

FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO 78

DECEMBER 2006

NEW MEMBERS: Sir Francis Richards : Lady Richards: Eddie Picardo: Edward Winton: Victoria Williams: Commander and Mrs Simpson: John Bruford Stubbs: Hilary Wines: David Heck: Gustavo Benvenuto: Adrienne Bird:

XXXXX

VISIT TO GIBRALTAR 10 – 17 JUNE 2007

Depart 10 June Sunday 1555 Flight BA6906

Return 17 June Sunday 1210 Flight BA6903

It is possible to alter your arrival and departure and fly to and from Luton airport. Please consult Stephanie Cadogan on 02380 828 364 or email her at steph.cadogan@cadoganholidays.com

XXXXX

The cost per person is £446. This includes transfers to and from Gibraltar airport to hotel and bed and buffet breakfast. No single occupancy supplements.

Individual bookings are directly with Cadogan Holidays Ltd Abta V7066 CAA-ATOL078 and are subject to the company's terms and conditions. The Society makes no representations and accepts no liability for the travel accommodation or any arrangements.

Draft programme:

10 June Sunday: informal get to know each other at the Barbary Bar, Rock Hotel.

11 June Monday: welcome and outline of programme by Gibraltar Heritage Trust – tour of Convent – Cocktail party at the Rock Hotel by invitation of Joe Gaggero.

12 June Tuesday: tour of World War Two tunnels and or 18th Century tunnels - visit to Masonic temple – Rotary meeting at Rock Hotel.

13 June Wednesday: Queen's Birthday Parade and Garden Party at Convent.

14 June Thursday: King's Bastion, Orange Bastion, visit to market to take coffee and churos.

Cocktail party at 2 Governor's Lane by invitation of Brenda Brufal.

15 June Friday: visit to Sacred Heart School – reception and presentation of Heritage awards at Garrison Library by invitation of Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

16 June Saturday: in order to mark the signing of the historic Cordoba Agreement a day will be spent across the border and will include a visit to San Roque and a drive round local historical sights ending up with drinks up in the hills overlooking Sotogrande. This will be arranged by Tito Benady.

17 June Sunday: depart for the Mother Country.

This programme has been arranged for veterans who have made many visits to Gibraltar; if anyone is making a first visit then a special tour will be provided. If there is anything else that appeals then contact Mike Brufal on lendinez@aol.com

Members who have expressed an interest in joining the party: Neil MacLachlan; Jenny Penn; Ann Benady; Tito Benady; Mike Brufal; Brenda Brufal; Harvey and Trisha Johnston; Peter and Valerie Abraham; David and Sandra Inker; Michael and Joan Wood; Jeff Taylor; Janet and Neville Whiteley; Richard Wells; Adrienne Bird and friend.

XXXXX

OBITUARIES:

The death has been announced of **Alan Pearsall**. The Society sends its condolences to all members of his family.

XXXXX

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

XXXXX

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Ferrary OBE, JP, died last October and will be remembered by FOGHS members for his invitation for them to visit his house and be taken on a conducted tour of his remarkable collection of model soldiers. He remembered for his impeccable manners, his gentleness and his courtesy to all.

In 1941, aged 17, he enlisted in the Gibraltar Defence Force as a gunner where he manned Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns which in latter life he described as 'the best toys I have ever had'. After the

war he stayed in the GDF permanent cadre and was commissioned in 1957. A year later the GDF became the Gibraltar Regiment. When in command of the Infantry Company he instituted annual training camps in the Mother Country. In 1972 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and commanded the Regiment from 1972-1975 and was awarded the OBE in recognition of 'his long and dedicated service'.

Upon retirement he was appointed to the Council of Colonels and was Honorary Colonel 1985-89. In the magazine to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Gibraltar Regiment he wrote; 'Little did I know when I volunteered to join the Gibraltar Defence Force as a gunner that 48 years later I would be celebrating with the regiment as its Honorary Colonel on the 50th anniversary of its formation'.

Arturo, as he was universally known, in 1975 was instrumental in the formation of the Corps of Drums which was followed by the Band

Whenever his friends met him he always started the conversation with the words 'I am a simple military man who has absolutely no knowledge of local politics'. He would then proceed to deliver a spot on assessment of the local scene. He was also the driving force behind the formation of the Regimental Association where he was Chairman for many years.

Outside of matters military he had been managing director of B.I.A. for many years, was the inspirer of the Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association and was a Justice of the Peace.

The Society sends its condolences to Lily, his wife, Odile and Andrew his children, his grandchildren and all members of his family.

XXXXX

LETTERS IN THE PRESS

Michael Shrimpton – Daily Telegraph 1 September 2006

"The European Commission has no business dictating criminal justice policies to Poland.

There is no reference to the death penalty in the Treaty of Rome: indeed, Britain retained it for more than 25 years for high treason and piracy after we made the mistake of joining the Common Market.

There is express provision for the death penalty in the European Convention on Human Rights – only optional Protocol Six prohibits it. But Poland may denounce the sixth protocol, without prejudice to its adherence to the convention or to the EU treaty. The Charter of Fundamental Rights seeks to prohibit the death penalty, but it is not part of the EU.

There was an attempt to incorporate prohibition into EU law via the constitutional treaty, but that rejected by France and Holland. In community law, there is no reason why Poland should not restore the death penalty".

XXXXX

Webmaster's report

Webmaster: www.foghs.org.uk

Further suggestions for enhancing/updating the website would be appreciated. I will be reviewing it later this year with a view to making it a lot easier to update and use.

Revenue from the website:

I am considering adding credit card donation to the website, current options are PayPal and "Charity Frog". If anyone has other recommendations/warnings, please let me know. We already have a link to Amazon: buying books (or anything else) via the links on our website will generate money for FOGHS. If you know of books by Gibraltarians or about Gibraltar that should be included, let me know, and I will link them in.

Useful websites:

- www.chronicle.gi
- www.thegibaltarmagazine.com
- www.panorama.gi
- www.gibnews.net
- www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi
- www.cosqui.com
- www.gibfocus.gi
- Gibraltar links:

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

This is a human-edited directory, feel free to submit Gibraltar sites for inclusion, there is a form online for this purpose.

XXXXX

HELP

Robert Hughes is researching the life of his great uncle Captain George Mulock DSO, RN who died in Gibraltar on 26th December 1963 at the age of 81. He lived on the Rock for several years.

Captain Mulock joined the Royal Navy in 1896 and later served with Captain R.F.Scott as part of the 1904 British Antarctic Expedition. During the Second World War he was appointed Head of Extended defences for Singapore, was captured and was sent to a Japanese Prisoner of War camp.

Any member who has information about Captain Mulock should send it to

mulockmorgan@yahoo.com

XXXXX

Alexandra Churchill, a military historian, is writing a memoir of Lady Anderson, wife of General Sir Kenneth Anderson, Governor of Gibraltar. She seeks photographs of Lady Anderson and would also be grateful for any reminiscences or anecdotes about her.

Sir Kenneth and Lady Anderson are buried in the Anglican section of North Front cemetery.

Alexandra should be contacted at email ChurchhiAl

XXXXX

FOGHS CALENDAR 2007

This can be ordered from the GHT's offices and costs £4 plus postage. Address The Main Guard, 13 John Mackintosh Square, Gibraltar telephone/fax 00350 42844 Email heritage@gibnet.gi

The pictures are by local artists and have been selected from the Trust's own collection of paintings built up over the years from the annual painting competition. These are Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned; Garrison Library; The Mount; Loreto Convent; Casemates and Landport; Koehler Depression Gun; Catalan bay; Rosia Bay; The Convent; John Mackintosh Square; Moorish Castle.

