



JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Magna Carta Day Commemorated: 800 Years to the Day



The photo on the front of the *London Times*, 16th June 2015, said it (nearly) all. The re-dedication of the American Bar Association Memorial, the only monument to Magna Carta at Runnymede, said David Starkey on the BBC2 broadcast. Someone asked me who are the people in the white robes and why are they here? “Knights Templar”, I said, “they were there in 1215”.

secure area and thousands elsewhere on the Meadow and lining the roads. All missing from the photo are the Princess Royal, Attorney General of the United States, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond MP, American Ambassador Matthew Barzun, American Bar Association President William Hubbard. The Queen, as Patron of the Magna Carta Trust, Prince Philip, and Prince William! It was a day that will be remembered for the lifetimes of those who were there, those watching it live on television or seeing the TV coverage later, in many parts of the world, seeing the above photograph across the front page of the *Times*, the photograph on the following page in the *Telegraph*, and so much coverage in media throughout the world (see overleaf).

Other links:
ITV News, 'The Queen Marks Magna Carta's 800th Anniversary'
BBC News, 'Magna Carta Day in Pictures'
Magna Carta 800th Flickr – pictures from the day.



'I don't care if she is the Queen, she's subject to parking restrictions like everyone else'

© *The Telegraph*,
16th June

The Household Brigade, Royal Navy, American airmen at the monument, standing as they did when the ABA Memorial was dedicated by the Queen in 1957, four years after she dedicated what was then called the “Runnymede Monument”, now the RAF/Commonwealth Memorial on Cooper's Hill, sited behind the lonely Runnymede Meadow.

It wasn't lonely on the 15th June this year, as there were over 3,000 people in the



@MagnaCarta800th



Search: Magna Carta
800th Anniversary



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www.flickr.com/
photos/magna-carta/

At 12:15 on the 15th June 2015, the RAF Red Arrows Closed the Magna Carta Day at Runnymede



© The Telegraph, 16th June



© Private Eye,
15th June

At the close of the day's ceremonies, at precisely 12:15, exactly as planned, the RAF 'double flypast', led by a Spitfire followed by a Typhoon led the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows in the spectacular finish to a morning of the Duke of Cambridge dedicating the 12 bronze chairs, *The Jurors*, Lord Dyson as Chairman of the Magna Carta Trust opening address, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Queen's arrival with the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal followed by the Prime Minister's speech, the Princess Royal's re-dedication of the ABA Memorial, Royal Marine Band playing Nick O'Neill's Cantata: *1215: Foundation of Liberty*, and the finale, Patrick Gregg's Pop Rock: *The Glorious 800th*, and the picnic.



July Highlights:

2nd, 'Magna Carta: the view from Durham,' Durham University. Professor Nicholas Vincent, Speaker.

2nd – 19th, 'Magna Carta Rediscovered', exhibition at The Beaney Museum, Canterbury.

4th, Canterbury Cathedral Lodge Magna Carta Dinner. David Starkey, Speaker.

6th – 10th, Magna Carta Lecture Series at University of Auckland, New Zealand.

7th, Lincoln Barons' Charter Trail Tour.

7th, Cubism Law. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker (followed by a visit to the British Library exhibition.)

7th – 10th, 'Magna Cantata', Salisbury Cathedral.

8th, 'Rebellious Citizens: 800 Years of Citizen Politics,' Durham University. Dr Christian Liddy, Speaker.

8th – 11th, British Legal History Conference, at Reading University.

9th, Institute of Business Ethics, 'Magna Carta's Principles: Relevant in the 21st Century'. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

10th, 'Life in 1215: Britain in the 13th Century', British Library. Panel discussion featuring Dan Jones, Marc Morris and Helen Castor.

14th, 'The Relevance of Magna Carta Today' Eastwell Manor, Ashford, Kent. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

15th – 18th, Southern Cathedrals Festival 2015. Magna Carta theme.

