



MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

The four 1215 Magna Cartas were united for the first time in 800 years at the British Library between 2nd – 4th February, and at the House of Lords on 5th February 2015.

On 20th February Temple Church hosted the fifth Magna Carta Stakeholder Networking Day. Organisations and groups committed to the anniversary updated each other on projects and key dates in the commemoration calendar. More on this below.

The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee held a stand at the Global Law Summit between 23rd – 25th February with colleagues the Notaries Society. Visiting delegates expressed great interest in our commemoration events and objectives.

March Highlights:

- 1st: A 'Read not Dead' performance of 'The Troublesome Reign of King John' at Temple Church, from the Globe Theatre
- 5th: Seminar commemorating Magna Carta and the Golden Bull hosted by the Embassy of Hungary
- 7th: The English-Speaking Union Members' Conference. Sir Robert Worcester speaking on 'My Magna Carta'
- 13th March – 1st September: British Library exhibition: Law, Liberty, Legacy
- 14th – Finals of Historical Association's Great Debate, Royal Holloway, University of London: 'What does Magna Carta mean to me?'
- 20th – 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 – 30th September – Hereford's Magna Carta Exhibition, 'Icon of Justice – Pledge of Freedom'
- 30th – Magna Carta 800 Symposium, State Bar of Georgia, Georgia Bar Conference

April Highlights:

- 1st: Lincoln Castle opens its new state-of-the-art Magna Carta vault (more on this below)
- 10th – 19th: The Globe Theatre's run of Shakespeare's 'King John' at Temple Church
- 12th – 16th: Commonwealth Lawyers' Association Conference Glasgow
- 16th: Professor Nigel Saul lecture, Hereford Cathedral: 'Magna Carta and English History'
- 22nd: Lord Janvrin lecture in Lincoln as part of the Lincoln Magna Carta Lecture Series
- 24th: Magna Carta Constitutional Convention. Sponsored by Egham Museum, Eton and Wellington Colleges, the Supreme Court, Amnesty International and Brunel University. 15-18 year old students will debate and draft a modern Magna Carta to be exhibited at the Supreme Court
- 24th – 16th May: The Globe Theatre's 'King John' at Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton
- 30th: Close for submissions for the British Library's 'My Digital Rights' schools programme



@MagnaCarta800th



Search: Magna Carta
800th Anniversary



www.vimeo.com/
magnacarta/



www.flickr.com/
photos/magna-carta/

Sandwich Magna Carta of 1300 discovered in Kent County Council archives

News of a recently discovered 1300 issue of Magna Carta in Kent County Council archives received international attention in the first week of February.

The Charter, discovered in December, was issued to the Cinque Port town of Sandwich, UK. Sandwich Town Council anticipates that the Magna Carta will remain in the town.

Below is more information about the incredible event - provided by those involved in the discovery themselves.

Bringing Alive Sandwich Heritage (BASH):

The people of Sandwich are delighted with the rediscovery of the town's 1300 Magna Carta and partner document, the Charter of the Forest.

Following research by the Magna Carta Project, the Charters were found by Community History Officer Dr Mark Bateson in the Kent County Council's archives in Maidstone.

The discovery has generated great excitement amongst local historians and heritage enthusiasts. "As soon as the news broke", says Sandwich Archivist Ray Harlow, "we went rushing to our Guildhall Library records." Sure enough, the charters were listed in the archives' *Scroggs'* Inventory of 1931, a volume that had passed out of use following safe-housing of materials during WWII. Mr Harlow relates that Sandwich's Little Black and Red Books, Custumal and Charters, had been packed into crates and sent to storage in Wales. "After their return it was clearly thought that they would be kept in safer environmental conditions in the Kent Archive. Presumably they travelled to Whitfield when East Kent material moved there briefly, and then went back to Maidstone when the new Archive building was built. But by that time nobody remembered them."

John Hennessy, Chair of the Sandwich History Society, is keen to find out what other treasures remain uncovered. "What else is there in this collection? The market will certainly have had a Charter, and we have yet to find the Custumal of Sandwich. As the Cinque Ports were important hubs of power, Sandwich would have retained many significant Charters and documents of law."

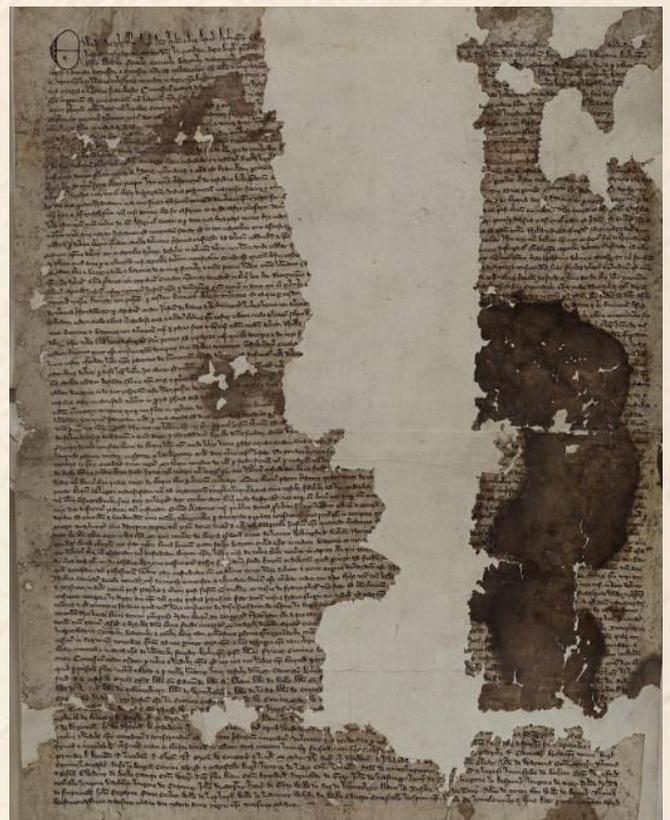


Image reproduced courtesy of Sandwich Town Council [legal owners of the document] and The Kent History and Library Centre [owners of copyright in this image].
 Archival reference: Kent History and Library Centre Sa/ZB1/47

The Charters will return to Sandwich and remain in the town's possession. The importance of the finds and the responsibilities of ownership were discussed at a meeting of the Town Council shortly after the press announcement. The Town Clerk and Mayor of Sandwich have called for a working party to decide how best to preserve and display the documents. The group of councillors and advisors will discuss plans for the restoration and exhibition of both Charters, access for researchers and long term storage.

