



MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Treason? The Mock Trial of Magna Carta Barons and Bishops

It might have taken 800 years, but on 31st July 2015, judgement shall be passed on whether or not the actions of the Bishops and Barons at Runnymede in 1215 constituted Treason.

The Supreme Court and The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee are working with the Royal Commonwealth Society to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

31st July is the final day of the Law Year, and this Mock Trial variation of a 'moot court' will see 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) hear the case for and against the Barons and Bishops, in Westminster Hall.



There will be two leading advocates for the prosecution, and two for the defence, from Commonwealth countries. King John will appear as a witness of the Prosecution. Sir Robert Rogers (pictured below), now Lord Lisvane, the witness for the Barons and Bishops (the Commons might not exist today but for the Barons at Runnymede on 15 June 1215).

[Click here to register for the event – places are limited!](#)

It is only a month away until Magna Carta Day. See our list of activities in the United Kingdom, the United States, the Commonwealth, and across the world, below.

May Highlights

- 1st: The American Bar Association's Law Day. This year Magna Carta is the theme. Events across the US.
- 1st: The American Bar Association commemorate Magna Carta at Pace Law School, US.
- 2nd: *Magna Carta and its Gifts to Canada* launched at the University of Toronto.
- 2nd: Battlefields Trust AGM. Sir Robert speaker.
- 3rd – 4th: 'King John Returns', at Lincoln Castle.
- 5th: Closing date for the English-Speaking Union's 'My Magna Carta' essay competition.
- 8th: CILEx Magna Carta Dinner at Caldicot Castle, Wales, Sir Robert Worcester speaker.
- 9th: Chipping Campden Literary Festival. Sir Robert Worcester speaker.
- 9th – 10th: Events at Pleshey Castle, funded by the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee.



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photos/magna-carta/



May Continued:

- 12th: 'Magna Carta: The Freedom Game', Royal Albert Hall.
- 12th: Lord Mayor of London's Reception to welcome Magna Carta Barons Association.
- 12th: Lord Neuberger lecture, Lincoln's Inn.
- 14th: Temple Church host Lord Mayor to commemorate the London Charter.
- 14th: 'A Rule of Law for the World of Cyber?' Magna Carta New Zealand Young Lawyers Committee, Wellington.
- 15th: Magna Carta Debate, Allington Castle, Kent. Lord Judge, Chairman, (Lord) Michael Howard vs. (Lord) Rodger Liddle.
- 21st: Rev Rt Hon Lord Griffiths' Magna Carta Lecture, 19.30, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln .
- 22nd: BBC Radio 4, 'Any Questions?', Faversham, Kent.
- 23rd: 'What do we want? Magna Carta & Human Rights' discussion at Hay Festival, with Stephen Fry and guests.
- 26th: 'Magna Carta Through the Ages' Exhibition at Society of Antiquarians.
- 27th – 30th: 'King John' by The Globe Theatre, at Salisbury Cathedral.
- 28th: 'The Relevance of Magna Carta in the 21st Century', 18.00, Worcester Cathedral. Sir Robert Worcester speaker.

June Highlights:

- 1st: Professor Dick Howard to speak at the British Library on Magna Carta.
- 1st: Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony at Allington Castle, Kent. Host: Sir Robert Worcester, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.
- 1st – 19th: 'The Loss of Liberties in Victorian Art' at Royal Holloway, University of London. One of the MC800th funded projects.
- 1st – 28th: 'King John', at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.
- 1st June – 31st August: 'Magna Carta and the Changing Face of Revolt.' Exhibition at Durham Palace Green Library.
- 1st – 20th: Magna Carta and the City Walking Tours, London.
- 2nd: 'The Hereford Magna Carta', Hereford Cathedral, Speaker Professor Nicholas Vincent.
- 2nd: 'Henry III and Magna Carta: 1225' Society of Antiquaries, London. Professor David Carpenter Speaker.
- 5th: David Starkey lecture on Magna Carta, at Gala Durham.
- 5th: Magna Carta Dinner at Lincoln Cathedral.
- 5th – 6th: 'Magna Carta, King John and the Civil War in Kent', Magna Carta Conference at Canterbury Christ Church University.
- 6th June – 6th September: 'Canterbury in the Age of Magna Carta' Exhibition at the Beaney House of Arts and Knowledge.
- 8th: 'International Role of Magna Carta.' Professor Dick Howard Lecture at the US Embassy, London.
- 9th: Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony at Salisbury Cathedral.
- 11th – 14th: ABA delegation. Magna Carta activities in London.
- 12th: Launch of Magna Carta River Relay.
- 12th: 'Magna Carta Canada' Exhibition opens in Canadian Museum of History, Ottawa.
- 13th: City-wide Magna Carta Day in Canterbury.

