



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Magna Carta Barons on Trial at Westminster Hall, 31 July 2015

THE CHARGE: TREASON!

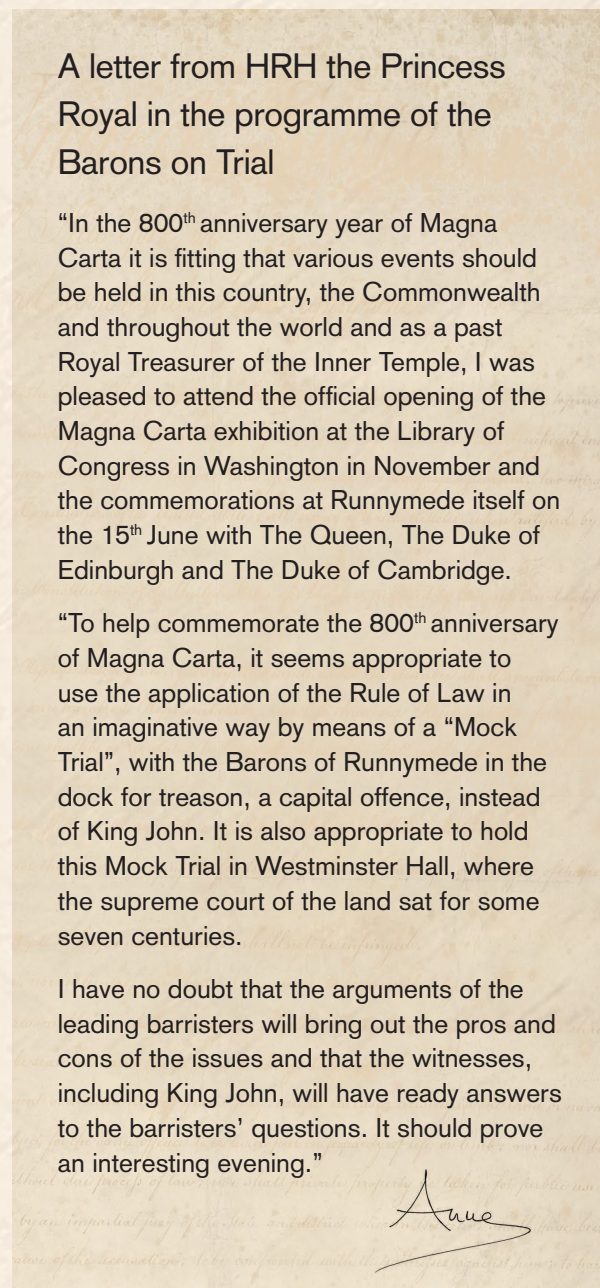
Over 800 people filled the 1,000 year old Westminster Hall on Friday, 31 July, to witness the Barons (and Bishops) on trial with a Tribunal of Lord Neuberger, President of the UK Supreme Court, Chief Justice Dame Sian Elias and US Justice Stephen Breyer sitting in judgment. The witnesses for the prosecution were King John (played by Clive Anderson) and Lord (Igor) Judge playing Archbishop Stephen Langdon; for the defence of the Barons Professor David Carpenter as Baron Robert FitzWalter, and William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke (Lord Lisvane, formerly Sir Robert Rogers).

Lord McNally, leading the representative barons and bishops in the dock, front row actually, remarked afterwards that until the closing argument by their advocate, Natalie Lieven QC, he thought they would be found guilty as charged, especially for conspiring with King Philip of France ('our hated enemy') to take over the crown of England as well as renouncing fealty. I commiserated with James Eadie QC who represented King John that perhaps the verdict was 'destined', he said 'doomed'. Still, both represented their clients well.

I'd say that the decision was far from inevitable, but showed how the bravery and determination of those barons eight hundred years ago rings down the centuries as a justified act of rebellion. Those of us living today in democracies which take the rule of law seriously are reaping the benefits of the barons' bold demonstration against King John. The judges vindicated the brave men who laid their lives on the line to secure freedoms we still enjoy today.

THE VERDICT: NOT GUILTY. It was unanimous, with a forensically reasoned opinion rendered by Chief Justice Elias, an impassioned modern interpretation of the importance of the Mock Trial being in its extension beyond Westminster Hall to "interest and inform" students. We'll be trying to get it to schools across the world.

[Click here to see the Mock Trial as it happened.](#)



A letter from HRH the Princess Royal in the programme of the Barons on Trial

"In the 800th anniversary year of Magna Carta it is fitting that various events should be held in this country, the Commonwealth and throughout the world and as a past Royal Treasurer of the Inner Temple, I was pleased to attend the official opening of the Magna Carta exhibition at the Library of Congress in Washington in November and the commemorations at Runnymede itself on the 15th June with The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh and The Duke of Cambridge.

"To help commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, it seems appropriate to use the application of the Rule of Law in an imaginative way by means of a "Mock Trial", with the Barons of Runnymede in the dock for treason, a capital offence, instead of King John. It is also appropriate to hold this Mock Trial in Westminster Hall, where the supreme court of the land sat for some seven centuries.

