



# FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

The Foreign Secretary and the American Ambassador spoke about the importance of Magna Carta at the Black Tie Guildhall Dinner, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January. Over five hundred guests were in attendance.

The launch of the BBC's 'Taking Liberties' season began on the 5<sup>th</sup> January with a four-part series by Melvyn Bragg, 'Magna Carta.' This was followed by BBC Democracy Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, where the first ever Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony took place in Brent, London.

The four surviving 1215 Magna Carta at the British Library were united at an event for which some 45,000 people applied through a ballot system for 1,215 places.

## February Highlights:

- The American Bar Association launch their Magna Carta programme at Houston, TX., meeting
- Multiple lectures across the country featuring Prof. Nigel Saul, Prof. David Carpenter, Lord Judge, Sir Robert Worcester, together with University of Virginia Magna Carta Scholar Prof. Dick Howard
- 2 – 4<sup>th</sup>: The four 1215 Magna Carta united at the British Library
- 5<sup>th</sup>: The four 1215 Magna Carta united at Parliament
- 5 – 20<sup>th</sup>: 'Magna Carta & Parliament' exhibition at Westminster Hall – public tours
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Intelligence Squared hosts a panel discussion, 'Magna Carta, Myth & Meaning' – featuring Dr David Starkey, at the Royal Institute of Great Britain.
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Lord Judge speaks at King's College London, 'Magna Carta Uncovered.' Book here
- 16 – 20<sup>th</sup>: The Chief Justice of Barbados, Sherman Moore, speaks on Magna Carta as part of the University of West Indies Magna Carta Lecture Series
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Stakeholder Networking Day at Temple Church, London
- 23 – 25<sup>th</sup>: The Global Law Summit – leading legal minds will come together to discuss the Rule of Law.

## March Highlights:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: A 'Read not Dead' performance of 'The Troublesome Reign of King John' at Temple Church, from the Globe Theatre
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Seminar commemorating 'Magna Carta and the Golden Bull' hosted by the Embassy of Hungary
- 7<sup>th</sup>: The English-Speaking Union Members' Conference. Sir Robert Worcester to speak on My Magna Carta
- 13<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> September: British Library exhibition 'Law, Liberty Legacy'
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Finals of Historical Association's Great Debate, Royal Holloway, University of London: 'What does Magna Carta mean to me?'
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Debate at Oxford Brookes: 'On Liberties, Magna Carta and our future.' Newsreader Jon Snow, Helena Kennedy QC, and Shami Chakrabarti discuss the state of liberty today
- 23rd March – 30<sup>th</sup> September – Hereford's Magna Carta Exhibition, 'Icon of Justice – Pledge of Freedom'
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Magna Carta 800 Symposium, State Bar of Georgia, Georgia Bar Conference Center, Atlanta. Keynote Speaker Nathan Dorn, rare book curator of the Library of Congress.



@MagnaCarta800th

Search: Magna Carta  
800th Anniversarywww.vimeo.com/  
magnacarta/www.flickr.com/  
photos/magna-carta/

# Magna Carta Guildhall Black Tie Dinner

On the 12<sup>th</sup> January, more than five hundred guests supported Magna Carta's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Great Hall of the Guildhall. The Speakers were the Foreign Secretary, Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP, MP for Runnymede, the American Ambassador, His Excellency Matthew Barzun, Rt. Hon. Lord Dyson, Master of the Rolls, and the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, said Grace.

More than £80,000 was raised through the ticket sales and the silent and live auctions (our thanks to Adrian Biddell from Sotheby's for his superb efforts). The funds raised will support the excellent work of the legal support charity, Access to Justice Foundation, and our Young Persons' Guide, The Magna Carta Chronicle. In addition, the funds will help extend the Committee's work to commemorate Magna Carta internationally.

In his speech, the Foreign Secretary argued that "*Magna Carta can guide any democracy which seeks to uphold the Rule of Law across the world.*" His closing remarks rallied the Great Hall around the importance of the Great Charter: "*Long may Magna Carta and its principles flourish. Let us celebrate it as Britain's gift to the world – and an unrivalled inspiration to the defence of our collective liberty.*"

Ambassador Barzun thanked the work of the Magna Carta Trust, and the leadership of the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee led by Sir Robert Worcester. He invited the room to be upstanding to raise glasses "*in thanks to the Barons of 1215 [...] the wonderful parents of Magna Carta.*"

The Dinner marked an excellent beginning to events cherishing the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and was testament to the commemoration campaign's international scope.