16th, 'Magna Carta and Lincoln', Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln. Mark Carney (Gov., Bank of England), Speaker.

16th, 'He Has No Sovereign – from the Charter to the Convention', Lincoln's Inn. Sir Nicolas Bratza, Professor David Carpenter, and Jonathan Gaunt QC, Speakers.

18th, 'Magna Carta: Revolting Barons and French Conquests', at Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

21st, 'Treaty of Waitangi – the Magna Charta of New Zealand: Rhetoric or Reality?' Sir Paul Reeves Memorial Lecture, Massey University Albany. Dr David Williams, Speaker.

22nd, Essex County Council Citizenship Ceremony, County Hall, Chelmsford. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

24th, 'Archbishop Langton in a Circle of New Ideas', Salisbury Cathedral. Professor Lesley Smith, Speaker.

24th, Final day of 'Magna Carta: An Embroidery', British Library.

25th – 5th August, Three Choirs Festival, Hereford.

27th – 5th September, 'In Comitatu Kantie: Kent at the time of Magna Carta', exhibition at Kent History and Library Centre.

31st: 'Treason? The Mock Trial of Barons and Bishops', at Westminster Hall.

August Highlights

1st – 30th September, 'The Impact of Magna Carta on the Way We Live,' exhibition at the UK Supreme Court.

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

8th – 9th, Magna Carta Medieval Weekend at Durham Cathedral.

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

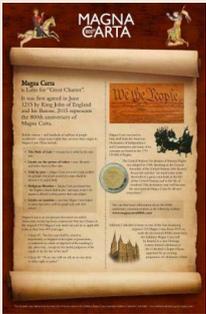
13th, 'Kent's Place in Magna Carta: the Making and Preservation of a Legend,' Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone. Professor Nicholas Vincent, Speaker.

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

15th, 'Magna Carta Mayhem and Merriment,' re-enactment day at Hereford Cathedral.



Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony at Allington Castle



On the 1st June, as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL, hosted a Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony at Allington Castle, Kent.

The Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon Theresa May MP, has encouraged all local authorities to incorporate Magna Carta into Citizenship Ceremonies in 2015.

Thousands of copies of a Magna Carta facsimile (pictured, left), the front side the 1215 Salisbury Magna Carta, the reverse side is an explanation as to why Magna Carta is important today.

The facsimiles come in their own tubes. Click here or contact markgill@magnacarta800th.com.

The London Fanfare Trumpets opened the ceremony with a fanfare. Mr Michael Harrison, Chairman of Kent County Council, welcomed all to the ceremony. Click here.

"We are proud of our long history, and our history of parliamentary democracy," The County Chairman said. *"The freedoms and privileges that we all enjoy today as British citizens have been won and maintained by the hard work and sacrifices of many generations of citizens before us."*

New citizens were then guided through their official ceremony. Magna Carta scrolls were presented to each

citizen in turn by Mike Harrison and Sir Robert Worcester.

Sir Robert Worcester said:

"I congratulate you on achieving British citizenship [...] Our role is to celebrate our country's unique history and culture. That of course includes the scroll which you have received, a facsimile of the 1215 Salisbury Magna Carta – one of the four originals still in this country."

New citizens were then treated to a Magna Carta 800th cake, as well as an exhibition of historic documentation from the *Magna Carta Rediscovered* exhibition, currently touring locations in Kent.

To see more images of the ceremony, visit our Flickr here.

Click here for more information about our Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremonies.



Cutting the cake. Left to Right: Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL, Lady Worcester, Mrs Harrison, and Mike Harrison

Professor David Carpenter speaks at Broughton Castle, Sir Robert Worcester highlights Magna Carta books



Runnymede – 15 June 1215 - Baron Geoffrey de Saye stood firm with 24 of his peers to force King John to seal the Magna Carta. Just over 800 years later his flag flutters proudly over the battlements of Broughton Castle, the home of his descendants.