XXXXX

SKETCHES OF OLD GIBRALTAR Volume Two by Gil Podesta

Here is a sketch of the dwelling at the top of George's Lane. This is one of the last remaining single-storey pantiled houses. This was built at a time when the majority of houses were of similar size; the majority were destroyed by bombardments in particular during the Great Siege.

This costs £15 plus postage and is available by writing to Gil Podesta, 23 Naval Hospital Road, Gibraltar.

XXXXX**SEPTEMBER****JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

Acting Governor Philip Barton has appointed new Justices of the Peace. They are Karen Prescott, Maureen Knox, Brenda Soiza, Sunder Khiana, Mark Porral and David Cuby.

XXXXX**TWINNED: GIB AND BALLYMENA**

Alderman James Alexander Mayor of Ballymena and Gibraltar's Mayor Clive Beltran officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday evening twinning Gibraltar and Ballymena (Alice Mascarenhas reports).

A cordial and simple ceremony took place at John Mackintosh Square with the Buglers from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment providing the fanfares. Now, over 60 years later there are many who still hold fond memories of their war years in Ballymena. Mayor Beltran emphasised the importance of the evacuation episode in the Rock's history, and how their experiences were "forged forever in the hearts and minds". He spoke of the time spent in Ballymena by the Gibraltarians and said it was thanks to the warm friendship and deeply caring attitude of the ordinary people and officials that their experience was transformed from a potential nightmare into a positive and rewarding one. The Understanding of Memorandum gives official recognition to the affiliation of both communities and provides the business community, sports, cultural and youth organisations as well as Government officials with the catalyst needed to take this special relationship forward. Mayor Alexander said both communities were forever entwined and Ballymena was proud of the relationship, and now confident the liaison would be great.

XXXXX

Calpe Conference 2006 set to debate new evidence

GIBRALTAR WAS HOME TO THE LAST NEANDERTHAL

by Alice Mascarenhas

Gibraltar was the final home of Neanderthal man and Gorham's Cave their final refuge. New evidence from a group of leading experts in the field including Professor Chris Stringer and Professor Clive Finlayson, together with scientists from the UK, Spain, Japan and four other Gibraltarians have unearthed new data which reveals the Neanderthals may have survived in Gibraltar until 28,000 years ago, and even as recently as 24,000 years ago. With Modern Humans arriving in Western Europe 36,000 years ago, and into southern Iberia 32,000 years ago, this latest discovery could radically change global thinking on the demise of Neanderthal man and the arrival of Modern Humans. Presently there are no known Neanderthal sites younger than 30,000 anywhere else.

"Conclusively," he emphasised at a press conference yesterday at the John Mackintosh Hall, "Gorham's Cave was the last place on the planet where Neanderthals lived."

But the latest data also suggests both groups may have shared the landscape and even co-existed for a few thousand years. Dating of more recently uncovered artefacts, including a series of hearth places (camp fires) all created at the same location deep into Gorham's Cave, has determined the Neanderthal settlement on The Rock was long-lasting and suggests Modern Humans may not have been the reason why Neanderthal man did not survive. An investigation of the whole area around Gorham's and possibly up to Portugal suggests this area was rich in resources with a marshy environment providing a garden of Eden or paradise.

The data was revealed on the eve of this year's Calpe Conference which starts today at the John Mackintosh Hall, and is aptly titled "Straits, Refuges and the Geography of Populations", set to both gather leading names in this field and open up a new debate. Digging at Gorham's Cave began in the 90s although there were some excavations in the 1950s. Since then the Gibraltar Museum has added its voice to the debate. Professor Finlayson describes Gorham's cave as a rare site, one of maybe 10 around the world which holds a piece of the jigsaw which tells the story of humanity.

He has no doubt this cave alone is of "unique world heritage value" convinced the new findings will further strengthen Gibraltar's World Heritage status value by "light years". The paper "Late Survival of Neanderthal's at the Southern most extreme of Europe" published late yesterday evening electronically on Nature's website (the world's leading scientific journal) is the result of a collaboration of 21 academics five of them from The Gibraltar Museum: Clive Finlayson, Darren Fa, Geraldine Finlayson, Kimberly Brown and Claire Valarino. Other well known names are those of Chris Stringer, Francisco Giles Pacheco and Joaquin Rodriguez-Vidal.

The project has been co-funded by the Gibraltar Government and the European Union. From the start it has had the backing of the local Government. Heritage Minister present at the press conference yesterday acknowledged the work carried out by the Heritage Division and congratulated all those who had contributed to the paper and said it was gratifying to witness the fruits of the government's investment in the research and promotion of our history adding the government would continue to support the project.

XXXXX

PIZARRO GIVEN MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S POST

GHA has announced the appointment of Kevin Pizarro as Medical Director effective as from the end of this month. He will take on the role from the Chief Executive Dr David McCutcheon who held the additional role in an acting capacity pending the appointment. In order to concentrate on the Medical Director role Mr Pizarro will leave the Directorship of the School of Health Studies. The date of departure from the School of Health Studies will be announced following a meeting of the Board of the School. Mr Pizarro will also step down from his Associate Medical Director for Human Resources role on September 28. Mr Pizarro will continue in his clinical role as a Consultant Orthodontist within the Dental Department located in the Primary Care Centre.

The GHA wishes to express its deep gratitude to Mr Pizarro for the role he played as Director in the School of Health Studies. He has overseen many improvements in health education since he took on its leadership.

Mr Pizarro joins the GHA as Medical Director at a time of unprecedented growth in the

Consultant Staff in the GHA. Many reforms including the introduction of many elements of clinical governance will continue to be developed and implemented under his leadership. As Medical Director he will also play a very important role in the introduction of the reforms in Primary Care.

As a member of the Executive Team he will play a very essential part in the implementation of the 3-year strategic plan, which is currently under consideration by Government.

XXXXX

SEMINAR

Address by Fabian Vinet, Minister for Heritage, to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society

30th September 2006

Managing Gibraltar's rich heritage – challenges and prospects at the beginning of the twenty-first century

Mr Chairman. Madam Secretary. Ladies and Gentlemen.

In my address at last year's Annual General Meeting of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, I explained that during the course of the Trafalgar Bicentenary events I had the opportunity and the pleasure to meet and speak to many of the visiting Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society. I further said that their – or rather, your – enthusiastic support for Heritage and for Gibraltar generally was as welcome as it was heartfelt.

Given my sincere, warm appreciation of your work and your efforts, which I take the opportunity to recognise and to publicly thank you for, it is an honour and a pleasure to be here with the Friends and to share with you my thoughts on the way forward for Gibraltar's Heritage; To give you an outlook on Heritage projects as well as a more general perspective on policy. After all, you provide me with the perfect platform from which to report on what I think is significant progress being made on several fronts. The challenges in this modern world and in Gibraltar are many. But the prospects, I think, are good.

One of my ministerial responsibilities is Heritage and the departmental wing that supports me in this area is the Heritage Division within the Ministry of Heritage, Culture, Youth and Sport. The

creation of the Division and its incorporation into the Ministry two years ago was the final stage in a process started by the present administration when it established a Heritage Section and then a Heritage and Planning Division. It is, I hope you will agree, recognition of the importance attached to Heritage and its conservation by the present Government.