If you would like to view the photographs taken of the event, check out our Flickr, on [www.flickr.com/photos/magna-carta/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/magna-carta/)

You can also watch a video of the event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qs2RDpE7oY>.



From left to right: Ambassador Barzun, Lord Dyson, Philip Hammond MP



# Round 4 and 5 Project Awards

The Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Committee is now funding more than 70 projects. Click here to view details of all these projects on our website. As part of our pledge to increase Magna Carta's profile at home and overseas, several projects will be supporting commemoration efforts internationally, especially in Commonwealth countries.

Here are short summaries of just three of the many successful bids. For more information, visit <http://magnacarta800th.com/projects/>

## University of Lincoln: Anchor of Hope in a Storm



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

Taking cue from Lincoln's historic connections with the Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest, artist Ruth Ewan will develop a series of collaborative workshops with young people, which will result in the creation of new works exploring the continuity of ideas first put forward via these historic documents.

The workshops will use graphic text and experimental cartography to explore ideas rooted in the historic charters and their continued relevance to the present and possible futures.

<http://magnacarta800th.com/projects/round-5-grants/an-anchor-of-hope-in-a-storm/>

**Historical Association: Magna Carta: Significance and Interpretation over Time**

This project provides schools with an online toolkit to include subject-knowledge resources, planning and curriculum models and schemes of work linked to classroom resources. The project seeks to embed the teaching of Magna Carta and Chief Justice Coke's reinterpretation of Magna Carta from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, within the school curriculum. By examining the legacy of Magna Carta and looking at its influence on constitutional history both at home and in other parts of the world, the project will help teachers extend their understanding, and their pupils' understanding, of constitutional history and the history of civil liberties throughout the world.

<http://magnacarta800th.com/projects/round-4-grants/historical-association-magna-carta-over-time/>

## Human Rights Office: Magna Carta 800 Years Conference



A research report entitled 'The Relevance of Magna Carta for our Human and Civil Rights today' will be presented at a conference hosted by the Human Rights Office. The report will outline how Magna Carta developed into a root document for human and civil rights; discuss to what extent the actual provisions of the Magna Carta can be considered as forerunners of modern human rights provisions; and detail the legacy of Magna Carta today and its importance for individuals invoking their rights.

<http://magnacarta800th.com/projects/round-4-grants/magna-carta-800-years-conference/>

# Projects Continued

Below is a full list of the projects we are funding using the money received from the Government to increase Magna Carta's profile at home and overseas:

## Round 1:

- Canterbury City Council: Faversham Magna Carta Rediscovered
- Lincoln City Council: Lincoln Voices, Magna Carta Artists in Residence
- Salisbury Cathedral: Digital Media and Education
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council: Bury Sound and Light Show
- American Bar Association: Icon of Liberty under Law
- Baronial Order of Magna Charta: Triennial Symposium
- English-Speaking Union: My Magna Carta
- Pilgrims of Great Britain: 1215 - Foundation of Liberty
- The Royal Commonwealth Society: Westminster Hall Mock Trial

## Round 2:

- The Bingham Centre, Magna Carta and the Rule of Law: Citizenship Education in Schools
- The British Library: Children's Audio Guide for Magna Carta Exhibition
- CADW: The Magna Carta in Wales
- Oxford Brookes University: Why Magna Carta: The Oxford Brookes Oxfordshire Schools Project
- Temple Church: Long-term Magna Carta exhibition in Round Church

- Worcester Cathedral: 'Magna Carta and King John' Play for Schools
- Trussell Trust: The Barons' Trail
- Sustrans, The Magna Carta Cycle Trail
- Supreme Court: Charted Voyage: the impact of Magna Carta on the way we live
- British Council: Magna Carta and English Language Students: Bringing the Message to a Global Audience
- Durham University: Magna Carta and the changing face of revolt
- Parochial Church Council of Cartmel: Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival at Cartmel Priory
- Royal Holloway, University of London: Teaching Magna Carta through Art
- International Slavery Museum: Our Modern Magna Carta
- Trowbridge Magna Carta Team: Trowbridge Magna Carta Barons' Towns 2015
- Magna Carta Barons Association: Facsimile Magna Carta and Exhibition
- Kent County Council: Starta Magna Carta Thearta and other delights
- Mind the Gap Theatre Company: Magna Carta on Trial
- The Odiham Society: Magna Carta at Odiham 2015: Phase I and II