I have no doubt that the arguments of the leading barristers will bring out the pros and cons of the issues and that the witnesses, including King John, will have ready answers to the barristers' questions. It should prove an interesting evening."

The Mock Trial – in pictures



Gavin Esler, BBC (Narrator)



Tribunal, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer (USA), President of the Supreme Court Lord Neuberger (UK), Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Dame Sian Elias (NZ)



Natalie Lieven QC, the defence of the barons and bishops



Lord (Igor) Judge, William Marshal



(Sir) Robert Rogers, Baron Lisvane, (Archbishop Langton)



Clive Anderson as King John: "These are MY judges and this is MY court!"



The Hall was filled to capacity



Prof. David Carpenter, Baron FitzWalter

Sir Robert Worcester receives Kent Invicta Award and ABA Presidential Citation

Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman of the 800th Committee, has received the Kent Invicta Award from Kent County Council.

The award is given to those who have “*achieved excellence in their chosen field, and who have provided an exceptional service to the county.*”

On the 1st June, Sir Robert hosted a Kent County Council Magna Carta themed Citizenship Ceremony at Allington Castle, Kent. Alongside the award Sir Robert was presented a cheque for £5,000. He has donated half to Canterbury Cathedral Trust, and the other half to Rochester Cathedral Trust.

William Hubbard, President of the American Bar Association, recently gave the President’s Award of the ABA to Sir Robert “*for serving as an extraordinary champion for the American Bar*

Association and its role in commemoration events for the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in the United Kingdom and for tirelessly advancing the concepts of liberty, freedom, and the rule of law as chair of the Magna Carta 800th Committee”.





August Highlights:

1st August – 30th September: 'Magna Carta: Chartered Voyage', UK Supreme Court.

5th, 'Simon De Montfort and the Battle of Evesham,' LiberTeas event at Worcester Cathedral.

8th – 9th: Medieval Weekend, Durham Cathedral.

10th – 15th: Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival. 'Alice in Wonderland' and Magna Carta theme.

13th: 'Kent's Place in Magna Carta: the Making and Preservation of a Legend', Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone. Professor Nicholas Vincent, Speaker.

15th August – 18th September: 'Magna Carta Canada', exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.

15th: 'Magna Carta: Mayhem and Merriment', Hereford Cathedral. Historical Re – enactment day.

28th August – 6th September: 'Lincoln Magna Carta Festival 800', Lincoln. Speakers include the family of Rosa Parks, David Starkey, Carol Anne Duffy and others.

28th: 'Any Questions?' BBC Radio 4. Sir Robert Worcester, Panellist.

September Highlights

1st: 'English Common Law: Magna Carta Overview', King's College London. Association of Federal Judges of Brazil London Programme. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

5th – 6th: 'The Past, Present, and Future of the Rule of Law', Centre for Common Law, Renmin University Law School, Beijing. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

5th: 'Music and Freedom', Lincoln Cathedral. Sir Mark Elder, Speaker.

5th: 'Suffolk and Liberty', Conference at Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

18th: 'Magna Carta Books', Rye Literary Festival, Winchelsea. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

19th – 20th, 'Revealing Magna Carta at Temple', Temple Church. Family weekend of events.

20th: William Marshal plaque unveiled, Carlton House, London.

23rd: 'On Slavery', Worcester Cathedral. LiberTeas event. Professor Suzanne Swartz, Speaker.

24th September – 6th October, 'Magna Carta Rediscovered', Sandwich. The Sandwich Magna Carta on display for the first time.

25th – 29th: Cartmel Priory Magna Carta Anniversary Festival.

25th: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

28th: Bristol Legal Walk

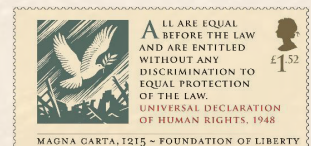
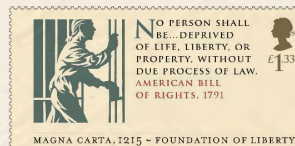
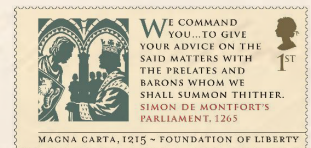
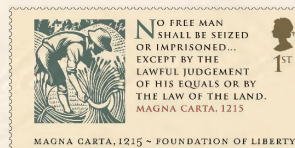
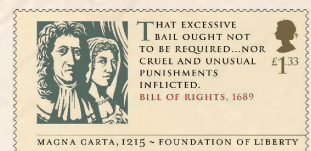
28th: 'Magna Carta: the Charter that Changed the World', Windsor Castle.

Magna Carta 800th Stamps

Royal Mail produced 6 Magna Carta and Human Rights themed stamps (pictured), released in the first week of June.

The stamps feature the sealing of Magna Carta (1215); Simon De Mortfort's Parliament (1265); the Bill of Rights (1689); the American Bill of Rights (1791); the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); and the Charter of the Commonwealth (2013).