June Continued:

- 13th – 14th : Strike a Blow for Democracy, bell ringing across the UK.
- 14th : National LiberTeas events.
- 14th : Great Charter Festival at Royal Holloway, University of London.
- 15th : International Commemoration event at Runnymede.
- 15th: Commemoration reception at New Zealand Parliament.
- 15th: Virginia, USA, House of Delegates & Senate commemoration event.
- 15th: Canadian Magna Carta Day Act designates the 15th June as Magna Carta Day in Ontario.
- 15th: Beer Day Britain – pubs across the UK will say 'cheers' to Magna Carta at 12.15 led by Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest brewer.
- 16th: Rt Hon Jack Straw speaker at Royal Holloway, University London's Magna Carta Lecture.
- 17th – 19th: Magna Carta Project, landmark conference at King's College London and British Library.
- 17th: South East European University Magna Carta Conference.
- 18th: 'Relevance of Magna Carta Abroad,' at Bingham Centre. Canadian Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin lecture.
- 23rd: 'Magna Carta and the Treaty of Waitanga', National Library of New Zealand, Wellington.
- 27th : Isle of Wight Mardi Gras – theme: Magna Carta Masquerade.
- 30th: 'Making Constitutions, Building Parliaments.' Conference hosted by the History of Parliament Trust Conference.

Launch of 'History Rocks: Magna Carta'



Guy Fox History Project launched 'History Rocks: Magna Carta' on Monday 20th April at the House of Lords.

The book is the result of extensive work with John Donne Primary School. Pupils of the school assumed the roles of illustrators, and helped design a book which will help younger audiences engage with the colourful history of the Great Charter.

At the launch Creative Director Kourtney Harper praised the passion and commitment shown by the school, and the support given by Blackstone Chambers. She thanked the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding the project, and also praised the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee.

Kourtney also thanked the cast of volunteers who had given their time to be part of an educational and animated video as voice actors – which can be viewed here.

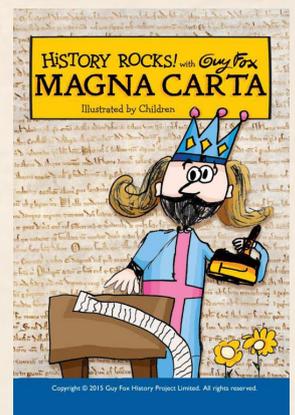
Guy Fox History Project create innovative activities and publications that encourage children to explore the world around them. In 2004, the company was the winner of the Guardian Charity Award, and ten years later in 2014, the Lord Mayor's Dragon Award – Community Partner.

15,000 copies of 'History Rocks: Magna Carta' were produced – and due to overwhelming requests, there are none remaining. However, every single page from the project has been uploaded to Guy Fox's Facebook page, which can be accessed here. Guy Fox will also share a daily Magna Carta fact on their Twitter and Facebook, with their final post going live at 12.15 on 15th June.

Online resources will go live on the Guy Fox and Magna Carta 800th sites in the summer.

At the launch event, the children who had helped illustrate the book were given their own Charters as proof of their hard work – and met Guy Fox himself.

For more information, and to view the Guy Fox video: The Story of Magna Carta, click here.



'The Magna Carta Chronicle' launched



Angry King John sealing
Magna Carta – 1215

'The Magna Carta Chronicle', the official Young Person's Guide to the 800th Commemoration, was launched at the Radisson Blu Edwardian Bloomsbury Hotel on Tuesday 21st April.

What on Earth? Publishing have also produced educational resources to assist with teaching children across History, Literacy, Citizenship, and Art, for both Key Stage 2 and 3 levels. An introductory video has also been produced, and images from the launch can be viewed here.

All of these resources, and further information, can be viewed on our website here.

Click here to purchase a copy of The Magna Carta Chronicle – for £8.99

The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee also announced that it has funded the distribution of the Chronicle to every state primary school in Britain. More than 21,000 copies of The Chronicle have arrived at state schools where they will assist in the ongoing process of teaching children about Magna Carta and the history of the Rule of Law, and the development of human rights, in Britain and internationally.