Heritage is of importance across a range of Government policy. It has a bearing on economic development, on tourism, environment, housing and education policies. Perhaps the other way of looking at it is that there are many spheres of life that have an impact on our heritage. The Gibraltar Government recognizes the public interest in heritage and will continue to respond to this by providing firm and committed leadership, protection and financial support. We shall do so by encouraging effective partnerships, developing a solid information base from which to develop policies, and facilitating access and social inclusion. In pursuance of these aims the Heritage Division's strategy has been one of developing four cornerstones: (1) Knowledge and Information, (2) Public Awareness and Access, (3) Stewardship and (4) Economic and Social Benefits. I will deal with these in turn, starting with Knowledge and Information.

1. Knowledge and Information

The basis for sound policy-making is good and solid evidence. For this reason the Government dedicates annually significant resources for the development of major research programmes. The work undertaken so far has put Gibraltar firmly on the map. In particular the two major heritage assets, the fortifications and the prehistory have been prominently researched.

Since 1996, the Government has supported archaeological research in Gibraltar and the most recent results, that you will hear in detail from Clive, when added to a number of major international publications that are now featuring Gibraltar, testify to our aim of making the Rock a centre of excellence in this field.

I want to stress the huge importance of this project, and of our prehistoric sites, in world terms as it is easy and understandable for us to attach greater importance to our visible monuments than it is

to less obvious sites such as caves. I am reliably informed that Gibraltar has the highest density of sites with occupation by Neanderthals than anywhere in the world, a staggering total of eight in six square kilometres. Discoveries and research continue so in the future this figure may well increase even further. The evidence being found shows that Gibraltar was a major refuge for these prehistoric people and one in which they survived for a very long time, longer than anywhere else on the planet! In world terms the prehistoric landscape of Gibraltar is our major heritage asset which is why the Government of Gibraltar is so keen to ensure its conservation and protection, as well as its international promotion.

Research into our fortifications is also receiving an impetus as we give due recognition to their huge importance. The Government considers that the fortifications, including the tunnels, the fortified city and the walls, are a major heritage asset of world value. I will say more on related projects in a moment.

2. Public Awareness and Access

The second major component is public awareness, and I use the term in its widest context to include education, access and involvement. Earlier this year I launched an initiative that would involve the study of our identity and I will expand on this later. I regard the study of our identity as a people as a fundamental area of heritage work. To say this may sound obvious and perhaps even patronising, but it remains the case that through understanding our past and our heritage we can better understand ourselves, our makeup and our identity. Public awareness and education are key components of this identity. For these reasons we attach great importance to the development of programmes that increase our awareness and understanding.

Personal testimonies are vital to our record of our identity and we are developing a programme of interviews and questionnaires of a broad cross section of the community that will record the intangible heritage of our people and conserve it for future generations. We have seen the great interest that there is for this in our community. The highly successful museum Open Days have focused particularly on that intangible heritage, in keeping with a wider international effort in this field. So here, too, we are keeping well at the fore of international initiatives.

Returning to public awareness, the series of regular Heritage talks continues, as does the extremely successful annual Calpe Conference, while the Division's Heritage Magazine is now in its eighth edition. This initiative that is funded by the Government has been a great success. Copies are distributed free in many key points in Gibraltar and they are much in demand. They are also distributed internationally as part of our efforts to make Gibraltar's heritage better known outside. We will continue to fund books on our heritage as part of the Heritage Division's publication programme. The latest, "Wonderful Rock", by Clive has just been released and I am pleased to leave complimentary copies here for the Friends.

We work closely with the Education Department in its heritage education programmes. School visits for hands-on experience in the museum have now become a regular feature of the education calendar. The teaching of our history as part of the National Curriculum now involves all schools and age groups and we will continue supporting funding of educational materials for use by schools. We

have funded the production of an excellent book on prehistory for first schools, as well as a supporting kit, which have been acclaimed internationally. Work is now advanced for another set of heritage educational tools. As part of the tercentenary project we also funded a series of posters and supporting educational material covering the decades of Gibraltar's history since 1704.

The Government continues to work closely with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust as part of its plan to involve the community in heritage. I am pleased to recognize the great value and work of the Trust who we regard as a major partner in our heritage initiatives. But we don't want to leave it there. We want everyone in Gibraltar to be proud of their identity and their heritage so we will continue to invest in collaborative partnerships, awareness schemes and public participation. Access to information will be strengthened further, especially through the use of the internet, and we are continually reviewing physical access to heritage sites, within the natural constraints of their conservation.

3. Stewardship

Stewardship is the third of the four cornerstones. We identified the need to strengthen our heritage legislation some time back and made the introduction of new legislation a manifesto commitment. We have been working very hard, in partnership with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, towards the new Heritage Bill and I hope that it will not be too long before this comes to the House of Assembly. In the meantime, however, we are more than happy to receive proposals for the amplification of the existing Schedules of ancient monuments and buildings. These will be considered in the context of the existing legislation, so that any new sites can be listed more expeditiously and without having to await other amendments.

We have also been active in conservation schemes. The conservation of the Tower of Homage is now complete and the monument will shortly open to the public. I have seen the final product and it is of an outstanding quality, a wonderful example of conservation and something that we can all be proud of. Work on this site will continue once the prison is relocated and the entire castle complex is released for heritage use. The Moorish Baths in the Gibraltar Museum have also been fully conserved and were reopened two years ago. The most exciting recent medieval find has been that of the two supporting pillars of the "Puerta de Granada", *the Gate of Granada* that was the entrance to the City of Gibraltar in Muslim times seven hundred years ago. Work has also started on the Gatehouse. Once all these works are completed we will have made a necessary and important contribution to some of our most important medieval monuments.

4. Economic and Social Benefits

I lastly move to the fourth element which is the Economic and Social potential of our heritage. The Government is committed to heritage conservation but, in keeping with the current thinking of leading professionals (heritage professionals, I hasten to add), we do not see heritage as static. We recognise the need for change and our policy is to manage change in a way that brings wealth to our community, improves the quality of life and retains significance. For these reasons we favour schemes that achieve these objectives.

I will highlight a number of such schemes that are underway. Reference has already been made to our Medieval Castle. The government took the significant step of moving towards the

relocation of the prison, an important investment from both a social and heritage perspective. We have a medium-term view for the castle complex. It is a view that will involve research on the site to allow a better understanding of its significance. This is a unique opportunity for our knowledge of this part of our history to be advanced with the aid of archaeologists and historians. Then we will initiate conservation works and finally we will open up the area as a public amenity.

It is no coincidence that we are promoting several schemes at the northern end of the Rock. We have worked towards opening up an important stretch of eighteenth century galleries and World War II tunnels. This work will continue and will extend in future years to include the Northern Defences. Already the success of the tunnel stretch that has been opened to the public is there for all to see. This project will, along with the Castle, provide a series of heritage attractions of benefit to the local community and to the tourism sector. Together they will represent seven centuries of fortification. These projects will link up with the Casemates area that will be the hub. They will additionally provide an opportunity for business development within the charming narrow streets and alleys of the medieval town, creating the basis for sustainable urban regeneration.

Our aim is to gradually but actively open up our heritage assets in a planned and coherent manner. For this reason we have commenced work on the conservation and exposing of our walls along the northern end of the city. In this way we will be able to link these up with the projects that I have just mentioned. We have therefore commenced a scheme, centred around Orange Bastion, that will improve the city walls within that area while creating a significant public amenity in keeping with our aim of improving the quality of life of our citizens. Progress on Orange Bastion is clearly evident even now, before the project has been completed.