A historical Presentation Pack is available to order along with the rest of the Magna Carta range. Call 03457 641 641 and quote 16PBA or order online by clicking here.





'Chartered Voyage' launches at the UK Supreme Court



On the 28th July His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, opened a new Magna Carta exhibition at the UK Supreme Court.

'Magna Carta: Chartered Voyage' runs at the Court (pictured, above) between the 3rd August and 25th September.

Westminster Abbey has agreed to loan its engrossment of the version of the Charter sealed by Edward I in 1300 to the Court, its neighbour on Parliament Square.

Interpretative panels will explore how the legal significance of Magna Carta developed over time and was used by the courts to protect fundamental freedoms, as well as its effect on emerging nations to place the Rule of Law at the heart of written constitutions.

The exhibition will be open to the public on weekdays between the 3rd August and 25th September.

Jenny Rowe, Chief Executive of the Supreme Court, said: "An image of Magna Carta is prominently displayed at the heart of the Supreme Court building on our Library doors, but the 800th anniversary provides a great platform for examining the facts behind some of the mythology which has grown up around the Charter's impact. We are approaching the subject with a critical eye and hope to explain how Magna Carta is an export of which the British can be very proud."

The exhibition will also have a permanent legacy in the form of an exquisite hand-written and extensively illuminated exemplification of Magna Carta in modern English. The reproduction, commissioned by the Crown Office, has been on display at the Supreme Court from the 15th June. A replica of the reproduction is available for £12 from the Supreme Court.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Last chance to see 'Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy' at the British Library



'Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy,' is the largest exhibition ever staged about this world famous document. It assesses the Charter from its genesis, through to the popular culture of today.

The exhibition features over 200 objects and artefacts that tell the story of Magna Carta. It includes two of the four original 1215 Magna Carta documents, Jefferson's handwritten copy of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the original copies of the US Bill of Rights. This is the first time these US documents have both been on display together in the UK.

The exhibition is sponsored by Linklaters. US Loans are sponsored by law firm White & Case LLP.

A free Children's Audio Guide is available at the Box Office. This is a Round 2 project supported by the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

Over 80,000 people have already enjoyed the exhibition, making it the British Library's most popular paid exhibition ever.

The 1st September is the last day of the exhibition. Don't miss out on your chance, book now.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Sandwich Magna Carta open to public for first time

Maidstone Archives, December 2015:

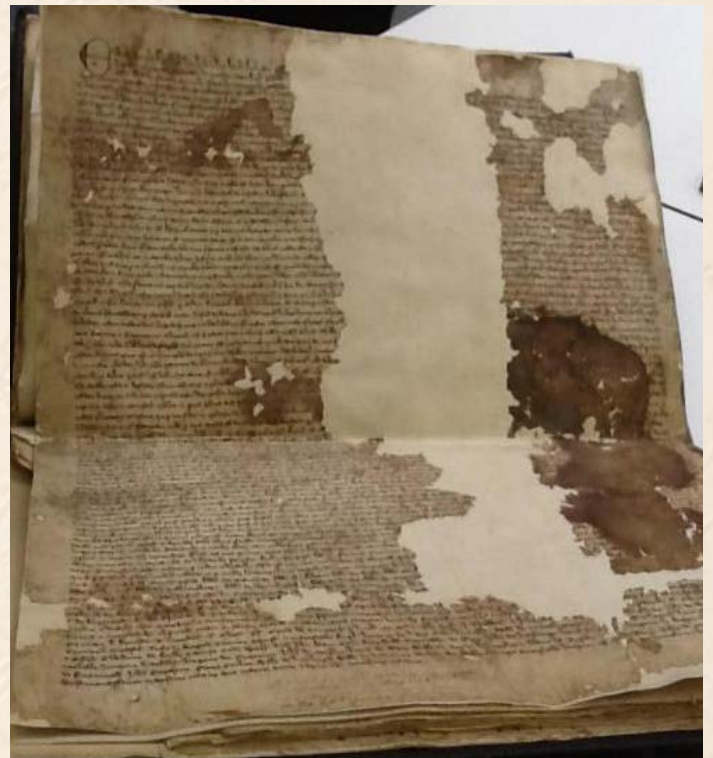
Dr Mark Bateson, researcher, discovered a hitherto unknown copy of Magna Carta, with its sister document, the Charter of the Forest.

Since the late 19th Century these documents had been hidden, glued into a Victorian scrapbook. This was the British Library's preferred method of conservation.

Sandwich was appointed as one of the Cinque Ports in 1155. It held a prominent position in English society as a hub for trade and also as a first line of defence against possible attacks.

Sandwich has been included in '*Magna Carta Rediscovered*' to commemorate this discovery. Funded by the 800th Committee, the touring exhibition will be held in Sandwich's Guildhall between 24th September- 6th October, open between 11am – 6pm. Kent Archives have worked to remove the Charters from the scrapbook and restore them to a condition where people can enjoy them for years to come.

