The British Historical Society of Portugal: the first 50 years

The British Historical Society of Portugal (BHSP) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024, having been founded in the year of the Carnation Revolution. As the Society was busy recalling the events of April 1974 and, later in the year, celebrating the new *Anglo-Portuguese News* website,[1] this notable anniversary rather went under the radar. However, in this 2024 Annual Report, it is appropriate to record the main activities undertaken over the last fifty years and some of the personalities involved with the Society.

By Andrew Shepherd

Early days

In 1936, a group of members of the British community in Lisbon formed a branch of the Historical Association, which is based in London and still functions. Meetings were held at the British Institute, later to become the British Council, and activities were similar to the BHSP's today, with the addition that the Association collected considerable memorabilia relating to British institutions. Membership did not exceed 40. Then WWII intervened, some members left Portugal and others resigned and by the mid-1950s the Association in Portugal was virtually dormant.[2]

Fortunately, the British Institute continued to house the Association's archives. But in 1968 the director of the Institute wrote to the British Community Council, an organization initially established at the beginning of the war to raise money for and otherwise support the war effort, to suggest that the Historical Association branch should be reconstituted. As d'Arcy Orders noted, "no doubt he wished to get shot of the archives!" There appears to have been little interest in the idea

[1] https://www.angloportuguesenews.pt/

[2] D'Arcy Orders. 1994. *The British Historical Society of Portugal: A Look Back. BHSP Annual Report 21*. https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-british-historical-Society-of-portugal-a-look-back

but a small committee, headed by Richard Price, was formed to catalogue the files and documents. Price had retired to Portugal after a career with British-American Tobacco, which at one stage had included walking one thousand miles in China to escape the Japanese invasion of Shanghai.[3]

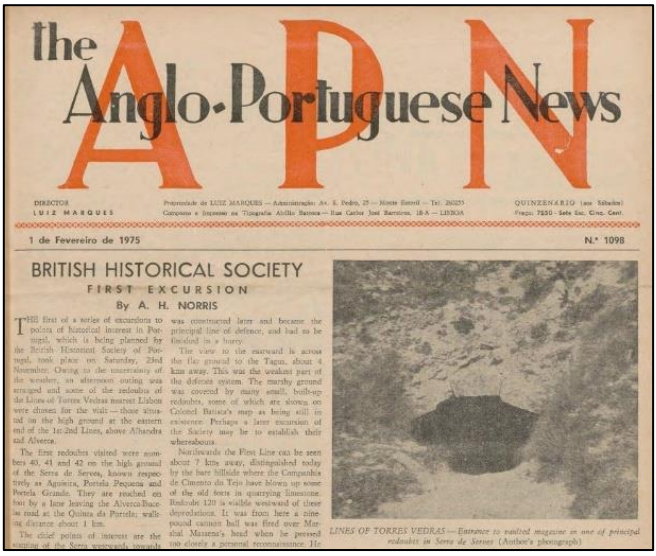
In 1973, the British Institute advised the Community Council that it could no longer store the archives,[4] giving rise to the formation of the British Historical Society at the suggestion of Price and Sir Alfred Norris, a retired chartered accountant who had worked in Brazil and been knighted for his services to the British in São Paulo. Known as "Bing" to his friends, Norris had been elected chairman of the Executive Council of the British Hospital in Lisbon and had written the history of the Hospital.[5] However he is probably best remembered for his co-authorship of the first guidebook on the Lines of Torres Vedras.[6]

Price wrote a letter to the *Anglo-Portuguese News* in December 1973 raising the idea of forming a Historical Society. Among those to reply positively was d'Arcy Orders, owner of an office cleaning company in Lisbon, who reports that the day after having had a pleasant lunch with Price and Norris with too much port he discovered that he had "agreed" to become the honorary secretary. D'Arcy Orders went on to be a major contributor to the Society's annual reports and many of his articles were collected in a book published by the Society, copies of which remain for sale.

The British Historical Society was formally constituted on 18 June 1974, at a meeting attended by around 50 people and chaired by the British Ambassador. In retrospect, it is rather surprising that, less than two months after the Revolution, the British Community would have had the time or the inclination to think of such matters. Price had

[3] The *Anglo-Portuguese News*, 28 July 1983, Page 9.
[4] D'Arcy Orders, *op cit.*
[5] Copies remain available in the Society's library.
[6] *The Lines of Torres Vedras.* The second edition was published by the Society in 1983.

discovered that the British Institute was still a signatory to the now defunct Historical Association's bank account, which he took over, noting that "there is still a small balance". A constitution for the new Society was then drawn up and events planned, with the inaugural meeting being held in the Estrela Hall at the end of October of the same year, when the constitution and bye-laws of the Society were approved and officers appointed. It is perhaps notable that, initially, there was no question about holding meetings out of Lisbon, although within a decade the Society's annual report was thanking Andrew Bull, the headmaster of St. Julian's School, for hosting meetings.[7] While nowadays the Society visits many interesting locations in Lisbon, it rarely holds meetings there, preferring to meet in Carcavelos or Estoril. This perhaps reflects both the gradual move along the *Marginal* of the British and the change in make-up of the British Community.



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BRITISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FIRST EXCURSION

By A. H. NORRIS

THE first of a series of excursions to points of historical interest in Portugal, which is being planned by the British Historical Society of Portugal, took place on Saturday, 23rd November. Owing to the uncertainty of the weather, an afternoon outing was arranged and some of the redoubts of the Lines of Torres Vedras nearest Lisbon were chosen for the visit—those situated on the high ground at the eastern end of the 1st 2nd Lines, above Alhandra and Alverca.

The first redoubts visited were numbers 40, 41 and 42 on the high ground of the Serra de Serves, known respectively as Agueira, Portela Pequena and Portela Grande. They are reached on foot by a lane leaving the Alverca-Bucelas road at the Quinta da Portela, walking distance about 1 km.

The chief points of interest are the ... was constructed later and became the principal line of defence, and had to be finished in a hurry.

The view to the eastward is across the flat ground to the Tagus, about 4 kms away. This was the weakest part of the defence system. The marshy ground was covered by many small, built-up redoubts, some of which are shown on Colonel Batiste's map as being still in existence. Perhaps a later excursion of the Society may be to establish their whereabouts.

Northwards the First Line can be seen about 7 kms away, distinguished today by the bare hillside where the Companhia de Cimento do Tejo have blown up some of the old forts in quarrying limestone. Redoubt 120 is visible westward of these depredations. It was from here a nine-pound cannon ball was fired over Marshal Massena's head when he pressed too closely a personal reconnaissance. He

LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS—Entrance to vaulted magazine in one of principal redoubts in Serra de Serves (Author's photograph)

Report of the Society's first outing in 1974, to the Lines of Torres Vedras

[7] Bull would later become a member of the Council and write two interesting articles for the Society, one on *Quinta Nova*, home of St Julian's School, and the other on the Lisbon Banknote Scandal of Alves dos Reis.

By the end of 1974 there were 27 members and the Society had already organised its first outing, on 23 November, to the Lines of Torres Vedras. This included a picnic lunch at one of the forts with liberal amounts of wine, which somewhat reduced the enthusiasm for further exploration in the afternoon. The APN devoted its entire front page to a report by Norris of the outing. In the same issue there was an announcement asking people to remember that the Historical Association was now the British Historical Society, and that it had been successfully formed, albeit "all it needs now is proper premises and more members, particularly of the keener sort".

D'Arcy Orders speculated that word got round that the Society organised good parties. Whether true or not, by the end of 1975 membership had grown to 75 in Portugal, with a further 10 members in the UK, thanks to the efforts of Mrs G. Haigh, who became the representative of the Society in the UK. Unfortunately, she was to die shortly after, to be replaced by Grace Thornton, a former British Consul-General in Lisbon, and later the Head of Consular Services at the Foreign Office. Price and d'Arcy Orders were joined on the Society's Council, as its Board has always been named, by L.C. D'Oyly Harmar as the honorary treasurer, and by five Council members without portfolio: Haigh, Norris, W.J. Cobb, E.J. Foote and D.A Rawes. Leslie Harmar, a skilled watercolour painter, became the Society's unofficial correspondent for the APN, writing reports of the Society's trips.

This embarrassment of riches on the Council led to several activities being organised in 1975. The paper by Norris on the British Hospital was published as the Society's first monograph and trips were organised to the Stephens Glass Factory at Marinha Grande; to Torres Vedras and Roliça and the grave of Colonel Lake; and to the Ducal Palace at Vila Viçosa, with a four course lunch held at the castle. The APN helpfully announced some of these events and, up until its closure in 2004, the newspaper was a vital way for the Society to inform members of future activities. Marinha Grande and Vila Viçosa were visited as day trips, which must have been very exhausting, bearing in

mind that there were no motorways in those days. Closer to home, there was a visit to the English College in Lisbon and two talks.

The second annual report apologised for the paucity of articles in the first, although the first had contained an article by Norris on the Battle of Roliça, and others on John Wilby, a member of the British factory, and on cricket in Lisbon in 1873-74. The annual report included an interesting article by Norris about James Murphy, an Irish architect who came to Portugal to design the Batalha monastery and subsequently wrote a book about his travels in Portugal. The third annual report featured another article by Norris on the British Factory in Lisbon and a detailed study of Anglo-Portuguese relations in Macau by Carlos Estorninho. By this time, the Society already had four honorary members, including Estorninho and Elaine Sanceau.[8] Among the expenditures reported in the 1975 annual report was the cost of binding copies of the *Anglo-Portuguese News,* probably the first time this had been done since the paper was founded in 1937.

