DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

A Year-end Update

from Sir Robert Worcester (Chairman) and Mark Gill (Executive Director)

2014 has seen an incredible amount of hard work and commitment from hundreds of our colleagues, friends and stakeholders as we continue to prepare for Magna Carta's 800th anniversary in 2015.

The UK Government's Grant to the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee is already being used to support dozens of projects both in this country and internationally, particularly across the Commonwealth. The successful bids for the next two rounds of funding will be announced in January.

We would like to thank all of you who have worked so hard, not only on the projects already underway, but for the planning for what is certainly going to be an incredibly busy year for many of us.

The following page sets out some of the key achievements in 2014 and several of the key events for 2015 – we know we can only highlight a few of them in this space. Do keep us informed about what you are planning and we'll do our best to help promote them in our newsletter, website, on our social media (details of which are below) and, of course, in our monthly Committee meetings.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and useful - there's certainly lots here for you to read!

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Bob and Mark

2014 has seen:

- The launch of Magna Carta Trails – an opportunity for people from Britain and abroad to find out about Magna Carta sites, and walk through history
- Royal Holloway, University of London, launched one of the largest classrooms in the world. The Magna Carta MOOC (Massive Online Open Course)
- Magna Carta taking centre-stage at the Lord Mayor's Show in London
- Magna Carta now more fully embedded in the school curriculum
- Lincoln's Magna Carta travelled to the USA. This included the Library of Congress Magna Carta exhibition – Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor
- The launch of the Junior Lawyers in Schools Project – helping to connect young legal professionals with school children, to learn more about Magna Carta and the legal profession
- London's Guildhall Heritage Gallery opened with the City's 1297 Magna Carta being the main attraction
- More than 40 projects financially supported by the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee (see our website for details of all of these)
- Bury St Edmunds' Magna Carta commemorations including a fantastic Bury Sound and Light Show
- Our monthly Committee meetings, two Stakeholder Networking Days and a special Magna Carta reception at the Speaker's House in the Houses of Parliament.

Key events in 2015 include:

- An international commemoration event at Runnymede on the 15th June
- The largest Magna Carta exhibition in the world – taking place at the British Library
- The Global Law Summit – legal debate to unite under the key theme of Magna Carta
- The 'Taking Liberties' season – the multi-channel series of programmes on the BBC exploring Magna Carta's legacy and politics today
- Commemorative coins and stamps – in Britain and across the world
- Major commemorations, education programmes and community outreach events across the Magna Carta Towns and other locations across the country
- The Magna Carta 800th Battlefields Project – a year-long project to raise the profile of the battles and sieges that are important to the story of Magna Carta
- LiberTeas – UK Parliament's national programme to bring discussions of liberty to everywhere in the country
- Refurbishment of the American Bar Association's Magna Carta Memorial in Runnymede
- A National Peal of Bells – Churches across the country to ring for Magna Carta
- Multiple books to be published – both for adults and children
- And many, many lectures and talks from our Magna Carta experts!

Magna Carta 800th Reception at the Speaker's House, the Palace of Westminster.

With the sealing of Magna Carta setting a precedent of power to the people, it was only fitting that the last Magna Carta 800th Commemoration Committee meeting of the year took place within the walls of the Houses of Parliament.

On Wednesday 19th November, the Committee met in the Palace of Westminster as a forum to update each other on recent developments and plans for next year. The meeting was highly attended, and representatives from across the country could all report on substantial levels of work and commitment, resulting in an increased profile for Magna Carta as it enters its 800th anniversary year.

Following the meeting of the Anniversary Committee, a reception was held at the Speaker's House. Chairman of the Magna Carta Trust, and Master of the Rolls, Lord Dyson, opened the evening and spoke about the importance of commemorating Magna Carta in 2015. Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Eleanor Laing MP, then discussed the effect Magna Carta has had on Parliament, and spoke highly of the leadership being provided by the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee. Sir Robert used his time to mark the endeavours of those who had been invaluable to the project, and spoke of his excitement felt looking at the year ahead.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity to catch up with our friends and colleagues, and to continue to share ideas for the commemorations next year.

From left to right: Lord Dyson, Master of the Rolls; Eleanor Laing MP, Deputy Speaker; Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL, Chairman of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee.