The Magna Carta Chronicle includes more than 45 tabloid newspaper stories that allow readers to understand the key moments in the history of liberties as if they happened yesterday.

A two metre long fold – out timeline charts nearly 100 moments, from the early laws of Hammurabi, to the terrible assault upon Malala Yousafzai after she survived an assassination attempt made upon her for simply daring to go to school.

A souvenir facsimile copy of the 1215 Magna Carta housed at Salisbury Cathedral has been reproduced in each copy, so the Great Charter can have a presence on classroom walls. Companion annotations explain the key clauses in the document, which formed the foundation stones of modern liberties.

A further 50 copies of the Chronicle will be given as prizes on a social media quiz, led by the Magna Carta 800th accounts: @MagnaCarta800th, on Twitter, and Magna Carta 800th Anniversary, on Facebook. Today's question can be viewed alongside a list of previous questions and winners here.

Speaking at the event, author Christopher Lloyd (pictured), praised the work of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee in the support shown for the book and What on Earth? Publishing. He then led an explorative journey through the history of the Great Charter and personal liberties, in front of an attentive and delighted younger audience.



Christopher Lloyd, Author of The Magna Carta Chronicle, introduces children to Magna Carta at the Launch.

Sign up to the Junior Lawyers in Schools Programme



Hekim Hannan, lawyer, discusses Magna Carta at Frodsham Manor School

The 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta provides a unique opportunity for school-age children across the globe to engage with the ideas of citizenship, democracy, and the Rule of Law.

To do this, the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee, the Law Society and The Bar Council, have organised the Magna Carta Junior Lawyers in Schools programme.

The programme aims to inspire young people with ideas of justice, and first – hand experiences from lawyers and those in the civic profession. This project has been made possible through the support of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx).

Schools are encouraged to sign up to the programme, so that they can be linked with a lawyer or another legal professional who is keen to engage students and discuss how the Rule of Law shapes the world we live in.

It's easy to sign – up: all you have to do is click here, and enter your school's details. We will then put you in touch with a civic or legal professional ready to talk at your institution.

A previous participant, Hekim Hannan (pictured) had this to say about his experience at Frodsham Manor School:

"Magna Carta is the foundation of our rights – yet having completed a law degree, LPC and qualified as a solicitor, I knew very little of how and why this document was so important. 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. The Year 4 to 6 children at Frodsham Manor House Primary School were engaged and captivated and it was such a wonderful experience to talk about Magna Carta and careers in the law to such young and inquisitive minds. The questions they asked were interesting, varied and nearly caught me out on a couple of occasions! At the beginning of my talk I asked for a show of hands as to who wanted to be a lawyer; 4 or 5 hands were raised. At the end of my talk, the response was 30 or 40! Overall it was a wonderful experience for me and I can't wait until the next one!"

An update from Magna Carta Canada

by Len Rodness

Magna Carta 2015 Canada

Canada is proudly participating in the world-wide celebrations of Magna Carta, with several significant initiatives.

Durham Cathedral's original copy of the 1300

exemplifications of both Magna Carta and The Charter of the Forest will visit Canada in a new exhibition. This will open on 12th June 2015 at the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, and has been designed by Canadian museum and exhibition design firm Lord Cultural Resources. The exhibition will then travel to:

- Winnipeg – Canadian Museum for Human Rights – 15th August, 2015 to 18th September 2015.
- Toronto – Fort York Visitor Centre – 4th October 2015 to 7th November 2015.
- Edmonton – Legislative Assembly of Alberta Visitor Centre – 23rd November 2015 to 29th December 2015.

The exhibition also features a companion documentary style film, which features several prominent Canadians discussing the impact of Magna Carta upon Canadian governance, Rule of Law and society.

Magna Carta Canada has previously sponsored a panel discussion hosted at the Canadian Parliament Buildings by Speaker of the House of Commons, Andrew Scheer, during which the panel considered the impact of Magna Carta on Canada. Further discussions and seminars are in development.

At the heart of the Canadian celebrations will be an educational programme. This consists of three separate initiatives, aimed at specific age groups, which will be available to all Canadians in both French and English. For primary school age children, Magna Carta Canada has been fortunate enough to be able to secure from 'What on Earth? Publishing' the rights to adapt for Canadian audiences their wall-mountable learning tool timeline which sets out the history and impact of Magna Carta through the centuries.