## Round 3:

- University of the West Indies (UWI): Analysis of the impact and influence of Magna Carta on the Commonwealth Caribbean
- Hansard Society: Magna Carta International Scholarships
- Magna Carta Coordinating Committee of Australia: the Legacy of Magna Carta – an Exploration of Fundamental Liberties
- Salisbury Cathedral: Flowers for Freedom
- Commonwealth Lawyers Association: 'Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter: celebrating the influence of Magna Carta'
- History of Parliament Trust: Making Constitutions, Building Parliaments – Constructing Representative Institutions 1000-2000
- The Ditchley Foundation: Ditchley Foundation conference, 'The Future of Democracy in the World: Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference'
- University of Lincoln: Magna Carta 2015 – International Young Persons' Symposium
- King's College London, European Perspectives on Magna Carta

**Check our  
Projects Section  
for more  
information**

# Projects Continued

## Round 4:

- The Historical Association: Magna Carta: Significance and interpretation over time
- The Sherwood Forest Trust: Discover King John's Palace – on the trail of Magna Carta
- The Odiham Society: Magna Carta Journey from Odiham to Runnymede
- Salisbury Cathedral: Magna Cantata: Learning through music
- Hereford Cathedral: Magna Carta Display Case and related interpretative materials
- The Society of Antiquaries of London: Magna Carta Through the Ages
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Windsor and Royal Borough Museum: Magna Carta Champions
- St Mary's Church, Thorpe, Surrey: Magna Carta Bells Project
- Université François-Rabelais: Magna Carta Rights – from an 'English' Magna Carta to a 'Universal' Magna Carta; from the 'old' Magna Carta to a 'new' Magna Carta
- Auckland University: Magna Carta Aotearoa
- Lincoln Business Improvement Group: Magna Carta 800 – Night of Festivals
- National Trust: Delivery partner of LiberTeas

- Workers' Educational Association: WEA Magna Carta Project
- Visit Kent: Magna Carta Rediscovered Touring Exhibition and marketing programme
- Digital Drama: Magna Carta Young Curator Badge Project
- Sinfonia Viva: 800 Years
- Human Rights Office: Magna Carta 800 Years Conference

- Christ Church Cathedral Dublin: Magna Carta at Christ Church
- The Sherwood Forest Trust: Sherwood's Magna Carta Oak
- Topcliffe Parish Council: Magna Carta Celebrations Committee – Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
- Curry Mallet Parish Council Magna Carta 800 Committee: Magna Carta 800 Project Expansion

## Round 5:

- Levenheath Open Garden and Magna Carta Working Group: Magna Carta Scarecrow Event
- Long Crendon Preservation Society: Magna Carta Commemoration Rose and Oak Tree Garden
- Magna Carta Committee of Australia: Commemorative Event to mark 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sealing of Magna Carta
- Epworth Magna Carta 800 Society: Epworth Magna Carta 800 Celebrations
- Castle Hedingham Parish Council: Castle Hedingham Magna Carta Embroidery and Commemorative Panels
- Tongland and Ringford Community Council: Scotland's link to Magna Carta; Alan, Lord of Galloway, and Tongland Abbey
- University of Lincoln: An Anchor of Hope in a Storm

