to life in the Ministry of Defence which apart from

else is Triservice. In his opinion the earlier an officer gets to the MoD the easier it will be for him later in his career; the corollary is that the earlier the appointment the less the officer wishes to accept. But it does mean that the officer can pick up the feel at grass roots level which is much easier than coming in at a more senior level. He experienced the MoD when he was a Major and so from an early age was able to ride the curious beast that rules service life.

Many young officers wonder if they will be selected to command a Commando – the dream of every Royal Marines officer. Although in one sense they long to avoid staff appointments, including the MoD, they also recognise that the route to higher rank must include jobs other than pure soldiering to provide the right background and all round experience.

In 1992 he achieved his ambition when appointed Commanding Officer of 42 Commando. Upon relinquishing command in 1994 he became an Assistant Director for CIS Operational Requirements. In 1995 he served in the Rapid Reaction Force Operations Staff in UNPROFOR (former Yugoslavia) before the handover to IFOR. The next year he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies followed by the Higher Command and Staff Course. He commanded 3 Commando Brigade from 1997 to 1998; this force consisted of 40, 42 and 45 Commando, 29 Commando Regiment R.A., 59 Independent Commando Squadron R.E., the Commando Logistic Regiment, a Royal Marines Air Squadron and other supporting elements. Whilst he was in command the Brigade went on exercise in the Far East and kept an eye on the handover of Hong Kong followed by a series of exercise in the United Kingdom, Europe and Africa.

In 1998 he was appointed Commandant General of the Royal Marines based at Whale Island in Portsmouth, answerable to the C in C Fleet at Northwood and at the same time was given a remarkable degree of independence. In this position he was the figurehead of the Royal Marines responsible for advising the First Sea Lord, with line responsibility for all Royal Marine units.

During his watch the main issues were the fundamental reorganisation of the Royal Navy which included the abolition of type command such as Flag Officer Surface flotilla, Flag Officer Submarines and Flag Officer Naval Aviation. In its stead the Commander in Chief decided that there should be unitary head quarters. So the Royal Marines formed a deployable 2 star HQ which had not existed before and which was taken to Iraq by one of his successors. The key issue of the Corps was the relationship between the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines which was fundamental to the whole project.

The reorganisation was difficult because Royal Marines had hitherto felt their destiny was almost entirely in the hands of a member of their own tribe and with the changes everyone had to argue for resources and argue any other case amongst the Royal Navy as a whole. Sir Robert thinks that it strengthened the Royal Navy as a whole and in the end worked out for the best. But there was a sense that either the Royal Marines or the Royal Navy were losing something that was fundamental. It was felt by many at the time that too many bricks were being taken out of the wall that represented the ethos of the Corps and that the wall risked crumbling.

There was also the question of whether women should be allowed to join the Royal Marines. Sir Robert took the view that the Royal Marines was not the right Corps for women other than in the Band Service where their skills are highly valued. He admits that a few women might have passed the commando course but not enough and a few recruits are harder to assimilate than a large number.

Training also came under scrutiny as there was wastage which posed the question - was the standard too high? This was a management rather than operational issue.

Sir Robert said that this job brought him into service rather than national politics and at that stage he was not involved with national politics, the wider politics of defence.

One of the highlights of the job was visiting Sevastopol in the Ukraine to establish a better relationship with the Ukrainian Navy. At this moment in time the Royal Marines were busy with units serving in Norway, the United States, Sierra Leone, France, Germany and Kosovo. Alas there was no reason for the Commandant General to make an official visit to Gibraltar.

Upon being asked whether young officers in the Royal Marines were flagged at an early stage in their careers for rapid promotion. Sir Robert gave a candid answer. "When I was Commandant General did I look at the young officers and make a mental selection as to the next generation of commanders? I think that we did and I would be surprised if the previous generation had not. But I think that any notion that such rapid promotion is pre-destined; that somehow the gifted officer will emerge from Lymington with a silver or golden spoon in his hand is wrong. This is because at that stage none of his superiors know how the young officer will perform in later years. The gifted officer, at this early stage as a Royal Marine, will

be given opportunities to demonstrate his talents. The officer either takes advantage or makes a mess of the opportunity. I was fortunate in the opportunities I have had”.