For children ages 12 to 17, Magna Carta Canada's education experts have prepared lesson plans which are designed to complement Canadian middle and high school curricula and can be used as part of an existing lesson plan, as stand-alone lessons or to accompany a classroom visit to the exhibition.

Finally, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, and the Council of Canadian Law Deans are sponsoring an essay competition among law students across Canada, with the winning submission to be chosen in October 2015.

Magna Carta Canada has commissioned a book by Dr. Carolyn Harris, a history professor at the University of Toronto, called '*Magna Carta and its Gifts to Canada*', published by Dundurn Press, available from 2nd May, 2015 in both print and e-book formats.

A Private Member's Bill – *The Magna Carta Day Act* - was introduced in the summer of 2014 Province of Ontario legislative session. '*The Magna Carta Day Act*' designates 15th June annually as Magna Carta Day in Ontario, to help promote awareness of Magna Carta in Ontario and Canada. The Bill has received second reading and it is hoped that it will become law later this spring.

Canadians are very excited to share in the exceptional festivities planned to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. We hope to share that excitement with the rest of the world.

A report from the recent Baronial Order of Magna Charta Triennial Symposium

The MC 800th Committee and the Baronial Order of Magna Charta joined together on 16th April in Washington, DC, to celebrate the presentation of the first Magna Carta 800th Committee – Baronial Order of Magna Charta American Law School Scholarship, and the first Triennial Magna Carta Symposium.

The occasion was the Baronial Order of Magna Charta Annual Meeting, held at the prestigious Cosmos Club in the nation's capital.

Mark Gill, Executive Director of the Magna Carta 800th Commemoration Committee, travelled from London to present the scholarship award. A cheque for \$2,000 was awarded to Elaine DuRoss McCafferty, who is pursuing a Juris Doctor Degree at Washington and Lee School of Law. This was followed by the presentation to Ms. McCafferty of a specially-designed, framed certificate by Mr. Gill, Mrs. Diane Alley Robinson, Chair of the BOMC Scholarship Committee, and BOMC Marshal Robert Pond Vivian.

Comments by Ms. McCafferty were followed by the introduction of the Symposium Panel, an impressive group of legal scholars and practitioners who offered profound insights into Magna Carta and the individual rights it has bequeathed to all free people.

Professor Russell Miller of the Washington and Lee School of Law was the Moderator. He was joined on the panel by Professor William Hamilton Bryson, University of Richmond School of Law; Joyce Lee Malcolm; Patrick Henry, Professor of Law and the Second Amendment at George Mason University School of Law; and Nicholas Donnell Ward, Esq., an attorney in private practice.

At the conclusion of the Symposium there were many questions from the floor. Approximately 130 attended.



Mrs Diane Alley Robinson, Chair of the Baronial Order of Magna Charta, Elaine DuRoss McCafferty, and Mark Gill, Executive Director of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee.

Magna Carta Barons Association – an update



**MAGNA
CARTA
BARONS**

The Magna Carta Barons Association represents a collective of towns across the UK which played a role in the creation of the

Great Charter. A new page has been added to the Magna Carta 800th website, which provides a comprehensive listing of events across the UK – [click here to view](#).

In Magna Carta's 800th Anniversary year, the Association is organising a host of events across the country.

In 2014 the Association received a grant of £12,500 from the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee towards the costs of providing facsimile copies of the Great Charter to each of the towns and villages representing the principal rebel barons who secured the Charter from King John in 1215.

Each of these facsimiles will be displayed with two exhibition banners, one about the Charter, and the other about the local Baron. These will become the centrepieces of a wide range of local events and activities being planned by Towns in 2015. After these celebrations close, the facsimiles will be available to local residents at churches, libraries, and town halls, as a permanent reminder of the town or village's connection with Magna Carta. More information on this Round 1 project can be read [here](#).

The Lord Mayor of London, Alan Yarrow, hosted several hundred representatives including council chairman, leaders, Magna Carta committees and other distinguished guests from the 21 Magna Carta towns throughout England. A commemorative play was performed with a 'hardly visible' Archbishop of Canterbury as described by 'nasty King John' who by his actions on stage revealed himself as richly deserving to be called 'bad King John'. However, Professor Nicholas Vincent of the University of East Anglia, who also spoke at the mansion house event, was asked in February a year ago by a Daily Telegraph reporter, "Did he deserve to be called 'bad King John'?", to which Nick responded: "No (pause) he was much worse than that".