Check our  
Projects Section  
for more  
information

# First ever Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony takes place in Brent as part of BBC Democracy Day:

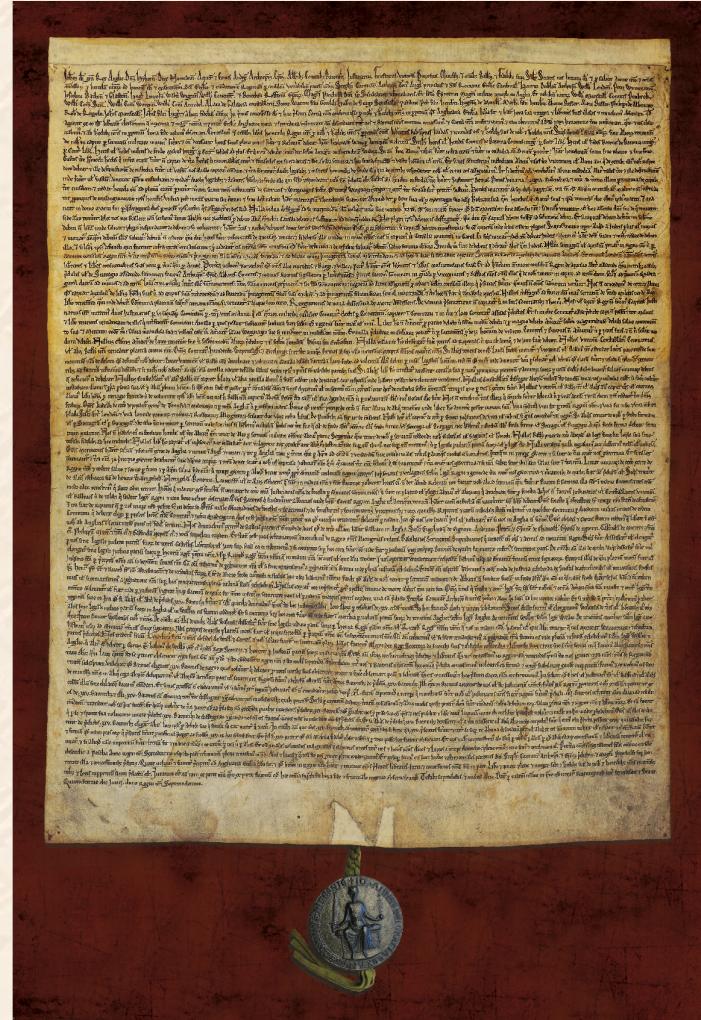
New British Citizens from all parts of the world were naturalised at a Citizenship Ceremony held in Brent on the 20<sup>th</sup> January – and were given special Magna Carta facsimiles to commemorate the occasion. The Home Secretary, Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP, at the instigation of the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Committee, wrote to all local authorities in England and Wales, and encouraged them to incorporate Magna Carta into Citizenship Ceremonies.

The Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Committee is encouraging local authorities to incorporate Magna Carta into Citizenship Ceremonies. Mark Rimmer, Head of Registration and Nationality at Brent Council, has played a key role in the development of the ceremonies, and writes:

*"The whole idea behind the introduction of Magna Carta ceremonies was that they would give added significance to attaining citizenship and provide an occasion at which the applicant, their family and close friends could celebrate a life defining moment. It would also provide the local authority with an opportunity to welcome their new citizens into the community and encourage participation in the democratic process. The overall feel and content was very much left to the local Council to determine."*

The 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magna Carta offers an excellent and poignant opportunity to welcome new British citizens. If you are a local registrar and would like to organise a special Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony, or would like to purchase the facsimiles, please contact Mark Gill at markgill@magnacarta800th.com

[Click here to read more information about the Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremonies.](#)





The reverse of our Magna Carta facsimiles, explaining the precedents set by Magna Carta and its enduring importance today.

**Magna Carta**  
is Latin for "Great Charter".  
It was first agreed in June 1215 by King John of England and his Barons. 2015 represents the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

British citizens – and hundreds of millions of people worldwide – enjoy many rights that can trace their origin to Magna Carta. These include:

- **The Rule of Law** – everyone has to abide by the same rules
- **Limits on the power of rulers** – even Monarchs and leaders have to follow rules
- **Trial by jury** – Magna Carta was used to help establish the principle that people accused of a crime should be allowed to be judged fairly
- **Religious liberties** – Magna Carta proclaimed that "the English Church shall be free" and today in the U.K. anyone is allowed to freely practise their own religion
- **Limits on taxation** – over time Magna Carta helped to ensure that rulers could tax people only with their consent

Magna Carta is an exceptional document on which democratic society has been constructed. Two key Clauses of the original 1215 Magna Carta stand out and are as applicable today as they were 800 years ago:

- Clause 39 "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land"
- Clause 40 "To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice"

We the People

of a more perfect Union, to insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. We ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I. The legislative Power shall consist of two Houses, a Senate and a House of Representatives; each House shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the United States; in such Manner as the Legislature shall direct. The Legislature shall have all the Powers herein granted to them, to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but no Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State, without the Consent of the Legislature of that State; nor shall any Quota or Contribution be levied on any State, without its Consent, nor shall the right to lay such a Tax or Contribution be granted to any State, without its Consent.