At 53 Sir Robert found himself at the cross roads. Would he be offered a senior job in the Ministry of Defence or would he have to retire? In 2001 he moved to the MOD as an Equipment Capability Manager and on 3 June 2003 he was promoted to Lieutenant General on appointment as deputy Chief of the Defence Staff for Equipment Capability.

Sir Robert says; “I was in this Department for five and a half years as after thirty months I stepped into my boss’ shoes. In essence this job was to be a customer in terms of what the Armed Forces needs and then raising the budget in order to pay for it. This meant running the whole of the Triservice defence equipment programme from planes to submarines. It was also an introduction to national politics as I appeared before the Parliamentary Defence Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. We acted as the link between the front line command who are going to be the ultimate users and industry that is going to provide the products and then answering for our performance and naturally for getting the best value for the tax payers’ pound. This was probably the most difficult job I have done in my life. We have had a mixed history of success; but we are getting better; industry is getting better and I think that the product is getting better slowly”.

He is an accomplished lecturer and during the last few years has given more than thirty presentations to groupings from the services, industry and academe.

In 1975 he married Maureen Free who comes from an Irish family. They met at University and have 2 sons. The elder joined the Army after Oxford University and is currently the Adjutant of the Second Battalion of The Royal Green Jackets. The younger joined Fuller Smith and Turner as a Management Trainee after Durham University and currently manages a lively South London pub.

The reason why Lady Fulton made a surprise short visit to the Rock was simply because news of the appointment came late in the day when the General was on the point of leaving the Armed Forces. It is a military fact of life that today, outside of Germany and Northern Ireland there are not many family postings abroad. As a couple they have never lived abroad as the postings for the Royal Marines are few and far between unless on the Attache circuit. So she flew out to make her first visit to the Rock which is to be their home for the next three years.

The Governor elect has no idea why the powers that be opted for a military governor after nine years of civilian governors. He does not know whether there were civilian candidates for the job and has no knowledge about the selection process. All he knows that he was offered the job by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office shortly before he left the MOD on leave on 19th June. He retires from the Armed Forces on 4th September .

Sir Robert said: “I would like to be thought of not just as military governor. I think that I bring benefits, traits and experience of 34 years as a military officer. But by the time I reach Gibraltar I will be an ex military officer and I think that there is more to being Governor than just being a former military officer. I will be disappointed if Gibraltarians think of me as just a military man.

I propose to continue with a Gibraltarian ADC and Captain Gareth Flower will join me upon my arrival. I think that the Royal Gibraltar Regiment has a successor in mind. There is a huge advantage in having a Gibraltarian as ADC. I am not bringing out any Royal Marines to be on my staff and will be carrying on with the status quo. All arrangements will be exactly as before.

I wish to meet as many Gibraltarians as I can and I am looking forward to getting out and meeting people. I wish to find out what makes the Gibraltarians’ heart beat, to find out what I can do to help them and to find out how I can play my part in Gibraltar life.

Naturally I am happy to be told that Gibraltarians are happy with my appointment as clearly this will be to my benefit. I am hope that people will feel able to come and talk and educate me into the ways of Gibraltar life.

I am looking forward to my time as Governor. I believe I have a contribution to make to Gibraltar life and I intend to do my best on behalf of everybody. Of course whilst I bring military experience I think that I have something to offer all of Gibraltar and not just the military community. I am looking forward to arriving at the end of September”.

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OUR LADY OF DOLOURS

The highlight of the approaching pilgrimage to the Mother Country will be the presentation by Bishop Charles Caruana of a replica of the statue of Our Lady of Europa to the Church of Our Lady of Dolours at 264 Fulham Road , London SW10 9EL

The reason why this church was selected is because it is the largest church in the Fulham area where live many Gibraltarians whose parents decided to remain in Fulham after the Second World War and because it is the nearest church to both the Royal Marsden Hospital and the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

The Church occupies the same site as St Mary's Priory and a school. It is run by the members of the Order of the Servants of Mary (OSM). It is a monument to the determination of two Servite priests who arrived in England from Italy on October 11th 1864 under the aegis of Cardinal Wiseman to make a contribution to the work of the missions in London. . They spoke not a single word of English but this was the least of their problems.