The Saye and Sele family generously opened the doors of their historic home near Banbury on the 25th June to a sell out audience of 200. First Charter Chapters were read by Anton Lesser, an actor who plays Sir Thomas More in BBC's *'Wolf Hall'*, filmed at the Castle. Sir Thomas More used Magna Carta in his defence at his trial for treason in 1535.

Susan Walker's contribution to the 800th commemorations has been outstanding, as she has been contacting literary festivals

arranging for Speakers on Magna Carta, including author of the new 2nd edition Penguin classic *'Magna Carta'*, Professor David Carpenter. He revealed that secrets of the Great Charter continue to be discovered in his erudite but also entertaining talk including his confirmation that the damaged British Library copy had originally been in Canterbury.

Chair of the 800th Anniversary Committee Sir Robert Worcester (pictured), shared his enthusiasm for new Magna Carta books, including the illustrated timeline from What on Earth? Books' *'Magna Carta Chronicle.'*

Radio Oxford's Bill Heine who interviewed the speakers, described the event as "a great story, beautiful locations and terrific people - a night to remember!"

For more information about Broughton Castle, click here.



Treason? Trial of the Magna Carta Barons

It might have taken 800 years, but on the 31st July 2015, judgement shall be passed on whether the actions of the Bishops and Barons at Runnymede in 1215 constituted Treason. A Mock Trial will take place in Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, where the Court met for centuries.

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee are working together on this event.

31st July is the final day of the Law Year. This Mock Trial features a panel of distinguished judges (Lord Neuberger, President of the UK Supreme Court; Dame Sian Elias, Chief Justice of New Zealand, and Hon. Stephen Breyer, Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court) to hear the case for and against the Barons.



Sir Robert Rogers,
Lord Lisane
(Former Clerk of
the Commons)

Two top British advocates will seek to persuade the tribunal that their clients are in the right. The audience will see King John, Baron FitzWalter, Archbishop Stephen Langton and William Marshal all cross – examined on their evidence. These historic characters will be played by distinguished figures including Sir Robert Rogers and Lord (Igor) Judge, the former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. King John will appear as a witness of the Prosecution. Sir Robert Rogers, will be the witness for the Barons and Bishops.

The Commons might not exist today but for the Barons at Runnymede on the 15th June 1215.

For more information about this event read our June newsletter [here](#).

'Magna Carta Canada' opens and educational resources released



Magna Carta Canada has recruited experts in education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and in justice from

the Ontario Justice Education Network, to create age appropriate educational materials in English and French. These are intended to reach every elementary school and middle school student in Canada and encourage a sense of civic duty alongside a greater appreciation of Magna Carta.

Thus far, circa 53,000 teachers in 5,000 schools have been reached. An estimated 10,000 schools are yet to be contacted. Magna Carta Canada intends to continue to develop these materials to provide a relevant, compelling, and sustainable legacy of constitutional learning for future generations.

[Click here](#) for more information about Magna Carta and Canada.



Junior Lawyers take Magna Carta talks to local schools

The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee encourages lawyers to visit their local schools to raise awareness about the importance of Magna Carta and the Rule of Law today.

The Magna Carta Junior Lawyers in Schools Programme was started in October 2014. Educational resources are provided to lawyers on a Magna Carta 800th memory stick, courtesy of CiLEX. The Committee has since received great feedback from lawyers about the excellent engagement children have had with the resources.

Lawyer Hekim Hannan (pictured) said *"Getting involved in the Junior Lawyers in Schools programme as part of the 800th anniversary celebrations not only increased my knowledge, but enabled me to introduce it to our next generation. It was such a wonderful experience to talk about Magna Carta and careers in the law. Overall it was a wonderful experience for me and I can't wait until the next one!"*

David Worthington, Headteacher of Worsley Mesnes Primary School, said *"It makes a real difference to the children to meet people who are doing the jobs and talking from experience. Our classes have used this as a springboard for further work in class. A big thank you from Worsley Mesnes."*

Any lawyer or school can sign – up to the programme. There is a form on our website which can be filled out, and we will then try and match lawyers and schools near to each other. Please click [here](#) for more information, and to view this form.



