On 3rd February 2015, the four surviving original 1215 Magna Carta will be united at the British Library for the first time. The exhibition, sponsored by Linklaters, will see the copies currently in the possession of the British Library, Lincoln Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral brought together. 1,215 people will be chosen from those who applied via a ballot entry which closed on 31st October. Those who were successful will be greeted by TV historian Dan Jones, and given special gift bags including tickets of entry to other Magna Carta events. At the exhibition, the significance and legacy of Magna Carta will be explained, and visitors will then be able to see the four 1215 editions with costumed characters on hand to provide further commentary and insight on the documents.

In a separate exhibition, ‘Law, Liberty, Legacy’ The British Library will also be uniting Magna Carta with its American descendants, the Declaration of Independence & the Bill of Rights. In President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Third Inauguration Address, the President referenced Magna Carta’s influence on democracy:

‘The democratic aspiration is no mere recent phase in human history. It is human history. It permeated the ancient life of early peoples. It blazed anew in the Middle Ages. It was written in Magna Charta’

The exhibition at the British Library will explore this relationship between Magna Carta and the United States’ Constitution, as well as its influence elsewhere across the globe.

The British Library is also developing resources for students and younger audiences. There will be workshops available for pupils between Key Stages 2 and 5, and Citizenship workshops for Key Stages 3-5. Specialists at the Library will guide students through debates on liberty and governance, using the sealing of Magna Carta as a major point of reference in this journey. The workshops will stimulate conversations that place Magna Carta at the heart of contemporary affairs. There will also be conferences and events for teachers available throughout 2015.

For more information on Magna Carta at the British Library, visit www.bl.uk/magna-carta. Resources include a timeline of Magna Carta, a translation of the document, and comprehensive articles that discuss the Medieval society before and after 1215. You can also view the collection online.
Royal Holloway, a college of the University of London, sits just two miles from Runnymede. We are home to some of the world’s experts on Magna Carta in its 13th Century context and on its reinterpretation and reinvigoration in the 17th Century. Royal Holloway have invested in making the commemorations of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta as successful as possible. This means ensuring the commemorations do not only celebrate past achievements, but show how the legacy of Magna Carta continues today.

While anniversary events on the meadows and in local towns next year will be colourful and exciting, we want to share the expertise of our academics and the beauty of Runnymede and the American Bar Association, John F. Kennedy and Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial as widely as possible in a format that can be accessed in future years. A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) seemed an obvious choice to help Royal Holloway connect with people interested in Magna Carta wherever they live. Working with the University of London and Coursera, a group of Royal Holloway’s historians put together a six-week introductory course to take learners through the historical development of Magna Carta and its meanings. The course will encourage students to consider both the material history of Magna Carta – from original manuscripts to print and museum artefacts – and the changing international history and reception of ideas inspired by the document. The course will be offered for the first time in January 2015, and is open to everyone free of charge. Visit https://www.coursera.org/course/magnacarta to find out more and to register for the course.

The course will feature Professor Nigel Saul, a member of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee, who will discuss the context of Magna Carta’s creation in 1215 and show how reissues of Magna Carta through the 13th Century led to the establishment of its clauses on the English statute book and the creation of Parliament. Professor Justin Champion, President of the Historical Association, will take students through the reinvention of Magna Carta between 1508 and 1776, tracing the process by which Magna Carta transitioned from being a thing to being an idea, and from being a document of authority to being an icon for protest. Dr. Graham Smith and I will then focus on Magna Carta and the wider world, looking at how Magna Carta has been claimed by many and conflicting parties over the past 200 years. Dr. Nicholas Allen from our Politics Department will explain Magna Carta’s role as a foundational document in other countries’ constitutions, and Dr. Alasdair Pinkerton and Professor Peter Adey will take students on a walk from the ABA’s Magna Carta Memorial to the John F. Kennedy Runnymede Memorial, to explore the reasons for the emergence of Runnymede as a landscape of commemoration. Filmed in mostly glorious weather at sites across Runnymede, the lectures will introduce students to the birthplace of liberty alongside the timeline of and reasons for Magna Carta’s importance.