After a series of tragedies Father Philip Bosio was advised that a fine house with much land was for sale at a cost of £4,200. Unfortunately he did not have any money and so was about to decline the offer when Father Appolloni told him; 'Do not throw away this wonderful chance that the Lord has sent us. Start negotiations at once as the money will come'. And the money did arrive in time when a benefactress gave him the £4,200. The foundation stone was laid on June 19th, 1874 by Archbishop Manning and on September 19th, 1875, the feast of the Seven Dolours of Our Lady the solemn opening was performed by Manning, now a Cardinal.

In 1894, the colonnade, the tower with its peal of bells, and the imposing narthex were added to the church, the gift of Charles Robertson in gratitude for his conversion to the Faith.

The Church is described as 'unique' for a number of reasons. At the Golden Jubilee it was described: 'Built in Early English style, from the designs of Mr J.S.Hanson, the church consists of a long high nave of three arches, flanked by two aisles. Above the arches are twelve clerestory lancet windows. The roof of the nave is barrelled, but the aisles are covered with a lean-to-roof and have high-set shallow curved three-light windows. This means that as you pass down the church you are not conscious of the source of the lighting, but only of a faint unobtrusive coloured background. The effect is of daylight subdued rather than filtered or coloured or shadowed'.

The High Altar is one of the finest in London and was executed mainly in Caen stone and enriched with coloured marbles.

On the gospel side of the sanctuary is the altar and chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Seven Dolours whilst on the epistle side is the altar of the Seven Holy Founders. There are also altars dedicated to the Sacred Heart, St Joseph and Calvary.

The entrance to the Church is by a large door which is right on the Fulham Road: upon passing through the door it is necessary to walk some fifty yards to the main entrance to the Church. The imposing door is about 100 yards from the Chelsea and Westminster hospital on the other side of the road.

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PICILAVI

Janet Whiteley writes: All the members attending the Picilavi Party at Reggie Norton's Home in July thoroughly enjoyed the day in the countryside around it. The swimming pool was popular this year with the majority of guests unable to resist the opportunity to take a leisurely dip in the refreshing azure pool. Many thanks to Reggie and Emily for their hospitality.

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RICHARD GARCIA

The Society congratulates Richard Garcia, 52, who has been promoted to be Chief Secretary following Ernest Montado's retirement at the end of the year.

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APRIL

AWARD OF DOCTORATE FOR GIBALTARIAN

Geraldine Finlayson, Director of the John Mackintosh Hall and researcher in the Gibraltar Museum has been awarded a degree for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Anglia Ruskin College in Cambridge.

Dr Finlayson presented a thesis entitled "Climate, Vegetation and Biodiversity – A Multiscale Study of the South of the Iberian Peninsula" covering research undertaken in Gibraltar, southern Spain and southern Portugal over the last seven years.

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MAY

GIBRALTAR'S TOP HOUSES GO UNDER THE HAMMER

They date back to the great days of the Empire, full of charm, character and strange stories – well, probably a fair share of rising damp and creaking shutters too.

They are amongst the finest houses on the Rock and Government has put them up for tender. Mount Barbary in Mount Road, the former home of the Commanders British Forces after the top military post lost its foothold in what was the splendour of the Mount, is likely to appeal as a pied-a-terre for bill/millionaires with staff or upper bracket well-to-dos with a knack for DIY and a penchant for keep fit.

Rich list entrepreneurs will no doubt enter the competition with a gaming chance.

Rock Cottage (if that's a cottage please redefine 'spacious luxury flat') - a seven bedroom beauty with a seven day maintenance challenge set in 3,690 square metres with an unrivalled drive-way and, yet again, truly spectacular views of the Bay. And finally John Snow House, a colonial classic 4 bedroom - readers please write in to tell us who he was.

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SNOWED IN

There was a quick response to the question as to who Dr. John Snow (1813-1858) was and why a local property was named after him. He was a legendary figure in the history of public health, epidemiology and anaesthesiology who served Queen Victoria. A former resident of the building – now out on Government tender - tells us that the name was chosen because the house was traditionally home to the anaesthetists of the Royal Naval Hospital.

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GONHS EXPEDITION TO MOROCCO

A team from GONHS is in northern Morocco on a combined ornithological and botanical expedition, part of GIBMANATUR, the Interreg IIIA EU Project of collaboration between GONHS and the Scientific Institute of the University of Rabat Mohammed V-Agdal.

The team is made up of John Cortes, Leslie Linares and Ian Thompson from GONHS, Omar Bennig from the University of Rabat and Mohamen Amezian from the University of Tetouan.