2015 Magna Carta Celebrations bring new opportunities to promote Access to Justice

At the heart of the Magna Carta was the concept that there should be proper access to justice. With the recent changes in the provision of legal aid, cuts in government spending and the increasing complexity of citizens' interaction with the law, the ability to obtain access to justice remains as relevant today as it was when the barons gathered at Runnymede.

For those who cannot afford access to private legal help the free legal advice sector provides a vital means of ensuring that the great tradition of the Magna Carta and the continued provision of proper access to justice is maintained.

The Access to Justice Foundation is a charity which raises money and distributes it to organisations which support and provide free legal advice, its core aim is ensure access to justice for all regardless of wealth or circumstance.

The Magna Carta 800th Commemoration Committee are delighted to announce a new partnership with the Access to Justice Foundation, supporting the Foundation in playing its own role in maintaining the tradition of the Magna Carta.

To that end the Foundation strategically directs the funds it generates nationwide to free legal advice and support organisations, specific projects and local advice agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureaux and Law Centres.

Commemorative Events

The Access to Justice Foundation, working with a network of Legal Support Trusts covering England and Wales, will be holding a series of fundraising events throughout the year, channelling all funds raised back into the local community, to support access to justice for the most vulnerable.

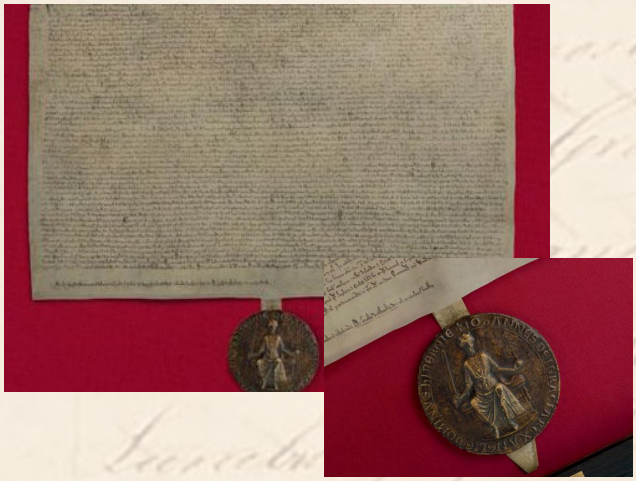
In celebration of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta the Access to Justice Foundation has partnered with the Commemoration Committee to run bespoke events in the Magna Carta towns alongside its annual programme of fundraising events, which will have a Magna Carta focus. Teams and individuals will be walking, running, cycling, playing golf and baking to raise money to support access to justice; sponsored walks will take in the local sights and places of interest and the events will highlight some of the most important legal clauses in the Magna Carta.

The events will reach out to local communities, celebrating the work of free legal advice organisations and the legal profession which supports them, involving everyone in the local community in celebrating and commemorating the importance and continuing relevance of the Magna Carta today.

Walkers out in force at the 2014 London Legal Walk.

The Folio Society Magna Carta 800th Facsimile

The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee in association with the Folio Society and the British Library is offering a unique Facsimile of the Magna Carta document itself.



The Limited Edition Magna Carta Facsimile has been created to capture the feel of the original document.

- Single piece of hand-cut parchment
- Seal attached by parchment tag
- Framed in oak and glass
- Brass plaque on frame
- 12½" x 20" (parchment) 22" x 27" (frame)
- Signed by David Way of the British Library
- 'Certificate of Authentication' printed letterpress.

The single piece of parchment used for each facsimile has been die-cut by hand to replicate the shape of the manuscript and the seal is attached to the document with a parchment tag as it would have been 800 years ago. Displayed on a linen-mounted board behind protective glass, in a beautiful oak frame bearing a descriptive brass plaque, the imposing stateliness and elegance of this artefact leaves you in no doubt that you are in the presence of a document of true historic significance.

On the reverse of the frame is a label stating the unique limitation number. Each facsimile of Magna Carta is accompanied by a certificate of authentication signed by an officer of the British Library. The certificate is printed letterpress on Zerkall paper with deckled edges and is numbered by hand; it is presented in an envelope also printed letterpress.

In addition, a copy of the most recent and authoritative study of Magna Carta is included with each facsimile – Magna Carta: The Foundation of Freedom 1215–2015, published by Third Millennium International in collaboration with the British Library and the Magna Carta Trust. For this richly illustrated volume, the acknowledged world authority on the subject, Professor Nicholas Vincent, is joined by a range of experts from around the world to provide a definitive account of Magna Carta. The book also contains a complete English translation of the 1215 text of Magna Carta.