The fourth report in 1977 told us that the Society had funded an essay competition for schoolchildren at English-speaking schools but noted with some disappointment that only St. Julian´s had taken up the challenge. Nevertheless, the quality of the essays submitted was high and all entrants were awarded prizes. Another school, Prince Henry International College, joined the following year and the essay by 16-year-old Thomas Briggs on The Methuen Treaty was considered excellent and was included in the annual report. The same report contained an article by Harmar about the British Cemetery in Lisbon, with detailed information about many of those buried there. The fifth annual report in 1978 contained an interesting article by W.J. Cobb on the experiences of William Greig, head of the Cockburn, Greig & Co. port house, during the 1832-33 Siege of Oporto.[9]

[8] https://www.bhsportugal.org/news/elaine-sanceau

[9] To avoid an excessive number of footnotes, most articles mentioned are not footnoted here. They can be consulted on the Society's website, www.bhsportugal.org by using the Search tool at the top right of the page or by clicking on Library and then Articles.

The English College, or *Colégio dos Inglezinhos*, closed to students in 1972,[10] leaving the Roman Catholic Church with a large, vacant property. BHSP was offered four rooms in the complex, one of which was large enough to be used as a meeting room, thus solving, at least temporarily, the problem caused by the British Institute's desire to reclaim its space. The archives were moved to the College, to which were added some documents from the college that had not been sent to Ushaw College in Durham.[11] The process of cataloguing the collection began, with Norris serving as the librarian, while continuing his prolific writing with a short history of the *Colégio dos Inglezinhos*.

In 1976 the Society published several other monographs, including one by Boyd Alexander, entitled *From Lisbon to Baker Street: The strange story of the Chevalier Franchi, Beckford's friend.* It also became responsible for the care and upkeep of Col. Lake's grave at Roliça. Meetings held included a talk by A.H. Reynolds on "Former farming methods in the Alentejo". The first of a series of annual wine and cheese parties was held at the College at the end of 1976. At the one in September 1977, members were invited to see some of the items that had been donated to the Society and bring items of their own for display. The November 1979 wine and cheese party saw an exhibition of paintings of wild flowers by one of the members. John Delaforce was appointed as the Porto Representative for the Society. There is no indication that he organised any events at this time, but in 1979 he visited Lisbon to give a well-received talk on the Factory House, Oporto.

Early trips

In its early years the Society was remarkably effective in organising trips to places that would normally have been difficult to visit, in many cases being shown around by the owners. These included the *Convento de Arrábida* (by kind permission of the Duke of Palmela); the *Quinta de São Sebastião* (now a guest house); the *Quinta de Penaferrim* in

[10] https://www.bhsportugal.org/news/the-english-college
[11] Orders, *op cit*.

Sintra; the *Quinta de Vigia* in Sintra (where tea was taken with the Viscondessa de Soveral); the Stilwell family home of *Quinta da Foja* in Figueira da Foz; and the *Palácio dos Viscondes de Maiorca*, the latter two as part of a trip to the *Vista Alegre* porcelain factory near Aveiro. In some cases, a few members were able to stay the night at these *Quintas*.

As with the very first outing, day trips at that time usually involved taking your own picnic rather than going to a restaurant, probably because the number of suitable restaurants was rather limited and because owners of stately homes were willing to tolerate the Society's members settling down on their lawns to eat their lunches. Access to the homes of the Portuguese nobility was greatly facilitated by having members of leading Portuguese families as members of the Society, such as the Pinto Basto family, the Countesses of Seisal and Soveral, the Stilwells, and the Croft de Moura family.

The Society began to undertake lengthier trips in the mid-1980s. In May 1984, it went on a four-day visit to Castelo de Vide, Marvão, Castelo Branco, Covilhã, Mangualde, Urgeiriça and Bussaco. This must have proved popular as in the following April members headed off for another four-day trip, to Évora, Monsaraz, Vila Viçosa, Elvas, Tomar, Castelo do Bode and Golegã and, as that was clearly not enough, for another four-day visit in October the same year, this time to Porto, Amarante, Braga, Melgaço, Ponte da Barca, Barcelos, and Póvoa do Varzim. A report of this trip in the APN, signed "K.T.", began: "For excellent organisation and friendly atmosphere nothing can surpass the British Historical Society's tours". 1987 saw a four-day trip to the Algarve. Lest members feel that this puts the efforts of the Society's present-day Council to shame, it should be noted that in 1985 there were eleven Council members, compared to the five at present. Even so, the chairman was asking for more helpers in the library, which had become well-established and was receiving visitors every Tuesday.

The patron

The patron of the Society has always been the British Ambassador. Most have attended occasional meetings, sometimes contributing to the event, such as the recent talk by the incumbent, Lisa Bandari, at the launch of the *Anglo-Portuguese News* website in 2024. In the early days, the chair of the annual general meeting was the patron, but now there is a separate chair for the AGM, who is currently Filipe Lowndes Marques.

The first ambassador patron was Nigel Trench.[12] He was replaced in 1976 by Lord Moran,[13] the son of Churchill's doctor, who in 1979 gave a talk to the Society on 'Writing a Biography', something that he was eminently suited to do, having published the biography of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman in 1973. The third patron was Sir Hugh Byatt, whose wife was listed in the annual reports as being a member of the Council. Relations with the Embassy appear to have been much closer then than they have been more recently, with several events being held at the Embassy and at the Ambassador's residence, and the Ambassador even helped fund the renovation of the Society's library after it moved to St. Andrew's Church in 1984 (see below).

Membership

Membership was growing exponentially and by 1980 was well over 250. In fact, in the 1983 annual report, the chairman worried that membership may have to be restricted "because the number of members often posed problems for the Hon. Secretary when it came to visits to private houses where admittance was strictly limited". Despite this growth, the financial position of the Society was not that great, just about breaking even in 1979 and 1980. This was partly because of inflation, but also because in 1980 it published at some cost the second edition of *The Lines of Torres Vedras*, with additional material on the Third and Fourth Lines by Robert Bremner, the first edition having been

[12] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigel_Trench,_7th_Baron_Ashtown
[13] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wilson,_2nd_Baron_Moran

published by Alfred Norris in 1972 prior to the formation of the Society. This became the seminal work on The Lines and was an important contribution to the decision by the relevant municipalities to restore many of the redoubts in time for the 200th anniversary of the first construction in 1809, winning a European Heritage Award in 2014 for this work.[14,15] Despite the high cost of publishing the book it became a money-spinner for the Society, with revenue from sales in 1981 almost matching annual subscription revenue.

In line with the object in its statutes,[16] in 1980 the Society spent a significant sum on funding a commemorative plaque at the house in Freineda near Almeida that was occupied by the Duke of Wellington as his last headquarters in Portugal. The unveiling was timed to correspond with the ceremonies commemorating the 1810 Battle of Bussaco, and several members took part in the events at Almeida and in Freineda. The story of how the plaque came about and the numerous negotiations necessary to make it happen was covered on the front page of the APN.[17]

The Plaque at Freineda

Report by Harmar

[14] https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/historical-route-lines-torres-vedras/
[15] Gilbert, Clive. *The Lines of Torres Vedras: A Remarkable Restoration Project.* BHSP Annual Report 39, 2012. https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-lines-of-torres-vedras-a-remarkable-restoration-project
[16] Article 3 of the Society's Constitution states that "The object of the Association is the study, conservation and publication of documents on the shared history of Portugal and Great Britain and its diffusion, as well as the organisation of lectures, visits and support to cultural-historical institutions, either Portuguese or British".
[17] 14 November 1980.

Other activities in 1980 included a talk by Professor Douglas Wheeler on the diplomatic missions in Lisbon during World War II, given at the building that had been the German Embassy during the period. Wheeler went on to hold the Prince Henry the Navigator Professorship in Portuguese History at the University of New Hampshire. Subsequent activities included a day trip to the Sobral de Monte Agraço area to study the *azulejos* in several churches in 1981 and visits to the *Assembleia Nacional* and the French Embassy in 1982, together with a four-day trip to Porto, with wine tasting.

The chairman Dick Price died in 1983, to be replaced briefly by John Cobb, who died at the end of 1986. Cobb had been known for referring to the Society as "The Hystericals". He was replaced before his death by Paulo Lowndes Marques, who officiated as the Society's longest-serving chairman for an impressive 25 years until his death on the first day of 2011. Lowndes Marques was the son of the early proprietors of the APN, a lawyer and, after the Carnation Revolution of 1974, one of the founders of the CDS – The People's Party. He was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from 1981 to 1983. A Grand Officer of the Order of Infante D. Henrique, he was awarded an OBE in 1985. Both he and Joan Croft de Moura, who had become secretary of the Society in 1981, were able to take advantage of their Anglo-Portuguese connections to ensure that the Society continued to gain access to stately homes and other interesting places that were not normally open to the public.[18] Croft de Moura was awarded an MBE for her services to the British community in 1989.

For much of its life, the Society has had difficulty in attracting sufficient members to serve on the Council. Already in 1980 problems were being experienced, with Alfred Norris resigning on health grounds and another Council member finding that his day job was taking up too much time. That year, the chairman wrote to all members, seeking volunteers, but had to announce in the annual report that "To this

[18] Orders, *op cit*.

request *no answer* has so far been received…". The same plea was repeated in the 1988 annual report by Lowndes Marques who, in addition to requesting help for the librarian, Ivone Mollet, also indicated that the Society would like to be able to carry out more research if assistance could be obtained. In 1994, when D'Arcy Orders gave a talk to members on the first twenty years of the Society, he was still making a similar plea.[19,20]

New accommodation problems

Unfortunately, in 1984, the *Colégio dos Inglezinhos* building was sold and a desperate search began for new premises. Several places were looked at but none proved suitable until, just as the Council was getting desperate, the Elders of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland in Rua Arriaga, Lisbon offered the Society a room in the basement of the manse, rent free. It was next door to a nursery run by Rita, sister of Joan Croft de Moura. The annual report credits the Ambassador, Sir Hugh Byatt and Lady Byatt with influencing the church's decision. Shelving was installed and the archives were moved once again.[21] As he had done for the Society's previous home, d'Arcy Orders repaid the favour by preparing a detailed history of St. Andrew's, which was published in 1990. Strangely, this was not published by the Society, unlike most of the other books in his 'British Community' series.

