



**MAYOR'S PARLOUR
CITY HALL
GIBRALTAR**

5th July 2011

PRESS RELEASE

OPEN DAY – CITY HALL

As part of his personal wish to open up the City Hall to the community and conscious of the fact that there are members of the public who have never had an opportunity to visit the City Hall, His Worship the Mayor has decided to host an open day at City Hall on Saturday 16th July from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

His Worship cordially invites the general public, as well as visitors to Gibraltar, to visit the City Hall on that day and view the splendours of the house and its many neo-classical features, all of which represents an important component in Gibraltar's varied heritage; in particular, depicting the kind of typically prosperous accommodation which existed in Gibraltar close on 200 years ago and are worthy of comparison with any capital city of Europe.

The public will be able to visit:

1. The Entrance Lobby, with its classical terms, in the shape of human heads, being the busts of 'Hermes', as the protector of boundaries and which continues as pillars, and all surmounted by the eternal flame urns, depicting the enduring spirit of mankind;
2. The Hall, with its marble Doric columns and chequered marble floor and more recent Mayoral Portraits, commencing with the late Sir Joshua Hassan;

3. The Main Staircase, with its delightful two cupolas, crowning the first landing, decorated with plaster garlands of leaves and flowers and further Mayoral portraits, upon the walls;
4. The Council Chamber, (formerly the Grand Drawing Room) with its alabaster mantle piece, its fluted pilasters, stucco work, gilding, architectural frieze and entablature, leading to the impressive 'trompe l'oeil' fresco ceiling, thought to have been painted by an artist called Ansaldi and depicting Roman themes, including panels replicating:
 - [i] the emblem of the Roman Republic;
 - [ii] Romulus and Remus, being suckled by the She-wolf;
 - [iii] the Rape of the Sabine Women, which took place in the 4th century BC. The panel is closely based upon the very well known work of 1636 by the French artist Poussin;
 - [iv] the Battle of Milvian Bridge 312 AD, when the Emperor Constantian was told he would conquer in the sign of the Cross and duly did, with Christianity then becoming the official religion of the Roman Empire. The panel is a copy of a fresco dated 1585, by the Italian artist Guilio Romano, found in the Vatican;
 - [v] the Battle between the Roman Horatii triplets and the Alban Curiatti triplets 650 BC. The panel is an exact copy of the drawing by the French artist Le Barbier, dated 1786;
 - [vi] the Emperor Justinian, who codified Roman Law, in 533-34 AD and also his partner, Empress Theodora.
5. The Mayor's Parlour (formerly the Music Room) and replicating much of what is found in the adjoining Grand Chamber;

6. The City Hall Balcony, with its vistas over John Mackintosh Square towards Parliament House and which has become the focus point of so many aspects of Gibraltar's history - not least our National Days.

In addition, the Mayoral Robes and Regalia will also be on display in the Council Chamber.