David M. Rubenstein of the firm Carlyle Group acquired, in auction, one of the original Magna Carta's for over $21 million in December 2007 in time for Christmas.

This very special facsimile will be strictly limited to 480 copies, each individually numbered and never to be repeated.

This fantastic piece will look incredible in pride of place in your office or home. An ideal gift for lawyers, accountants or anyone whom wants to show their passion for one of the most important documents in history.

£1,500 each, and available from:
http://magnacarta800th.com/shop/

Temple Church Choir: Our Tour to Washington, D.C.

by Alice Pearson (Magna Carta Project Manager, Middle & Inner Temple)

The Treasurers of the Honourable Societies of the Middle and Inner Temple led a small joint delegation of Benchers and Inns members on a hugely successful tour to Washington, D.C. on the 4th - 8th November 2014. The choir group itself comprised of 18 choirboys, 12 choirmen, the Temple Church's Director of Music, organist, four chaperones and our very own tour manager, Liz Clarke.

The tour saw four performances, many of which were linked to Magna Carta law seminars, with the two Treasurers and eminent American judges, attorneys and academics. The choir's two performances at the Library of Congress were to support the launch of its 'Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor' exhibition and evening gala - an exhibition centred on the Library's loan of the wonderful Lincoln Magna Carta. The choir's rendition of 'Zadok the Priest' to open the proceedings was only surpassed by the excitement at the world premiere of a section of a specially commissioned Magna Carta cantata by US home-grown talent Nico Muhly.

A performance at the Supreme Court was graciously supported by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court,

Antonin Scalia, and vivaciously encouraged on the day by retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor - wonderfully overheard cheering "great job boys" as the young choristers left the stage.

As well as performances for the legal world, the choir sang at St Paul's Church on K Street, and Greg Morris, the Temple Church's organist, managed to find time to give a recital in St John's Church, the parish church of the White House including, appropriately, Handel's Fireworks Music.

In her capacity as Inner Temple's Royal Bencher, Master HRH The Princess Royal, accompanied the choir and was guest of honour at a reception at the British Embassy and also the Library of Congress events. The week garnered press coverage as far afield as Russia, Malaysia and France, as well as in the US and UK.

We thank all involved for their hard work and dedication for all they did in bringing the Temple Church Choir's tour to reality, and bringing the Magna Carta's legacy to life.

Do join us at Temple Church on Thursday 18th December for the premier of Muhly's full cantata as part of the Temple Winter Festival. Those unable to make it to London that night can hear the performance on BBC Radio 3.

Unlock Democracy's Magna Carta Quiz

The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta represents an exciting opportunity to engage with past political achievements and to focus on greater public political participation. Unlock Magna Carta aims to fulfil these ideas using the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta as a starting point in a new exploration of contemporary politics.

Unlock Magna Carta will run from now until October 2015. It will consist of at least 12 local events – exhibitions, lectures, study circles and theatre performances – based around Magna Carta, its history and its political significance today.

We hope local organisations will work together to organise events relevant to their area, to galvanize citizens to learn about British political development since 1215 and what is needed now to improve politics for all. We also plan to film local events to create a documentary, featuring short clips on what the Magna Carta means for people across the UK now. This film will be then be available after the project, on our own website and YouTube and will hopefully provoke further debate around the state of our democracy and political participation today.

Unlock Magna Carta will culminate in a large event in Westminster, planned for June 2015, when people involved in the local events will meet with political representatives to report on their Magna Carta activities and create their own modern charter of the rights and freedoms – a Magna Carta as expressed by local communities rather than Barons, as in 1215.

Artwork by Sion Clarke

Do you think you know enough about Magna Carta? As part of our project, Unlock Democracy have developed a special Magna Carta quiz. Why not try the quiz, at www.magnacarta800th.com/projects/unlock-magna-carta-quiz/.

'Magna Carta Rediscovered' in Faversham, Kent

by Sally Wookey (Tourism Officer, Faversham Town Council)

In 2015, the lively and historic market town of Faversham in Kent, mentioned in the Domesday Book and a member of the Cinque Ports Confederation, will join in the 800th anniversary commemorations with 'Magna Carta Rediscovered', a major Kent touring exhibition, plus a host of special events.