The treaty, drawn up on the meadows of Runnymede in June 1215 between King John and his barons, has become one of the most globally recognised icons in human history. Whether in India, North America, China, or Europe, Magna Carta – the material object and the complex meanings associated with it – has significance for a set of powerful values pertinent to the 21st Century and is still frequently cited in political debates around rights to privacy, property, and prosperity. Over the course of eight centuries, the meaning of Magna Carta has been refashioned and embellished by legal traditions, communities protesting against political injustice, individuals protecting their environments, and minorities seeking tolerance of their cultural values. We hope that this MOOC will further strengthen Magna Carta as a living historical tradition, evolving and adapting as different interests explore its value in new contexts and challenges.
Keeping the torch of Liberty alight.

David Sleight, from Lincoln Cathedral, remembers the sacrifice made by NYPD Officers at an exhibition of Magna Carta at the New York World Fair 1940

New York World Fair: 4th July 1940

The sacrifices made throughout eight centuries to protect the liberties and freedoms enshrined in Magna Carta have been significant and absolute. No more so than Officers Socha and Lynch of the New York Police Department who on the 4th July 1940, at immense personal risk, lifted a bag containing a suspect bomb and walked with purpose away from the British Pavilion at the World Fair in New York, and the hundreds of Americans queuing to see Lincoln Cathedral’s 1215 Magna Carta.

They reached open ground away from the public. They began to make good their retreat to safety. They did not succeed in their final and most important duty that day – to preserve the sanctity of their own lives. They were both killed instantly by the bomb exploding, and two other Officers, Federer and Gallagher, were seriously injured.

Through such deeds will heroic people be known.

In Lincoln next year, our ambition at the University of Lincoln and Lincoln Cathedral along with the American Bar Association is to come together to formally commemorate their sacrifice to protect Magna Carta and the American public – it will be almost exactly 75 years on, and the descendants of Officers Socha and Lynch must know that there is a memory fuelled by gratitude on this side of the Atlantic that has endured and carries the deepest respect for their forebears’ selfless duty.

The American people then took Lincoln Cathedral’s Magna Carta into safety during World War II and stored it in Fort Knox throughout. It was returned after the war, but has been a constant touchstone between our peoples, travelling back many times since. It is currently on its way to Washington, DC and will no doubt be visited by thousands of pilgrims once again.

Lincoln Castle’s new underground Visitor Vault will be opened next year and we will invite the world to visit Lincoln and see the only 1215 original with writing on the reverse (it says “Lincoln”, proving our eight-hundred year provenance), but also we will be the only place in the world to have a companion 1217 Charters of the Forest alongside. The City of Lincoln has been a secure repository for the greater part of the last millennium, and we hope visitors will feel the continuity of that history when they visit – connecting deep into the Lincolnshire soil.

For our global brethren this is profound – the explorers that have set off from this county’s shores, especially from Boston, UK – have explored, charted and mapped the world. Banks, Bass, Flinders – from the New World to the Australian continent – Lincolnshire has begat great explorers and endeavours. Our county has also boasted great thinkers such as Newton and Boole, and inventors of innovative engineering creating agricultural and military machines. We have created power generation systems for two centuries and exported them the world over – including perhaps the most poignant for our American cousins: the generator that powered the torch held aloft the Statue of Liberty from its opening in 1886. Made in Lincolnshire, that shined a light across the New World for decades.

And for Officers Socha and Lynch, perhaps that is the most poignant metaphor of their sacrifice – they kept the light of liberty shining through those deep dark days of the 20th Century so we may still come together to celebrate 800 years of liberty in 2015.
Project Rounds 2&3 Announced:

The successful bids for Rounds 2 and 3 were announced on 24th October 2014. More information on all of these Projects can be found on our website at www.magnacarta800th.com/projects. Bids for Rounds 4 and 5 are now being accepted: submission forms and templates for these are available on our website. The deadline for submissions is 5th December 2014. Below is a sample of some of the many projects underway across the country, the Commonwealth, and the world!

The Magna Carta Barons Association
– Facsimile Magna Carta & Exhibition

The Magna Carta Barons Association has received a grant of £12,500 towards the cost of providing a facsimile copy of Magna Carta to each of the towns and villages representing the principal rebel barons who secured the charter from King John in 1215.

The baronial army met King John at Runnymede in June 1215 and twenty-four of their barons – and the Mayor of London – were chosen to ensure that the King kept to his word. Twenty of the twenty-two towns and villages that made up their chief manors in 1215 have come together to form the Magna Carta Barons Association and celebrate eight hundred years of their communities’ history and the connection their barons had with a document that has become the foundation of the rights and liberties of much of the English-speaking world and beyond.

