



# OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

## New Magna Carta Grant Available From FCO

The Foreign Office has announced a new £100,000 fund offering British legal expertise to countries around the world that want to improve the Rule of Law and their democratic processes.

The 'Magna Carta Partnerships' Fund:

- Small grants from a £100,000 pilot fund now available via a bidding process.
- Grants will be administered by the FCO's Human Rights and Democracy Department; [click here for bidding and information](#).
- Bids will be accepted until the 31st December.

At the event, FCO Minister Baroness Anelay said, *'Democracy under the Rule of Law is the best form of governance we know - and the longer-term trend is towards countries wanting more democratic governance, not less. The UK Government is committed to supporting this.'*

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, MP for Runnymede, was the principal Speaker at the 2015 800<sup>th</sup> "Kick-off" dinner at the Guildhall on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

[Click here to watch his speech.](#)

## Conference at Beijing's Renmin University Law School, but Exhibition Cancelled

The Hereford Magna Carta was to go on exhibition at Renmin University, but Chinese authorities did not provide approval in time and the exhibition was therefore shown at the residence of the British Ambassador. Plans for the exhibition in other parts of China, including Guangzhou and Shanghai, are still on.

- [Click here to read the London Times article](#)
- [Click here to read the New York Times article](#)

Sir Robert Worcester writes...

Last spring I was surprised and delighted to receive an invitation asking me to participate in a meeting in Beijing's Renmin University of China Law School. There were a number of legal historians both from Renmin and other Chinese Law Schools under the title *"The Past, Present and Future of the Rule of Law: Magna Carta, the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"*. Nearly 40 foreign participants and just over 60 Chinese participants from not only Renmin but also the Law Schools of Peking, Nanjing, Tsinghua and Xiamen took part. Some 20 papers were presented. Continued overleaf...



@MagnaCarta800th



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## Beijing Conference (Continued)

In the opening speech, the Dean, Han Dayuan, described the year of 2015 as a *"special year worth commemorating. It marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the promulgating of Magna Carta in 1215 and also the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the investigation into Western constitutionalism made by five ministers of the Chinese Qing Dynasty in 1905"*. That was my first surprise among many.

He went on to point out that *"Magna Carta enacted 800 years ago is an origin of Rule of Law for humankind, the legal civilisation established by which has been the value jointly shared by mankind. Although... there are multi ways to the development for the Rule of Law, the core ideas concerning Rule of Law arising from Magna Carta have remained unchanged. King under law and statutory taxation have been known to us. The invaluable spiritual heritages left by Magna Carta are that freedoms can be defended through Rule of Law and separation of power to limit power abuse. Rule of Law is the basic lifestyle for mankind for our times and also a fundamental guarantee to protect the human life, dignity and security and jointly foster peace"*.

He quoted from many sources beginning with *"in 1846, Liang Tingnan became the first person who mentioned Magna Carta in his writing 'Four Descriptions on Foreign Countries'."* In 1859 Magna Carta was taught in the old Tianjin China-West School. In 1899 Magna Carta began to be introduced in newspapers and periodicals. In fact, it was recorded that the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for Magna Carta was held in the intellectual community of China in June 1950.

Han Dayuan's speech was the beginning for many of the foreign participants increased understanding of how the Chinese have seriously considered the Rule of Law and Magna Carta over the many years, which opened the eyes to many of us as to this thoughtful consideration of Magna Carta's principles.

The foreign participants included scholars from Cambridge, Cape Town, Carlton University, Essex, Goethe, Hitotsubashi, King's College London, Leipzig, LSE, McGill, Nagoya, Oxford, Seoul National University, Sydney and Western Australia.

- [Click here for the list of delegates and the Dean's Welcoming Address](#)

## October Highlights:

1<sup>st</sup>: Access to Justice Foundation Legal Walk, Manchester.

1<sup>st</sup>: *'Robbers, Rebels, and Royals'*, University of Nottingham, 19.30. Performed by Joglaresa.

2<sup>nd</sup>: *'Conversation with Susan Walker'*, Warwick Literary Festival, 19.30. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>: Graham Clarke (author of *'Starta Magna Carta Thearta'*) Studio Open Days.

4<sup>th</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November: *'Magna Carta Canada'*, Fort York Visitor Centre, Toronto.

6<sup>th</sup>: *'Robbers, Rebels, and Royals'*, Leamington Music Festival, 19.30. Performed by Joglaresa.

7<sup>th</sup>: *'David Starkey: Magna Carta'*, Northcott Theatre, Exeter, 19.30. David Starkey, Speaker.

8<sup>th</sup>: *'Magna Carta and the Siege of Rochester Castle'*, Medway Archives, Rochester, 19.30. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

8<sup>th</sup>: Access to Justice Foundation Legal Walk, Cardiff, Liverpool, Swansea.