Royal visits

Queen Elizabeth visited Portugal on 27 March 1985. Her Majesty unveiled a bust of her great grandfather, King Edward VII, in the park in the centre of Lisbon that bears his name. Situated in the north-west corner of the Park, it was entirely the initiative of the Society. Previously the park had contained no indication of why it was so-called. The name was in honour of the King, following his visit in 1903, when

[19] A situation still faced by the Society.
[20] Orders, *op cit.*
[21] Orders, *op cit.*

relations between the two countries were still strained after 'The Ultimatum' of 1890, which saw Portugal give up its claim to territory between Angola and Mozambique. The inscription on the pedestal notes the Society's contribution to the bust.[22] The Society organised an exhibition at the Ajuda Palace on the visit by King Edward VII to Portugal and the return visit by King D. Carlos to London, which was inaugurated by the Queen during her 1985 visit.

The bust of King Edward VII

Sponsored by Barclays Bank plc, a set of reproductions of watercolours by Canadian-born Thomas John Coates of buildings in Lisbon with Anglo-Portuguese connections was made, featuring the British Hospital, the Parsonage, Corpo Santo, Bemposta, Bom Sucesso in Belém, the English College, Henry Fielding's tomb at the British Cemetery, and the British Ambassador's residence. The first copy was presented to the Queen. The Society repaid the interest-free loan of Esc. 500,000 to pay Coates in full in 1987. The set sold for Esc. 3,000.

Watercolour by John Coates of the Parsonage

[22]. (https://informacoeseservicos.lisboa.pt/contactos/diretorio-da-cidade/eduardo-vii).

The Society obtained an interesting souvenir of the Royal visit. Tradition was that the English College had the right to demand the white ensign of any Royal Navy vessel that visited Lisbon and to fly it from the observatory on the roof of the college. When the Queen visited, the *Colégio dos Inglezinhos* demanded the white ensign of the Royal Yacht Britannia and, whether by tradition or not, it was not returned. The ensign was presented to the Society by the last president of the College and it is currently on display at St Paul's C. of E. Church in Estoril.

The then Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited Portugal in February 1987 on the 600th anniversary of the marriage of King D. João I to Philippa of Lancaster, daughter of John of Gaunt. The Society commissioned a bronze plaque, sculpted by António Duarte, for Sintra Palace, where Queen Philippa spent much of her life, and produced a booklet describing the parts of the palace built during her reign. The plaque was largely funded by Lloyds Bank plc. Indeed, in its early years the Society was able to obtain sponsorship from British companies for various special activities. Notwithstanding the recent generosity of donors for the establishment of the *Anglo-Portuguese News* website, that source of funding has largely dried up, as most British companies have either left Portugal or their management in the country has been taken over by Portuguese who, perhaps understandably, are less interested in funding British activities.

The Queen Philippa plaque in Sintra

Annual reports

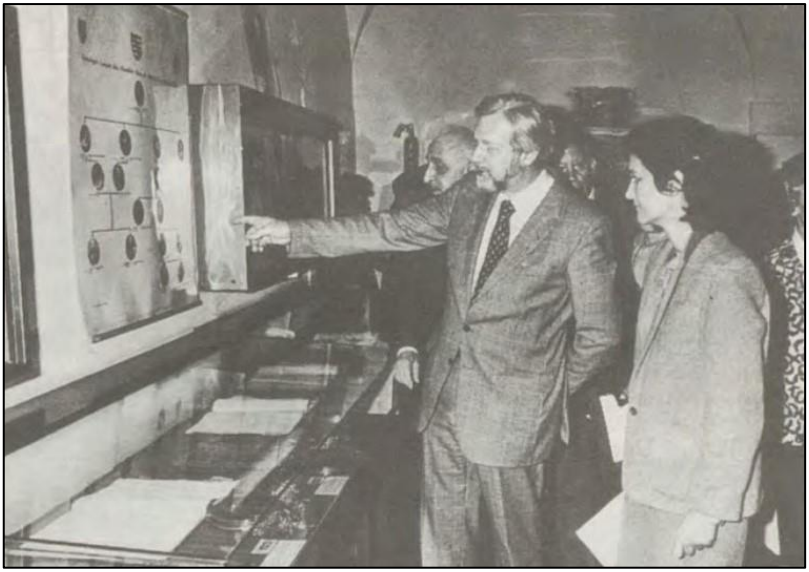
Considerable increases in membership fees were agreed at the annual general meetings of 1983 and 1987, justified by the cost of printing the annual report almost equalling revenue from subscriptions. The Society began to publish its annual reports in the format that has been maintained ever since. The journal contains up to 200 pages, beginning with the Constitution and Bye-Laws, followed by a list of the Council members and the Chairman's Report and the Accounts. This is followed by a selection of articles that cover Anglo-Portuguese topics. Norris and d'Arcy Orders were significant contributors during the Society's first two decades, as well as writing monographs. Ida Kingsbury, whose father was the last manager of the *Palácio de Monserrate* in Sintra when it was English-owned,[23,24] wrote five articles on topics relating to Sintra, including one on Monserrate. The noted historian, Jeremy Black,[25] published several articles in the mid-1980s, while Maureen Shaw, author of *The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance and the English Merchants in Portugal, 1654-1810,* wrote articles in the name of Dr. L.M.E. Shaw.

Another noted contributor was Harold Livermore, who was the headmaster of St Julian's School in 1941-42 before becoming a professor at Cambridge.[26] He authored *A New History of Portugal* in 1966, among many books. The 1989 annual report contained articles by each of these three, including one by Livermore on the death of the *Gone with the Wind* Hollywood star, Leslie Howard, in 1943,[27] together with the memoirs of Alfred Norris, entitled *The Way I Have Come,* and an article by the Portuguese historian, Manuel Gonçalves de Costa, on *St. Patrick's School*. Professor Livermore's son served as interim headmaster of the Oporto British School for two years in the late 1990s.

[23] https://www.amigosdemonserrate.pt/sites/default/files/2019-06/richard_kingsbury_childhood_memories.pdf
[24] https://expresso.pt/sociedade/2018-01-07-Viver-em-Monserrate
[25] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremy_Black_(historian)
[26] https://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/professor-harold-livermore-historian-of-iberia-who-wrote-the-prizewinning-a-history-of-portugal-1916406.html
[27] https://www.bhsportugal.org/uploads/fotos_artigos/files/LeslieHoward.pdf

More books and activities

Under the guidance of Paulo Lowndes Marques, the Society continued to thrive in the late 1980s, with around 300 members. 1986 was marked by celebrations of the 600th anniversary of the Treaty of Windsor, signed by Britain and Portugal. The Society jointly organised an exhibition with the *Arquivo da Torre do Tombo*, which was held in the national parliament building of *Palácio S. Bento*. There were 137 exhibits spanning the six centuries.



Paulo Lowndes Marques showing the Treaty of Windsor exhibition to Maria Gouveia, Secretary of State for Culture in 1986 (Source: APN)

1986 was also the year when the third and final edition of the book by Norris and Bremner on *The Lines of Torres Vedras* was published. This edition, printed on glossy paper with several pull-out maps and other illustrations, cost Esc. 168.000 to produce. Fortunately, demand for copies was strong.[28]

[28] Nevertheless, copies remain available in the Society's library for €10.

In 1987 the Society published *The Lisbon Earthquake of 1755: Some British Eyewitness Accounts*, with financial support from BP. The 1988 report listed numerous activities, including an annual party at St Julian's attended by 120 members, at which Dr. Fritz Caspari, the German ambassador to Portugal in 1974-79 gave a talk on his experiences in the post-revolutionary period, and a talk by Robert Bremner on cartography, also given at the school. In September of the same year, the novelist Charles Gidley,[29] brother-in-law of Andrew Bull, the headmaster of St. Julian's, gave a talk at the school entitled *Who's afraid of Francis Drake?*

Two four-day trips were organised in 1987, one to the Algarve, including Monchique and Ayamonte, and another to the Beira, taking in Almeida, Castelo Rodrigo, and Penalva do Castelo. The Society had instituted the practice of sending members a Christmas present in the form of a publication on an Anglo-Portuguese subject. In that year it was *The British Assembly in Lisbon, 1771-1819* by Agostinho Araújo. The field trips continued in 1989 with, among others, a trip to Évora, where members were able to see some places off the tourist route, such as the home of Vasco da Gama. The Society also printed a monograph entitled *The Elusive Baron: The Life of Andrew Vincent Patterson, 1867-194?* by Lionel Alves, which again was sponsored by Lloyds Bank.

In June 1989, Lowndes Marques gave a talk on the Lisbon Earthquake to the Anglo-Portuguese Society in London. In July of the same year, together with a range of other organisations including the Gulbenkian Foundation and the universities of Southampton and Manchester, the BHSP sponsored an International Congress on the Iberian Peninsula (1780-1840). Among the speakers were Lowndes Marques, Bremner, and another member, Col. F.O. Cetre. Lowndes Marques reprised his earthquake talk at the AGM, which that year was held at the British Institute instead of the Embassy. In August, members were saddened to learn of the death of Alfred Norris in Hampshire, at the age of 95. He had left Portugal for England in 1982.

