



DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

On to 2017

Happy New Year to all our 2015 Magna Carta 800th anniversary commemoration colleagues. Many of you started with us in 2014 at the 800th anniversary of the "greatest battle in history that nobody's ever heard of", the Battle of Bouvines. The Battle of Bouvines was the beginning of the end of King John, who died in October 1215. The battle effectively bankrupted the treasury, it was on payment for mercenaries to replace the knights and soldiers, the barons refused him. Few of the barons were even at Bouvines. Neither was King John. He was in the south of France trying to save Aquitaine when the outcome of Bouvines lost Normandy.

There have been many commemorations of the 1216 version this year (see page 3) and will be again this coming year.

Meanwhile the Magna Carta Trust continues and 2017 will see its revised Charter to expand the good work and for these 60 years which although will not achieve the thousand plus Magna Carta programmes of 2015 in 60+ countries, will nonetheless keep the flag flying.

Our new Chairman, The Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton and I, as Deputy Chairman, wish you a very Happy New Year.

The Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton
Master of the Rolls

Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL
Deputy Chairman

How to get involved – 2017 and beyond:

When we commemorated the 800th anniversary of the Great Charter in 2015, we were humbled by the response. Partners from around the world worked with us to deliver projects that promoted better understanding of human rights across the world. **Click here to see a list.**

We will no doubt add to the list as we learn about other's activities.

The sealing of Magna Carta in 1215 was the beginning of a much larger process. Later issues of the Charter followed: Bristol celebrated the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the 1216 Charter this year (more on this on page 5). In 1216, a sister document to Magna Carta was given royal approval – the Charter of the Forest. This document was an early example of agrarian reform, and gave the King's subjects the right to hunt in royal forests, gather fuel, graze their animals, and opened England's rivers. It was an early step in reinforcing the rights of everyone to have access to food.

Worcester Cathedral had an extensive exhibition (see page 3).

These basic liberties were hard won, hard fought for, and battles for these liberties are still ongoing today. The revivals of Magna Carta across history are testament to the original document's enduring legacy. It has captured the imaginations of almost every civil rights movement since its birth. The foundation of liberty has set in motion a story, which is still ongoing.

The Magna Carta Trust is committed to propagating this message today whenever and wherever it can. If you are planning events to commemorate the reissues of the Great Charter, the Charter of the Forest, or would like to discuss other significant events, please contact us.

Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman:
sirrobertworcester@magnacarta800th.com

Mark Gill, Executive Director:
markgill@magnacarta800th.com



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Magna Carta's American Adventure

By Prof. A. E. Dick Howard

First appeared in the North Carolina Law Review (Vol. 94, No. 5 June 2016)

I spent a good part of the summer of 2015 in England, lecturing on aspects of Magna Carta. It seemed that every town, village, or crossroads with any connection to Magna Carta was celebrating the Charter's eight hundredth anniversary. It's not surprising to hear about celebrations in the country that gave birth to Magna Carta. But the question I want to put before you tonight is: why should Americans care? After all, Magna Carta's origins were a long time ago, in a very distant place, born of a struggle between King John and the barons. Why would an American remember Magna Carta?

When I was very small, one of the authors whose books I came to love was A. A. Milne. You Winnie the Pooh buffs will know about Milne. Perhaps you know Milne's *Now We Are Six*. One of the poems in the collection is "King John's Christmas." It begins,

**King John was not a good man –
He had his little ways.
And sometimes no one spoke to him
For days and days and days.**

For a little kid, the idea of being shunned – that nobody will speak to you – is really terrible. How could you be so awful that people won't even talk to you?

Well, I grew up and read some more about King John. I discovered that he was that bad – maybe worse. Not only was he bad in moral terms, he was also a bad King. John managed to make enemies throughout the realm and beyond. He quarrelled with Pope Innocent III over the election of an Archbishop of Canterbury to the point where the Pope put England under an interdict, suspending church services and sacraments. He quarrelled with the townspeople of London. His military adventures abroad were total failures. Defeated at the Battle of Bouvines in 1214, he ultimately lost most of the Normans' landholdings in Normandy.

The barons had particular cause to be unhappy with King John. He imposed harsh demands for revenue on the barons in ways that were clearly not acceptable to them. At length, all these misadventures piled up on King John, resulting in the meeting at Runnymede on the fifteenth June, 1215. King John was, to be sure, a totally unwilling and reluctant bargainer who didn't want to be there. But the result was the document whose eight hundredth anniversary we are celebrating.

King John never meant to keep the promises he made in Magna Carta. Indeed, having made up with the Pope, John persuaded him to annul Magna Carta several weeks after its making. The Pope said this was a bargain made under duress, and contracts made under duress are not legal. That could have been the end of the story. If so, we wouldn't be here this weekend, and I certainly wouldn't be at this lectern.

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



Magna Carta in 2016: the events

There were a host of events in 2016 that commemorated the Great Charter and the events of 1216. These are listed below – click on an event to learn more.

8th March: Mind the Gap Theatre launched Magna Carta DVD for International Women's Day.