10<sup>th</sup> October – 6<sup>th</sup> December: *'Magna Carta Rediscovered'*, Rochester Cathedral.

10<sup>th</sup>: *'Magna Carta Books'*, The Guildhall, Rochester Book Festival, 16.00. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.

11<sup>th</sup>: *'Magna Carta and Justice Annual Justice Service'*, Rochester Cathedral. High Sheriff William Alexander, Speaker. Sermon by Rev. Robin Griffith-Jones.

12<sup>th</sup>: Access to Justice Foundation Legal Walk, Edinburgh, Glasgow.

13<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>: Magna Carta Embroidery Panels at the American Museum, Bath.

14<sup>th</sup>: *'Magna Carta and its importance to our legal system'*, Kent Law Society/University of Kent, 18.00. Keith Tucker Memorial Lecture. Sir Robert Worcester, Speaker.



## October Highlights:

(Continued)

15<sup>th</sup>: The final of the English – Speaking Union's (ESU) *'My Magna Carta?'*, Dartmouth House, London, 13.00 – 17.30.  
Sir Robert Worcester, Judge, ass: and Speaker (see p. 8).

15<sup>th</sup>: Magna Carta Seminar, at University of Trieste, Italy. Robert Blackburn, Organiser and Speaker.

17<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>: Canterbury Festival. Magna Carta theme.

19<sup>th</sup>: *'Magna Carta – did she die in vain?' Gray's Inn*. Baroness Hale, Speaker.

19<sup>th</sup>: Access to Justice Foundation Legal Walk, Oxford.

22<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November: *'Magna Carta Plays'*, Salisbury Playhouse, Salisbury.

23<sup>rd</sup>: *'Festival of Freedoms'* programme ends, hosted by UK Parliament.

24<sup>th</sup>: Knights of Wessex and Mercia Magna Carta Feast. See page 9.

26<sup>th</sup>: *'Magna Moot'*, Inner Temple, 19.00.

28<sup>th</sup>: Graham Clarke's *'Starta Magna Carta Thearta'*, Rochester Library.



[Click here to see Mock Trial video](#)

## November Highlights

4<sup>th</sup>: Access to Justice Foundation host the Great Legal Quiz. [Sign-up online here.](#)

7<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: Graham Clarke Studio Open Days (author of *'Starta Magna Carta Thearta.'*)

11<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>: *'Magna Carta Women'*, St Botolph's Church, Lincolnshire.

12<sup>th</sup>: *'European Perspectives of Magna Carta'* Human Rights Building, Strasbourg. Speakers include senior officials of the Council of Europe, Sir Robert Worcester and Professor Robert Blackburn.

12<sup>th</sup>: Magna Carta seminar at the University of Milano Bicocca, Italy.

13<sup>th</sup>, *'Celebrating Magna Carta and the Rule of Law'*, conference. International Bar Association (IBA), São Paulo, Brazil. (See p. 5)

16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>: *'Parliament Week'*, UK Houses of Parliament. [Click Here.](#)

19<sup>th</sup>: Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony, House of Lords, hosted by Baroness Prashar.

21<sup>st</sup>: Graham Clarke Studio Open Day.

23<sup>rd</sup>: *'Magna Carta Canada'*, Legislative Assembly of Alberta Visitor Centre, Edmonton.

23<sup>rd</sup>: *'The Temple and the Great Charter'*, Inner Temple, London. Sir John Baker, Speaker.

24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: *'Sweet Liberties'* Folk Music Tour at Cambridge, Bristol, Bury, Cardiff, London and Gateshead. Part of *'Parliament in the Making.'*

26<sup>th</sup>: *'Magna Carta Celebrations and Odiham Castle'*, Allen Gallery, Alton. John Champion, Speaker.

28<sup>th</sup>: Graham Clarke's *'Starta Magna Carta Thearta'*, Rochester Children's Library.



# Magna Carta Conference at European Court of Human Rights

By Professor Robert Blackburn

A special seminar is taking place at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Titled '*European Perspectives on Magna Carta*', speeches will address the importance of Magna Carta in the past, present and future aims and working of the Council of Europe, including the European Convention on Human Rights, and to the domestic constitutional arrangements of its 47 member states.



UK Judge Paul Mahoney,  
and Professor Robert  
Blackburn at the ECHR

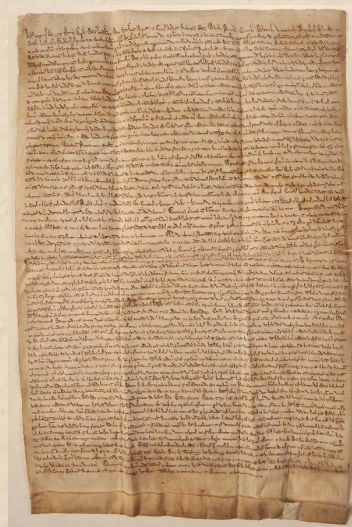
The event is organised on behalf of the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Committee by Robert Blackburn, Professor of Constitutional Law at King's College London, and UK National Correspondent (Consultant) to the Council of Europe's Directorate of Human Rights from 1983 to 2008.