This will be the first time in memory that these two documents will be on display together to the public. This makes the exhibition's tenure at Sandwich particularly exciting, and all are invited.



The Sandwich Magna Carta, which was found in a Victorian scrapbook in council archives.

Magna Carta 800th Chairman and Executive Director awarded Commendation by Surrey Police

Chairman of the 800th Committee, Sir Robert Worcester, and Executive Director, Mark Gill, have been awarded a Neighbourhood Inspector's Commendation from Surrey police. The commendation thanks both for their outstanding contribution to the success of Magna Carta events in the area, including Magna Carta Day at Runnymede Meadows on the 15th June.

Roger H. Neild, Runnymede Neighbourhood Inspector, said "*Magna Carta events were preceded by five years of planning and in Runnymede led to three key days of events and one state occasion. All events went off without issue; there were no arrests, no penalty notices were issued, there were no fires nor was anyone lost in the Thames. Over 40,000 extra visitors came to the Borough. [These] commendations are very rarely awarded. Please receive my sincere thanks [...] for your involvement in this once in a lifetime event.*"



Take a walk through history with Magna Carta Trails

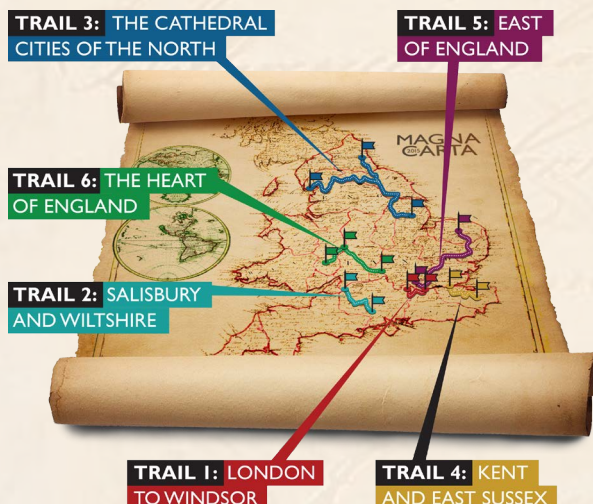
For those enjoying a summer break in August, there are six bespoke Magna Carta Trails across England developed and funded by the 800th Committee and partners.

Featuring sites of importance in the story of the Great Charter, sections of the Trails can be completed in a day, or visited across several, or even, as some have done, for a fortnight's holiday.

Sites of interest include Cathedrals, Castles, and Runnymede itself. In all, these Trails would enable Trails travellers to see many of the 26 Magna Cartas we know exist.

1. London to Windsor: including the British Library (**), the City of London (*), the National Archives (***) Runnymede, and Windsor.
2. Salisbury and Wiltshire: including Salisbury Cathedral (*), Stonehenge, and Trowbridge.
3. The Cathedral Cities of the North: including Lincoln (*), York, Durham (***) and Carlisle.
4. Kent and East Sussex: including Dover, Faversham (*), Canterbury, Sandwich (*) and Rochester.
5. The East of England: including St Albans, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge and Norwich.
6. The Heart of England: including Oxford (***), Evesham, Worcester and Hereford (*).

* = A copy of Magna Carta



Sustrans launch Magna Carta Bicycle Trail

Sustrans have developed a commemorative national Magna Carta Cycle Trail map (pictured). This is a Round 2 project funded by the 800th Committee.



The map features the main Charter Towns, the locations of Charter copies, associated battlefields and the homes of the original Magna Carta Barons. Existing National Cycle Network routes link these historic locations.

The map has been widely distributed to tourist outlets in Magna Carta Towns and other suitable locations and further promoted through the Sustrans website. Information was supplied by the Battlefields Trust and the Magna Carta Barons Association. Along with celebrating the 800th anniversary, it also celebrates 20 years of the National Cycle Network.

[Click here to view the map in full high – resolution.](#)

John Major's interest in Magna Carta goes back a long way

Former Prime Minister, John Major, gave the inaugural Edward Heath lecture at the Guildhall, Salisbury, on 17 June, 2015.

He was taught about it as a boy when *"learning about our history, it was thought to be essential to our education."*

As a young banker, he told the Chairman of Standard Chartered in 1975 that they could borrow a copy of Magna Carta to display during the American bicentennial year of 1976. The project was a great success.

In his speech, Major said *"Magna Carta, although undeniably English at birth, has become an essential component in the laws of English-speaking nations around the world. In the UK, it underpins our system of law, and was an inspiration to the Chartists and the Suffragettes as they sought the right to vote. In America, its influence is evident in the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. So it is instructive to examine its origins."*

[Click here to read the speech in full.](#)



Magna Carta Project News

The 800th Committee has funded Magna Carta projects across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

'Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter' tours Barbados and Malawi



The Supreme Court of Barbados hosted the 'Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter' travelling exhibition between 22nd May and 12th June (pictured, left). The exhibition is organised jointly by the CLA, CMJA and CLEA, with production costs sponsored by Lexis Nexis and shipped under a round 3 grant from the 800th Committee.