[29] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Gidley_Wheeler

The Early Nineties

The chairman's report for 1990 indicated that the Society was in good financial health. However, by 1992 a deficit of Esc. 245,000 was recorded, mainly due to inflation, with the cost of printing the annual report again barely covered by the subscription fees. It is worth pointing out that the Society had kept most of its reserves on deposit at Lloyds Bank in London, presumably as a hedge against Portuguese inflation. The report also included the usual plea for help with the library. Mrs Mollet had been the librarian for some years, apparently managing the task almost singlehandedly, given the frequency of the chairman's request in the annual reports for volunteers to assist her.

At the end of 1990 it was announced that the Society had decided to organise a course on the History of Portugal for its members, consisting of 20 one-hour lectures, to be given at St. Julian's School by Prof. Filipe Furtado of *Universidade Nova*. These were reportedly very popular. In 1991 the Society published *An (sic) Historical Journey Along the Marginal* by Lowndes Marques,[30] with illustrations by John Coates, who had painted the watercolours presented to the Queen in 1985. The publication was sponsored by Mobil Oil. In 1992 the Society made its first visit out of Portugal, with a trip to Estremadura in Spain. The annual report of that year contained an article by Canon John Humphreys on the ten-year losing battle to protect the original boundaries of the British Cemetery from expropriation by the Lisbon City Council, to make way for a new road.

During this period the British Embassy continued to support the Society. Tom Macan joined the embassy as Deputy Head of Mission in August 1990 and recalls that among the handover notes of his predecessor was the information that he was expected to represent the Embassy on the Council. His name appears on the list of Council members from 1991-94. According to Macan, his only real role was to alert the Society to visitors whose presence might contribute to the

[30] This excellent guide remains available for purchase from the Society.

Society's work.[31] He was later replaced as the Embassy representative by Simon Wilson, who contributed an article to the 1994 Annual Report on the Porto Corvo Palace, which housed the British Embassy until 1995. It is not clear when the role of an Embassy representative ceased.

In 1992 the Society commissioned a bronze bust of Wellington. This was a copy of the bust sculptured by David Norris, son of Alfred Norris, which had stood in the entrance to what was then the Royal British Club, next to the now-defunct British Hospital. Together with the former Parsonage, these buildings comprise the 'Estrela Site', which was registered in the name of the British Government, with HMG acting as a nominee for St. George's Church. It was sold in 2017. The bust stands in the middle of a roundabout facing the former British Hospital and was formally unveiled by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Brian Jenkins, during a visit to Lisbon in late October 1992 in the presence of the future President, Jorge Sampaio, then Mayor of Lisbon. Two weeks later, it was unveiled for a second time by the then Duke of Wellington. After the unveiling, lunch was taken at the British Club next door and later everyone attended a lecture on the First Duke's contribution to Portugal but, as it was in Portuguese without interpretation, the Duke and the Duchess were little the wiser.[32] The original of the bust is now in the garden of the former British Embassy building on Rua São Domingos de Lapa, now owned by the Lusitania insurance company.

First unveiling of the bust (Ricardo Oliveira, APN) and the bust today

[31] Tom Macan, *pers. comm.*
[32] *ibid*

In 1992 the Society published *The Portuguese Knights of the Order of the Garter* by Manuel Côrte-Real, sponsored by BP, and at the beginning of October 1992 members went on a four-day trip to Madeira, returning just in time to attend the unveiling of the Wellington bust. The 1992 annual report began with an English translation of an obituary of the chairman's mother and APN proprietor, Susan Lowndes Marques, written by Francisco Hipolito Raposo and first published in *O Independente*. The report also contained an article by the chairman on why Portugal flew flags at half-mast after the death of Hitler, when protocol outweighed political reality. There was also an article on the history of freemasonry in Portugal by Anthony Beck. D'Arcy Orders contributed one on *The Lisbon Ladies Club* and another, in 1993, on *The Lisbon Nursing Association*.[33] The 1993 report also included an article by Professor O.J.O. Ferreira, entitled 'Boer Internees in Portugal, 1901-02', providing context to the memorial to be found in the British Cemetery in Estrela, Lisbon.

The Boer Memorial (photo: Luiza Serpa)

In 1993 the Society published a short book entitled *Towards a History of the Municipality of Cascais in the Middle Ages* by A.H. de Oliveira Marques. The brief chairman's report for 1993 noted that there were around 300 members, with a "hard core" of about 80. Numerous outings continued to be organised. Although the stated object of the

[33] All his articles on British institutions were collected and published in 2014 as a BHSP publication.

Society in its constitution was to "promote interest in the history of Anglo-Portuguese relations", by now many of the activities undertaken had little to do with Britain or the British in Portugal. In 1993, for example, members headed off for a cruise with lunch along the River Sado, which was repeated the following year. Also in 1993, the Society organised a four-day trip to Cordoba and Granada in Spain. Another example of a topic remote from the Society's object was a talk given in 1994 by Mr M. Bruce on *Verdi - The Italian Risorgimento and its effect on his earlier operas*.

In 1994 d'Arcy Orders was awarded an MBE.[34] In the same year he retired from the Council, the last of the original founders of the Society to do so, although he continued to write articles. This was the last year in which the Annual General Meeting was held at the Embassy on Rua de São Domingos, as it moved to Rua de São Bernardo in 1995. Paulo Lowndes Marques took the opportunity after the AGM to give members a tour of the Embassy and its works of art. In the same year he led a walking tour in the Largo do Carmo area of Lisbon, one of several such tours he went on to guide. The annual report contained an article by Jane Flower on her great-grandfather Frederick William Flower, one of the pioneers of photography in Portugal.

In a very active year, the Society published a book by Ida Kingsbury, entitled *Castles, Caliphs and Christians: a Landscape with Figures, Monserrate*. This was the estate and mansion in Sintra that was originally built in 1788 by Gerard de Visme, an Englishman who had made his fortune from trade with Brazil. The house was briefly sublet to William Beckford in 1794, who started the landscaped garden. The mansion was replaced by an oriental-style palace in 1863 by the new owner, Sir Francis Cook,[35] a successful textile merchant, but after his descendants sold the estate in 1946, the building and garden sadly fell into neglect. In 1989, landscape gardener Gerald Luckhurst, a current member of the Society, was contracted for four years by the Portuguese

[34] *Anglo-Portuguese News*, 16 June 1994, Page 11.
[35] https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/sir-francis-cook-and-monserrate

government to start the work to restore the once-magnificent gardens. The 'Friends of Monserrate' were founded in 1992 as an independent volunteer organisation devoted to the promotion and restoration of the estate, headed up by another longstanding member of the Society, Emma Gilbert.

The 1995 AGM was held at the Embassy Residence and a talk was given about the residence by Andrew Bull, the recently retired headmaster of St Julian's School. His publication on that subject, published earlier in the year, had been subsidised by the British Council (previously the British Institute). 1995 also saw the Society organise an exhibition in the Ajuda Palace of photographs taken by Cecil Beaton when he visited Lisbon in 1942. This was funded by the Gulbenkian Foundation.[36] At the end of the year Patricia Lamb joined the council as Events Organiser and would remain in this role for over two decades. The pleas for library assistance were finally answered when Jane Flower agreed to help out.

A secretary at British Embassy, photographed by Cecil Beaton

The chairman's report in 1995 indicated that the Council was becoming increasingly aware of cost management, one of the problems being the growing cost of trips, with a reduced number of members signing up. At that time, the Society was sub-contracting the organisation of trips to a travel agency,[37] which complained about the lack of participants. Accordingly, the Council decided to have none in 1996, a decision that was met with "cries of anguish" and a rapid *volte face* by the Council. The Society's AGM in 1996 was held in St. Mary's

[36] https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/cecil-beaton-in-lisbon-1942
[37] The Council now makes all arrangements for tours itself.

Parish Centre in S. Pedro do Estoril, as was the annual lunch in the following year. The 1996 chairman's report bemoaned the lack of younger members. As we complete our 50th year, it is very much a case of *plus ça change*….

Renewed accommodation problems

In 1996 there were 13 Council members, a luxury we can only dream of today. A newcomer to the Council was Clive Gilbert, who would become chairman in 2011 when Lowndes Marques passed away. In the annual report members were informed that the Society was once again in danger of becoming homeless, as St. Andrew's required the rooms then being used for the Society's library. Lowndes Marques observed that it would be "tragic" if the Society's historical archives were dispersed or made unavailable. The 1997 report noted that the problem with finding suitable premises continued, but that there was "a light at the end of the tunnel". By 1998 the address on the front of the annual report had changed to 'Quinta Nova, Carcavelos' (i.e., St. Julian's School) but, strangely, Lowndes Marques made no mention of the move in his report. Moving from St Andrew's to St. Julian's was an expensive business. Packing and transport cost over Esc. 300,000 and the impressive, new wood and glass book cabinets, which are still in the library, cost close to Esc. 800,000.[38] As a result, there was a deficit of over one million escudos but, fortunately, the Society had assets more than sufficient to cover this and the refurbishment of the St. Andrew's premises.

