



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE
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PRESS RELEASE

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John Mackintosh Hall – Acts of Vandalism

The John Mackintosh Hall has recently been subjected to repeated acts of vandalism. These acts have been targeted mainly at the public toilets, causing their inevitable closure prior to main functions in the theatre.

The ground floor toilets at the Hall had very recently been fully refurbished and were re-opened to the public on Monday 26th October 2008. However, they had to be closed on three occasions during that same week due to blockages caused by acts of vandalism. The bursting of a major pipe supplying water to the first floor toilets further exacerbated the situation at the John Mackintosh Hall. Once the fault was traced the required spare parts had to be ordered from the United Kingdom as the fault lay in part of the original piping system dating back to the opening of the Hall in 1964.

On the afternoon of Friday 7th November, the ground floor toilets once again flooded, shortly before the performance of "The Sound of Music" in the theatre. The toilets had to be closed and contingency plans put into action. Museum staff and contracting plumbers started to tackle the problem as from 7.00 a.m. on Saturday 8th November and found that the toilets had once again been vandalised with long strands of cloth being rammed into the ground floor toilets along with inordinate amounts of toilet paper. In addition, large amounts of tissue paper had also been inserted into the drainage pipes of the washbasins. All works, including the first floor toilets, were completed by lunchtime on Saturday, ahead of the matinée performance of "The Sound of Music" with the spare parts having arrived late on Friday. During the course of the works in the first floor toilets it was found that some pipes had also been further vandalised.

As of lunchtime on Saturday 8th November 2008 all toilets in the John Mackintosh Hall were back in full working order. The matter of the vandalism, that in recent months has even included tennis balls and shoes being found within the pipe work, has been duly reported to the Royal Gibraltar Police. Any member of the public who observes such acts of vandalism is requested to inform the John Mackintosh Hall management immediately. The management regrets any inconvenience caused to the public.