Equally, the works at the King's Bastion are producing spectacular results. After years of abandonment and neglect, as well as internal government debate as to whether or not to demolish the old generating station, King's Bastion is now visible in all its splendour. All structures of historical significance, as advised by the Heritage Trust, have been retained and the soon-to-be-constructed Leisure Centre will give the Bastion and surrounding areas a new lease of life. This is what I meant when I referred to not seeing Heritage as static. I have already given these examples in another forum, but I look at the magnificent Reichstag building in Berlin or London's Tate Modern Museum at a former power station, and they – like I hope King's Bastion will – represent what I regard as the perfect conviviality of new and old. A leisure centre for the use of Gibraltar's young and not so young, bringing movement and life to the area, but within a carefully restored King's Bastion with cannons and other historical artefacts on display.

Indeed, there are more exciting projects on the way. The Calpe Married Quarters will be converted into housing, but retaining and restoring the façade. The Public Market will have the appearance we see in turn-of-the-century photographs (turn-of-the-last century, that is). The Retrenchment Block will conserve its casing but its rooms will be made available for use by clubs and societies... All these are examples of a determination to conserve, to beautify, to safeguard historic areas, but also to create or increase their interaction with people. I am certainly no expert, but my personal view is that this is how best to bring our heritage to life.

World Heritage Status Bid

I would now like to clarify our position on the bid for World Heritage status in order to clarify any possible confusion. The confusion stems from the fact that we have moved away from what was originally mooted, which was the concept of seeking World Heritage status for the entirety of Gibraltar. Since 2001 that concept has been placed on hold pending an evaluation of the wider implications of such a bid for Gibraltar, which we firmly believe had not previously been properly researched or given sufficient thought. Obtaining World Heritage status is of course a prestigious and positive thing, but it also necessarily and understandably brings with it duties and obligations. These duties and obligations, as crucial and logical as they are, if applied to the whole of Gibraltar could have serious economic and social consequences. Indeed, no other World Heritage Site designation involves the designation of a whole country or a whole territory. Earlier this year, therefore, Government explained that the implications for the freedom of action and decisions of future Gibraltar Governments for the social and economic development of Gibraltar were very significant.

Our position is that World Heritage Status can and indeed should be sought for individual sites in Gibraltar, but that taking all relevant factors into account it is not, and has never been, in Gibraltar's wider long-term interests to seek the designation of the whole of Gibraltar. I am pleased to report that the Heritage Division is proceeding with a draft management plan that Government will consider in the first instance. Such a plan will specifically delimit the heritage assets to be included in any future bid and the way forward in the global management of these assets.

Creation of two Institutes

It is difficult to appreciate from outside the huge volume of day-to-day work that is involved in issues concerning our heritage. Much of it goes on behind the scenes and it is often only the issues with supposedly negative implications that come to the fore. This is unfortunate as the good work that is being carried out is often overshadowed by these punctual issues. We have been discussing strategies within the Division and two recently announced new developments will take us forward another step.

I have already highlighted the importance of our prehistoric heritage, often overshadowed by the more recent history. I have personally visited sites such as Gorham's Cave and have seen the amazing collections that are being amassed in the Gibraltar Museum as a result of the laborious excavations that are carried out each summer. These are truly sites of world importance and we are taking great care and pride in supporting the research and conservation work being carried out. It is a project that we should all be proud of and one in which Gibraltar has clearly been put on the world map.

In order to give recognition to this work and to be able to focus and channel efforts I announced that the Government was creating an Institute of southern Iberian Quaternary Research (I remind you, although I wasn't aware of this myself until recently, that the Quaternary is the period covering the last two million years of the Earth's history). This will be the first institute of its kind in southern Iberia. Already last year we have supported the conversion of rooms into up-to-date laboratories and stores for the prehistoric collections. So what we are doing, effectively, is formalising a reality. A number of leading scientists have agreed to support the new institute by accepting to become honorary fellows and this will add to the institute's prestige. Gradually, the institute will improve its facilities further and establish itself as a major research facility in southern Europe. One short-term project will be the creation of a Gibraltar Museum Field Station. Already many international

scientists come to Gibraltar each year to study the collections in the museum. The institute will effectively become the research arm of the museum in this field that we have identified as being a major priority within the heritage disciplines under our care.

The excavation process at Gorham's Cave has until now followed the pattern of a large number of archaeologists for a few weeks in the year. The programme of investing in our youth is now producing tangible benefits in the form of young local researchers. The result is that a new strategy is going to be implemented as from this year. The excavations will be year-round and will be carried out by local archaeologists with occasional support from others from abroad. There will still be a need for specialists from abroad who will study the collections and this is something that we welcome as we see the international dimension of the project as very important. I am sure that you will all agree, however, that it is a matter of considerable pride to see how a project that started fifteen years ago, *led* by scientists from outside, has now become a locally-led project with *collaboration* from outside.

Last year saw a preliminary project that started to examine the submerged prehistoric heritage around our coasts. This was a collaborative project between the Gibraltar Museum, the Oceanography Centre at Southampton University and the University of York. I am reliably informed that the first results were very encouraging and that plans are advanced with a view to continuing this research.

I would now like to turn to a second initiative that I am very pleased to be able to report here. Since I took over at the Ministry I have been very keen to encourage the link between heritage and culture. I was made aware of preliminary work that was being carried out jointly by the Gibraltar Museum, the John Mackintosh Hall and the Gibraltar Archives into the social history and identity of the Gibraltarians. The Government is especially keen to promote this kind of research and I recently announced the creation of a second institute, specifically devoted to the study of the Gibraltarians. This is a major way in which the Government will be making a long-lasting contribution to our history.

The departmental focus on Quaternary and the Gibraltarians does not mean, of course, neglect of other areas. We are very conscious of the importance of the entire range of heritage. Our heritage programme is one that is built into a long-term strategy and is therefore not to be seen in isolation. We are at an exciting point in our work, a point in which results are becoming patent in many areas of heritage as I have outlined. It augurs well for the future of heritage conservation in Gibraltar.

Concluding Points

Part of the title of this address refers to the challenges of managing heritage. The challenge, of course, is not exclusive to Gibraltar but it certainly becomes more pronounced when it affects a territory with reduced land area and resources.

Government will preserve and wherever possible enhance our heritage and sites of historical importance (as it has done with Casemates, the World War II tunnels and the Tower of Homage, or like it is currently doing with Orange Bastion and King's Bastion, or indeed like it will be doing with the Public Market and the Northern Defences). But as in everything in life, it is a question of finding the right balance – of having the courage to make informed judgments taking all factors into account. That commitment to preserve and enhance heritage necessarily needs to take into account our inescapable geographical and other realities, as well as ensuring our social and economic development. In other words, our policy is to manage change. We need to conserve, but not at the expense of halting progress.

And on the subject of progress, I assume most of you will be aware of the very positive – indeed, historic and groundbreaking – agreements reached just a few days ago between Gibraltar, the UK and Spain. These are important, decisive and encouraging times for the Rock. Our ‘350’ international direct dialing code is finally recognized by Spain; Gibraltar mobile phones will finally be able to be used across the border; our airport will finally be able to operate like any other European airport. These are very significant and beneficial improvements with no sovereignty, jurisdiction or control implications. We can look forward later this year to a new Constitution. Our economy is enjoying record levels of success. The physical makeover of Gibraltar continues, with a significant capital investment programme that includes the new leisure centre I mentioned earlier, a wide range of brand new sporting facilities, new car parks, new roads, almost 1,000 new affordable homes... but all of this coupled with the recovery of historical walls, bastions, tunnels and buildings.