The Late Nineties

The annual report for 1997 was 220 pages long, a record! It included an interesting eyewitness account of the 1908 Regicide written by Guilherme Pinto Basto,[39] who had gone down to the *Terreiro do Paço* to welcome the Royal Family back from Vila Viçosa. The version in

[38] At the time, there were approximately 280 escudos to the pound.
[39] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guilherme_Pinto_Basto

English was first published by the student newspaper of the English College in 1908. Other articles included one by Andrew Bull on the 1925 Alves dos Reis Portuguese banknote scandal; the personal reminiscences of John Wheeler who contracted meningitis and lost his hearing while living at Carcavelos; and an article by Gilbert Wells, a Second World War veteran, on *Portuguese Volunteers in the Union Army of the American Civil War*. Jane Manaster reviewed travellers' tales from the 18th and 19th centuries and regular contributors Robert Bremner and Harold Livermore were also represented.

Robert Bremner

In those days the Society not only had an annual lunch and the annual general meeting, but also, as briefly mentioned above, an annual party. Day trips to areas close to Lisbon were frequent, as were visits to museums and sites in Lisbon. More exotic in 1997 was a visit to Morocco to see the Portuguese fortresses, and in March 1998 members had a private viewing of Expo '98 in Lisbon[40] before it was officially opened. In June they headed off to the Upper Douro and in July, equipped with picnic baskets, they paid a second visit to a small chapel near Mouriscas[41] that contains on the altar the words *Diva intercede pro Anglia ut convertatur* (Lady intercede that England may be converted). Two articles that year were by members writing about their relatives in Portugal: Carol Rankin about the Pope family and Mafalda Croft de Moura about her relative Robert Lucas, treasurer of the English Factory in Lisbon, as well as the Custance family, and the Croft family.

In the same year a 100-page book by Joyce Baylis (née Bucknall) was published, entitled *Growing Up English – Memories of Portugal 1907-1930*, drawing a comparison between the very English Bucknall household and life at the *Quinta* of the more *laissez-faire* Reynolds family. The book was sponsored by 38 members of the Bucknall and Reynolds families and friends and offered as a present to all members.

[40] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expo_%2798
[41] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mouriscas

The 1999 annual report, published in 2000, found Paulo Lowndes Marques in a reflective mood. "One wonders what this type of Society will be like at the end of this century. Still a group of … dedicated amateurs. Or is it all on some advanced type of internet with visits being virtual. Or shall we all be a vague memory?" He did however note that 1999 was the first full year of the Society's tenure at St. Julian's and expressed his gratitude to the headmaster and governors for making it possible. The Society's library continues to be located at the school, for which we are very grateful. Events in 1999 included two held in the British Ambassador's residence: a joint meeting with the visiting Anglo-Portuguese Society when, according to the APN, the two societies had "agreed to work together from time to time to co-sponsor events of interest to both", with Anglo-Portuguese Society members resident in Portugal being invited to the Society's events. The other was the AGM, with a talk by the former interim Prime Minister, Diogo Freitas do Amaral.[42] Trips included a three-day visit to the Upper Alentejo, staying in Castelo de Vide; a tour of pre-historic monuments near Elvas; and a four-day visit to the Upper Minho. The annual party ceased to occur, being replaced that year by an 'annual picnic' on the Lines of Torres Vedras.

The New Millennium

The Society began the new millennium in a strong financial position, with an excess of receipts over payments of close to Esc. 500,000. In the annual report, Janet Reynolds continued the welcome practice of members writing about their families' histories in Portugal, while Kenneth Light,[43] a resident of Rio de Janeiro, wrote about the Portuguese Royal Family's arrival there in 1808. Lowndes Marques wrote an article on the quinine-based cure for malaria, known as *Agoa de Inglaterra,* malaria having been endemic in several river valleys in

[42] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diogo_Freitas_do_Amaral

[43] Who was distinguished by being made a member of the IHGB (*Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro*).

Portugal in the 18th century. Coincidentally, and not knowing about the Lowndes Marques' article as it was not at the time available on the internet, the author of this article wrote an article for Wikipedia on the same topic.[44]

The 2001 report was the first to publish the Society's accounts in Euros, with funds available at the end of the Escudo era being €8,081. The Euro was officially introduced for coins and notes on 1 January 2002. The chairman's report that year recorded that the new patron was Dame Glynne Evans,[45] the first woman to be the British ambassador to Portugal. Since then, there have been three other women ambassadors, including the incumbent. Two trips were made during the year, one to the Lower Alentejo and the other to Trás-os-Montes. The annual picnic was held at Aljubarrota, following a visit to the museum of this iconic battle, where for the second time English troops fought to help liberate Portugal from a foreign power. The Society's Christmas present to members that year was *Remembering Portugal* by Margery Withers, who had worked at the Embassy as the representative of the BBC from early 1943, having previously worked for the exiled King Manuel in Twickenham, where she was responsible for cataloguing his books and documents.

Although the Society has always been primarily for the British and English-speaking Portuguese, people of other nationalities are encouraged to join. Indeed, the present secretary, Curtis Stewart, is an American. Joseph Abdo was an American who lived in Lisbon and wrote many articles for newspapers, magazines and for the Society. In 1992 he published a book entitled "Tram Tours of Lisbon". For the 2001 annual report he contributed an article on the American Dabney family in Faial in the Azores. The same report had an article by another American, John P. Cann, on the role of Pedro Francisco Machado Luíz in the American War for Independence.

[44] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%81gua_de_Inglaterra
[45] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glynne_Evans

Another Bust

In 2002 the Society funded a bust of Catherine of Braganza, who married King Charles II and was said to have introduced tea drinking to England. The sculptor was Tim Fargher and the annual accounts recorded a cost of €2,250. The sculpture was unveiled by the Mayor of Lisbon on 16 September in front of the *Palácio da Bemposta*, which had been built by the widowed Queen on her return to Portugal. Those attending, including the British Ambassador, were then offered a cup of tea. Strangely, the 2002 annual report says nothing about this, other than the reference in the accounts, although fortunately the APN was on hand to provide a full record.[46]

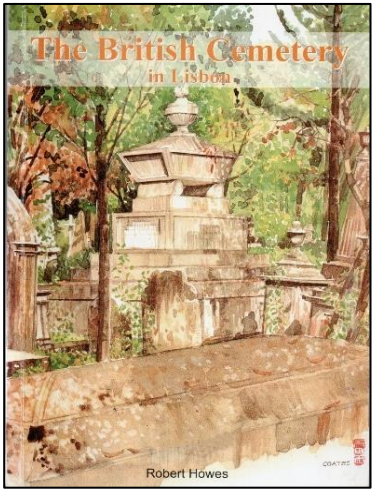
More family histories

The 2002 annual report contained an article by Carol Rankin on the Rankin family, as well as one by Carlos Alberto Damas concerning the role played by Ricardo Espírito Santo in hosting the Duke of Windsor and Mrs Simpson in Cascais when Salazar was trying to keep them away from both the press and German spies during their brief passage through Portugal. Unusually, this annual report also included a poem, written by Anne York Harris, a young member of the Quarles Harris port family, when she left Oporto for England. It began: "Oh, land of my love, I leave thee with sighs". The 2003 annual report celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Methuen Treaty between Portugal and Britain with an article by the distinguished historian, Kenneth Maxwell, and Sarah Cavendish (née Bucknall) wrote about the Bucknall family, cork

[46] APN, 19 September 2002, page 3

producers in the Alentejo.[47] The 2004 report started with a translation by Janet Reynolds of an article by Alberto Franco on Victor Reynolds, who had assisted refugees and members of the Allied military to cross the border at Elvas during WW2. The 2005 edition included two articles by authors describing their ancestors: Laetitia Frazer on the Robinson cork family of Portalegre, and Angela Delaforce about the Coverlys.

After 15 long years of dedicated service as the UK Representative helping and enrolling new members and handling payments, David Delaforce was succeeded by Barry Vernon in 2001. Unfortunately Vernon died soon after. From 2004 the representative became Andrew Gilbert, son of Emma and Clive Gilbert. The chairman announced in 2002 that the Society had embarked on a project to collect personal recollections of the Portuguese Revolution in 1974 and 1975. These were published in 2009 and summarised in the Society's newsletters in 2024 to mark the 50th anniversary. In 2003, Paulo Lowndes Marques again noted the lack of young members of the Society, saying that "perhaps it is the Council's fault. Please send in your comments". In the same year, the inaugural BHSP website was launched, managed by local resident Jeroen Huits. In 2004, the Society published *The British Cemetery in Lisbon*, which is the longest book it has ever published, at over 200 pages. Written by Robert Howes from King's College London and sponsored by BP, this is a fascinating account of a landmark in Lisbon that deserves to be more widely known.[48] The cover photo is of the Fielding memorial, one of the watercolours by John Coates that was presented to the Queen.



[47] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Maxwell
[48] Copies remain available for sale.

Canon Michael Bullock of The Greater Lisbon Chaplaincy joined the Council in 2003. Substituting Brenda Leitão, he took on the role of editor of the Annual Report for the editions of 2007 to 2011. Joan Croft de Moura and Jane Flower left the Council in 2004. Joan was soon replaced as the librarian by Dani Monteiro, who continues in this role to this day, together with other activities.

Dani Monteiro has been welcoming visitors to the library for two decades

2004 also saw the demise of the *Anglo-Portuguese News*. Were it not for the fact that an increasing number of members had email by then it would have been difficult for the Society to survive, as the APN had been essential for notifying members of forthcoming events and for alerting newcomers to Portugal to the fact that the BHSP existed.

