



**MAYOR'S PARLOUR
CITY HALL
GIBRALTAR**

18th July 2011

PRESS RELEASE

Visit by the Mayor to the inaugural festivities of La Linea Fair
15th July, 2011.

His Worship the Mayor, Anthony J. P. Lombard, in the company of Miss Gibraltar, Louise Gillingwater-Peterson, were guests of honour, at the festivities marking the commencement of the La Linea Fair, on Friday 15th July, 2011.

The Mayor and Ms. Gibraltar had been officially invited to the event, by the recently appointed Mayor of La Linea, Gemma Araujo. The Mayor and Ms. Gibraltar were accompanied by an official from the Culture Ministry and travelled into Spain by official car and then transferred into an official car of the Municipality of La Linea, which remained at their disposal for the duration of their visit. The Mayor and his entourage were also afforded Municipal Police escort, whilst at the festivities, which took place in the main square of La Linea.

As a courtesy to our neighbouring town and as a gesture of good faith, the Mayor attended the event wearing the Mayoral Chain of Office. In doing so, the Mayor and his hosts were conscious of the fact that history was in the making. Whilst it may not have been the first occasion when a Mayor of Gibraltar had officially attended an event in La Linea, it was thought to be the first time a Mayor did so wearing the impressive and historic Chain of Office of the Municipality of Gibraltar.

The Mayor's gracious gesture was not lost upon our neighbours, who received the Mayor with continuous expressions of gratitude and good cheer. As was to be expected, the Chain of Office caused quite a sensation and aroused much interest, with many approaching the Mayor to greet him and take the opportunity to inspect the Chain of Office.

Mayor Lombard said, it proved a particularly proud moment for him to be able to so promote Gibraltar and all we represent, in Spanish territory.

When the Mayor of La Linea, arrived at the Square, at the head of the procession of participants to the event, she immediately greeted Mayor Lombard,

whereupon Mayor Lombard chivalrously kissed her hand, in salutation. The regional Press photographers went into a frenzy and a formidable explosion of flash lights ensued, with all present jostling to record the historic moment. Mayor Lombard joking quipped, he felt like 'Jude Law' !

Mayor Araujo offered Mayor Lombard very warm words of welcome, with Mayor Lombard expressing reciprocal sentiments, stating his pleasure at being able to be present at La Linea, in support of their most important annual festivity.

The event lasted over 3 hours and, at the conclusion of the evening, further photographs were taken of both Mayors solely, and then in the company of the Councillors of the coalition, currently comprising the Municipal Council of La Linea.