Earlier this week a new Governor arrived on the Rock. The Chief Minister welcomed His Excellency to what he described as “Modern Gibraltar”. Modern Gibraltar? Certainly. Forward-thinking, prosperous and socially advanced Gibraltar? Absolutely. But always realistically and respectfully acknowledging, respecting and preserving our past.

Sir John, Janet and all Friends, thank you so much for your kind invitation and most importantly thank you, very sincerely, for your continued interest and support.

XXXXX

OCTOBER

Launch of new book on Gib fortifications

CARUANA PLEDGES TO INVEST IN HERITAGE

by Alice Mascarenhas

A new book called *The Fortifications of Gibraltar 1068-1945* was launched this week in the gardens of the Gibraltar Museum by Chief Minister Peter Caruana. Written by Dr. Darren Fa and Professor Clive Finlayson it forms part of the 'Fortress' series of publications by Osprey Publishing, an international publishing house that specialises on military themes. The book has been co-authored by Darren Fa and Clive Finlayson internationally-recognised specialists and authors, and is illustrated by Adam Hook, who specialises in

detailed historical reconstructions and whose work has featured in exhibitions and publications worldwide.

It highlights the evolution, strategic role and historic importance of these unique fortifications in an accessible manner and is illustrated with detailed maps and diagrams, original artwork and a wealth of photographs.

At the launch the Chief Minister welcomed this latest edition to the library of Gibraltar books published by the reputable and well known publishing house Osprey.

Mr Caruana commented that one just had to look at the dates "1068 to 1945" to realise just how much history there was locally.

"We are blessed with so many people in so many walks of life with so much renowned and European global expertise, not just in natural sciences but in our architectural heritage and military history, as exemplified by the wonderful research capacity which has gone into this latest work," he said congratulating its authors.

Mr Caruana also paid tribute to Arthur Ferrary who had contributed greatly to the book calling him one of the principal citizens in the community. He spoke of the Government's attention over the years to the recovery of the Rock's fortifications and of "putting to good modern use, without spoiling the historical element" in such areas as Casemates, the Northern Defences, the gate of Granada, the Moorish Castle, Orange Bastion, the King's Bastion, which he emphasised when completed would be a prime example of how modern use and history can live side by side.

The fortifications he said played an immensely important part of Gibraltar's daily life. They were, he stated a wonderful resource, not just as part of our heritage but as part of the Rock's resource. Mr Caruana gave assurances that the Government would continue to invest in the recovery of the Rock's heritage as an important part of the legacy of future Gibraltarians. "The Fortifications of Gibraltar 1068-1945" is available at the Gibraltar Museum and local bookshops.

XXXXX

Major plans for supermarket expansion

MORRISONS POINT TO CORDOBA AGREEMENT AS KEY ELEMENT IN INVESTMENT DECISION

Morrison Supermarkets PLC has submitted a planning application to the Development and Planning Commission in Gibraltar which it has declared confirms its future commitment to Gibraltar.

In a statement yesterday the company, the UK's fourth largest supermarket with an 11.8% market share, singled out the recent agreements in Cordoba and improved frontier flow as the main source of their confidence.

The announcement ends long-standing consideration about their future in Gibraltar and bids from other parties to redevelop the site.

The existing Westside store is set to undergo a multi-million pound redevelopment if the plans for extensions on three sides of the existing building are approved. Morrisons Property Director, Roger Owen, Grant Henley, Business Development Director, and Westside Store General Manager, Gary Chant met the Minister for Trade and Industry Joe Holliday, ahead of submitting the application, to brief him on what Morrisons see as their way forward in Gibraltar.

"We are delighted to be submitting this application and are particularly pleased to be sweeping away any lingering doubts as to our commitment to Gibraltar. We have addressed a number of issues since we acquired the store as part of the Safeway acquisition some two and a half years ago and the time is right for a significant injection of capital to bring the

full Morrisons offer to the Rock. The re-developed store will show what we are really about, giving customers better surroundings, better quality shopfittings, and better presentation," said Roger Owen Morrisons, Main Board Property Director.

The planning application proposes an extension to the main sales floor to enable wider aisles and better layouts, a new café and ancillary services area, and improved servicing and warehouse back-up facilities. Grant Henley said that the current stable and prosperous economic climate in Gibraltar has given Morrisons the confidence to proceed with this major investment in their store.

"We were really convinced that we had a future when we saw the last Budget Statement issued by the Government which said just how important we were here in Gibraltar, and

that gave us tremendous heart. We followed this up with a meeting with Minister Holliday recently and, of course, subsequent to that, we are now aware of the details of the Cordoba Agreement which should improve frontier fluidity. Border restrictions gave us a major problem in terms of distributing to the store on a regular basis, particularly at weekends. That is now set to go, which will give us more freedom and enable us to present our full range of products to our customers more consistently."

Store Manager, Gary Chant, added: "We announced our planning application and our future commitment to this store to our staff during the course of Wednesday morning, prior to our meeting with Minister Holliday. They are absolutely delighted with the commitment to continue to trade at this location. Many of them have felt just how much things have improved since Morrisons acquired Safeway and this is really the final piece in the jigsaw. I cannot wait to see the Morrison name go over our entrance doors."

Roger Owen said: "We are hopeful that the company's planning application will be approved within a short time frame as we would like to start work on site very early in the new year. I very much hope that we can provide Gibraltarians with an ongoing improved offer".

XXXXX

HEAVY RAINS CUT OFF EUROPA AS ANCIENT TREE FALLS

by Brian Reyes

A tall pine tree came crashing down on Europa Road in heavy rain yesterday, blocking off this vital road and bringing much of the South District to a standstill during the morning rush hour.

The tree collapsed just before the peak traffic period, avoiding what could otherwise have proved to be a serious incident.

It fell across the road between the Rock Hotel and the Casino, crushing the concrete pavement banister above the Alameda Gardens.

“This could easily have killed someone,” said one emergency worker at the scene. Gibraltar awoke to a deluge yesterday.

On Main Street, people picked their way through ankle-deep puddles as they headed to work in a downpour.

Elsewhere, cars slowed to a crawl as flooded junctions exacerbated the knock-on effects of the Europa Road closure.

The Stone Pine was believed to have been over 200 years old.

XXXXX

PROBE INTO GOVERNOR'S STOLEN HAT

MoD has confirmed reports that the Governor's formal dress hat 'disappeared' from the hat rack at HMS Rooke on Saturday evening during a Trafalgar dinner celebration at the officers' mess. The loss accounted for the Governor wearing a beret at the Trafalgar Day ceremony. The matter is under investigation.

XXXXX

ROYAL NAVY DIVERS RUN HEIGHT OF EVEREST FOR CHARITY

On the morning of the 3rd of November 2006, four members from the Royal Navy Clearance Diver Element in Gibraltar each conquered the traditional “Gibraltar Rock Run” six times consecutively to run the equivalent height of the world's tallest Mountain, Mount Everest, between them.

The Divers, who are based on South Mole, completed the challenge in less than seven hours with each of them running a total distance of 24.8 km, and accomplished a height of over 2215 m individually. Combined, the team actually ran slightly higher than the height of Everest, which is an amazing achievement. The efforts of the Divers will raise an estimated £700 to add

to the British Forces Broadcasting Corporation's annual Charity donation, which this year is for the Charity Wireless for the Blind.