Speeches will be given by Thorbjørn Jagland (Secretary General of the Council of Europe), Guido Raimondi (the newly elected President of the European Court of Human Rights), Paul Mahoney (the UK Judge at the Court), and Hanna Suchocka (Venice Commissioner and former Prime Minister of Poland).

Professor Maya Hertig from the University of Geneva and Professor Catherine Hugué-Moizard from the University of Strasbourg will provide commentary from a comparative law perspective, and Sir Robert Worcester, Chair of the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee, is giving the closing speech on public awareness and attitudes towards Magna Carta across 23 countries and around the world.

The proceedings will be simultaneously broadcast at the Dickson Poon School of Law at King's College London at Somerset House, London. [Click here for more information and videos.](#)

## Hereford Magna Carta goes on World Tour



Hereford's 1217 Magna Carta is now on a global tour. This copy of the Great Charter and the only surviving King's Writ from Runnymede in 1215

will pass through seven countries, across four continents, and travel approximately 65,000 miles.

Rev. Chris Pullin, Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral, said, "*I am delighted that our copy of Magna Carta is embarking on this global tour, which will enable more people than ever from across the world a unique and exciting opportunity to see the document close up*"

The Hereford Cathedral Magna Carta visits New York, Luxembourg, China\* (including Hong Kong), Singapore, Malta and Portugal, where it will be displayed at a number of public venues.

For more information, visit the website [here](#).

- [Click here to read the London Times article](#)
- [Click here to read the New York Times article](#)





## Treason? Mock Trial of the Magna Carta Barons - See Video



Clive Anderson, pictured, played King John. [Click here.](#)

The video of the "Trial of the Magna Carta Barons" at Westminster Hall, is now available on our website and on the Supreme Court's YouTube channel.

The historic Trial, which took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, saw the Barons acquitted of treason by three leading judges, Lord Neuberger, President of the Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Stephen Breyer, and Dame Sian Elias, Chief Justice of New Zealand.

The verdicts are available on our website [here](#).

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

This project was funded by the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee and produced in partnership with the UK Supreme Court's Director General Dame Jenny Rowe; Ben Wilson, Head of Communications; David McBride, Producer. Funded by 800<sup>th</sup> Committee.

From 'Exceptional Year',  
by the Grand Prior of the Knights Templar,  
Knightly News (Sept 2015).

*'There have been several high points in the past 12 months, but the pinnacle must be and will probably remain for a long time to come, our involvement in the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> commemorations at Royal Holloway, University of London, and at Runnymede itself.'*

[www.knightstemplar-england.org](http://www.knightstemplar-england.org)

## International Bar Assn's (IBA) Magna Carta Conferences



The International Bar Association is running three conferences in 2015 to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta.

The first conference, 'Celebrating Magna Carta and the Rule of Law' took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Cape Town, South Africa. Speakers included Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa Mogoeng Mogoeng.

The second of these one-day conferences, '*Celebrating Magna Carta and the Rule of Law*', takes place on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, in São Paulo, Brazil. Topics will include: the relevance of Magna Carta's principles to Latin America today; challenges to the Rule of Law in Latin America, and lawyers' roles in preserving democracy.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December a third conference, '*Magna Carta's 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Foundation of Democracy and the New Trends in Dispute Resolution in India*', will take place at the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi, India. Speakers include senior Indian judicial and government officials.<sup>1</sup>

To register your interest for the conferences and for further information, [click here](#).

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September Sir Robert Worcester spoke to 35 Judges from the Association of Federal Judges of Brazil meeting at King's College London. The knowledgeable audience were bursting with questions.

<sup>1</sup> Click here to read: '*England's Greatest Export*', written by Sir Robert Worcester and published in '*The Week*' India.



## Prime Minister David Cameron visits 'Find Your Voice' exhibition piece



Prime Minister David Cameron at a Find Your Voice event at Cogges Farm, Oxford.

Young people from Oxfordshire are developing their political voices at Oxfordshire County Council's libraries in a project part-funded by the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee. Find Your Voice helps young adults become more active citizens through

arts organisations. Groups of young people are currently writing, designing exhibitions, creating musical soundscapes, films and digital art, drama and dance during six to ten week projects at local libraries.

Workshops are underway in libraries across Oxfordshire, and poetry readings and performances by young people have taken place at many venues.