Magna Carta was used to help draft both the American Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and many of its concepts are found in the 1791 US Bill of Rights.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. Speaking at the General Assembly of the United Nations, Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt said that "we stand today at the threshold of a great event both in the life of the United Nations and in the life of mankind. This declaration may well become the international Magna Carta for all men everywhere".

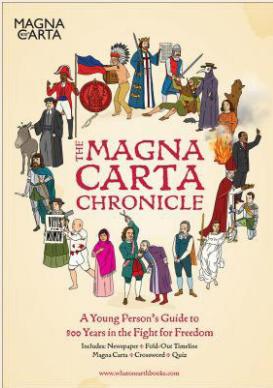
You can find more information about the 800th anniversary commemorations at the following website: [www.magnacarta800th.com](http://www.magnacarta800th.com)

Salisbury Cathedral is home to one of the four remaining original 1215 Magna Carta. From 2015, to mark the document's 800th anniversary, the Salisbury Magna Carta will be housed in a new Heritage Lottery funded exhibition in the Cathedral's Chapter House, supported by an exciting programme of celebratory events.

The facsimile copy displayed on the other side of this document is the Salisbury Magna Carta (copyright Salisbury Cathedral / Ash Mills | [www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/magna-carta](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/magna-carta))



## Magna Carta Chronicle:



The Magna Carta Chronicle is the official Young Person's Guide to 800 years in the fight for freedom. It will be published on the 20<sup>th</sup> April by timeline specialists 'What on Earth Publishing', with support from the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

The Magna Carta Chronicle (£8.99) charts the fight for

freedom from the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in 1215 to the present day. It includes more than 40 tabloid newspaper articles, 100 illustrations, a 2.9m-long fold-out timeline wallchart, a crossword, a 50 question multiple-choice quiz and a souvenir copy and guide to the Magna Carta itself!

World history author Christopher Lloyd and What on Earth? illustrator Andy Forshaw have spent months on the design and aesthetics of the book to make it as appealing as possible to people of all generations.

"Everyone loves to read stories of things that happened yesterday", said Lloyd. "That's why using a newspaper style to convey amazing stories from the sealing of Magna Carta to the abolition of slavery and universal suffrage to Malala's Nobel Peace Prize is so powerful."

The timeline puts the 1215 anniversary within the context of nearly 100 epic moments stretching over more than 3,500 years from the laws of Hammurabi to the present day.

The Magna Carta Chronicle is an excellent resource resource for primary and secondary schools at KS2 and KS3. The 40+ newspaper-style stories illustrate history told in a journalistic style and cover a wide range of history topics from 1215 to 2015.

The Magna Carta Chronicle is accompanied by a series of curriculum mapped, free-to-download lessons plans, activities and worksheets. These are available at [www.whatonearthbooks.com/activities/magnacarta](http://www.whatonearthbooks.com/activities/magnacarta). These will cover Citizenship, Literacy and History at Key Stages 2 and 3.

For more information please contact: What on Earth Publishing on 01732 464621 or email [info@whatonearthbooks.com](mailto:info@whatonearthbooks.com)

## IBA Magna Carta Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, the 16 May 2015



IBA Magna Carta Conference

16 May 2015, Cape Town, South Africa

The International Bar Association marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta with three conferences on Magna Carta taking place in 2015. The first of these essential one-day conferences takes place at The University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The conference will focus on the role of lawyers in preserving democracy; challenges to judicial independence; preserving limits on government power and achieving equality. The Chief Justice of South Africa, Hon. Moegeng Mogoeng, will provide the Keynote Address, and many other top judges, lawyers and business people from Africa and elsewhere will participate in the panels.

The idea that all are subject to the law, including kings and presidents, had its origin in Magna Carta. As the basis of the Rule of Law, this historic document was instrumental in the development - and is crucial to the on-going realisation - of the principle aims and objectives of the International Bar Association.