Leading Diver Ginge Fullen, the organiser of the fundraising challenge, said: “As a team we were averaging just under 30 minutes to reach the peak, with Diver 1 John Sharpe achieving the best individual times. John averaged between 27 and 28 minutes to reach the top each time, which was excellent running. It was a superb effort by the team and it's fantastic that we could raise £700 for such a good cause.

The Divers in the team were: Petty Officer Rex Turnbull, Leading Diver Ginge Fullen, Diver 1 John Heightley, and Diver 1 John Sharpe.

XXXXX

GIB MASONIC INSTITUTE PRESENTATION

The Gibraltar Masonic Institute is making a donation of £10,000 to the Gibraltar Health Authority. The funds will go towards the purchase of neo-natal equipment for use in the Primary Care Centre Audiology Department.

XXXXX

NOVEMBER

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

Government yesterday released images of the artist's impression of the King's Bastion Leisure Centre. The Bastion restoration works and the demolition works relating to the generating stations, modern buildings and outhouses attached to the Bastion is now almost complete.

The results of these works are now visible and the recovery of the Bastion, in heritage

terms, is almost complete, said the Government. Works will soon begin on the construction of the leisure centre itself.

The Leisure Centre is expected to be completed in September 2007. It will contain various leisure and entertainment facilities. The ground floor will contain a 14-lane adult-sized ten pin bowling alley, a separate four-lane child-sized bowling alley, a restaurant and an amusement arcade area. The second floor will contain two cinemas, one of 120 seats and another of 172 seats, an ice-skating rink, a bar/cafe/terrace, terraces and a discotheque.

A new promenade, linking Zoca Flank Bastion (to the North of Kings Bastion) and Wellington Front (to the South) will be established along the roof of the Barrack Block along Line Wall.

The total cost of all the works is £11.5m.

The Government says it will shortly be publishing tender notices inviting bids for the operation of the above facilities, either individually, in total or in any combination. Commenting on this project, the Minister for Culture, Heritage, Youth & Sport, Fabian Vinet, said the project fulfils a Government manifesto commitment and will provide Gibraltar with a leisure centre built and equipped to a very high standard.

“It will transform Gibraltar’s leisure activities scene and resources, while carefully recovering and restoring King’s Bastion from a heritage point of view. Indeed, it will bring the Bastion alive by putting it to a modern-day civic use.

When this Leisure Centre is completed next year, and together with the completion of the new Bayside Sports Centre which is due shortly, the Government will have finalised its £22 Million investment programme to transform and enhance sports and leisure facilities in Gibraltar for the benefit of our youth, children and all citizens,” he said.

The next phase of this programme, details of which are to be published soon, is the provision of new children’s playgrounds and green areas in various parts of Gibraltar and the refurbishment and re-equipping of all existing playgrounds.

XXXXX

HERITAGE TRUST SEEKS TO BUILD ON ROSIA TANKS LESSONS

by Alice Mascarenhas

Gibraltar Heritage Trust has highlighted the Rosia Tanks saga as an example of the challenges that the organisation faces. In a clear reference to the incident and the Trust's own stance against the government decision to demolish the tanks, Chairman David Eveson, emphasised such issues must not be underestimated.

The issue led to a number of resignations from the Board of Trustees. Meanwhile the Treasurers Report for the year revealed the Trust had seen a big loss in its finances for the year as a result of the injunction which had cost just over £22,000.

"Calls were made from all directions for the whole board to resign but as the Trust cannot dissolve itself, it left those remaining members of the board in an unenviable position. We are governed by an out of date Ordinance with sweeping powers technically but have

practically no punch at all," he stressed. This had put into question the function of the Trust. "Our Heritage colleagues and political masters I believe, now are aware of our predicament and have stated that the Trust should remain. The Government are in the process of creating new laws connected with Heritage. We as a body have a charter based on the aims of the Trust, looking into the whole area of listing and listing procedures and grades, consultation and meetings on planning and development. General information provision on Gibraltar's history by promoting the restoration and beautification of memorials and plaques," he stated.

Mr Eveson was adamant that wherever possible the Trust promoted Gibraltar for the entire population and not just its members, and also guided government bodies by way of gentle policing.

On Government's performance, he said, that the one thing this year's events had certainly brought home to everyone connected with heritage was that dialogue had been missing in the past.

"The Heritage Trust Ordinance which pre-dates the Heritage Division and indeed the Ministry, has had its power dissolved over the years. However, we are the first port of call for members of the public," he pointed out.

"If things are urgent we may contact electronically heads of departments such as the Town Planner or the Director of the Museum, or the Government Heritage Project manager. All to date respond promptly answering questions where requested."

The Trust, he confessed, had been disappointed regarding the reported withdrawal of Gibraltar's world heritage status application.

"No consultation had been made to our organisation in the time that I have been involved. However, I understand that a possibility still exists to attempt to gain recognition of individual heritage sites (this was later confirmed by the Minister present), we await Government's comments and would appreciate an opportunity to assist if we can," he added.

The AGM raised concerns from the floor of a more packed than normal Garrison Library on the development and demolition of the Rosia Tanks, the decision by the Trust to relinquish the management of Parsons Lodge, government support for the introduction of CCTV cameras in historical sites, when the government was going to produce a development plan and the introduction of the heritage ordinance which many felt was long over due.

During the question and answer session, the Heritage Minister Fabian Vinet confirmed, the government was still looking at proposals put forward by a developer for the development of Rosia Bay. He reassured Trust members even though the Heritage Trust had expressed a preference to relinquish the management of Parson's Lodge, the Government was currently looking at options for its future use. The importance of the monument would be paramount, he said, and nothing would be done to compromise the heritage value of the site. Mr Vinet emphasised that the functions and uses currently under consideration, such as the use of the site as a research and education field centre by the Gibraltar Museum, were all related to heritage purposes.

The Minister also said the tenders for the development in the area of the excavations of La Puerta de Granada and the Northern Defences would soon go out to tender linking the area to Road To The Lines and Moorish Castle Estate from Casemates Square all the way up to

the WWII Tunnels, but warned there would need to be elements, such as part of its boundary wall, on which there had been consultation with the Trust, that would need to be removed, "if we are to allow our community to enjoy these monuments".

Mr Vinet spoke extensively on the Government's urban re-generation as a way of improving the quality of life for everyone in Gibraltar.

"When I talk of Orange Bastion, King's Bastion or the Gate of Granada you may be forgiven for thinking of them as isolated projects," he said emphasising how they all fitted into a grander scheme, just as individual pieces made up a big jigsaw puzzle.

It was, he added, important to focus on the bigger picture and to place and view things in perspective.

"Some may disagree in where we go or how we proceed (sometimes for the right reasons, sometimes simply in order to pursue political and other objectives), but I think few can argue with the fact that Government is not only intent on delivering progress, but is already

proving the delivery of that progress."

Mr Vinet, stressed however the improvement of our quality of life required collective responsibility.

"Government is leading, in partnership with the Trust and others, but citizens must also exercise responsibility," he concluded.

XXXXX

Chairman of Gibraltar Heritage Trust's address at the AGM

Introduction

Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the 2006 annual general meeting of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. You will find some documents available for inspection in the room including the "1989" Ordinance, listed building request and a list of the Chairman's attendances. We have changed the format of the proceedings to include a short description of roles played by some of our Trustees which will follow my own report. On Trustees we are pleased to welcome two new appointed Trustees, Manolo Galliano and Benjamin Marrache.