Students from Wesley Hall Primary School (pictured, left) were shown how legal systems evolve through the ages. We would like to thank the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court of Barbados for the warm welcome the exhibit received.

Following a successful visit to Barbados, the exhibition moved on to the Malawi capital of Lilongwe, where the exhibition ran from the 26th June to the 10th July. The National Assembly lobby hosted the exhibition and it received broad coverage in the local press and television. Our thanks to all those in Malawi who helped ensure the exhibit was seen by as many visitors as possible.

Skillnet CIC, 'Our Great Charter'



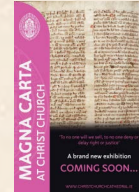
'Our Great Charter' is using the 800th anniversary to educate and equip young adults with learning disabilities to overcome their own experience of disempowerment.

Skillnet CIC ran an interactive art installation at The Beaney Museum in Canterbury, from Saturday 13th June to Sunday 28th June. The installation featured sounds, images, and activities and asked visitors to write their own Magna Carta.

Skillnet CIC also ran an 18 – week course called 'Great Citizens.' Learners studied who has power and how it is used, historically and today. Throughout July, learners visited Parliament, Canterbury Cathedral, and local councils, and developed their own Charter of Rights.

This is a round five Magna Carta 800th funded project. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, 'Magna Carta at Christ Church'



Christ Church Cathedral Dublin owns a 14th Century copy of Magna Carta contained in the 'Liber Niger' ('Black Book'). This is

an eclectic mix of literary, theological and administrative material created by the Canons of Christ Church.

Thanks to a Round 5 grant supplied by the 800th Committee, the Cathedral can display this artefact in a new interactive exhibition in the crypt. Alongside the exhibition is a series of public events on the theme of human rights, workshops for schools, and calligraphy classes.

[Click here for more information.](#) Further information will be available on the campaign's website. For more details please contact The Conservation Foundation on info@conservationfoundation.co.uk, or on 0207 591 3111.

Graham Clarke's '*Starta Magna Carta Thearta*', and '*Magna Carta Rediscovered*', at the Beaney, Canterbury



Students of St Stephen's Junior School pose with acclaimed Kent artist Graham Clarke

Artist Graham Clarke, creator of the Magna Carta etching, '*Very Much Obligated*', is touring a children's play, '*Starta Magna Carta Thearta and other delights*' at libraries in Kent. This is a Round 2 Magna Carta 800th funded project.

Mr. Clarke acts as narrator for the 'Thearta' which consists of a simple but witty script featuring a cast of a king, an archbishop, barons, lords, servants, serfs and peasants. These parts are played by children and members of community groups.

On the 8th July, '*Starta Magna Carta*' was performed at the Beaney Museum, Canterbury, by pupils of St Stephen's Junior School.

The Beaney hosted the travelling exhibition, '*Magna Carta Rediscovered*', between 2nd July – 19th July. Click here for more information about this Round 2 Magna Carta 800th project.

Tracy Satchwill's '*Magna Carta Women*' tours England

Tracy Satchwill's '*Magna Carta Women*' continues its tour of England this year. The four-piece artwork was created in response to the 800th anniversary and looks at the history of women's rights. The collage features 47 women and 3 men who have contributed towards women's rights. It includes: Emmeline Pankhurst, suffragette leader; Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer; and John Stuart Mill, philosopher. The artwork has toured Royal Holloway, University of London for the Great Charter Festival, Brunel University, and many other venues.

This summer, Surrey County Council continues the tour at county libraries until the 30th August. The exhibition will then move to the Guildhall Art Gallery in the City of London on the 2nd September. Click here for the full tour listings.

Satchwill attended the official ceremony at the Runnymede Meadows on the 15th June to commemorate the 800th anniversary, and had the opportunity to talk about her project with the Princess Royal. The artwork has featured in national magazines, and the art project continues its tour until November. It is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and Royal Holloway, University of London. Click here for more information.



Visitors enjoy '*Magna Carta Women*' at Royal Holloway, University of London.



Medway Council Commemorates the 800th anniversary of Rochester Castle siege

Medway Council will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the siege of Rochester Castle with a host of events and activities:

25th July – 31st August. Open top bus tours with a 'Horrible Histories' theme.

Until 10th January, 2016. 'The Siege 1215' exhibition, at the Guildhall Museum, Rochester.

As well as a series of commemorative lecture at the Guildhall Museum:

- 8th October: 'The Siege of Rochester Castle & Magna Carta'. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.
- 15th October: 'King John: Treachery, Tyranny and the road to Magna Carta' Marc Morris, Speaker.
- 22nd October: 'The History of Rochester Castle', Dr Jeremy Clarke, Speaker.
- 12th November: 'Warfare by Design: Fortify, Hold, Siege, Fight' Richard Dunn, Speaker.

The siege of Rochester Castle was a major event in the Barons' War, which followed the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215.



'Norman the Knight' will guide children through the siege.