A facsimile of the rare 1215 edition held by the British Library will be printed on parchment for each of the following villages and towns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North of England barons</th>
<th>East of England barons</th>
<th>West of England barons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helmsley, North Yorkshire</td>
<td>Castle Hedingham, Essex</td>
<td>Pontefract, West Yorkshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipton, North Yorkshire</td>
<td>Little Dunmow, Essex</td>
<td>Belvoir, Leicestershire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirsk, North Yorkshire</td>
<td>Pleshey, Essex</td>
<td>Leicester, Leicestershire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topcliffe, North Yorkshire</td>
<td>Stansted Mountfichet, Essex</td>
<td>Curry Mallet, Somerset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alnwick, Northumberland</td>
<td>Framlingham, Suffolk</td>
<td>Trowbridge, Wiltshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warkworth, Northumberland</td>
<td>Huntingfield, Suffolk</td>
<td>Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walkern, Hertfordshire</td>
<td>West Greenwich, London</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each facsimile will be displayed with two exhibition banners, one about the charter and the other about the local baron, to become the centrepiece of a wide range of events and activities being planned by them in the lead-up to June 2015. After the celebrations are over, the facsimiles will remain for local residents, schoolchildren and visitors in their churches, libraries and town halls as a permanent reminder of each town or village’s connection with Magna Carta.
Project Rounds 2&3 Announced:

The University of the West Indies – Magna Carta Seminars and Open Lectures

This project is designed to accomplish three objectives, namely (i) to serve as a Commonwealth Caribbean link to the Magna 800th Anniversary Committee; (ii) to provide a platform throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean leading up to the commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta on 15th June, 2015 by way of the holding of a series of Magna Carta seminars and public lectures throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean. The time period for the project is October 2014–July 2015; and (iii) to raise the level of awareness throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean of the significance of the Magna Carta in the context of democracy and human rights. The project is led by Dr. Hamid Ghany, co-ordinator, Constitutional Affairs and Parliamentary Studies Unit at the Trinidad campus of the University of the West Indies.

There are a wide range of activities being planned, including: Seminars and open lectures across eleven Commonwealth Caribbean countries’ between October 2014 and July 2015. Panel discussions after each lecture in each country so that discussions can be tailored to local circumstances and the recording of the findings so that these can be reflected in the final publication.

The following issues will be addressed for research and discussion:

(i) The Magna Carta 1215 and its application to the Commonwealth Caribbean.
(ii) Bills of Rights in Commonwealth Caribbean Constitutions.
(iii) The preservation of the Rule of Law and the link to the Magna Carta.
(iv) Commonwealth Caribbean constitutional design and the Magna Carta.

For further information please contact: hamid.ghany@sta.uwi.edu

Sustrans Magna Carta Cycle Trail

Sustrans has received a grant to develop a commemorative national Magna Carta Cycle Trail map, inspired by the 800th anniversary of the Charter. The map will feature the main Charter Towns, the locations of Charter copies, the associated battlefields and the homes of the original Magna Carta barons, with the existing National Cycle Network routes linking these historic locations. It will be one of the few resources to connect all the relevant Magna Carta sites in one document. The map will be widely distributed to tourist outlets in the Magna Carta Towns and other suitable locations and further promoted through the Sustrans and Magna Carta 800th websites to engage local people and visiting tourists with the history of the Magna Carta.

The map will leave an important legacy, as the trail will always remain a way to popularise the history of Magna Carta and could be used by the towns and villages to promote sustainable tourism. The map will allow the hardeis of walkers and cyclists to travel the route, although many more might do the route in sections, picking up from where they left off on the previous trip.

Details of all the sites of interest will be included on the reverse of the map, with information coming from the Battlefields Trust and the Magna Carta Barons Association. The map is planned to be available at the start of the new cycling season in the Spring of 2015 and will be distributed free of charge. Along with celebrating the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta, it will also help celebrate 20 years of the National Cycle Network.

DONATE TO

MAGNA CARTA

Donate here:
www.charitycheckout.co.uk/207789/donate
Project Rounds 2&3 Announced:
The Supreme Court, Chartered Voyage: the impact of the Magna Carta on the way we live

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom will host a free two-month exhibition and a range of associated educational activities during August and September 2015, critically examining the role of Magna Carta in the UK’s constitutional settlement.