Seventy-five Find Your Voice participants will tour the Houses of Parliament on the 12<sup>th</sup> November and there will be the opportunity on the 19<sup>th</sup> November to observe a 'Select Committee' in action. The Science and Technology Select Committee is chaired by Nicola Blackwood M.P. and will take place in The Bodleian Library, Oxford, at the Divinity School & Convocation House, the site where Parliament has met four times in history.

In a separate event to promote tourism in Oxford, UK Prime Minister David Cameron visited Cogges Manor Farm, Witney, to promote tourism in Oxfordshire. After speaking to the audience, he saw Magna Carta themed displays and other activities on the Farm grounds. There he saw a touring exhibition created during workshops with the Story Museum as part of the project.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## 'Revealing Magna Carta' at Temple, London



On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, London's Temple opened its doors. Visitors were able to see Magna Carta displays in the Temple Church (pictured above), tour the Inner Temple, and attend live presentations from 'Magna Carta Chronicle' author Christopher Lloyd (pictured below). London's Temple is an important site in the story of Magna Carta. King John used it as his headquarters between November 1214 and May 1215. On the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1215, he issued the London Charter from the Temple.



The Master of the Temple, Rev. Robin Griffith – Jones, has written a guide to Magna Carta and Temple, called 'Magna Carta: 1215 – 2015. Magna Carta, Religion, and the Rule of Law.' ([www.templemusic.org](http://www.templemusic.org): £20.00).



## Macedonian Chevening Alumni Association marks 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magna Carta



The Macedonian Chevening Alumni Association (MCAA) in cooperation with the British Embassy in Skopje organized the panel discussion “*Conquering civil liberties: Magna Carta to Carta Macedonia*” to mark the 800<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of Magna Carta in Macedonia. The panel discussion took place in Skopje on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015.

The panel aimed to bring closer the relevance of Magna Carta to the state of human rights and civil liberties in the modern age, particularly in the context of Macedonia. The 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary served as an inspiration for opening up a debate of questions relevant to young democracies as Macedonia. His Excellency Charles Garrett, the British Ambassador to Macedonia, and Mr. Adnan Jashari, the Minister of Justice of Macedonia, greeted the panel, while a keynote speech was delivered by Mark Gill, Executive Director of the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee (pictured above). Mr. Gill spoke on the “*Value of Magna Carta*”, provided an historical insight of how Magna Carta was adjusted through the centuries and paid special attention to its enduring legacy, as well as how it has

impacted the shaping of democracy and democratic practices around the world.

The panel was moderated by Ms. Ilina Mangova, a Chevening scholar and expert in public opinion and democratic governance. Besides Mr. Gill from the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Committee, Prof. Gordan Kalajdziev from the Faculty of Law at Ss. Cyril and Methodius spoke on “*The Macedonian Magna Carta of Civil Liberties*”, while another Chevening scholar Mrs. Natasha Gaber-Damjanovska, PhD, Judge in the Constitutional Court of Macedonia gave her overview on “*Are the Civil Liberties Protected?*”

This event was attended by more than 50 guests including prominent judges, representatives from political parties, universities, embassies, the civil society etc. The questions and debate during the panel tackled some very challenging issues regarding the current state of civil liberties in Macedonia and Europe.

The panel to mark the anniversary of Magna Carta was a third conference organized by the Macedonian Chevening Alumni Association in the last several years. In this way the Macedonian Chevening community tries to contribute to the public debate in Macedonia and to raise awareness about funding possibilities through this Foreign & Commonwealth Office scholarship scheme.

## ‘Magna Carta Rediscovered’ opens at Rochester Cathedral.

‘*Magna Carta Rediscovered*’ left Sandwich on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, where it began the final leg of its tour at Rochester Cathedral. The exhibition also visited Faversham, Canterbury, Maidstone and Dover on its tour.

A copy of 1300 Magna Carta belonging to Sandwich was discovered last year in a Victorian scrapbook at Kent County Council Archives. Earlier this year, Sandwich, UK, twinned with Sandwich, Maine, USA, to commemorate this historic finding. The 800<sup>th</sup> Committee has funded ‘*Magna Carta Rediscovered*’ and activities supporting the promotion of the new discovery.

The siege of Rochester Castle (pictured below) faces its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Medway Council has produced a programme of events. [Click here to view these.](#)





## Finals of English – Speaking Union's 'My Magna Carta'

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October, the English - Speaking Union hosted the finals of its creative essay competition, 'My Magna Carta'. In November 2014, the ESU launched the competition in partnership with Royal Holloway, University of London, and the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee. Entries were received from school pupils across 29 countries across the world. They were asked to submit their own modern Magna Carta to defend liberties under threat today. The awards panel of judges included Professor Kate Williams (Chair) (Reading University), Professor Justin Champion (RHUL), Professor James Raven (Essex) and Professor Sir Robert Worcester (KCL and LSE).