Governor of Bank of England marks Magna Carta's 800th anniversary

Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, delivered a speech entitled 'From Lincoln to Lothbury: Magna Carta and the Bank of England', at Lincoln Cathedral on the 16th July.

At the lecture, Carney (pictured) said: "A burst of inflation. A crisis in the public finances. Public sector bailouts. Infighting in Europe. Not eight years ago, but eight hundred.

To many today, Magna Carta is a document of profound, almost mythical, significance. It is seen as the cornerstone of the United Kingdom's constitutional arrangements and as a blueprint for the constitutions of many other nations, including the United States. It is credited with establishing the foundations of parliamentary democracy, creating a framework for the Rule of Law, protecting individual liberty, defending the rights of the innocent, and limiting the role of the State."

[Click here to read the full speech.](#)





Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremonies

The 800th Committee and the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon. Theresa May MP, encouraged all councils to feature Magna Carta in Citizenship Ceremonies this year.

The Committee has developed a Magna Carta scroll, which features information about the importance of the Great Charter today (pictured), and a facsimile of the Salisbury Magna Carta on the reverse.

So far this year Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremonies have been held at Brent Civic Centre; Salisbury Cathedral; Allington Castle, Kent, and elsewhere.

Future ceremonies planned for later in the year include at The Guildhall, City of London; and the House of Lords, Palace of Westminster.

If you would be introduced in hosting a Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony, or would like to purchase Magna Carta scrolls for an event, please contact markgill@magnacarta800th.com.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Magna Carta Features at Ealing Exhibition Autumn Festival

'Magna Carta turns 800' launched in June. Coats-of-arms of the 25 Magna Carta Barons and King John are on display. The exhibition is designed and organised by Diana Braybrook, a practicing artist in West London, and tutor to the 4020 Art Group based at Hanwell Community Centre.

Young Magna Carta Ambassadors were appointed to attend the various exhibition venues and explain Magna Carta to visitors.

Gillian Spragg, Artistic Director, said: *"How we exercise our democratic rights can really matter and there could not be a better moment to delve into the origins of our freedom, human rights and democracy."*

A digitised version will be shown where there is not space for the full exhibition. [Click here for further information.](#)

WAPOR Conference

Mark Gill, Executive Director



A special international Magna Carta panel was convened in Buenos Aires in June as part of the World Association of Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) annual conference. The panel saw papers given by survey research practitioners and academics analysing how the principles of Magna Carta have an impact across the world. A special prize was awarded to Tamas Bodor (University of Wisconsin) for his co-authored paper (with Karoly Varga, Semmelweis University, Budapest) for their paper "The Tale of Two Regions: The Fragile Idea of a Sovereign Society". All the papers presented at the panel can be downloaded [here](#).

Books

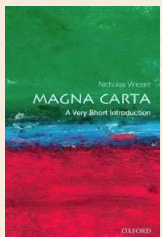


Magna Carta: The Foundation of Freedom 1215-2015

Nicholas Vincent, Editor and Contributor,
 Third Millennium Publishing, (2015)
 £29.50 hb, £24.50 pb.

With Nicholas Vincent leading off with the law before Magna Carta, Plantagenet tyranny, King John, etc., joined with other leading Magna Carta scholars including David Carpenter, Anthony Musson, Justin Champion Joyce Lee Malcolm (on America's entrenchment) and others plus outstanding illustrations, this book is the gold standard of the breadth and depth of both a fabulous 'coffee table' book and serious scholarship.

Outstandingly written and illustrated. Makes a splendid gift.



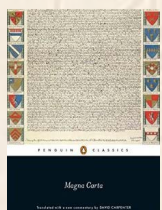
Magna Carta: A Very Short Introduction

Nicholas Vincent, Oxford University Press
 (2012) £5.99

Packed with facts, understanding and intricacies of the XIII Century, plus before and after, focussing on Magna Carta, this 110 page paperback fits neatly into pocket

and purse, and is ideal for an overall sweep of what was going on, where, by who, and when of the start of what we now know as Magna Carta's victories on the battlefields of the barons' wars, the negotiations with Bad King John, its failure as a peace treaty and eventual success as 'the greatest constitutional document of all time'.

Best read for a broad look at the Great Charter.

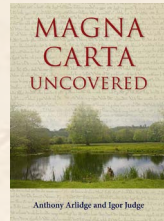


Magna Carta

David Carpenter, Penguin Classics (2015)
 £7.69 pb

Professor Carpenter's peers describe him as 'the real deal', who together with Vincent are the top rank of today's Magna Carta scholars. This 2nd edition of this Penguin Classic breaks new ground.

A definitive work, comprehensive, and is brilliantly structured.

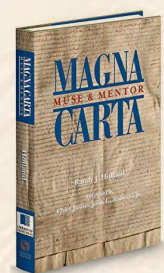


Magna Carta Uncovered

Anthony Arlidge and Igor Judge, Hart
 Publishing (2014) £22.50 hb

From the pens of two senior QCs who have for many years had a serious interest in Magna Carta. Nicely structured with a most useful timeline, laying out compact descriptions of the principal players, King John, William Marshall, Stephen Langton, and the Rebel Barons, an excellent chapter on London, a succeeding chapters following The Great Charter's passage through the centuries.