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KEW TEAM IN GIBRALTAR

A team from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew was in Gibraltar to continue the co-operation between them and the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens and the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society.

During their visit the Kew team visited the Alameda Gardens and sites around Gibraltar and the surrounding area, studying the plants of the region.

Sites visited included the East Side sand slopes, and a marathon tour of the Upper Rock. They were keen to see all Gibraltar special plants. They managed to see all of them in flower on the Upper Rock, except for *Silene tomentosa*, of which the lone surviving plant on the Upper Rock was still not in bloom. However, this plant was flowering in the Botanic Gardens and is successfully grown at Kew, where it has even survived this last very cold winter.

A Mediterranean bed will be opening in Kew shortly, and much of the research for this has been done based in Gibraltar and in collaboration with the Gibraltar organisations. Seeds from Gibraltar and nearby Spain have also been used to produce plants that are going into the collection.

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WORLD CUP FEVER ON ITS WAY AS FIFA APPROVES GIB STAMPS

The Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau is releasing its latest set of stamps to mark the 2006 World Cup – the stamps were officially approved by FIFA. For the first time in the history of Gibraltar stamps FIFA has approved the use of the Official World Cup logo depicted on the stamps.

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MARINA BAY AND OCEAN VILLAGE MERGED

Ocean Village boss Greg Butcher confirmed yesterday that his property group is to buy Marina Bay, in a move that will pave the way for a vast marina complex able to compete with top facilities in the region.

Greg outlined plans to merge Marina Bay with Ocean Village, on the site of the old Sheppard's Marina, and create a "homogeneous" area combining leisure, commercial and residential features.

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GIB BONDS WITH BALLYMENA

Mayor Clive Beltran has described last Friday's twinning ceremony in Ballymena as an emotive and essentially human story.

He signed an historic memorandum of understanding with his Ballymena counterpart Tom Nicholl which he felt, "will allow future generations to take the relationship forward in the fields of sport, cultural, business and personal links generally."

"It cements strong emotional and historic links which have endured over 60 years," said Mayor Beltran who was grateful for the warm reception.

The annual Mayor's Parade was brought forward to Saturday and this saw the two mayors driven on a horse drawn carriage through the streets of Ballymena.

The Mayor visited the World War II evacuee camps and met Gibraltarian families and a good representation of the people of Ballymena who retain fond memories of the Gibraltarian experience there. Mr Beltran is looking forward to the second leg of the twinning ceremony which is due to take place in Gibraltar next September.

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GIBRALTAR HOSTS THE MEDCRUISE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gibraltar will host the 28th MedCruise General Assembly. MedCruise, the Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports, was founded 10 years ago with the aim of promoting the Mediterranean as a premier cruise region and policing the industry through its member ports.

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CASEMATES PAINTING EXHIBITION OPENS

By Jared Cooksey

The results of the 17th annual painting competition were announced at Casemates Exhibition Hall .

FabianVinet, Minister for Heritage was present to open this year's exhibition and hand out prizes to the lucky winners. The adjudicator was Gino Sanguinetti who had the unenviable task of selecting three winners from a total of 88 entrants.

The theme of the competition was Cathedral Square and the three proud winners were, Timothy Canessa, children's section, Kayleigh Buttigieg, junior section and the senior section prize was awarded to John Culatto.

Before Mr Vinet handed out the prizes to the winners he spoke of the importance of this annual event and how it had given him an insight into the geography of Gibraltar.

According to Mr Vinet this "popular event combines both art and heritage" which are two important aspects of Gibraltarian culture. Mr Vinet said of the event: "It is a popular competition with a competitive edge to it. It also makes youngsters aware of their history." He also hopes that next year more schools and students will participate in the Annual Heritage Trust's 18th year of competition.

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HERITAGE TRUST ANNUAL AWARDS

The Gibraltar Heritage Trust annual awards were presented at a ceremony at The Garrison Library.

This year The Senior Heritage Award was conferred jointly on Edward G Archer and Albert A Traverso in recognition of their research into the history of Education in Gibraltar and the publication of the book "Education in Gibraltar 1704 – 2004". Through their efforts, an important part of Gibraltar's history has been recorded.

The Group Heritage Award was presented to BDO Fidecs for the saving of Montagu Pavilion and its sensitive conversion into modern offices, thus giving this public building, which saw so many generations of Gibraltarians enjoying water sports over so many years, a new and useful lease of life.