After a long interregnum without a Porto representative, Member David Delaforce took the initiative and approached the chairman to offer to find a suitable candidate. He talked to several people and Pat Sinclair agreed to take charge of the Porto branch in 2004, who followed up on a shortlist of priorities that had been proposed by David Delaforce and agreed upon by the Council. As Lowndes Marques noted, Porto is "an area rich in Anglo-Portuguese History". On 23 October 2003, the APN had published an article entitled *The Society seeks members in the North* and the announcement of an initial meeting at the OCLTC.[49] Lowndes Marques went to Porto in May 2005 to give the Society's first talk there, on the 1755 earthquake. Three more events were held in Porto in 2006 including a talk by Clive Gilbert on the British families connected to the *Fábrica de Loiça de Sacavém* ceramics factory, his family being one of them. He repeated the same talk in Lisbon.

[49] Oporto Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club, also referred to as the British Club.

Among the talks organised during the early 2000s was one by Emma Gilbert on 'William Beckford and Monserrate'. Meanwhile, the Society was becoming ever-more ambitious in the organisation of trips, ably managed by Council member Patricia Lamb, assisted by Millie Airoldi. A five-day visit to Guimarães in 2002 was followed by a five-day trip that included a two-day cruise down the Douro. In 2003, 30 members went on a six-day trip to the province of Cadiz and there was a five-day trip to the Beiras. In 2004 members headed off on a six-day trip to Galicia in Spain, staying in Coruña, visiting the site of the famous battle, and also went on a five-day visit to the Aveiro region. 2005 saw a seven-day trip to Madeira and a six-day one to the north of Portugal in the Bragança area.

After the closure of the APN in 2004 there was little reporting of the Society's events until the revamped version of the BHSP website was launched in 2018 with the support of an external service provider. However, a record of many trips exists, both before and after the APN closed, compiled by Jacqueline Sousa Guedes. These printed reports contain maps and information about each trip and are primarily notable for the many excellent photos taken by Guedes, as well as Patricia Lamb. Copies of these reports are held in the Society's library and are well worth a look.

Several current members contributed articles in the early years of the millennium. For example, Carol Rankin wrote on the British Cemetery in Rio de Janeiro; Nick Hallidie on Wellington's three weeks at the Quinta de Gramicha near Elvas during the Peninsular War; Michael Bullock on the Rev. Henry Fulford Williams; Jane Flower on Captain John Cowrie; and Clive Gilbert on a letter from Wellington to Junot. There were two articles by Malcolm Howe on the esoteric but nevertheless fascinating topic of *English Heraldic Augmentations of Honour with Portuguese Connections*.

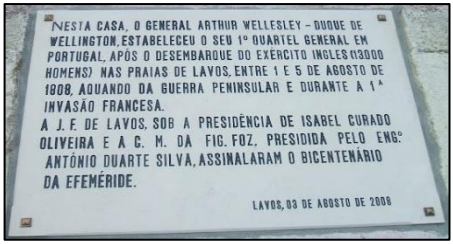
Remembering the Peninsular War

A lecture by Mark Crathorne at the BRH

The Peninsular War began in 1807 when the Napoleonic French troops invaded Portugal under the command of Marshal Junot, and ended in 1814. In his annual report of 2006, Lowndes Marques foresaw that the Society would be involved in the various commemorations of the bicentenary, and announced the establishment of a sub-committee, headed by Clive Gilbert, to manage the Society's contribution to the initiative. Most appropriate, given his expertise on this topic, our current vice-chairman, Mark Crathorne, joined the Council in 2006.

In 2007 the Society's activities continued apace, although no specific events related to the Peninsular War occurred that year. However, in his role as the British Consul, Crathorne officiated at the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the site of the first headquarters of Wellington (then Wellesley) during the Peninsular War at Lavos, near the landing site near Figueira de Foz. Society members Clive Gilbert and Christopher and Heather Shiell were also present at the event.

Crathorne and Gilbert with a tile panel depicting British landing at Lavos



The plaque at Lavos

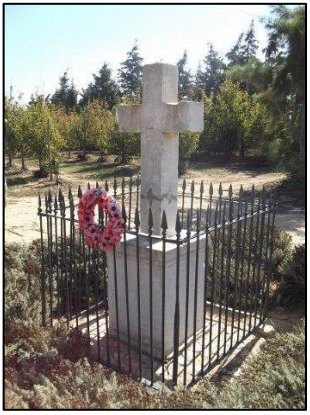
Lowndes Marques used his report to explain that the Portuguese term "*a ver navios"* (meaning "to let an opportunity slip away") derives from the fact that the French under Junot arrived in Lisbon just in time to see the sails of the Royal Family's fleet disappearing over the horizon at the start of their journey to Rio de Janeiro on 30 November 1807.

In 2008 the Society established a branch in Caldas da Raínha, led by David Clarke. That year, members went to the bicentenary commemorations of the Battles of Roliça and Vimeiro, where they enjoyed a talk by Prof. Clive Willis entitled *Two Rash Colonels,* about the "heroic impetuosity" of Colonels George Lake and Charles Taylor. His paper on that topic was published in the 2008 annual report, as were articles by Clive Gilbert on the restoration of Lake's memorial and Michael Crumplin on Surgeon Guthrie during the Peninsular War.

The Bicentenary commemoration at Col. Lake's grave

Continuing the welcome practice of members writing about their relatives, Andrew Bailey contributed an article about his father, Bill Bailey, a heroic wartime Royal Navy diver who was awarded the George Medal and Bar, as well as the DSC. The article was noticed by the Royal Naval Association, which circulated a fuller version by Bailey, resulting in a book and several chronicles being written on the hazardous duty of underwater bomb and mine disposal.

The book entitled *Eyewitness Accounts of the Portuguese Revolution (1974-76)* was published in 2009, edited with an introduction by George Lind-Guimarães. This was based on members' recollections. In 2009 activities included a talk by Malcolm Jack, then Clerk of the House of Commons, on his book *Lisbon City of the Sea – A History*. Malcolm Howe talked about the Panels of S. Vincent in front of the panels at the *Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga.* Members paid a trip to the Guadiana valley on the border with Spain. The annual report contained two articles on the Peninsular War. The first, by Lind-Guimarães, was on the Royal Navy's "Special Operation" in the Tagus that led to the death of Captain Conway Shipley. The Society contributed to the initiative of members Selwyn and Jackie Kennard to restore the memorial to Shipley at Paço d'Arcos on the *Marginal*. The second, by Robert Symington, a famous surname in the Port Wine industry, was about the role played in the Peninsular War by William Warre, also a famous Port name. Another interesting article was the reproduction of the pages of the diary of Frederick William Flower, son of the pioneer photographer, covering the Douro flood over the 1909 Christmas period.



Monuments to Captain Conway Shipley, Royal Navy and Lt-Colonel George Lake, 29th Foot (right), both supported by the Society

2010 saw numerous events organised by the Society to coincide with the commemorations of the 'Third French Invasion' in 1810, with the group in Caldas being particularly active. In May, Lisbon members went on a five-day trip to Elvas, and Badajoz and Zafra in Spain. At the British Cemetery in Elvas they took part in the 199th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Albuera, which is close to Badajoz and in September members from Lisbon, Caldas and Oporto attended the 200th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Bussaco (Buçaco), in the presence of the Duke of Kent.

June saw a special lunch to honour Lowndes Marques' 25th year as chairman of the Society. The 2010 annual report contained another welcome article by a member about an ancestor, in this case Jonathan Rawes writing about the painter Susanna Roope Dockery.[50] There was also a fascinating account by Rosemary Waters of the experiences of her father, Stanley Mitchell, in trying to secure supplies of Portuguese tungsten for the British during WWII. Meanwhile, the Society's accounts remained sound, although €1,000 was spent on the website that year. Revenue was still being generated by the sale of publications, a source of funds that has rather tailed off in recent years.

The end of an era

Paulo Lowndes Marques died on 1 January 2011, an irreplaceable loss to the Society. Clive Gilbert became chairman and noted in the 2010 annual report that Lowndes Marques had provided "enthusiastic and invaluable" support to the Society. He had been its driving force and "his Anglo-Portuguese background has proved to be one of the sources of our success". Many members attended a memorial ceremony at the Lowndes Marques family home in May and the annual report had an article by John P. Cann about the time Lowndes Marques spent doing his obligatory military service on the Zaire River.

[50] A large collection of Dockery's paintings can be found at: http://srdockery.me.uk/gallery.htm

With Gilbert becoming chairman in 2011, Crathorne took over as vice-chairman, a position he still holds. The 2011 annual report expressed concern that many members still did not have email and that postal charges to send out information represented an increasing cost that would eventually force the Society to raise its subscription fees.

Paulo Lowndes Marques and Patricia Lamb

The 2012 report suggested that many members had responded positively to the request for email addresses. The 2011 report contained two articles by Gilbert; one giving a Portuguese perspective on the Peninsular War and the other a brief history of the Sacavém ceramics factory. In 2012 he wrote about the restoration of the Lines that had been carried out in time for the bicentenary celebrations in 2009. He noted that visiting British parliamentarians had been struck by the fact that there had been no British input into the restoration project. A consequence of this was the establishment of the Friends of the Lines of Torres Vedras, which has since done much good work to publicise the Lines.[51]

[51] https://fltv.weebly.com/

The practice of lengthy trips continued in 2011, with one five-day trip to northern Portugal and another five-day trip to the Douro. In July the Lisbon and Caldas groups joined forces to sail up the Tagus from Azambuja to Valada, where they enjoyed their annual picnic. In 2012 members went on a four-day outing to Tábua and discovered that a group of British were living there. There was also a shorter trip to Grândola. Meanwhile, the Porto group continued to have some interesting talks including one by Magdalena Gorrell Guimaraens on the 1831 cholera outbreak in that city.