8th – 9th March: King John: Worcester Cathedral Conference.

3rd & 10th April: Magna Carta Walking Tours at Canberra Place, Australia. Hosted by the Magna Carta Committee of Australia.

14th April: Baronial Order of Magna Charta Symposium and Scholarship Award, Washington DC.

19th April: '*The Legacy of Magna Carta*' Andrew Blick, Speaker. Dulwich Picture Gallery.

25th April: '*The Relevance of Magna Carta in the 21st Century.*' Speakers: Lord (Igor) Judge and Sir Robert Worcester, Warwick University.

31st April: Display of a statue of Saher de Quincy, Earl of Winchester. The Beaney Museum, Canterbury.

1st June: Magna Carta Lecture. HE Alexander Downer, Speaker, Lincoln Cathedral.

12th June: The Patron's Lunch, the Mall, London.

13th June: First Fairhaven Lecture. '*Terrorism and Tolerance*', David Anderson QC, Speaker. Royal Holloway, University of London.

15th June: Magna Carta Day commemorations.

15th June: Distribution of Magna Carta Barons Association book.

17th June: Magna Carta Constitutional Convention, Royal Holloway, University of London.

3rd – 16th September: Henry de Bohun Heritage Festival, Trowbridge.

8th – 10th September: '*King John 800*' conference. Dublin Castle, Ireland.

10th September: Re – enactment of the coronation of Henry III, Gloucester.

13th September: Opening of Henry III exhibition at Museum of Gloucester. Runs until early 2017.

20th September – 28th October: Henry III Lecture series, Gloucester Cathedral Chapter House.

30th September: Medieval banquet, Gloucester Cathedral Nave.

18th October: '*The Life and Death of King John*'. Professors David Carpenter, Stephen Church, and Dr Marc Morris, Speakers. National Archives, Kew.

18th October: Re – enactment of King John's death, Newark Castle.

18th – 22nd October: Shakespeare's '*King John*', Worcester Cathedral.

19th October: King John's death (800th anniversary).

19th October: *Henry III and Magna Carta* play, opens at Gloucester Cathedral. Production by Gloucester Theatre Association Ltd.

19th October: '*The Life & Legacy of King John*'. Professor Stephen Church, Speaker. Newark Town Hall.

12th November: 800th anniversary of 1216 Magna Carta (issued in Bristol)

25th November: '*Law and the Idea of Liberty in Ireland*', Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Irish Legal History Society. Free – booking essential.

Until 28th November: *King John, Magna Carta and Worcester Cathedral* exhibition, Worcester Cathedral.

Magna Carta in the news:

Magna Carta facsimile will be at Jaipur Literary Festival

To coincide with the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence in 2017, the British Library and organiser of the Jaipur Literature Festival have announced a partnership to deliver a programme of events in Jaipur that will assess the legacy of Magna Carta in the region.

A facsimile of the Great Charter will be displayed at the Diggi Palace Hotel, as part of the Jaipur Literature Festival. The Festival runs between the 21st – 25th January, 2017.

[Click here for more information.](#)

University of Leeds School of Law opens new exhibition on equality law

On Friday 14th October, University of Leeds School of Law unveiled a banner, which commemorated the Race Relations Act 1965. The banner was part of a series that hung in the Houses of Parliament in 2015, as part of the Magna Carta commemorations and the 750th anniversary of the De Montfort Parliament.

Professor Iyiola Solanke won the banner for the University. In 2015, Professor Solanke organised an event with Inner Temple marking the 50th anniversary of the Race Relations Act. This follow – up event in 2016 coincided with the opening of a new exhibition at the University of Leeds, on the history and importance of equality law.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Lucy Turnbull presents 2016 Magna Carta Lecture

The annual British High Commission Magna Carta lecture was delivered by Lucy Turnbull, the first female Lord Mayor of the City for Sydney. Her lecture, '*Smart Growth and the Female Factor*', was chosen to complement the British High Commission's Year of Innovation, hosted at the British High Commission Canberra.

This was the 12th annual Magna Carta Lecture in the series, which asks high profile Australian and British speakers to discuss themes which are inspired by the Charter. Miss Turnbull spoke about how the city – planning of the future must aim to be female – friendly and people – friendly.

[Click here to watch the lecture.](#)

[Click here to read the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's blog post.](#)

Dr Hamid Ghany: Emancipation and Magna Carta

Dr Ghany, from the University of the West Indies (UWI), wrote an appraisal of Magna Carta's legacy in the Commonwealth Caribbean for Emancipation Day. Dr Ghany led on operations commemorating Magna Carta in the Caribbean in 2015 and 2016, and is collating papers delivered at the UWI Magna Carta Lecture Series, into a book for further study.

[Click here to read *Emancipation and Magna Carta*.](#)

Bristol commemorates 800th anniversary of 1216 Magna Carta

On Saturday 12th November, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Jeff Lovell, attended the *Bristol 800* concert to mark the 800th anniversary of the issue of the Bristol Magna Carta. Also present was Mrs Josette Lebrat, French Honorary Consul for Bristol and the South West of England.