This interactive exhibition will be arranged into three key themes:

- Highlighting the principal legal rights the Magna Carta was intended to protect in 1215, and exploring how similar rights were protected beyond England in other parts of what is now the UK.
- Exploring how the legal significance of Magna Carta developed over time and was (and still is) used by the courts to protect fundamental freedoms; offering a realistic appraisal of the role of Magna Carta in UK law in modern times.
- Encouraging visitors to reflect on how their rights are protected today and what basic rights they think are of most significance, 800 years on from the sealing of the first Magna Carta.
Graham Turnbull Essay Competition
By Sarah Smith, the Law Society

Every year the Law Society of England and Wales holds their annual human rights essay competition. The competition invites law students, trainee solicitors, pupil barristers and junior lawyers (current, prospective or in-between stages) to enter.

The title of this year’s essay is very pertinent given that next year marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta which remains one of the most important and significant documents of all time, establishing the Rule of Law in England and Wales and throughout many jurisdictions overseas.

Recent proposals published regarding the abolition of the Human Rights Act, which ensures that the rights included in the European Convention on Human Rights are enshrined in UK law, raises certain questions about the future protection of human rights which are after all at the cornerstone of a democratic and fair society.

This year’s essay competition therefore asks candidates the following question:

“The roots of many of our basic rights go back to the Magna Carta whose 800th Anniversary is being celebrated in 2015. Given this important legacy, to what extent would proposals to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998 and pull out of the European Convention on Human Rights impact on the protection of human rights in the UK and around the world?”

Who is Graham Turnbull?
The competition is named after English solicitor Graham Turnbull who was killed in February 1997, aged 37, while working as a human rights monitor on the United Nations Human Rights Mission in Rwanda.

The Law Society is proud to honour Graham’s commitment to human rights through this competition, which aims to encourage awareness and knowledge of international human rights issues and remedies among young lawyers.

Prizes
The winner will receive £500 from the Graham Turnbull Memorial Fund. The runner-up receives book tokens to the value of £250. We will also publish both essays. The prize-giving event will take place at the Law Society in April 2015, where the winner may give a short speech. The winners will be announced on the night.

How to Enter?
To find out more including the eligibility criteria please visit our website:
http://international.lawsociety.org.uk/node/14312
‘Magna Carta and the Changing Face of Revolt’

The UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of Durham City boasts a spectacular Norman cathedral at one end and a formidable medieval castle at the other, with the space between being occupied by a green surrounded by a fascinating collection of buildings dating from the 15th to 17th Centuries. Durham Cathedral holds three copies of the Magna Carta in its collections: a 1300 issue, a 1225, and the only surviving copy of the 1216. It is this Charter which, along with its sister document – a 1217 Forest Charter – that will, during the summer of 2015, form the starting point and centrepiece of an exciting exhibition at Durham University’s Palace Green Library.

Magna Carta and the Changing Face of Revolt, 1st June to 31st August 2015, will show one of the three issues of the Magna Carta held by the Cathedral, alongside material from the University’s own collections and loans from other museums, libraries and archives throughout the country. Proceeding from research work undertaken within Durham University, the exhibition seeks to explore a set of questions - often seen in terms of the foundation of liberty and the establishment of the Rule of Law: what happens if we think of Magna Carta as an outcome of rebellion, forced on an overbearing king by disgruntled barons?

Exploring questions about the nature of revolt, rebellion, and the rebels themselves, through the Wars of the Roses, Civil Wars, Jacobite rebellions and Chartist movements, the exhibition will be a unique opportunity to discover the people who, whether intentionally or not, became rebels and to see some iconic material associated with their actions.

From the Magna Carta to the 1832 Great Reform Act, and then the Arab Spring, Occupy Movement and democracy campaigners in Hong Kong, this is the ongoing story of people wanting to bring about change. Visitors will be asked, are you part of it? What would make you a rebel?

Magna Carta and the Changing Face of Revolt
1st June – 31st August 2015
Palace Green Library
Durham City
DH1 3RN

Durham University’s Engagement and Exhibitions teams are also working on a programme of activities, events and formal learning opportunities. Talks, family activities and events will take place in venues across Durham City’s World Heritage Site during the exhibition period. Learning resources, engaging primarily with the Key Stage 3 curriculum, will continue to be delivered into the years ahead.