Lawyer Hekim Hannan, at Frodsham Manor School

Experts discuss Magna Carta at recent conference



The Magna Carta Project commemorated the 800th anniversary with a three – day conference at King's College London and the British Library.

Professor Nicholas Vincent opened the conference with a talk titled *'What happened in 1215?'* He also discussed the recent discovery of a hitherto unknown copy of Magna Carta, now known as the 'Sandwich Magna Carta', in the archives of Kent County Council. Leading academics then presented their latest research.

The Magna Carta Project aims to provide scholarly resources and commentary on Magna Carta and King John for scholars, schools, students, and the general public.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Project.

Funded projects: Magna Carta commemorated at Tongland Abbey, Scotland

By Donald Henry



Scotland's only celebration to mark the 800th anniversary took place in Tongland on Saturday 20th June. Under warm sunshine, almost 70 local residents and invited guests gathered in Tongland Churchyard to watch Mr. Alexander McCulloch, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of the Stewartry (pictured), unveil an information panel outlining the link between Alan, Lord of Galloway, Magna Carta, and the founding of Tongland Abbey in 1218.

The panel serves to inform visitors to the Churchyard about the medieval Abbey which once stood on the site. The panel's main feature is an artist's reconstruction drawing of how Tongland Abbey might have looked in 1450. The gathering proceeded to an adjacent marquee on the site of the former Tongland manse, through kindness of the owner Mrs Susanne Powell. An 800th anniversary cake was enjoyed by all.

At Ringford Village Hall, an appreciative audience of almost 100 heard a lecture from Professor Richard Oram of Stirling University on 'Alan, Lord of Galloway, and his role in Magna Carta.' The lecture demonstrated Alan's considerable importance in Britain's military and political history during the reign of King John of England and Alexander II of Scotland.

The occasion also saw the launch of a new tourist leaflet about 'Alan, Magna Carta and Tongland Abbey', and the project organisers plan to take the story into local primary schools in the new term. A small bursary has also been set aside to encourage further research at university level on Alan and Magna Carta.

The Abbey has recently been the subject of a geophysical survey aimed at identifying the extent of the original structure. The spire was reputedly the tallest in Galloway at around 200ft, and was still standing in 1700. The Abbey ruins were quarried for building stone, leaving only one short length of wall and a doorway remaining today, which form part of the old Parish Church.

Tongland and Ringford Community Council are most grateful to the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee. Financial support from the Committee made the whole project possible. The subject also received the attention of BBC Scotland radio and television news.

[Click here for more information about our funded projects.](#)



Funded projects:

Epworth commemorates Magna Carta

By Linnie Burnham

Another project funded by the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee assisted commemoration events in Epworth. A Spring Fair was held, on the 30th May in the grounds of Epworth Old Rectory. This featured a three-day medieval encampment, jousting, archery, pottery and plenty of hands on activities for local families to become involved.



The 4th June marked the official opening of an exhibition at St Andrew's Parish Church. Local school children created heraldic shields (pictured), while four primary schools dressed wooden mannequins to represent each of the 25 barons, along with historical facts and figures.

On the 5th June there were lectures from Mowbray historians. On Saturday 6th June adults and children painted a replica Mowbray Tile at a workshop in Epworth Imperial Hall. Original tiles were found at an archaeological dig on the former Vinegarth Manor Estate. The tiles will be housed in a display to form part of the heritage resources to be created on the Manor site.



The 6th June featured medieval storytelling sessions for young and old. In the evening De Mowbray's Musicke (pictured) held an enjoyable session of medieval dancing. A

hog roast was available for everyone to enjoy. The week of celebrations finished with an ecumenical service of thanksgiving.