To register your interest for the conference and to receive further information as it becomes available visit [bit.ly/MagnaCartaSA](http://bit.ly/MagnaCartaSA).

The other two conferences will take place in New Delhi, India, on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (register your interest at [bit.ly/MagnaCartaND](http://bit.ly/MagnaCartaND)) and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (register your interest at [bit.ly/MagnaCartaBA](http://bit.ly/MagnaCartaBA)).

### Who should attend:

Lawyers in private practice, lawyers in government, in-house counsel, international business professionals and legal academics from across the world.

# The Battlefields Trust puts spotlight on Magna Carta battles

For the Battlefields Trust, the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a key project in a year of notable anniversaries. Here Edward Dawson, Project Director, and Dr Matthew Bennett, sponsoring Trustee, briefly describe what the Trust is doing to ensure that the history of the Magna Carta Wars is as well known as the importance of the Great Charter itself.

The Battlefields Trust's interest in Magna Carta is extensive, both in chronological and geographical terms. The French invasion of England, during 1216-17, was an inglorious period, with a lengthy series of conflicts and battles.

The great impetus for Magna Carta started with the Battle of Bouvines in July 1214. It took place near Lille, when King Philip II defeated the Holy Roman Emperor, Otto IV. John was Otto's uncle, and defeat gave the Barons renewed confidence to confront the King. It is described by BBC News as 'The most important battle you've probably never heard of'. (Article link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-28484146>)

Like most medieval conflicts, the war was more one of sieges and raiding than open battle. Following the successful siege of Rochester, John's march north into rebel territory was accompanied by ferocious local ravaging. He also seized castles at Bedford, Fotheringay, Belvoir, and Richmond, as well Northumberland and Berwick.

The arrival in England of Prince Louis led many barons to join his colours. Louis VII was able to seize Reigate, Guildford, Farnham, Winchester, Odiham and Marlborough. Windsor and Dover were also besieged. Given that the rebels held London, had these two strategically important fortresses fallen it would have made the royalist position impossible. Both castles were strong, however, and within a few weeks Windsor was relieved. Dover Castle, known as the 'Key to England', was also placed under close siege.



King John now rests in Worcester Cathedral.  
Photograph courtesy of Janice Bridgen

If the defence of Dover proved to be the turning point of the war, it was another siege, culminating in a royalist victory at Lincoln, in May 1217, which confirmed the result. It is remarkable just how many places in England were touched by the Magna Carta wars.

## Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Battlefield Trust sites: Champions needed!

What is needed now is for Trust members, and other local people, to act as Champions and raise the awareness of their communities about the crucial military actions which took place in this context. The aim is to spread the word widely, and to recruit people to attend events and to become inspired and get involved. Some may develop a longer term interest join the Trust, and it is keen to appoint support groups for each site. If it can get all this activity to join up then it will provide a valuable and worthy contribution to Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup>.

To contact the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Battlefields Project, email: [magnacarta800@battlefieldstrust.com](mailto:magnacarta800@battlefieldstrust.com).

[Click here](#) to visit the Battlefields Trust page on our website.



# Lincoln Record Society's Annual Magna Carta Conference:

Lincoln Cathedral's 1215 Magna Carta is one of only four surviving originals. Copies of the documents were distributed to sheriffs, to important religious houses and to cathedrals, including Lincoln where the then Bishop, Hugh of Wells, had been present at Runnymede in June of that year. The Lincoln Magna Carta has travelled the world, including several trips to America. A new state of the Art Exhibition Centre will be opened for this Charter and Lincoln's Charter of the Forest at Lincoln Castle, where the Charter has been housed since 1993.

As part of these 800<sup>th</sup> celebrations, Lincoln Record Society and the University of Lincoln will sponsor an international conference on Magna Carta at the University of Lincoln on the 7-9<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The conference will include a keynote address from one of the leading scholars on Magna Carta, Prof. David Carpenter, and academics working in areas of medieval law and society upon which Magna Carta, and the assumptions and myths which grew up around it, had an influence.