<b>Africa:</b> Junior: Kayseka Geerjanaan (Mauritius) Senior: Mfundo Radebe* (South Africa)	<b>Europe:</b> Junior: Marie Georgette Spiteri (Malta) Senior: Sofija Jovanovic (Serbia)	<b>UK:</b> Junior: Laura White (Uxbridge) Senior: Alice Wilson (Herefordshire)
<b>Asia:</b> Junior: Xue-Ern Neo (Malaysia) Senior: Fathima Nifra (Sri Lanka)	<b>South America:</b> Junior: Valentina Errazuriz (Chile) Senior: Rocio Lopez (Chile)	The welcoming address was given by The Rt. Hon. Lord Boateng who was UK High Commissioner to South Africa. He is chairman of the English-Speaking Union. Sir Robert Worcester announced the winners* and presented the prizes.
<b>Australasia:</b> Junior: Ella McEnvoy (Australia) Senior: Jack Donnelly (Australia)	<b>North America:</b> Junior: Jane Josefowicz* (USA) Senior: Isabelle McMullen (USA)	

The 800<sup>th</sup> Committee has funded a legacy project, 'My Magna Carta: the Constitutional Voices of Tomorrow', which will provide an online resource of the competition entries.

## King's College London hosts ABA exhibition, 'Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy'



The ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress and the Law Library of Congress have loaned their travelling exhibit, 'Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy' to the Dickson Poon School of Law. The travelling exhibition is an integral part of

the world-wide observations of the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215. The exhibition is the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

This exhibition was on public display between 12 – 4 pm, Monday to Friday on floor -2 (Archaeology Room) of Somerset House East Wing, the home of the Dickson Poon School of Law.

The exhibition launched in tandem with The Dickson Poon School of Law's 'Magna Carta and the Rule of Law', a series of six eight metre long banners exploring the ways Magna Carta has affected the development of law in the Western world. Viewing of the banners can be arranged by appointment. Contact Adam Tupper, adam.tupper@kcl.ac.uk.

## Access to Justice Foundation – Legal Walks



The Access to Justice Foundation continue to commemorate the 800<sup>th</sup> with Legal Walks throughout the year.

Walks available in October include at Aberdeen, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford and Swansea.

The Foundation is a national charity established in 2008 and aims to provide access to legal aid and advice for the vulnerable in society. Funding assists those who need legal help but cannot afford it. The Foundation has hosted Magna Carta Legal Walks throughout 2015.

[Click here to get more information and full listing of events.](#)



## Former Australian PM Tony Abbott unveils Magna Carta plaque



Numerous events were held to celebrate Magna Carta's 800<sup>th</sup>, in Australia. Many of these were in Canberra, where Australia's 1297 copy is on permanent display in Parliament House. This photograph shows the former Australian Prime Minister, Mr Tony Abbott, and Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, unveiling a plaque to commemorate the ceremony held at Magna Carta Place in Canberra on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015. They are watched by Mrs Menna Rawlings, British High Commissioner to Australia and Air Marshal David Evans, Chair of the Magna Carta Committee of Australia.

The Prime Minister and Dr Nelson addressed the gathering on the enduring importance and legacy of Magna Carta and the Prime Minister inspected the Federation Guard and the Band of the Royal Military College who took part in the proceedings. Afterwards there were refreshments on the lawns surrounding the Magna Carta Memorial, where the Prime Minister met many of the guests including visiting school children.

## Knights Guild to commemorate Magna Carta with Medieval Feast



The Knights Guild of Wessex and Mercia will be celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. This is being combined with a regular feast to induct our 2015 thegns. Our group was the first to be formalised in Queensland, Australia in the late 1970's.

The aim of our group is to bring 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Century medieval history alive through interactive experiences in classrooms, at public events and family celebrations. In 1988 our city of Brisbane was host to a World Expo. The Magna Carta Pavilion engaged our group to cater a feast for all of its staff and volunteers. Once again, we will host a feast in honour of this anniversary.



Most of the cast (l-r): Tribunal (3) Baron, King John,  
Narrator, Baron, Baron, Advocate  
[Click here to see Mock Trial video](#)



## Magna Carta Funded Projects

### Battlefields Trust: Magna Carta Legacy



The Battlefields Trust is dedicated to the preservation

and promotion of battlefield heritage sites. The story of Magna Carta is replete with battles and sieges that shaped Medieval England, and changed the world in years to come.

The project will raise awareness of sites associated with Magna Carta and the resulting Barons Wars. It will develop interpretive and educational resources to tell this story, including the development of a battlefields trail.