Overview

No one can underestimate the difficulties the Trust has had to overcome this year. I don't have to mention the reason. Calls were made from all directions for the whole board to resign but, as the Trust cannot dissolve itself, it left those remaining members of the board in an unenviable position. We are governed by an out of date Ordinance with sweeping powers technically, but have practically no punch at all. So where are we? Our Heritage colleagues and political masters I believe, now are aware of our predicament and have stated that the Trust should remain. The Government are in the process of creating new laws connected with Heritage. We as a body have a charter based on the aims of the Trust, looking into the whole area of listing and listing procedures and grades, consultation and meetings on planning and development. General information provision on Gibraltar's history by promoting the restoration and beautification of memorials and plaques.

Wherever possible, we promote Gibraltar for our membership and the general public, guiding Government bodies by way of gentle policing.

Performance Trust

Throughout the year the Trust, as part of its educational role has arranged many site visits both at home and as far afield as Cape Trafalgar. Our annual painting competition continues to be a great success with this year's theme of the Cathedral Square. Our thanks must go out to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society who sponsored the prizes and to the Minister who kindly opened the exhibition in Casemates.

The annual Heritage awards once again were very popular and gave the Trustees a great problem in choosing winners. In the end awards went to Albert Traverso and Ted Archer for their book Education in Gibraltar, BDO Fidecs for the restored Montagu Sea Bathing Pavilion, and the junior award went to Bay Side School for their Siege Machine produced for the 3 Kings Cavalcade. A special merit award went to WO2 Pete Jackson for his conservation ideas and WW2 tunnel guide roles. Congratulations to all.

The Heritage page has been produced on a regular basis, articles are informative and educational, all participants deserve acknowledgement and appreciation goes to Isobel who co-ordinates, and to the Chronicle who publishes.

Again this year our calendar has been produced and is available here and at the Main Guard priced at £4. Thanks go out to all concerned in this project.

This year's journal still at the printers will give us an additional number to the collection, hopefully this will be with us before Christmas. We have procured a re-print of number 2 which we again thank Gib Telecom for sponsoring.

Parsons Lodge Battery continues to be open to the public despite being a great financial burden to the Trust. We have spent nigh on 20% of our reserves on the site. This has led the Board to look at ways of increasing the visitor numbers to make the site more viable. Suggestions were made to create more of a commercial licensed restaurant and tavern, this was considered by the Board to be a negative idea. The Board felt it did not wish to be associated with this type of activity and instead to increase visitor numbers, is in discussion with Government with the view of using the site as a field centre connected with the cave explorations on the east side of the rock. I would like to assure members that the integrity of the site is not being compromised and we are committed to it being kept open to the public. Indeed we would like to see more effort in attracting visitors away from the Main Street and the normal Rock Tours. Lets face facts most tourists have a few extra pounds to spend, it would be good for Gibraltar plc to entice some more heads to other areas like the 100 ton gun, museum and indeed Parsons Lodge.

Throughout the summer, Territorial Regiments visited during the Marble Tor exercises. Some did Heritage Trust inspired community jobs. Parsons Lodge Battery as usual had a clean up. The railings around the Cross of Sacrifice were re-painted. Work was done by the

Royal Artillery on the 5.25 inch anti-aircraft guns at Princess Royal Battery. The railway gully was cleaned by 37 Signal and the 100 ton gun was repainted the correct colour by the 101 battalion REMI regiment. They did a sterling job which included repairs to a wooden staircase which had been broken for months. A big thank you goes out to David Seed (SO Protocol) who co-ordinated all the projects.

I am pleased to announce that the Trust and the Friends have committed themselves to a £50.00 a month grant for the restoration of the Gibraltar book section of this library.

My own pet project of having the red information plaques re-painted with Tourist Board finances was undertaken this year. We still have work to do with reference to the authenticity of the information, but at least visiting tourists can now take a decent photograph.

On Trust projects, those of you who know me realise I am very keen on upgrading plaques and monuments, a role that may not be continued by future chairpersons, who may prefer to concentrate on listing and policy matters. While I am involved with the Trust, I would like to continue in this important Heritage field. We have a couple of old projects that are in the process of being completed. Namely the Sacred Heart School Chapel and the Marshman Murals in the Convent. I have secured funds from the Trust and requested monies from the Friends to finish off these two. Half a dozen or so more public friendly possibilities are in the pipeline, including a permanent tribute to the Royal Marines. We are in discussion with other parties on this latter idea.

The Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society are now, I think on a similar course to our own and great communication improvements have been established. The Minister, Clive Finlayson and myself joined the Autumn Board meeting of the Friends council, and Sir John Chappell restated his Boards sentiment that the UK arm would still prefer to channel funds through the Trust. My own presentation at the Warwick seminar was exactly this and I hope to report soon that more funds are coming to Gibraltar to assist in improving our overall tourist product.

To finish off the Trusts performance, the Board appoints members to sit on the DPC, Heritage Action Committee, and have presented to Government a list, far from complete, that has items that we feel should be added to the appendix A or B of the Ordinance.

Performance of the Government

One thing that this year's events certainly brought home to everyone connected with heritage was, that dialogue was missing in the past. The Heritage Trust Ordinance which pre-dates the Division and indeed Ministry as I said before, has had its power dissolved over the years. However, we are the first port of call for members of the public, depending on the question the Trust can make representation to bodies like HAC or DPC. If things are urgent we may contact electronically heads of departments such as the Town Planner or the Director of the Museum, or the Government Heritage Project manager. All to date respond promptly answering questions where requested. One instance, the metal sign structure attached to Kings Bastion, a clear breach of the Ordinance. The Trust barred due to the fact that it is a Government led project, however the outcome I believe good for all. These signs fixed to the mortar will be removed when the Kings Bastion project is complete and the whole wall made good.

On the subject of Kings Bastion the Trust has been kept informed by Carl Viagas. We must congratulate him and the Government for releasing this very important site and we look forward to how the leisure centre affects this majestic fortification. Purists would wish to keep the site as the original 1772 structure but we have to be realistic, and use our land to the good of Gibraltar. If this means using the inner court yard for a leisure activity, better this than the site demolished and new structures built.

The Orange Bastion. This area is looking very interesting now, more city walls being

beautified and revealed to the public. Congratulations to Carl. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent on these. Funds the Trust could only dream of. But the results we can all be proud of.

The Trust was indeed disappointed regarding the reported withdrawal of Gibraltar's world heritage status application. No consultation had been made to our organisation in the time that I have been involved. However, I understand that a possibility still exists to attempt to gain recognition of individual heritage sites, we await Government's comments and would appreciate an opportunity to assist if we can.

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

thank the Government for this.

People

We must thank all the Board Members that we lost this year for whatever reason they left. All wished the Trust well and indeed are still assisting behind the scenes, especially Denis King who is very active. We thank them all.

The Trust also must recognise other people who assist in making the organisation function, namely John Murphy who is a source of great knowledge and assistance. Damien Sanchez at the Trafalgar Cemetery, Roy Potter who the Trust turns to for plaque refurbishes. Paul Baker, John Frendo, Pepe Rosado, Freddy Gomez, and Richard Garcia just to mention a few.

A new face John Carreras has been proving himself very valuable. It's good to see some younger people involved.

I must also thank Carol who is a great personal assistant and who I cannot thank enough, especially her word processing, my typing finger would be non-existent without her skills.

The remaining Board members, who had many difficult decisions and increased work load due to low numbers. I thank them on behalf of the members and myself. Sam, Isobel, Roy Clinton have been particularly active. Roy Harding our Treasurer must have special thanks, the condition and promptness of his computations are surely the envy of many businesses in Gibraltar.