Faversham can boast a special right to be part of these commemorations as proud owners of an edition of Magna Carta dated 1300, the last reissue of the document and featuring King Edward I's seal. In 2015, the Faversham Magna Carta will be on rare display when it will form the centrepiece of 'Magna Carta Rediscovered', a free touring exhibition supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee. Cllr Nigel Kay, Mayor of Faversham Town Council, said "This is a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase Faversham to visitors. The town has a rich and varied history and not only will our Magna Carta be on public display, but so, too, will be the magnificent collection of Charters in the possession of Faversham Town Council which date from 1252 to 1685."

The touring exhibition will embrace a range of interpretative techniques to bring Magna Carta to life and will launch in Faversham on the 23rd May 2015. The exhibition will remain in the town until the 28th June 2015 when it will then visit The Beaney, Canterbury; The Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone; and the Crypt at Rochester Cathedral where it will be displayed alongside the Textus Roffensis.

Events are being planned by individuals and organisations in the town including a 'Magna Carta Weekend' on the 13th and the 14th June, the highlight being a Medieval Fayre. 'Protest, Democracy and the Law', an exhibition staged by the Faversham Society, will highlight the long history of protest in Faversham, starting in 1300. A series of guest lectures, a Magna Carta Gala Concert, church service and garden party are also planned. Shepherd Neame, Britain's Oldest Brewer and located in the centre of Faversham, will brew a specially commissioned Magna Carta ale.

Take time to explore Faversham, located on a winding creek and with some 500 listed buildings. Abbey Street is believed to be one of the finest medieval streets in Britain. Market day is Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. An excellent range of quality cafés, pubs and restaurants together with the full range of independent shops provide a charming and memorable day out.

For further information on 'Magna Carta Rediscovered' and visiting Faversham visit www.visitfaversham.com

Worcestershire, 'The Heart of England'

by Susan Macleod (Operational Manager, Worcester Cathedral) and
Victoria Carman (Tourism Development Officer, Destination Worcestershire)

'Today pilgrims on the Magna Carta trail can visit King John's last resting place – his royal tomb and striking effigy in the Quire of Worcester Cathedral.'

In the Medieval period, pilgrimage gave people the opportunity to get away from their normal existence and to travel. While some might go as far as Spain, Italy or even the Holy Land, others travelled to shrines closer to home. We invite you to come on pilgrimage to Worcestershire. The Sixth Trail of 'The Heart of England' Magna Carta Trails, will take you through the Cotswolds and the Heart of England via Evesham and the city of Worcester.

In the riverside market town of Evesham it is possible to follow the Simon de Montfort Trail. Simon de Montfort was married to King John's daughter Eleanor. He led the rebellion against John's son, King Henry III of England during the Second Barons' War of 1263–4. Besides exploring the scene of the Battle of Evesham, in which Simon de Montfort was killed, you can enjoy the beauty of this typical Vale countryside with its extensive orchards – a very important part of Evesham's later history. The Almonry Heritage Centre, which dates back to the 14th Century will house an exhibition throughout 2015, to educate people about the series of events that led to the Simon de Montfort Parliament. For the 750th Anniversary of the Battle of Evesham on the weekend of the 8th and 9th August 2015 there will be a Battle of Evesham Medieval Festival, featuring re-enactment, living history displays, medieval fair and craft market.

Travel through the Vale of Evesham to the historic city of Worcester. When Magna Carta was sealed, Worcester Cathedral housed the shrines of two Saxon Saints, Oswald (d.992) and Wulfstan (d.1095). Many pilgrims came to these shrines and left offerings of wax (for candles) and money. King John was a frequent pilgrim to Worcester Cathedral and enjoyed hunting in Feckenham Forest nearby. The boots and staff of a later medieval pilgrim, buried in the Cathedral, are on display in the Norman Crypt. Today pilgrims on the Magna Carta trail can visit King John's last resting place – his royal tomb and striking effigy in the Quire of Worcester Cathedral.

There is a varied programme of events at Worcester Cathedral during 2015 around King John, Magna Carta and Liberty. These include an exhibition from the 6th March, talks for booked groups by King John's tomb; plays for schools which have been kindly funded by the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee; an evening lecture by Sir Robert Worcester 'Bad King John? Did he do good at the end? The relevance of Magna Carta in 21st Century'; and a series of free lunchtime Anniversary Concerts at 12.15 from the 15th – 19th June culminating in a grand finale ticketed concert on the Friday evening. The programme also includes a series of LiberTea talks (with tea and cake!) on the subjects of Suffragettes, the Battle of Evesham and Slavery.