In 2013 a talk was given by David Johnson on Catherine of Braganza. This was held at the Palácio Bemposta where the Queen lived after the death of her husband King Charles II. Another interesting topic was a talk by Nick Lack on the Portuguese connections of Perkin Warbeck, the best-known of the 15th-century pretenders to the English throne. Clive Gilbert was proud to announce that the Lines of Torres Vedras had been classified as a National Monument. He recalled discussing this idea with the *Grupo Parlamentar de Amizade Luso-Britânica* and Lowndes Marques and having being told that it was impossible, as the law was only for individual monuments. "Then the law will have to be changed!", Lowndes Marques responded. And it was. A further advance, which was supported by the Society and the *Rota Histórica das Linhas de Torres*,[52] (the creation of which owed much to Clive Gilbert's persistence) was the decision by the Portuguese Government to decree that the 20 October should be the annual 'Lines of Torres Vedras Day'.

Mark Crathorne became editor of the annual report in 2013 and continues in that role to the present day. He and Gilbert were also kept busy showing Peninsular War sites to Portuguese groups and to visiting members from overseas, as well as to Society members in 2014 when a trip was made to Vilar Formoso, Freineda, Almeida and across the border into Spain to Fuerte Concepcion and Ciudad Rodrigo. The

[52] An association of the seven municipalities that have sites with Lines of Torres Vedras forts; https://www.rhlt.pt/en/

annual report included an article by Michael Pease on US Liberator Flight 63931, which crashed off Faro in the Algarve. Two Portuguese fishermen and the son of one of them rowed out to the crash site and rescued six airmen. Pease campaigned for 13 years for this selfless action to be formally recognised and was eventually rewarded when a very attractive memorial was unveiled in *Jardim do Largo de São Francisco* in Faro in 2022.[53]

The 2014 annual report contained a new Constitution, made necessary by the need to comply with changes to the Portuguese law. The official name of the Society was altered to *Associação Historíca Anglo-Lusa* and other changes were made regarding the annual general meeting and the establishment of a fiscal board to ensure that the Society's finances were being properly managed, although no problem in this regard has ever been experienced. The report acknowledged the support in preparing the new constitution of Filipe Lowndes Marques, son of the former chairman, who had become chairman of the AGM in 2014.

2014 was, of course, the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War and the annual report of that year marked this with an article by Patricia Lamb on commemorations in Lisbon and one by Edward Godfrey on First World War graves in the British Cemetery. The report also went rather further back, reproducing an article by Mrs M.S. Jayne on British prisoners during the Portuguese Inquisition. This had been first published by the Historical Association in 1937.

In 2014 the Society started to meet for an annual lunch with a talk at the Hotel Riviera in Carcavelos, in effect restoring the Society's bygone tradition of holding an annual party. This is still a regular venue for BHSP events as it offers three rooms: one for coffee on arrival, one for a talk with full presentation facilities, and one for dining, with very good food. Parking is also easy.

[53] https://www.bhsportugal.org/news/memorial-unveiled-to-portuguese-fishermen-who-rescued-american-airmen

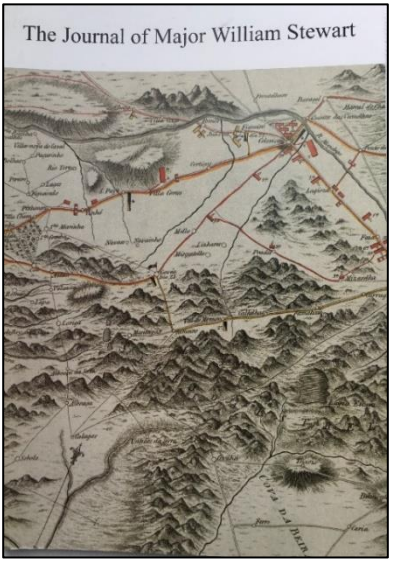
The following year marked some major changes in the Society. First, three long-term members of the Council, Millie Airoldi, the treasurer, Anne Godden, the secretary, and Patricia Lamb, the events organiser, decided it was time to stand down after years of sterling service. Edward Godfrey, the present chairman, who in his younger days in accountancy had witnessed the Revolution, was recruited as secretary and Emma Gilbert agreed to serve as the treasurer. There were also changes in the Society's two branches, with Terry Weineck replacing Pat Sinclair in Porto and Keith Lewis replacing David Clarke in Caldas. It was also announced that there had been a declining demand for multi-day trips and that the decision had been made to reduce the number of such trips and concentrate more on lectures and similar events. In this connection it was important to identify a suitable location for events that did not also involve a meal, and this was duly found at the *Academia de Letras e Artes* (ALA) in Monte Estoril, which had a good restaurant nearby if members wanted to proceed to dinner after the event.

During 2015, members had the opportunity to see the *Magna Carta*, which was on display at the *Torre de Tombo*. That was also the first year in which the annual report was printed in colour, thanks to a generous donation from Malcolm Howe. This made such an improvement to the appearance of the report that although the Society reverted to black and white in the two following years, colour printing has now been adopted as standard. Inevitably, many of the photographs depicting historical topics are in black and white or sepia, but, where possible, colour images are included to brighten up the pages, as in this article.

Articles in the 2015 report included one by Howe on the marriage of Dom Miguel I and Queen Adelaide and the only article (to date!) written for the Society by the noted historical novelist Isabel Stilwell,[54] on Philippa of Lancaster. A reproduction of a brief article by Mrs E.

[54] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabel_Stilwell

Moore on the origins of the name 'Lancaster' in Portugal, which was first published by the Historical Association back in 1937, amusingly ends: "A Portuguese gentleman has informed me that not half of the Portuguese families use their own names. On making enquiries I find that he was right." Peter Booker, Chair of the Algarve History Association, who has written several articles for the Society, contributed one entitled *The British presence in the Algarve over the centuries*. In 2015 the Society also published the diaries of Major William Stewart who served with Wellington 1810-11. These were edited by Robert Bremner, co-author of the seminal book on the Lines of Torres Vedras, discussed above, and were distributed to members free of charge.



By 2016 the number of members of the Council listed at the front of the annual report was five, the lowest it had ever been and the lowest permitted by the Constitution. With two personnel changes that remains the number. After almost a decade of successful events the branch in Caldas ceased to function due to the illness of Keith Lewis, who was to die in January 2016. Among the events was the one-off revival of the annual picnic, this time at the home of Clive and Emma Gilbert in the Sintra hills, following a visit to the Air Museum near Sintra. The report contained two interesting articles related to the 1755 earthquake; one by Booker on the rich trader, John Bristow, who became penniless when people would not or could not honour their debts after the quake and died in Lisbon in 1768 trying to collect those debts, and the other by A.R. Walford, first published by the Historical Association, on the census of the British community in Lisbon after the earthquake, listing all the names.

In 2017 Edward Godfrey became the treasurer as well as the secretary, with Emma Gilbert remaining on the Council as assistant treasurer. Under Emma Gilbert a new accounting policy had been adopted in which the receipts and payments for all events were shown. Prior to that the society had only included the net outcome of annual events in the published accounts, i.e. in either the receipts or payments sections depending on the success of the year's activities. The 2017 report showed an income from events of €7,426, compared with a cost of €6,841, the excess enabling subscription fees to remain unchanged and a donation to be made for the above-mentioned restoration of the Captain Conway Shipley memorial at Paço de Arcos. The chairman's report repeated the frequent plea for members to join the Council, which continued to consist of just five hard-working souls. The situation threatened to get worse, as in a footnote to the chairman's report it was announced that Clive Gilbert would be stepping down as chairman, while also congratulating him on his recently awarded MBE.[55]

Clive and Emma Gilbert at a talk given by the Indian Ambassador to the Society in 2002, at the British Council

[55] In 2023 Gilbert also received the Wellington Honour from the *Rota Histórica das Linhas de Torres*, with several members battling through Lisbon's Friday-evening traffic to be present at the event in Vila Franca de Xira.

A shortage of Council members did not, however, affect the quality of the annual report under the editorship of Crathorne, which was back to 156 pages and contained 13 different articles in 2017, including the *Timeline of Anglo-Portuguese Relations* that had been prepared by Paulo Lowndes Marques[56] and three articles on Gerard de Visme, member of the British Factory, founder of the British Seamen's Hospital, and builder of the house at Monserrate. A welcome article on Oporto was supplied by Richard Symington, who looked at British families there dating as far back as the 12th century

In 2018, Isabel Lowndes Marques kindly offered her home in Belém for the AGM and lunch, which were accompanied by a talk on Lusitano horses by Diogo Lima Mayer. A trip was undertaken to Aveiro and Ílhavo. Under the guidance of Terry Weineck, the Oporto branch hosted several interesting talks, including one by Pedro de Brito, a frequent speaker and contributor to the Society's annual report. This time, his talk was entitled *Henry Evans Lloyd, the perfect soldier of fortune*. A surplus was made on events in 2018, which was perhaps just as well as the Society spent over €5,000 on the development of a new web site[57] in that year. In writing his chairman's report, Edward Godfrey proved more informative than his predecessors, his two-page report being the first to be more than one page since 1987.

The annual report for 2018 reverted to colour, again with a donation from Malcolm Howe. This greatly enhanced his article on the stained-glass windows of the Church of St James in Twickenham in memory of the Portuguese soldiers who died in WWI. April 2018 marked the centenary of the tragic events at the battle of La Lys, when 400 Portuguese were killed and 6,500 taken as prisoners. Three other articles also covered this topic. The report also included two articles related to the rededication of the monument to Captain Conway Shipley.