The Junior Heritage Award was awarded to the pupils of Bayside School for their reconstruction of the 'Siege Machine', undertaken for the Three Kings' Cavalcade, bringing home "living heritage" to fellow pupils and the public. This will be the fourth Heritage Award presented to Bayside School.

The Board of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust have also granted a special commendation to Warrant Officer II Pete Jackson MBE for the invaluable practical support that he has given to Gibraltar's heritage over the past three years.

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RESTORATION OF THE KOEHLER CANNON

The Koehler Cannon and carriage located at Casemates is being restored and repaired.

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BACARISAS GALLERY

The Minister for Heritage opened the renovated Bacarisas Gallery at the Gibraltar museum.

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Michael Caetano MBE for services to the MoD and the local community.

Mariola Russo MBE for services to the community.

Frank Rawlinson CPM for services to the RGP.

Eliott Cohen Gibraltar Award for services to the Gibraltar Scouts.

Geraldine Finlayson Gibraltar Award for services to the community.

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JULY

Lt Col Eddie Guerrero is to be appointed as the chairman of the new Gibraltar Police Authority.

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ROCK GIVES GOVERNOR A WARM SEND-OFF

by Brian Reyes

It was a long, emotional farewell stroll down Main Street for Governor Sir Francis Richards and Lady Richards yesterday morning. Under a muggy Levanter cloud, they could barely take two steps without someone coming up to shake hands or peck them on the cheek to wish them a safe trip home. He may have been Britain's top man on the Rock and she his wife, but for three years they had forged links across all levels of Gibraltarian society, and yesterday it showed.

From old to young, officials to casual passers by, Gibraltar's affection for this couple was clearly evident.

The feeling was reciprocal. They were warm and earnest in their exchanges with the locals. On more than one occasion, there was a hint of a tear in Lady Richards' eye.

She and the Governor started their day with a private goodbye to staff at The Convent, before stepping outside into Convent Place where he inspected a guard from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and the regimental band.

The review over, the Richards' turned their backs on The Convent for the last time and strolled north along Main Street to applause from a thin, yet appreciative crowd.

No sooner had they taken three steps down the road than they were door-stepped by a television crew.

With grace and good humour, the Governor fielded a handful of questions.

"Professional courtesy says you stay away for a year or two, but I'm sure we'll be back," he said with a smile.

And he sent a message to the crew on HMS Illustrious, which until Saturday had been due to ferry him home to the UK but is now on a mercy mission to rescue Britons trapped by fighting in Lebanon.

"God speed," he said. "Come back safely."

Then on toward Casemates they went, edging slowly south amid handshakes, smiles and greetings.

Tourists marvelled at the spectacle and paused to ask who the guy in the formal regalia was. A few locals seemed confused too.

"Cual es, el nuevo o el que se va?" asked one lady.

Outside the House of Assembly the couple paused to inspect a contingent from St John Ambulance, the Girl Guides – Brownies too - and the Scouts.

From there it was two steps on to a chat with the pensioners who gather every morning by the Piazza, "the lower House of Assembly" as one of them put it.

Step by step, foot by foot, the Richards worked their way north. Meanwhile in Casemates, uniformed police officers stood in ranks, steaming in the heat and counting the seconds ticking slowly by.

Finally they made it. Met by Louis Wink, Commissioner of the Royal Gibraltar Police, Sir Francis inspected the assembled officers before ducking into his air- conditioned car – a relief, no doubt – for the quick ride to the Naval Base.

The heavyweight dignitaries awaited him there, lined up beneath the sun which by now had scorched away the Levanter cloud and left a hazy sheen that seemed to intensify the heat.

Alongside Commodore Allan Adair, Commander British Forces, Sir Francis carried out his final inspection of the morning, reviewing the tri-service guard of honour assembled just beyond the scant shade afforded by The Tower.

Then a final round of handshakes before the formal handover of the Gibraltar keys.

Philip Barton, the Deputy Governor, received the keys from Sir Francis and, in so doing, took over his role until September, when the new Governor, Lt General Sir Robert Fulton, is due to arrive.

Peter Caruana, the Chief Minister, bade the Richards' farewell at the foot of the gangway to HMS Monmouth, the Royal Navy frigate drafted in at the last minute to fill in for HMS Illustrious.