The Society wish to express their grateful thanks to: the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, North Lincolnshire Council and Tourism Department, Epworth Town Council, and the Trustees of Epworth Civic Society. Generous grant aid enabled all community events to be free of charge.

Magna Carta Conference hosted at Vercelli, Italy.

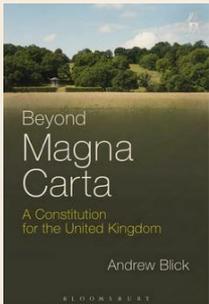
On the 14th June, a conference was held in Vercelli, Italy to commemorate the Great Charter. Vercelli was the home of Cardinal Guala Bichieri, the Papal Legate who sealed the 1216 Magna Carta with William Marshal.

The aim of the conference was to revitalise and remember the ancient link between medieval Italy and England.

Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman, delivered a message via video, stressing the importance of the Rule of Law across the world, and the effect Magna Carta has had on modern Europe and abroad – from Italy to the West Indies.



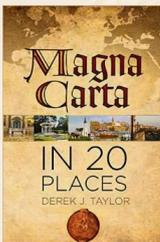
More Books



Beyond Magna Carta,
by Andrew Blick
Hart Publishing Limited (2015)
www.amazon.co.uk £25.00

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

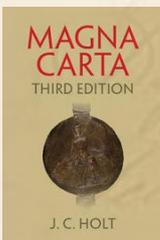
laws of King Aethelberht of Kent, c. 601-604. Not just another Magna Carta book, but added value.



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

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; much to recommend it.



Magna Carta
by J.C. Holt
www.amazon.co.uk £21.99

This revised edition of J. C. Holt's classic 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.

[Click here for a full listing of Magna Carta Books.](#)

Magna Carta Trails

Commemorate Magna Carta's 800th Anniversary with a trip through the historical sites which played major roles in the birth of the Great Charter.

- Trail 1: London to Windsor
Includes the City of London, British Library, Runnymede, Windsor and Odiham.
- Trail 2: Salisbury and Wiltshire
Includes Salisbury, Stonehenge and Trowbridge.
- Trail 3: Cathedral Cities of the North
Includes Lincoln, York, Carlisle, and Durham.
- Trail 4: Kent and East Sussex
Includes Canterbury, Faversham, Rochester, Dover Castle and Pevensey.
- Trail 5: East of England
Includes St Albans, Bury St Edmunds, Framlingham, Norwich.
- Trail 6: The Heart of England
Includes Oxford, Worcester, Evesham, and Hereford.

**TRAIL 3: THE CATHEDRAL
CITIES OF THE NORTH**

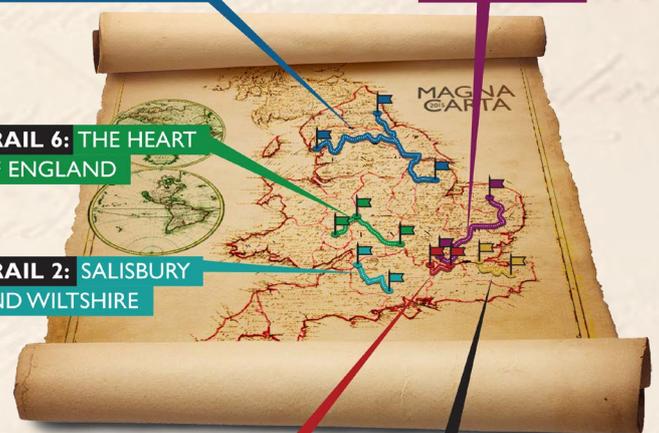
**TRAIL 5: EAST
OF ENGLAND**

**TRAIL 6: THE HEART
OF ENGLAND**

**TRAIL 2: SALISBURY
AND WILTSHIRE**

**TRAIL 1: LONDON
TO WINDSOR**

**TRAIL 4: KENT
AND EAST SUSSEX**



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



Check our Exclusive Magna Carta deal at:
www.radissonblu-edwardian.com/magnacarta