Excellent, forensic, and entertaining.

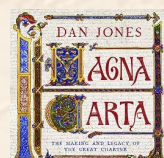


Magna Carta: Muse & Mentor

Randy Holland, Ed., Library of Congress
 (2014) £50/\$55.20 hb

Excellent contributions including Igor Judge on William Marshal, one of the most important forgotten men of history. On his death in 1219 in his funeral oration the Archbishop of Canterbury described Marshal as "the greatest knight that ever lived". Others included Dick Howard's Magna Carta American Journey, Lady Justice Arden's Magna Carta and the Judges, Caroline Harris' King John and Magna Carta in Popular Culture.

American perspective, foreword by Chief Justice Roberts.



Magna Carta: The Making and Legacy of The Great Charter

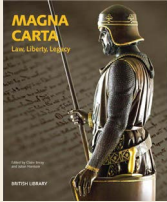
Dan Jones, Head of Zeus (2014) £10.49 hb

Chronologically told story, background starting with that 'great and terrible king, Henry II, John's father, the birth of the ideas of the Baron's Charter, Magna Carta as a failed peace treaty, its slow resurrection and today's mutation. The appendices are worth the price of the book: I Texts, Latin and English; II the men of Magna Carta; III Enforcers, the 25 Barons; IV Timeline.

Told in detail, but an easy read.



Books



Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy
Claire Breay and Julian Harrison
The British Library Publishing Divisions, 2nd Edition (2011) £19.99 pb
Contributions from Nicholas Vincent, David Carpenter, Justin Champion, Alexander Lock

and many others. Summing up: concludes that what we commemorate in 2015 “remains, indeed, not just a ‘great’ charter but the greatest charter of them all”. Breay and Harrison are the curators of the British Library’s wonderful exhibition.

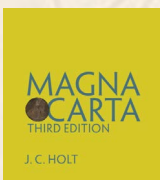
Authentically written and comprehensively illustrated.



Magna Carta: The True Story Behind the Charter
David Starkey, Hodder & Stoughton (April 2015) £18.99 pb

David Starkey’s new book is the expansion of his excellent BBC television interview in January 2015. He describes it as the “true story behind the Charter” as well as the “bird’s eye view” of eight countries. It focuses on the ten years, 1215-1225, the decade in which the Charter transmuted from a peace treaty into “the bedrock of an evolving English constitution”. The three crucial versions of the Charter, the original 1215, Henry III’s 1216, then 1217 and 1225, substantially revised and for all intents and purposes the definitive document so that you can see what stayed the same and what changed.

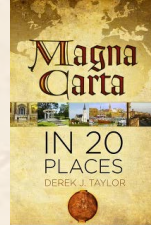
A different (and he claims) the “real story” of the legacy of Magna Carta.



Magna Carta
J C Holt
Cambridge (1965) £21.99 pb

This revised edition of J C Holt’s study of Magna Carta, the Great Charter, offers an authoritative analysis of England’s most famous constitutional text. The book sets the events of 1215 and the Charter itself in the context of the law, politics and administration of England and Europe in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

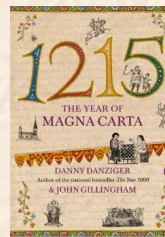
The Classic.



Magna Carta in 20 Places,
Derek J Taylor
The History Press (2015) £18.99 hb

Taylor’s approach is so far unique in the parade, taking as he does a geographical approach to look in some detail at what happened that mattered in the places the action took place, from the Battle of Bouvines (which the BBC called ‘the most important battle in history which nobody has heard of’) to Acre and the Marches, Lincoln and Runnymede, Jamestown and Washington.

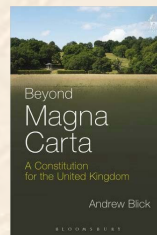
Excellent idea of structuring; much to recommend it.



1215
Danny Danziger, John Gillingham
Hodder & Stoughton (2003) £12.99 pb

Interesting and well researched look at the perspective of the people of the day, in ‘The Year of Magna Carta’. Good as a balance to both the ‘political biographies’ and the concentration on the period’s elite class actions

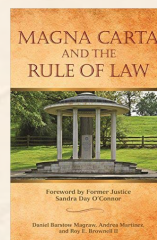
Bottom up, rather than top down.



Beyond Magna Carta
by Andrew Blick
Hart Publishing Limited (2015) £25.00 hb

An ambitious book which not only looks ‘beyond’ Magna Carta to a written constitution, but most excellently ‘precedes’ it, taking us back to the *Textus Roffensis* and the laws of King Aethelberht of Kent, c. 601-604,. writted in (Old) English, for the English

Not just another Magna Carta book, but added value.