Our only employee Brenda takes on more than she should, but like the rest of us has been put under tremendous pressure taking members questions, selling calendars, and making sure the Board runs efficiently, not an easy role and we must thank her.

My own debt of gratitude goes out to my deputy Diane Sloma. What can I say, the voice of the Trust at DPC, a tower of strength and a relentless worker, putting Gibraltar and the Trust first. The Board, Members and myself owe you a big thank you.

Conclusion

I remember talking to Diane very early this year, our sentiments were as follows. If we can just keep going, get some new Trustees, sort out our role in society and get the financial resources, we can come out of this a stronger organisation. Well today we more or less have our charter, this evening our Board members will be complete for the first time in 10 months, and our finances should be greatly improved, the Government has agreed an increase in our annual subvention. However the cheque is still in the post. Our membership now stands at near the 500 mark, one of the biggest organisations of this type in Gibraltar, including family members this gives us a huge following, we hope we are serving you well.

XXXXX

CROSS-BORDER PROTEST CALLING FOR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES

This Friday 17th is set to see an ESG-backed protest at the border demanding for rigorous and detailed cross-border epidemiological studies to be done in the Bay of Gibraltar. The protest is at 5.30pm at La Plaza Cruz Herrera, La Linea de la Concepción.

"This kind of untenable level of pollution - must be relegated to the past!" says the ESG, saying that a strong message must be sent to the authorities that people want a joint, independent epidemiological study to be set up in the Bay without further delay.

The ESG point out that this week the Junta de Andalucia is fining CEPSA Refinery up to 150,000 euros for breaching Real Decreto 1073/2002 for excessive sulphur dioxide levels in Guadarranque as picked up by a monitoring station over the period 4th, 5th and 6th November 2006.

Translated versions of this poster will be put around Gibraltar as from today.

XXXXX

HOLY TRINITY LAUNCHES £850,000 PROJECT

Rock of Ages is a new campaign launched by the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. An ambitious £850,000 project which will see the replacing of the roof and the complete electrical rewiring of the Church. The aim is to also make structural improvements to improve the use of the building and improve the more obvious entrance in Cathedral Square away from the busy traffic on the other side. The project was launched by The Dean Alan Woods.

XXXXX

MINISTER FOR HERITAGE

The Hon. Fabian Vinet said that the Government is considering a number of options for the future use of Parson's Lodge after the Gibraltar Heritage Trust expressed a preference to 'relinquish' its management. 'The importance of the monument will be paramount and nothing will be done that prejudices the heritage value of the site. No decisions have yet been taken and uses under consideration are all related to the site's use for heritage purposes. Some of the options under consideration included commercial elements. One option relates to the setting up of a research and educational field centre for the Gibraltar Museum.

He confirmed that a request for the listing of the Victualling Yard was presented at a meeting with the GHT on 12 September 2006.

XXXXX

AVIATION CONCERNS SLICE MIDTOWN PROJECT

by Brian Reyes

The height of the proposed Midtown Tower has been cut by around two thirds amid concerns over aviation safety.

The tower was the centrepiece of the Midtown Project and was originally planned to be 130m high, which would have made it the tallest building in Gibraltar.

Now, after months of discussions behind the scenes, a revised plan instead foresees construction of four mid-rise towers, each of them around 45m tall.

Each of the proposed towers will be roughly the height of the Europort building.

The Development and Planning Commission granted outline planning permission for this revised scheme to Commercial Development Investments, the developer, last November 2.

The drastic reduction in the height of the buildings follows consultation between the developer, the Gibraltar Government and British aviation authorities.

The discussions focused on issues such as height, the building's impact on air turbulence, lighting and sun reflection.

The final height of 45m is regarded as acceptable to key stakeholders in the process and is likely to serve as a benchmark for future developments in that area.

The revised design centres on four towers that will accommodate both residential and commercial premises. One of the buildings is a striking circular tower that incorporates a substantial amount of glass in its design.

The planned buildings will stretch from the north end of the Naval Grounds, opposite King's Bastion, to the edge of Regal House at the southern end of the site. A school that

was planned in the original proposal will now be built on another site.

The revised Midtown scheme includes plans for gardens and around 680 parking spaces, of which around 120 will be for public use and all of which will be hidden from view at street level.

The revised plans address many of the objections received from the public when the project was first filed with the office of the Town Planner.

The original plans for the tower drew significant flack when they were unveiled, not least over concerns about the building's aesthetic impact on the town.

The latest scheme has not been opened to public consultation, though it can be viewed in the office of the Town Planner.

XXXXX

CULTURAL CONTACTS INSTITUTO CERVANTES

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>
 XXXXX

Committee contacts:

Hon. Treasurer/Membership – David Inker, Macausland House, 15 Skye Close, Cosham, Hampshire PO6 3LT. Email davidjinker@msn.com Tel 023 9232 1965
 Hon. Secretary – Janet Whiteley, Overstock House, Houghton Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6LE Email janet.stockbridge@btinternet.com Tel 01264 811101
 Organiser of annual meeting reception - Ernest Reading, 171 Charlton Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex Email ernie@reading171.fsnet.co.uk Tel 020 8206 0120
 Web Master – John Borda Email jborda@gibnews.net

XXXXX

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

XXXXX

GRAHAM MORRIS; GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

The FOGHS Committee would like to thank Graham Morris for his unstinting support and legal advice as deputy chairman over several years. Graham was also responsible for the highly successful fund raising schemes held during the last decade.

XXXXX

FOGHS COMMITTEE

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester
 President: The Baroness Hooper
 Vice-Presidents: The Rt. Rev. Archbishop Michael Bowen: Admiral Sir David Williams:
 Albert Hammond: John Galliano
 Chairman: Field Marshal Sir John Chapple
 Hon Secretary: Janet Whiteley.
 Board Members: John Borda (Webmaster): Maggie Galliano: Andrew Lavarello: Albert Poggio: Ernest Reading (Social): Paul Baker: Tito Benady: Mike Brufal (Newsletter): Christina Gaggero: Major-General Simon Pack: David Inker (Hon Treasurer and Hon Membership Secretary): Richard Wells.

XXXXX

CADOGAN HOLIDAYS LUXURY HOLIDAYS FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

As a member of the International Bland Group – sister to GB Airways and The Rock Hotel – we are committed to providing the highest level of service and quality throughout our program.

Why not discover our selection of luxurious four and five star hotels in the Mediterranean, North Africa and beyond to the Canary Islands and the Atlantic gem of Madeira creating an exclusive holiday portfolio, tailor made to meet your needs.

Just see what makes Cadogan Holidays the best:

- Total flexibility with any duration possible
- Stay in a combination of resorts within any destination
- Convenient services of scheduled airlines, particularly with our sister company GB Airways, which operates many of the short-haul routes for British Airways
- All clients automatically receive private transfers to take them directly to their hotel

- Accommodation only can easily be booked should you prefer
- Little extras in numerous properties including wine, fruit, room upgrade etc.
- Special brochure offers including free nights, no single supplements and free board upgrades
- Excellent children, family and extra adult discounts
- Free guide book, map and IDC discount card

Cadogan Holidays is pleased to offer all members of the FOGHS and their families a 15% discount. If you wish to receive a brochure or make a booking then please contact Stephanie Cadogan on 02380 828 364 or email her at steph.cadogan@cadoganholidays.com

XXXXX