From September 2015, relics from King John's tomb including his thumb bone and fragments of his clothing, as well as his will, can also be viewed by appointment in the Cathedral's medieval library.

Worcester has played a huge role in English democracy. At the end of King John's reign the city of Worcester had declared for the rebellious barons. In July 1216 one of John's lieutenants broke through the defences at Worcester Castle and captured the city. A comparison of what the city looked like during this significant time in history can be seen in The Commandery, one of the Worcester city museums, on a 1:500 scale reconstruction of the walled city of Worcester in 1250.

Premiere of Magna Carta Anthem

– a first for Odiham choir

Friday 21st November saw a major triumph as the Choir of All Saints Odiham gave the first public performance of Magna Carta Anthem; conducted by the composer, Malcolm Archer, and accompanied by Chris Brayne playing the magnificent Ledsham Organ. The choir had worked long and hard for this occasion and smiles of relief and pride were understandable when the triumph was applauded by all.

The Premiere was billed as an event to support Parliament Week and was introduced by David Natzler, acting Clerk to the House of Commons. He gave a witty and amusing account of the medieval roots of parliamentary democracy we hold dear today, displaying that rare art of a speaker who is able to make a complex subject both simple and interesting! David also drew attention to the fact that Odiham is probably unique in being a stepping stone in both the story of Magna Carta in 1215 and that of de Montfort's Parliament of 1265. This parliament, by simultaneously summoning elected knights from shires and elected burgesses (townspeople) for the first time, established a tradition that would later lead to the emergence of the House of Commons.

The Anthem was followed by an address by Louise Wilkinson on the role of Eleanor de Montfort at Odiham Castle. Eleanor was King John's youngest daughter and 2015 will be the 800th anniversary of her probable date of birth. It was from Odiham that Eleanor provided a medieval communications hub supporting her husband Simon, whilst this famous Parliament was in progress yet civil war still raged. Louise is Professor of Medieval History at Canterbury Christ Church University and spoke with all the authority of an accomplished academic and author. It is a pleasant coincidence that the Magna Carta Anthem is based on the words of Veni, Santus Spritus (Come, Holy Spirit) written by Stephen Langton, who was Archbishop of Canterbury in 1215 when he brokered Magna Carta as an agreement between King John and his rebel barons. Thanks to Louise the citizens of Odiham, to whom Magna Carta Anthem is dedicated, now know why Eleanor de Montfort remains Odiham's most famous female homeowner and resident.

The evening concluded with thanks and inspiration from Nigel Atkinson, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire and the Queen's representative in the county. The event was hosted by the Odiham Society and Odiham Parish Council and attendees included James Arbuthnot MP, as well as Jonathan Glen, Vice Chairman of Hampshire County Council, and councillors from Hart District Council. A programme of events follows during 2015 and it was stressed that Odiham is representing and seeking to include the whole of Hampshire as it brings history and heritage alive. Magna Carta Anthem has been delivered to cathedrals and churches across England, where it can now be performed at will following this premiere.

Magna Carta has been included in the National Curriculum since September this year and much publicity is bound to ensue as the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta on the 15th June 2015 approaches. Further details of Odiham's plans for 2015 can be found at www.odihammagnacarta.com a website that tells the story of Magna Carta with a Hampshire flavour designed to make it relevant and helpful to all those interested in history.

Ringing for Magna Carta

by Malcolm Loveday (Chairman, The Chertsey Society and ringer at Chertsey) and
Kate Flavell (Chairman, Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Public Relations Committee)

Bell ringers everywhere are being encouraged to 'Strike A Blow For Democracy' in June 2015 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, which was sealed at the Runnymede Meadow between King John and his Barons at a meeting attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton.

Hundreds of bell ringers looked at the display stand at the Ringing Roadshow at Newbury Racecourse on the 6th September 2014. The display stand included a continuous slide show of photographs of the Runnymede Meadow and other items relating to Magna Carta, including details of methods, or systems of ringing changes, known as Runnymede Surprise Major, Magna Carta Delight Major and Magna Carta Surprise Royal. Many ringers are already making plans for special ringing over the weekend Friday 12th June to Monday 15th June 2015, with Sunday 14th June nominated as 'The Big Ring Day'. Ringing could be co-ordinated with Parish events, such as LiberTeas, or tower open days followed by Magna Carta themed evening services.