[56] The BHSP is constantly seeking to improve the online version of the Timeline. If readers can suggest events that are missing, or Society articles that should be linked to events that are already there, please get in touch.
[57] www.bhsportugal.org

The COVID years

In 2019 and 2020 the number of Council members briefly increased to six, when Curtis Stewart joined as the secretary. The author of this article began to work with the Society as its webmaster but declined the invitation to become a member of the Council, largely because the Council's in-person meetings were conveniently timed to disrupt his siesta. The Society organised only one two-day trip in 2019, to Evoramonte and Vila Viçosa. A donation was made towards the publication of the book *Sacavém, Pottery Like No Other*, which chronicles the history of the Horworths, Gilmans and Gilberts, who developed the *Fábrica de Loiça de Sacavém* into a household name in Portugal. Many of the Society's members attended the presentation of the book in December at the Ajuda Palace. The following year, in 2020, the Society contributed €500 towards the cost of a new interactive table in the Interpretation Centre of the Lines of Torres Vedras at Sobral and in 2024 contributed a further €500 to the same museum towards the cost of purchasing a Brown Bess Musket[58] for the same centre, as it did not possess one in its collection.

The launch of *Sacavem, Pottery like no other* at the Ajuda Palace

[58] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_Bess

Annual report articles in 2019 and 2020 included one on the *Barons de Sandeman*, by Malcolm Howe, based on a book he had kindly presented to the Society; one by Miguel Pack Martins, giving a French perspective on the Peninsular War, and another welcome contribution by a member about his family history, this time by Michael Sellers. A sporting element was introduced with an article by the author of this article on the British impact on the development of sport in Portugal, and another by Peter Cobb on the history of the Oporto Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club. Regular, and much appreciated, contributors were also represented, such as Peter Booker, Pedro de Brito, Rui Moura, and Professor Ron B. Thomson from Canada.

An attractive and easy-to-use website was launched in 2018 with the support of an external service provider, which enabled the Society to feature events and news and put together regular newsletters, the first of which was issued in January 2019. Taking advantage of the revamped website, a lengthy exercise was embarked upon by Dani Monteiro to scan all past articles published in the Society's annual reports, as well as earlier reports issued by the Historical Association. These were uploaded to the website. The website also includes the *Timeline of Anglo-Portuguese Relations from the 12th century to the present*, developed by Paulo Lowndes Marques, as mentioned above.

The author of this article was eventually persuaded to join the Council although, unlike d'Arcy Orders in 1973, was not invited to an alcoholic lunch to convince him. Edward Godfrey appealed to his better nature by pointing out that there were only four members on the Council and the constitution required a minimum of five. The number remains at five, but more would be better. Please get in touch!

As the Society was unable to carry out many of the usual events during the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual subscription was reduced significantly for 2021 and 2022. However, as governments that introduced subsidies have learnt to their cost, reducing prices is fine until they have to be raised again! The Council's decision to raise membership fees in 2023 was in part a reflection of the return to a more

normal range of activities. The Pandemic did, however, provide the Society with not only the time to invest in its online content, especially the newsletter, with a record seven issues being published in 2020, but it also forced a further move into the digital age.[59] Until then, the Council had met monthly at the library at St Julian's School, but it quickly moved to meeting online by *Zoom*, and continues to do so. Two annual general meetings were held by *Zoom*, in compliance with the law in force. Organising online talks was, however, one step too far, although other similar organisations have done this successfully.

When it became legal to do so, a few outdoor events were organised in 2021, namely a guided tour of the British Cemetery by our chairman; a guided walk along the Oeiras coast by our vice-chairman; walks on the Lisbon aqueduct; a tour of Lisbon in the footsteps of WWII spies; and a visit to Monte Estoril to follow the plight of WWII refugees. 2021 was also notable for the receipt of generous donations from David Delaforce and Malcolm Howe. Such donations are always welcome and the new membership software even facilitates donations online!

The Society's newsletter has become more ambitious since its inception.[60] The original intention was to provide links to a couple of existing articles each issue but the attempt to commission new articles resulted in contributions by members Carol Rankin, Ninna Taylor, Curtis Stewart and Edward Godfrey. Academics from Portugal, Britain, Brazil, the US, and Spain have also made contributions. Nevertheless, additional articles and other contributions by members would be very much welcomed, especially articles on British family histories in Portugal, written by members of the family.

Meeting by *Zoom* also enabled the involvement in Council meetings of the reinvigorated Porto branch. Alan Dawber took over responsibility for the branch in 2022, following the sad death of Terry Weineck, and immediately started to organise an active programme of

[59] All available at https://www.bhsportugal.org/news/newsletters
[60] https://www.bhsportugal.org/news/newsletters

events, willingly hosted by the Oporto Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club (OCLTC), with participants often staying on afterwards for dinner. He was ably assisted by his wife, Maria and by Janice Bain. This impetus resulted in more Porto-related articles and newsletter features, with Lisbon members visiting Porto for events. Activities included visits to the house and gardens of Vilar d'Allen and a walking tour of Porto. Talks given at the OCLTC were on varied topics, including one by Jorge Martins Ribeiro on 'The Role played by the British Community in Trade, Politics and Social Life from the Late-18th to the mid-19th Century', a presentation on Baron Joseph James Forrester, a talk by Drª Margarida Ramalho, entitled 'Lisbon- the last frontier' on refugees in WW2, which she had first given in Lisbon, and a talk on the connections between Bristol and Porto. However, at the end of 2024 it was decided by mutual agreement that Alan Dawber should retire from the role, leaving the Society once again looking for a new coordinator for Porto.

Life returned to normal in 2022, and members went on a trip to Mértola and the Minas de São Domingo, with Peter Booker guiding us around the latter. A four-day trip to Porto was organised in 2023, with members from Porto joining the boat and rail trip on the Douro. The 2024 trip was to Belmonte, Urgeiriça, Gouveia and Conímbriga. Of course, there is always a risk with such trips that things will not be perfect. On the Porto trip, for example, the coach followed *Google Maps* and found itself facing a bridge that it could not get under. It took 30 minutes for the driver to extricate himself from the situation.

The Society's visit to the São Domingos Mine near Mértola, 2022 (photo: Luiza Serpa])

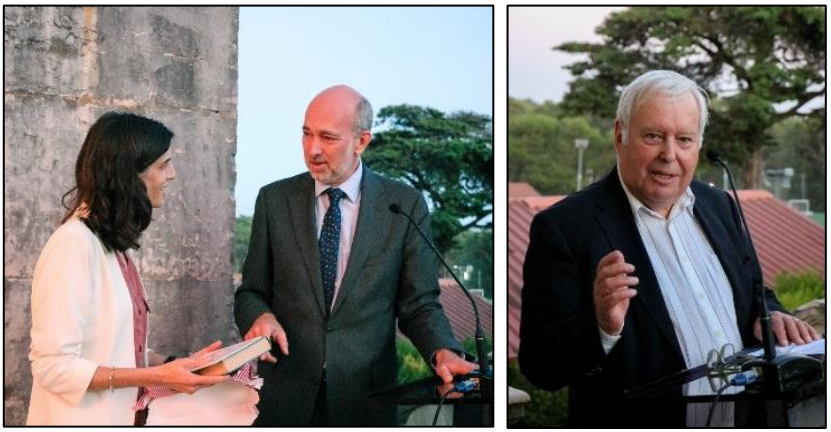
On to the next 50 years

In 2024 the Society's relationship with the Lowndes Marques family continued when Filipa Lowndes Vicente spoke to both the Lisbon and Porto groups on 'English visitors to Goa (1850-1950)'. The Society also noted the 50th anniversary of the Revolution. For some years it had been trying to persuade the noted expert on Portuguese wine, Richard Mayson, to talk about the British influence on wine in Portugal. However, with the 50th anniversary of the Carnation Revolution approaching, Mayson preferred to talk on the Music of the Revolution, giving an update of a talk he had first presented to the Anglo-Portuguese Society in London a decade earlier. Later in 2024 he kindly repeated his presentation to the Porto group. Articles on the Revolution and its aftermath were also published in the newsletter, including one by Óscar José Martín García on the role of the British Labour Party in furthering social democracy in Portugal.

Poster to advertise Richard Mayson's talk on the Music of the Revolution

The launch of the online digital archive of the *Anglo-Portuguese News* (APN) also occurred in 2024, through the digitisation of the bound volumes in the Society's library. This very welcome initiative was implemented by Filipe Lowndes Marques, the grandson of the

newspaper's longstanding owners, Luiz Marques and Susan Lowndes. Co-sponsored by several donors, including the BHSP, the website was formally launched in September at St Julian's School, with which four generations of the Lowndes Marques family have had close connections. This website will undoubtable prove to be an excellent resource for researchers and, indeed, it was used extensively in preparing this history of the Society.[61]



Launch of the online digital archive of the *Anglo-Portuguese News* (APN). From left: HM Ambassador, Lisa Bandari; Filipe Lowndes Marques; Edward Godfrey (photos: St Julian's School)

The Society's 50th anniversary year ended fittingly, as the chairman, Edward Godfrey, was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to the local community. As the Society entered its 51st year, further technological changes have been introduced by way of an automatic subscription renewal and event registration system, based on a platform mysteriously known as 'Wild Apricot'. For a relatively small annual fee, this should reduce the workload of the Society's Treasurer and Librarian and simplify the organisation and payment of events. It could not have been implemented without the invaluable voluntary assistance of one of the members, Mark Davies.

[61] https://www.angloportuguesenews.pt/

Acknowledgements

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Andrew Shepherd *arrived in Portugal in 2017. He discovered the British Historical Society when exploring the Lines of Torres Vedras and learning about the book on that topic by Norris and Bremner. A visit to the Society's library to purchase a copy ensued. He is now BHSP's webmaster and editor of the quarterly newsletter, as well as the author of several articles published by the Society.*