Watched by invited guests assembled on the balconies of The Tower, the Governor and Lady Richards stood on the bridge wings - he saluting, she waving – as the frigate slipped her berth.

A few metres from the quay, the frigate exchanged a gun salute with a shore battery manned by men from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment.

The gunfire over – the navy’s guns were smaller, but unquestionably louder – the frigate picked up speed and sailed at 20 knots from the harbour.

Up above, Royal Air Force planes thundered past in a low-level fly past to honour the departing Governor.

The frigate maintained a high speed as she sailed through the Bay of Gibraltar but finally slowed down and stopped a few miles off Europa Point, at the edge of British Gibraltar’s territorial waters.

Up on the bridge, as the Governor’s pennant was lowered from the frigate’s mast, the Richards enjoyed one last view of the Rock.

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AUGUST

ELISABETH WELCH

Elisabeth Welch recalls a memorable visit with John Gielgud to Gibraltar in 1943.

‘At New Year 1943, five of us were asked by the War Office to go out to Gibraltar to entertain the troops: John, Michael Wilding, Edith Evans, Jeanne de Casalis and me. Not ENSA but HM Government itself, the men with red braid on their caps, I felt very grand.

We flew out in a Dutch plane with the windows blacked out because we weren’t supposed to see where we were going. We landed in Lisbon in what looked like a sea of swastikas. Because Portugal was neutral everyone stopped there for repairs and refuelling, and it was quite a shock to step out of the plane and see Nazi planes all round us. We girls gave our own brass-hats a shock too; we were all wearing trousers and they asked us very frostily to change. Which we did not.

Well, we began rehearsing for the first show, and John had been given a poem to read. It was a tribute to the men who were fighting for us; and John got into a funk about it. He’s a shy man, and he said, ‘How can I go out and recite something about fighting for our country when we’re not in uniform and we’ll be flown back to London and looked after and lauded? How can I stand in front of these men?’ I told John, don’t worry, I’d sing something to set the scene.

So after Jeanne’s scene from *The Importance of Being Ernest*, I began to sing *London Pride* quietly behind the curtains to get the boys into the mood, and to get John into the mood. Then he spoke these words, and you could hear a pin drop.

They were very emotional days, especially out there in Gibraltar where the boys were going out to be killed and the ships to be sunk. It’s hard to sing when your throat tightens up and you are fighting back tears. But for an actor its different, and John has always had a little nervy thing, an emotional sort of timbre to his voice. During those three minutes while John read the poem, I felt we all felt very happy’.

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THE ROCK MAGAZINE

The February issue of The Rock Magazine 1943 reviewed the concert thus:

‘Gibraltar has just said ‘Goodbye’ to one of the finest companies of stage stars ever assembled. No Command at home or overseas during this war (or the last) ever saw a greater array of talent – or a show which combined more cleverly the serious and not-so-serious in entertainment.

The scene from ‘*The Importance of Being Ernest*’: Beatrice Lillie’s delightful fooling; John Gielgud’s impassioned rendering of ‘London Pride’; Edith Evans’s brilliant Cockney sketch; Elisabeth Welch’s overwhelming personality – these were things that will live long in memory. And the Rock was proud of the part which Phil Abbott and the Garrison Dance Band – and producer-stage manager Alex.

On behalf of all who saw ‘A Christmas Party’, we thank H.E. the Governor and Commander in Chief for enabling us to view the cream of the entertainment world – in our own theatre, over a thousand miles from home. And we thank the artistes for coming’.

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GOVERNORS

As the next Governor and Commander in Chief is to be a three star General it is timely to recall all his predecessors since the Second World War.