The Trust is actively seeking volunteers who would like to get involved in their local sites at any level. An online 'sign – up' form is available on our website here.

Members of the Trust have given many lectures across England at these important heritage sites.

For a full events – listing, click here.

### Durham Cathedral: Replicating Magna Carta



**DURHAM  
CATHEDRAL**  
THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

MC800<sup>th</sup> funding will enable Durham Cathedral to create two high-quality authentic replicas of its 1216 Magna Carta and the 1217 Forest Charter. These replicas will enable the Cathedral to enhance its delivery of ongoing learning opportunities about the Charters and their significance for people of all ages in the North East region and beyond.

The original issues are very fragile. The replicas will allow greater access to the documents. The Cathedral's Education team will also be able to extend its learning programme for schools, which presently engages with 20,000 young people a year from across the North East region.

Durham Cathedral's 1300 Magna Carta is currently on tour in Canada as part of the 'Magna Carta Canada' exhibition. It is on display at Fort York, Toronto between 4<sup>th</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November, then at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta between 23<sup>rd</sup> November – 29<sup>th</sup> December.

For more information, click here.

### Citizenship Foundation: Bringing Magna Carta to life in Primary Schools



Established in 1989, the Citizenship Foundation is a UK-wide education charity with 27 years' experience. The Foundation's programmes and resources – which have been used by 80% of UK secondary schools – help young people understand their rights and obligations to each other in a society based on the Rule of Law. The 800<sup>th</sup> Committee has awarded the Foundation £4,000 to support the work of their flagship Go-Givers programme.

As part of the commemoration celebrations the Citizenship Foundation will develop the resources, which bring to life the key principles of Magna Carta for 7-11 year olds.

These resources are available free of charge on-line at <http://www.go-givers.org/> for all 25,000 state primary schools in the UK. These will be available until at least January 2020. This would leave a lasting legacy for Magna Carta 800 well beyond the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



# Magna Carta and Music

The 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary has caught the public's imagination, with events still to come in 2015. Here is an overview of some of the musical features that have been produced in commemoration of the Great Charter.

Egham Museum presents  
'Magna Carta Through Song'



Egham Museum has worked with Croydon-based singer/songwriter Jenny Lockyer on an educational project linked to Magna Carta's 800<sup>th</sup>. The project, '*Magna Carta Through Song*', was commissioned by Egham Museum and initially resulted in four original songs and animated videos that formed part of an educational resource on the Museum's website.

The Museum and Jenny presented creative workshops for a number of schools in Egham and Odiham. A live performance from Odiham Castle was recorded for John Robson's documentary, '*Magna Carta: Our Shared Legacy of Liberty*'. Three songs from the project have been included in this documentary. [Click here for more information.](#)

Jenny wrote the songs, and Matthew Foster played bass (Pictured above). Music has been performed at a wide number of events such as Odiham's Magna Carta weekend, the Runnymede Picnic, Egham's Magna Carta day and at festivals in the South - East. The Museum aims to run more school workshops in the autumn term. [More details are available on our website here.](#)

Patrick Gregg's '*Glorious 800<sup>th</sup>*', and Nicholas O'Neill's '*Magna Cantata: 1215: The Foundation of Liberty*'



Singer/ songwriter Patrick Gregg has written a tribute to Magna Carta in the style of a rock anthem. This has been performed by the Royal Marines Band (who have put it into their permanent repertoire) to great acclaim at Runnymede on Magna Carta Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> June; and at the Mock Trial of the Magna Carta Barons at Westminster Hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, where it was adapted for performance by the Barclay Ensemble (pictured above).

Nicholas O' Neill's cantata called '*1215: Foundation of Liberty*'. This was performed at Runnymede on the 15<sup>th</sup> June by the Royal Marines band. The Cantata uses CDCG (the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> notes) on the musical scale to express the theme of 1215 throughout.

[For more information about this funded project, click here.](#)



Royal Marine Band

Joglaresa to perform at  
Leamington Music Festival

Arts Council England have funded a tour of Joglaresa's '*Robbers, Rebels, and Royals*'. It was performed on the 6<sup>th</sup> October as part of Leamington Music Festival at St Mary's Church, Warwick. The cast performed rude songs about King John, with accompaniment by bagpipes, fiddle, harp, and percussion.

Leamington Music Education Programme offers workshops to visiting schools. Internationally – renowned musicians perform for schools at educational events.

[For more information, click here.](#)



The Barons (and a Bishop) in the Dock

[Click here to see Mock Trial video](#)



The Judges and a Baron in the Dock

[Click here to see Mock Trial video](#)



## The Field of Freedom\*

By Edward Dawson



The American Bar Association's Magna Carta Memorial

This special anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta by King John took place 800 years later on the same green meadow by the softly running Thames.