Delegates will have the option to attend a conference dinner in the Chapter House at Lincoln Cathedral on Wednesday night. On Tuesday night it will also be possible to attend a sung evensong at Langton-by-Wragby, home parish of Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said to have influenced the terms of the Charter. There will be opportunities on Thursday morning to take a walking tour of Lincoln, to visit the Lincoln Cathedral Library or to take a tour of the new display of the Lincoln Magna Carta at Lincoln Cathedral. Places on all these events will be limited.

For more information on the Conference, and if you would like to attend, visit [www.lincoln-record-society.org.uk](http://www.lincoln-record-society.org.uk), or telephone 01522 561640.



THE LINCOLN  
MAGNA CARTA  
CONFERENCE

APRIL 7TH – 9TH 2015



## Magna Carta Barons Association: Thirsk, North Yorkshire

By Peter Sinclair

Peter@magnacartabarons.info

Thirsk was the chief manor of William de Mowbray, one of the northern rebel barons chosen at Runnymede to ensure John kept to the terms of the Charter. William was described as being as small as a dwarf, but very generous and valiant. He founded the Chapel of St Nicholas at Thirsk and was a benefactor of his father's foundation, Newburgh Priory.



Thirsk is focusing its celebrations on the weekend of 13/14<sup>th</sup> June, with what is hoped to be a huge 'Medieval Day' at the racecourse on Saturday from 10am to 4pm, organised by Thirsk Rotary. Their plans include battle re-enactments and courtly behaviour by the 'Historia Normannis' medieval re-enactment group, with over 50 knights and their camp followers. There will be a 'Birds of Prey Display', sideshows of minstrels, jugglers, mummers, as well as a medieval tented village with coin-making, archery and other entertainments.

On Sunday, the bell-ringers at St Mary's Church in the town will be taking part in the celebratory 'Strike a Blow for Democracy' national bell ringing, and services will be held in local churches.

Two weeks later, on the morning of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, the town will welcome Trowbridge's Town Clerk on his 800-mile cycle ride visiting all the Magna Carta Barons' towns and villages.

Rural Arts, based in Thirsk, will be delivering 'The Legacy of Mowbray' project during the preceding two months, including a Magna Carta Heritage Exhibition, a William de Mowbray competition, and community banners and pennant making workshops and displays, partly funded by the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

Thirsk has also found time to establish links with St Martin d'Aubigny, the village in Normandy where William de Mowbray's ancestors came from one hundred and fifty years earlier.

For more information, please contact david@tucker3.plus.com.

## Magna Carta – Coming of age

By Derek Taylor

Magna Carta developed beyond 1215. It lived and grew over the centuries. Whenever a king needed to appease opponents, concessions had to be made, then often incorporated into a rewritten Magna Carta. In 1217 the famous Clauses 39 & 40 were merged and became Clause 29. By 1354, when before it had been limited to a few free men, now read: 'no man, of whatever estate or condition he may be' shall be punished 'except by due process of law'. A wonderful right was established in law.



Derek Taylor's book *Magna Carta in 20 Places* will be published in May. The Court of King's Bench, Westminster Hall

Some of Magna Carta's benefits could not have been foreseen. It had specified that royal justice should be dispensed 'in some fixed place.' Westminster Hall was chosen. The barons had simply wanted to know where to find the royal judges while the King was on the move. But once separated from the King's influence, royal justice came to mean independent justice.

Then, during the clash between Crown and Parliament in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, the opposition needed a weapon of biblical proportions to combat the King's claim to divine, absolute power. Chief Justice Sir Edward Coke, thought he'd found it in Magna Carta, which he believed had established trial by jury and *habeas corpus*. Coke's commentaries on the Great Charter became the inspiration for those fighting for freedom and justice, not only in England but in the new colonies which were to become the United States of America.

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



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.

## Magna Carta Trails

Bring Magna Carta alive in 2015, and discover the places with direct relevance to one of the most important documents in history. All across England there are locations of extreme importance in the story of Magna Carta, hosting commemorative events.

Visit [www.magnacartatrails.com](http://www.magnacartatrails.com) to see what's happening near you.

**Radisson** BLU  
EDWARDIAN, LONDON

Check our Exclusive Magna Carta deal at:  
[www.radissonblu-edwardian.com/magnacarta](http://www.radissonblu-edwardian.com/magnacarta)