Hopefully ringers everywhere will participate. We hope that our weekly newspaper The Ringing World will produce a special issue shortly after the weekend as a permanent record of all the ringing events. As Magna Carta Mania sweeps the country with special TV Programmes, lectures, history phone apps, concerts, exhibitions, books etc. we hope that the ringing fraternity will help ensure good publicity associated with the celebrations.

It is understood that plans are already in hand to ring peals at a number of places including a) Worcester Cathedral, the resting place of King John, b) Guildford Cathedral (Magna Carta Surprise Maximus) in the Diocese in which Runnymede resides and c) Long Crendon which was the home of William Marshall the Younger (one of the Barons). A peal is a piece of continuous ringing lasting around three hours, with no break and no errors allowed.

The Church of England General Synod passed a resolution on the 14th July 2014 that included:

"Synod welcomes with enthusiasm the events throughout 2015 already being organised by dioceses, deaneries, parishes and local authorities to mark the Magna Carta and encourage dioceses, deaneries, parishes and other church bodies to undertake further local initiatives around the Anniversary – which might include street parties, community fairs or pageants, and the ringing of Church and Cathedral bells."

The Magna Carta Barons Association has held several meetings and is liaising with the bell ringers in their towns to co-ordinate ringing with other special events taking place to highlight the role undertaken by their local Baron.

King John stayed at Odiham Castle, Hampshire, prior to travelling to Runneymede to meet the barons. The Odiham ringers are planning for the towers on the route to be progressively rung on Sunday 14th June 2015 starting with Odiham (6 bells) at 12.00 noon. Possible towers along the route could include:

Winchfield (3), Yately (8), Sandhurst (6) ,Hawley (8), Camberley (York Town) (8), Bagshot (8), Egham(10), Old Windsor (8), Windsor (8), Curfew tower, Windsor Castle (8), Wraysbury (8), Staines St Mary's (8), Staines St Peter's (8), Thorpe (4), Chertsey (8) & Ottershaw (6). In addition it is planned the BBC's Bells on Sunday will feature Odiham bells on Sunday 14th June 2015.

Malcolm Loveday and Kate Flavell on the Magna Carta Ringing stand at the Ringing Roadshow, 6th September 2014

Magna Carta Barons Association: Walkern, Hertfordshire.

by Peter Sinclair (Chair of the Magna Carta Barons Association)

Walkern History Society is an enthusiastic member of the Magna Carta Barons Association (www.magnacartabarons.info) and has planned an ambitious programme of events for next June. The village was the chief baronial manor of William de Lanvalei, one of the 24 rebel barons elected at Runnymede to ensure King John kept to the terms of the charter, which of course he didn't. Walkern is also the only village to have an 800-year-old marble effigy of its baron, still lying in its parish church.

Photograph courtesy of Rod Shone

On Saturday 6th June, Walkern will send their longbow archers, 'Company de Lanvalei', to Windsor Home Park to join the other barons' villages to compete against a 'King John' team for the Magna Carta trophy. The following Sunday, 14th June, there will be a special church service, Walkern's bell-ringers will 'Strike a Blow for Democracy' and the village will hold a LiberTeas event. But the main weekend will be the 27th - 28th June, when they will be organising a medieval procession and fair in the grounds of Walkern Hall, re-enactments, archery, a siege-engine competition, and many other community events. 200 volunteers will be wearing 13th century costumes made by the village's Magna Carta sewing bee, and at least 20 residents from Lanvallay in Brittany will be attending as part of their new town-twinning arrangements.

As a recipient of a facsimile Magna Carta, they will also be hosting an exhibition, as well as creating a new flag for the village, a William de Lanvalei great helm and a heraldic tabard for the church. The local school will be taking part on Friday 26th June with a Magna Carta themed day for its pupils. A 'Magna Charta' rose display is planned and the village will be planting its own oak tree in 2016, grown from an oak that was alive in 1215.

This programme of events has been made possible by a £29,700 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and more than £10,000 raised locally.