Runnymede Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015. We were told to assemble at 6.30 a.m. at our selected meeting point. The Battlefields Trust was well represented and the reward for such an early start was the opportunity to enjoy dancing and film excerpts, as well as music from the Royal Marines. This is the place where England's freedom was born.

Whilst no battle was fought at Runnymede, the barons came well-armed. Within weeks, King John's Magna Carta had been annulled by the Pope and the country set alight by the rebels. Their invitation to the French to launch an invasion led the country into war, with battles and sieges from Dover to the Scottish borders.



The Royal Barge Gloriana headed a flotilla of 200 boats

The sun shone from a grey sky as the Queen arrived at Runnymede to celebrate the Foundation of Liberty, 800 years of Magna Carta. Her Majesty the Queen attended as Patron of the Magna Carta Trust, and in a message, she acknowledged that the British monarchy was intertwined with Magna Carta.



Plaque unveiled by the Queen

Prince William had arrived earlier, viewing a new art work called 'The Jurors', by sculptor Hew Locke, cast in bronze and consisting of twelve chairs fixed firmly in the ground. Each chair incorporates symbols and imagery representing concepts of law and key moments in the struggle for freedom. It is a permanent addition to the many memorials at Runnymede.

The speeches were led by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Dyson; he emphasised the importance of the Rule of Law established by Magna Carta saying, 'It created the common heritage of freedom and liberty.'

\* repeated from "Battlefield", the magazine of the Battlefields Trust



## The Field of Freedom (Continued)

By Edward Dawson

He then introduced the Prime Minister, David Cameron, who asked 'Why do people set such store by Magna Carta? It is because they look to history.' He added that they saw how the Great Charter had shaped the world, promoting arguments for justice and freedom. 'Did those barons know how it would echo through the ages? It had inspired those who fought in the Civil War, gave fuel to the Chartists and succour to the Suffragettes.'

The final speaker, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke of the importance of Christianity and the contribution of the Church. From Henry II and his clashes with Thomas a Becket, to Stephen Langton, whose close involvement with the preparation and guiding of the charter, had been so crucial. The Temple Church Choir sang a number of choral works and the focus moved to the American Bar Association Memorial, as the Princess Royal arrived for the rededication ceremony.



The American Bar Association Memorial, USAF airmen, behind Knights Templar.



Central Stage at Runnymede

The American Bar Association has long had a connection with Magna Carta; they installed the original monument at Runnymede in 1957, and rededicated it in the presence of the Princess Royal. The American Ambassador, Hon. Matthew Barzun, spoke, followed by the US Attorney General Loretta Lynch. The Templar Knights in white gowns stood around the memorial. They were there in 1215.



At 12:15pm precisely there was a fly past by the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight 2015 and finally the Red Arrows, with their red, white and blue vapour trails, closed the commemorations.



## Review of 'Magna Carta and Canada'

by Susan Walker

'Magna Carta and Its Gifts to Canada: Democracy, Law, and Human Rights', Paperback published by Dundurn Press 2015 by Dr Carolyn Harris who teaches history at University of Toronto Continuing Studies.

"Magna Carta and other charters of freedom, and Parliament itself, though nurtured in English soil, matured when their needs were planted in the far corners of the earth" These were the words of John Diefenbaker, Canada's PM 1957- 63.

This book tells not just the story of the Great Charter but also its subsequent history worldwide; a new contribution which is unique, as it also focuses on its influence in Canada, its democracy, law and human rights.

Publication was inspired by the Magna Carta Canada team who also arranged the exhibition of the Durham Cathedral copy touring around four Canadian cities: Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton. As background, there is also an educational programme including schools materials to highlight its importance and relevance to the people of Canada.

Dr Harris starts her informative and readable account with a look at early perceptions of democracy to put the story of Magna Carta and its subsequent history in historical context. The text is well illustrated with a variety of scenes, some well known in the Magna Carta story others – showing the Canada relevance.

She explains how it has influenced their key documents from the Royal proclamation of 1763 that shaped the then British Colonies and relations with the First Nations through the act that created the confederation of Canada in 1867 to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms espoused by Diefenbaker.

The fact that it is not just history but a living document is shown when Dr Harris writes that a copy of the Royal proclamation of 1763, "which has been called the "indigenous people's Magna Carta", showed that it was indeed the first recognition by the British Crown that Canada's native population had rights. The proclamation has been invoked in land claim disputes ever since".