Lt. General Sir Ralph Eastwood	17 February 1944 to 8 February 1947	36 months
Lt. General Sir Kenneth Anderson	8 February 1947 to 23 April 1952	62 months
General Sir Gordon MacMillan	23 April 1952 to 6 May 1955	36 months
Lt. General Sir Harold Redman	6 May 1955 to 16 April 1958	35 months
General Sir Charles Keightley	16 April 1958 to 8 June 1962	49 months
General Sir Dudley Ward	8 June 1962 to 5 August 1965	38 months
General Sir Gerald Lathbury	5 August 1965 to March 1969	43 months
Admiral of the Fleet Sir Varyl Begg	10 March 1969 to 3 October 1973	54 months
Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy	3 October 1973 to 28 May 1978	68 months
General Sir William Jackson	28 May 1978 to 26 October 1982	53 months
Admiral Sir David Williams	26 October 1982 to 19 November 1985	37 months
Air Chief Marshall Sir Peter Terry	19 November 1985 to December 1989	49 months
Admiral Sir Derek Reffell	December 1989 to April 1993	40 months
Field Marshal Sir John Chapple	April 1993 to December 1995	32 months
Admiral Sir Hugo White	5 December 1995 to 19 February 1997	14 months
Sir Richard Luce	24 February 1997 to 5 April 2000	37 months
Sir David Durie	5 April 2000 to 16 May 2000	37 months
Sir Francis Richards	27 May 2003 to 17 June 2006	36 months

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RANK AND STARS

Five Star	Admiral of the Fleet	Field Marshal	Marshal of the Royal Air Force
Four Star	Admiral	General	Air Chief Marshal
Three Star	Vice-Admiral	Lt. General	Air Marshal
Two Star	Rear-Admiral	Major General	Air Vice-Marshal
One Star	Commodore	Brigadier General	Air Commodore

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LIEUTENANT- GENERAL SIR ROBERT FULTON

One of Sir Robert's last engagements as a serving officer was , on 5 June, to open Lockheed Martin's Swift laboratory situated at the Farnborough Aerospace Centre.

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ROYAL MARINES GENERALS

As of the 1st July there were two three star and four two star generals who were serving officers in the Royal Marines.

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FOGHS MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND EITHER Or BOTH EVENTS

On Saturday 14 October 2006 The Rt Rev Monsignor Charles Caruana, Bishop of Gibraltar, will present a replica of the statue of Our Lady of Europa to the Church of Our Lady of Dolours in the Fulham Road, London.

This will take place at 2.30 pm and the ceremony will be followed by light refreshments and a performance by the legendary singer of Latin American songs, Luis, 'The Gentleman' Caballero. He has just released a CD of his composition 'Mi Virgen de Europa'.

During this War the majority of Gibraltarians were evacuated to billets in Fulham which is why the statue is being presented to the Servite Fathers at the Church of Our Lady of Dolours.

Any Gibraltarians and expatriate Gibraltarians are invited to attend this ceremony.

Our Lady of Dolours is a Servite Church run by priests who are members of the Order of the Servants of Mary (O.S.M) and is located at 264 Fulham Road, London SW10.

The Bishop of Gibraltar, The Rt. Rev. Monsignor Charles Caruana, will celebrate Mass and preach at 11.30 am on Sunday 15th October at St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 &HY.

The Archbishop of Southwark, The Most Rev. Kevin McDonald, will be away from Archbishop's House , but has invited the party from Gibraltar and friends of Gibraltar to visit his house under the guidance of Father Michael Clifton. There will be a photo opportunity under the portraits of Archbishop Peter Amigo and Archbishop Mickey Bowen.

The party will be shown round the Cathedral and the visit will include the Archbishop Peter Amigo Jubilee Hall and the Archbishop's tomb.

No tickets are needed but it will be helpful for the catering to know roughly how many intend to attend. If you wish to attend, without commitment, please either telephone Mike Brufal on 01252 621948 or email lendinez@aol.com

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CULTURAL CONTACTS INSTITUTO CERVANTES

Viva Lorca at the Arcola Theatre 23 August to 23 September

London Spanish Film Festival, Cine Lumiere, 17 Queensbury Place, London SW7 2DT

Instituto Cervantes – Lecture – Highlands of Ecuador by Nigel Gallop 6.30pm 13 September

Instituto Cervantes – Poetry recital and book presentation by Robert Archer 6.30pm 3 October

National Gallery – Velazquez Exhibition 18 October to 21 January 2007

Instituto Cervantes offers a huge programme of events the majority of which are free.

Anyone interested is advised to make contact direct and ask to be placed on the mailing list.

The Director extends a warm welcome to all FOGHS members.

102 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AN

Tel: 020 7235 0353 Fax: 020 7235 0329 Email: cenlon@cervantes.es Website: <http://londres.Cervantes.es>

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The FOGHS would like to thank **Cadogan Holidays** for paying the postage of this newsletter.

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FOGHS COMMITTEE

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