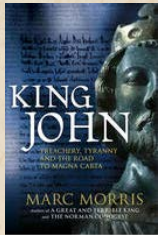


Magna Carta and the Rule of Law
by Daniel Magraw, Andrea Martinez and Roy E Brownell (2014) £15.68 pb

A stirring introduction from the retiring American Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, puts forward Articles 39 and 40, quoting Winston Churchill “Government must henceforth mean something more than the arbitrary role of any man and custom and the law must stand even above the King”. With a good summary of the history of Magna Carta and edited by Dan Magraw, Andrea Martinez and Roy Brownell and drawing on many others.

Serious and comprehensive contribution

King John



King John: Treachery, Tyranny and the Road to Magna Carta

Mark Morris, Hutchinson (March, 2015)
£13.99 hb

As written as sympathetic a book about King John as one could muster. King John was successful at fundraising,

but failed as a father, brother, son, in battle, in justice, in management above all. He alienated his family, his followers, the common people and all the media that existed at that time. Well documented.

"Did he deserve to be called 'Bad King John'? No, he was much worse than that".

(Nicolas Vincent's last word on King John).



King John: England, Magna Carta, and the Making of a Tyrant

Stephen Church, Macmillan (2015)

'King John he was a bad man...' pretty well from start to finish. It's hard to find a good thing to say for him, but Stephen tries.

Called 'Lackland' and 'Softsword', he was his father's favourite, and he let him down at every turn. Failing to win back Normandy at the battle of Bouvines in 1214 was the last straw for the Barons and led to Runnymede. His death in 1216 led to his successor's reissue of Magna Carta.

There wouldn't have been a Magna Carta without King John



The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, the Power Behind Five English Thrones

Thomas Ashbridge, Simon and Schuster UK (2015) hb

William Marshal was one of the two defining characters in the middle of the action over many years, King John's loyal retainer near his end, but originally was a trusted member of John's mother, Eleanor, who'd saved his life early on. Late in life when John died, William became guardian to his nine year old son and overcoming the boy's opposition, reissued the Charter, after its being declared null by Pope Innocent III.

Deserves the title: The Greatest Knight who ever lived.

For Children



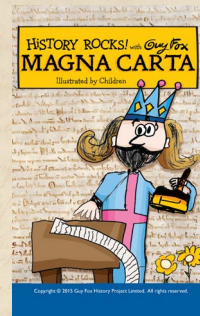
The Magna Carta Chronicle: Young Person's Guide to 800 Years in the Fight for Freedom

by Christopher Lloyd and Patrick Skipworth

What on Earth Publishing (2015)
www.whatonearthbooks.com £8.99 hb

The *Magna Carta Chronicle*, written as if the day following the "King's Fate sealed at Runnymede", by the 'Royal Correspondent' on 16 June 1215, to "Crowds gather to mark 800 years in the fight for freedom and rights" by the home affairs correspondent, Runnymede, Windsor, June 16, 2015 – spectacular illustrated time line of 800 years of the Rule of Law and human rights. Quiz and multiple choice questions.

Fantastic timeline, fun and informative, 11-14 year olds.



History Rocks, Magna Carta!

Kourtney Harper, Guy Fox
(Launching 20 April 2015) pb

Written and illustrated by kids for kids led by Kourtney, explaining what Magna Carta is all about and why it is important, in a style suitable for 6-8 year olds and for parents and grandparents to help their children and grandchildren why it is important.

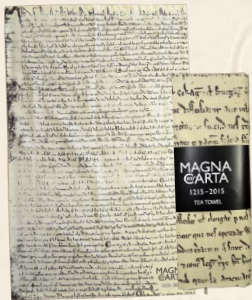
Suggested contribution £5, from www.guyfox.org.uk

800th Commemorative Merchandise

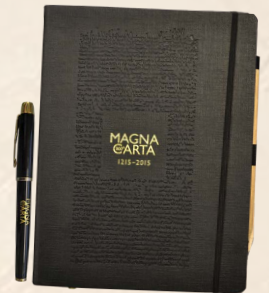
We have a wide range of Magna Carta 800th commemorative products available for sale at our exclusive online shop:

www.magnacarta800th.com/shop

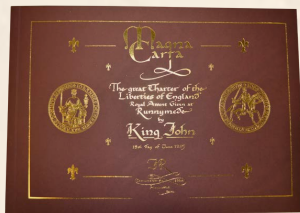
You are able to purchase single items or large quantities and our production partners are happy to discuss trade supplies and co-branding opportunities. A proportion of the sale from every purchase goes to the Magna Carta Trust to support the 800th commemoration activities.



Tea Towel
£6



Pen & Notebook
£45



The Great
Charter of the
Liberties of
England Book
£13



Magna Carta Facsimile
£1500



Script Black Mug
£6



The Seal of
Magna Carta
Replica
£20



USB Drive
£8



Gold Metal
Keyring
£6



Gold Metal
Lapel Pin
£6



Gold Metal
Cufflinks
£10



Laptop Bag
£20



Polo Top
£25



Rugby Top
£30



Silver Money
Clip
£90



Black
Umbrella
£20



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