## Magna Carta and the UK Supreme Court Exhibition

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom is the highest Court of authority in all matters under English, Welsh, Scottish, and Northern Irish Law. On the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015, the Court held a 'Mock Trial' of the Magna Carta Barons at Westminster Hall, in partnership with the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee. **More information and video available [here](#).**



HRH Princess Alexandra  
opens Magna Carta:  
Chartered Voyage

This autumn, (open 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015, weekdays only) a special photo exhibition, '*Magna Carta: Reflections*' is running at the Court. The exhibition comprises portraits of twelve figures drawn from across the legal profession, who each offer an insight into the enduring relevance of Magna Carta in their working lives through a personal statement of around 300 words. The exhibition offers a glimpse of how the fundamental principles associated with Magna Carta influence those working in the law, from former Attorney Generals to high street solicitors.

Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> September, '*Magna Carta: Chartered Voyage*' ran at the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

The exhibition, funded by the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee, saw approximately 20,000 people visit the Court. Interpretative panels explained how the legal significance of Magna Carta developed over time and was used by the courts to protect fundamental freedoms, as well as to inspire emerging nations to place the Rule of Law at the heart of their written constitutions. The exhibition was opened formally by HRH The Duke of Kent and HRH Princess Alexandra at the end of July 2015.

Visitor surveys showed:

- 95% thought the exhibition was 'Excellent' or 'Good';
- Eight out of ten visitors also felt more informed about the Supreme Court's work after visiting the exhibition;
- Around one third of visitors were from the UK, one third from the rest of Europe and the final third from elsewhere;
- Around half of the total number of visitors were aged under 30.

**For more information about the Supreme Court and Magna Carta, [click here](#).**

Open 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015, weekdays only.



## 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.*

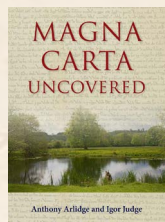


### **Magna Carta**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of this Penguin Classic breaks new ground.

*A definitive work, comprehensive, and is brilliantly structured.*



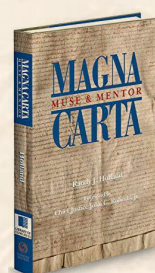
### **Magna Carta Uncovered**

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.*



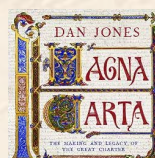
### **Magna Carta: Muse & Mentor**

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

Excellent contributions including Igor Judge on William Marshall, one of the most important forgotten men of history. On his death in 1219 in his funeral oration the Archbishop of Canterbury described Marshall 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,

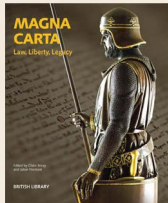
John's father, the birth of the ideas of the Baron's Charter, Magna Carta as a failed peace treaty, its slow resurrection and today's mutation. The appendices are worth the price of the book: I Texts, Latin and English; II the men of Magna Carta; III Enforcers, the 25 Barons; IV Timeline.

*Told in detail, but an easy read.*





## Books



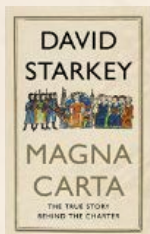
### **Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy**

Claire Breay and Julian Harrison  
The British Library Publishing Divisions, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

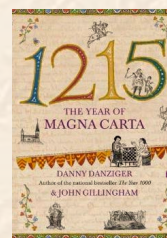


### **Magna Carta in 20 Places,**

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.*

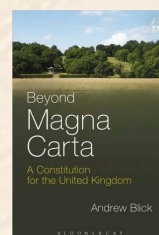


### **1215**

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.*

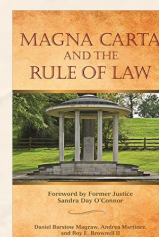


### **Beyond Magna Carta**

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, written in (Old) English, for the English

*Not just another Magna Carta book, but added value.*



### **Magna Carta and the Rule of Law**

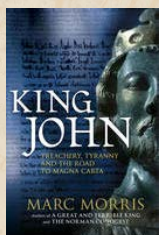
by Daniel Magraw, Andrea Martinez and Roy E Brownell (2014) £15.68 pb

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*

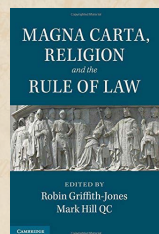


### **The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, the Power Behind Five English Thrones**

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.*



### **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](http://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. As well as giving many speeches to organised groups, sermons not only in Temple Church and recently in Rochester Cathedral's Justice Service, and publication of several authored and edited books including chapters by other knowledgeable contributors.

## 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](http://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!**

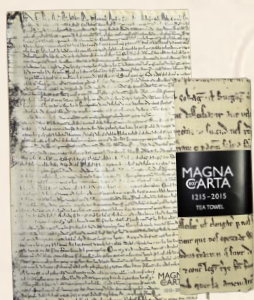
Kourtney Harper, Guy Fox (Launching 20 April 2015) pb

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](http://www.guyfox.org.uk)*



# 800<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Merchandise



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£6

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

**[www.magnacarta800th.com/shop](http://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 800<sup>th</sup> commemoration activities.



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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