For more information on Durham and Magna Carta, visit: www.thisisdurham.com/magnacarta, or www.magnacarta800th.com/events/durham
Tracy Satchwill’s Magna Carta Women
‘Inspirational art that packs a feminist punch.’

In a new artwork, artist Tracy Satchwill looks at the journey of British women over the last 800 years since the sealing of Magna Carta. Tracy is creating a four-piece panel of notable women and men that have had an influence on British women and their long and arduous journey towards individual rights and freedoms. The playful and theatrical collage is inspired by stained glass windows, the main visual art form of the Magna Carta era, and set in a wood with flowers and fauna with key women and men on a pathway, which is the Magna Carta scroll itself. Featured women will include Mary Wollstoncraft, Emily Pankhurst, Catherine of Aragon, Janet Horne (the last woman in the British Isles to be executed for witchcraft), Barbara Castle, Laura Bates (Everyday Sexism Project) and Heidi Mirza, who comments on the work as ‘inspirational art that packs a feminist punch’. There are also a few men included such as John Stuart Mill and George Lansbury, who championed women’s rights and of course King John who agreed to the Charter.

Tracy creates her collages by photographing local people, who act out the characters. She then digitally creates clothes, props and backgrounds from various sources including her extensive collection of photographs and objects. She also uses her illustrations and print work. The images are superimposed one on top of another to create rich and colourful scenes.

Her project is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and Royal Holloway University of London and will be visiting Runnymede pop up museum, Runnymede Borough Council National Trust, Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Royal Holloway University of London, Sarum College, Brunel University and lots of other exhibition spaces. The project will first be launched in November 2014 at Brixham Sea Works.

To find out about the tour check out her website, for the women check out her blog or follow #MagnaCartaWomen on Twitter or Facebook or visit her Pinterest board #MagnaCartaWomen.

To find out more about her work visit www.tracysatchwill.com or www.bluewaveillustrations.com
The Knights Templar in England and Magna Carta

In 1118 nine knights came together in Jerusalem to form a brotherhood called the “Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon”. They were sworn to protect Christians, who were travelling to the Holy Land as pilgrims to visit and pray at the many places associated with Jesus Christ, from bandits and thieves. As their headquarters within the city were situated in the complex of buildings then believed to be the ancient Temple of Solomon, they soon became known as Knights of the Temple or, as still today, the Knights Templar.

Pope Innocent II recognised their good works and took them under his protection. The international chivalric organisation now known as the Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolimitani (OSMTH) or The Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem emerged. The Order grew extensively in size and power throughout the whole of Europe during the crusader period.

In the early 13th Century, Aymeric, Master of the Knights Templar in England, was one of most powerful men in this country. He is named in the first few lines of Magna Carta. He and his friend, Sir William Marshal (who later became a Templar Knight), were crucial in the negotiations which brought Magna Carta into being. The Templar Knights were a vital force ensuring compliance with its terms.

In the 14th Century the Order was suppressed in many countries, including England. In 1314 the Grand Master, Jacques de Molay (formerly the Master in England), was burnt at the stake in Paris – martyred for refusing to admit that the Templars were heretics. His brave defence has proved to be true, according to published documents discovered in the Papal archives a few years ago. These show that Pope Clement V absolved the Knights Templar from the heresy allegation. In fact the Order survived and was revived. It is now well established, with groups across the world. Aymeric’s ancient title of Master of the Knights Templar in England has been restored to our present Grand Prior. Christian men and women are eligible to join. The Order is ecumenical and non-denominational.

We are committed to supporting the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta and we shall be in attendance next year at Royal Holloway University of London and Runnymede over the Magna Carta Weekend. We have commissioned a new piece of music, the World Première of which will be heard at Royal Holloway, University of London, on the 13th June 2015.

Our Herald has designed the unique Aymeric Memorial Medal, shown here for the first time, as part of the celebrations. It will be for sale later this year, ready to wear, for £49 in cupro-nickel or about £135 in hallmarked silver or as a bronze medallion for £15. The design incorporates a reproduction of Aymeric’s own seal showing the Agnus Dei (Jesus Christ - the Lamb of God) on the front and the Temple of Solomon on the back. A full description of these items will be found at www.knightstemplar-england.org via which orders can already be placed.
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www.templechurch.com
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.

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