The Bristol Charter was the first reissue of Magna Carta. Under the guidance of William Marshal, Henry III reissued the

Charter to appease the rebel barons who had confronted his father and set in motion events that plunged the realm into civil war. Only one copy of the Bristol Charter is known to have survived, held at Durham Cathedral. This Charter toured Canada in 2015 as part of the anniversary programme.

At the *Bristol 800* concert, choral works from the time of 1215 and 1216 were performed alongside contemporary pieces composed for the event. All proceeds from the concert went to UK charity **Freedom from Torture**, which provides therapeutic and clinical services to survivors of torture who arrive in the UK.

Magnacarta800th.com – a resource for the future

Since plans began in 2014 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Great Charter in 2015, one of the Trust's key ambitions was to host all our events and projects on one website. Magnacarta800th.com features information on all of the Magna Carta Trust's achievements and legacies in one place, viewable by anyone in the world. It has become the principal resource for those looking to learn more about the Great Charter and its significance today.

Of particular use for the future is the archive of speeches, scholarly articles and academic free to download resources found in our **Speeches** and **Schools** sections. These resources have been featured in many publications, and routinely are the most viewed sections of our website.

Our website will be an ongoing resource for the future, curated by those who took part in commemorating Magna Carta's 800th anniversary.

N.B. Please note, the website www.magnacartatrust.org is a Runnymede Borough Council website, not the website of the Magna Carta Trust.

Explore England with Magna Carta Trails

In 2015, the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee launched Magna Carta Trails. The six trails link together key sites of historical interest in the story of the great Charter, extending from Durham in the North of England, all the way to Kent and East Sussex. Many of these will be perfect for a Christmas walk!

[Click here for more information.](#)



Magna Carta Books

Recently published, out of (so far) 45 published over the Commemoration year.

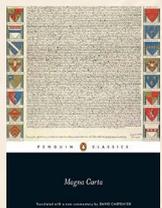


Magna Carta: The Foundation of Freedom 1215-2015

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.

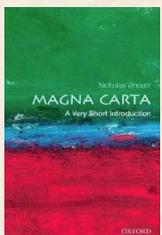


Magna Carta

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: 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 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 Marshal, Stephen Langton, and the Rebel Barons, an excellent chapter on London, and 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.



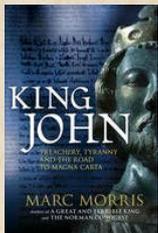
Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy

Claire Brey 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". Brey and Harrison were the curators of the British Library's wonderful exhibition.

Authentically written and comprehensively illustrated.

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

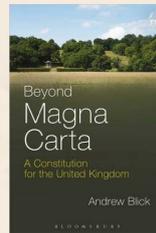


The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, the Power Behind Five English Thrones

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.



Beyond Magna Carta

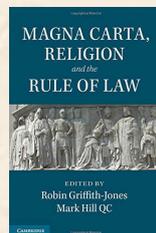
Andrew Blick

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, written in (Old) English, for the English.

Not just another Magna Carta book, but added value.



Magna Carta: 1215 – 2015. Magna Carta, Religion, and the Rule of Law

Rev Robin Griffith-Jones, Mark Hill (Eds).

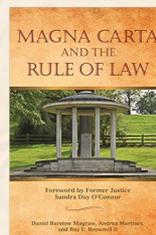
Cambridge University Press (2015)

www.templemusic.org (£20.00)

Robin Griffith-Jones, the Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple Church, has been an

outstandingly enthusiastic supporter of the Magna Carta 800th anniversary commemorations.

Well written overview, excellently illustrated.



Magna Carta and the Rule of Law

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".

Serious and comprehensive contribution



Starta Magna Carta Thearta

Graham Clarke

Ebenezer Press

www.grahamclarke.co.uk £10.00

'Starta Magna Carta Thearta' is a play written in verse, and has toured sites in England thanks to project funding from the 800th

Committee. Filled with lively characters, Graham Clarke has written a script that celebrates the sealing of the Great Charter 800 years ago.

The text includes performance notes and advice, along with the poem 'The Runnymede Eel Appeal'.

For more information, please visit Graham Clarke's site here: <https://www.grahamclarke.co.uk/>

Great fun for all ages.

800th Commemorative Merchandise

SALE

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.



Natural Cotton Bag
~~£4.00~~ **£2.40**



Magna Carta Facsimile
£1500



Script Black
Mug
~~£6.00~~ **£3.60**



Script White
Mug
~~£6.00~~ **£3.60**



Black Parker
Pen
~~£30.00~~ **£18.00**



Black
Umbrella
~~£20.00~~ **£12.00**



King John Black
Mug
~~£6.00~~ **£3.60**



Gold Metal
Lapel Pin
~~£3.00~~ **£1.80**



Polo Top
~~£25.00~~ **£15.00**



Natural Cotton Bag
& Golden Metal
Lapel Pin Bundle
~~£7.00~~ **£3.00**



Check our Exclusive Magna Carta deal at:
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