For more information about Walkern's events, and the Society's recent book, Medieval Walkern and Magna Carta by Peter Sinclair, see www.walkernhistorysociety.co.uk

Handwritten 800th Anniversary Magna Carta donated to Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School

Mark Bhogun-Scott (Co-Partner of WarshankBhogunScott)

Two Kent-based chefs have donated two framed and illustrated hand-written 800th Anniversary Magna Cartas (one in Latin and one an English translation) to Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School.

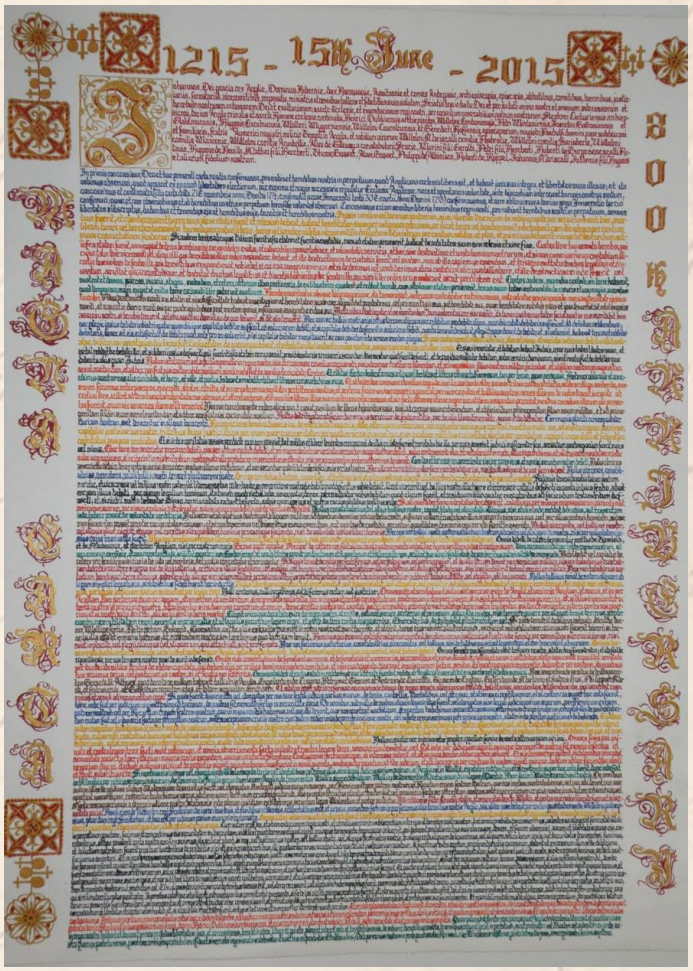
This is in advance of the anniversary year of Magna Carta's 800th anniversary, since Magna Carta was sealed at Runnymede on the 15th June 1215. The presentation was attended by local dignitaries and press at the launch.

Proprietors Warren Cruickshank and Mark Bhogun-Scott, who have written and illustrated the Magna Carta copy, both have links with Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School. They both have had children attend the school, and with the Magna Carta being brought into the school curriculum for 2015, they thought they would donate two of the original works to the school help promote the education of the students.

Later in the year they will present a larger version to Kent County Council at a ceremony at County Hall attended by Eric Hotson, Chairman of Kent County Council, Lord Lieutenant The Viscount De L'Isle, and Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL.

WarshankBhogunScott is a small local business growing from the simple conversation between the proprietors, two chefs, in January 2014, regarding the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

An idea of writing the Magna Carta as a vellum book was raised and then other ideas flowed, copyright permissions from the British Library were sought and agreed and items started to be produced. The partner's logo has the phrase "Rewriting History" and their aim to reproduce modern handwritten anniversary parchments (including prints of their work). Their focus for the next 14 months is on the Magna Carta anniversary. Over the next seven months they intend to have all the 48 English Ceremonial Councils to have access to bespoke Hand Written Magna Carta Parchments (specific to the county) for display in their county halls. They intend to deliver each one personally in time for the 800th anniversary on the 15th June 2015, just as the original was rewritten and distributed in 1215.



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 quantitates 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.

Radisson BLU
EDWARDIAN, LONDON

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

Magna Carta: Foundation of Freedom

Third Millennium International are producing a richly illustrated volume edited by Prof. Nicholas Vincent, Professor of Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, with contributions from a range of leading experts on Magna Carta from across the world to reflect on the circumstances of its genesis and its enduring importance through subsequent centuries. As well as special editions for some of our core partners a general edition will be published in February.

For more information visit **www.magna-carta-book.com**