Other highlights from the season of planned activities include: a competition to build a working trebuchet at Pontefract School on 10th June and a Magna Carta Cantata at Salisbury Cathedral on 10th July. [Click here](#) for more information about each of these events.

Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter



The Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter Exhibition organised by the CLA, CLEA and CMJA was launched in Glasgow on 12th April 2015 at the Commonwealth Law Conference.

It was opened by Mr Alexander Ward, current President of the CLA, a barrister from Adelaide, Australia, Chief Justice Margaret Ramsay-Hale, Caribbean Regional Vice President of the CMJA and Chief Justice of Turks and Caicos and Prof David McQuoid-Mason, President of the CLEA from South Africa who jointly cut the ribbon to open the Exhibition. The Exhibition was opened in the presence of the Minister for Community, Safety and Legal Affairs, the Rt Hon Paul Wheelhouse, the immediate past President of the CLA, English solicitor, Mark Stephens, and the representative of Glasgow, Bailie Jonathan Findlay as well as representatives from over 56 jurisdictions in the Commonwealth and beyond attending the Conference.

The Exhibition is now making its way to Osgoode Hall in Toronto, Canada where it will be on display from 4-15 May 2015 before travelling to Barbados, Malawi, Malaysia and then on to Wellington, New Zealand.



Castle Debates



Castle Debates

are marking the Great Charter with an open and free debate on 1st June. 'Magna Carta: Our Legal Right to a Healthy Environment', will take place at Radisson Blu Edwardian Bloomsbury Hotel.

Speakers include Professor Nicholas Vincent, University of East Anglia; Professor Duncan French, Head of Law School, University of Lincoln; Richard Wald, Barrister at 39 Essex Chambers; and James Thornton, CEO of ClientEarth. The event will be chaired by Jonathan Porritt CBE, Founder Director of Forum for the Future.

Castle Debates highlight issues of environmental science, law, and policy. With a reputation for high calibre speakers, debates take place in London, and are free to attend and open to all.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Debate, and to book a free ticket.

New National Trust and Runnymede Borough Council Guide Books Commemorate Magna Carta

The National Trust has produced a companion guide (pictured) to the area, which can be purchased at National Trust outlets for £4.99.

Runnymede Borough Council has produced a companion guide to events taking place in the Borough in Magna Carta's 800th year. The souvenir edition includes historical information about the Water Meadow where Magna Carta was sealed, including maps to help those looking to get the most out of the anniversary weekend.



New Yew campaign:

The Heritage Lottery Fund is supporting an ancient and veteran yew tree campaign being launched in early May this year. Ancient yews are estimated to be at least 1,000 years old, and veteran yews between 500 and 1,000 years.

The campaign is managed by the Conservation Foundation in association with the Church of England. 217 of the country's 272 ancient yews are in churchyards. The campaign will include the distribution of young yews to communities and churches to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. The young yews have been propagated from veteran and ancient yews that were growing at the time of Magna Carta.

The ancient yew at Ankerwycke, near Runnymede, is famous for being close to the location where the Charter was sealed in 1215.

Small grants will be available to support local communities and school projects to research their yew trees. Funding is also available for maintenance work on ancient and veteran yews, along with guidance on further management. A list of trees listed by Diocese can be found on the Ancient Yew Group website [here](#).

Further information will be available on the campaign's website when it is launched in May. For more details please contact The Conservation Foundation on info@conservationfoundation.co.uk, or on 0207 591 3111.



800th Commemorative Merchandise

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

www.magnacarta800th.com/shop

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



Tea Towel
£6



Pen & Notebook
£45



The Great
Charter of the
Liberties of
England Book
£13



Magna Carta Facsimile
£1500



Script Black Mug
£6



The Seal of
Magna Carta
Replica
£20



USB Drive
£8



Gold Metal
Keyring
£6



Gold Metal
Lapel Pin
£6



Gold Metal
Cufflinks
£10



Laptop Bag
£20



Polo Top
£25



Rugby Top
£30



Silver Money
Clip
£90



Black
Umbrella
£20



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