Meanwhile, community heritage group BASH (Bringing Alive Sandwich Heritage) have begun plans to celebrate the discovery with events in the town. For details as they unfold, see www.B-A-S-H.org.uk or follow us on Facebook.



Magna Carta 800th Stakeholder Networking Day at Inner Temple, London.



Professor Nigel Saul,
Royal Holloway,
University of London.

On 20th February, representatives of the many organisations and groups who are committed to supporting Magna Carta's 800th Anniversary met to discuss ambitions for this year at the Inner Temple, London.

Master of the Temple, Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones, warmly

welcomed more than 100 representatives to the day of presentations and discussion. The Temple Church is hosting a Magna Carta exhibition featuring the effigies of William Marshal I and II, King John, and Henry III, on loan from the Victoria & Albert Museum. Further support from Lincoln Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral and the National Archives, will transform the Temple's Round Church into a centre for the Great Charter of Liberties and be an essential part of the historical trail in London.

The afternoon saw presentations from Chris Lloyd, author of the 'Magna Carta Chronicle'; a display of the BBC's excellent Magna Carta season, *'Taking Liberties'*; the UK Supreme Court; the Access to Justice Foundation, and events in Lincoln and Lincoln Cathedral.

Professor Nigel Saul of Royal Holloway, University of London, provided the audience with an excellent summary: '10 things you need to know about Magna Carta', before lunch.

Presentations were then delivered by UK Parliament, the National Archives, the City of London, Canterbury, and the National Trust.

In the evening, journalists from around the world were invited to the launch of the results of the Magna Carta International Poll, which asked citizens of 23 countries to answer questions about Magna Carta and which rights they considered to be most under threat in their nations today.

Read Professor Nicholas Vincent's excellent blog post on the Magna Carta Project

"The idea of possessing an unknown Magna Carta has appeared to the catalogue to be as absurd as suddenly stumbling upon an unknown play by Shakespeare."

Professor Vincent is the Principal Investigator of the Magna Carta Project, a landmark assessment of the Great Charters issued since 1215. The Project's website features a Latin catalogue of Magna Cartas online alongside English translations. Commentaries are available at general, secondary and academic levels.

Professor Vincent, who has discovered Magna Cartas before, found a brief reference to the sister Charter, the Charter of the Forest, whilst browsing the medieval archives of Kent County Council. [Click here](#) to read his amazing account of the events which led to his discovery, and the events which followed immediately after.



800th Chairman Sir Robert Worcester presenting the results of the 23 country Magna Carta Poll



International Survey

The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI among 17,061 adults aged 16 – 65 in 23 countries across the world. Using the Ipsos 'Global Advisor' monthly survey during January 2015, the survey was weighted to ensure proper representative of each countries' adult population both demographically and geographically by country. C.1,000 users took part in each survey, and responded to questions about Magna Carta and – with the exception of China - rights they perceived to be under threat in their nations today. The results of the poll by country can be viewed here on our website.

The nations which took part in the survey were:

- Australia
- Argentina
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Hungary
- India
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- Poland
- Romania
- Russia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Turkey
- USA

Some of the results:

Eight in ten (79%) British adults say they are 'aware' of Magna Carta, double the 23 country average level of recognition of 39%. Next highest, scoring in the 60s are the USA (65%), Hungary (63%), Italy (62%) and Spain (61%).

In contrast, just six per cent of adults in France say they are aware of Magna Carta, lower than other countries including Poland (10%), China (18%) and South Korea (21%).

Three in four (74%) British adults also claim they are aware of the 1776 US Declaration of Independence and two thirds (64%) the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights. Only one in five British adults said they were aware of the Commonwealth Charter – a document signed by Her Majesty The Queen in 2013.

The survey included a fictitious 'International Declaration of Democracy of 1910', inserted by the pollsters to check how many just guessed. In Britain, one in eleven (9%) mistakenly believe they know about this non-existent document. More people in France (10%) said they'd heard of the made-up IDD than the 6% the Magna Carta.

[Click here to view the results of each of the countries online.](#)

Magna Cartas united at British Library and House of Lords



It is unknown whether the four 1215 Magna Cartas have been together before. Picture courtesy of the British Library.

February saw historic unifications of the four surviving 1215 Magna Cartas at the British Library between the 2nd – 4th February, and the House of Lords on 5th February.

On 2nd February, the two 1215 copies held by the British Library were joined by the Charter held by Salisbury, and the one held by Lincoln. Lincoln's Magna Carta will be held in a new vault at Lincoln Castle later in the year (more on this story below). Lincoln's copy is often referred to as the most travelled Charter, and Salisbury as the Charter in the best condition.

More than 40,000 people applied through a ballot to view the unification. 1,215 lucky entrants were chosen to see the Charters across the three days.

On 5th February, the Magna Cartas were then moved to the House of Lords, where they were viewed by schoolchildren and legal experts. UK Parliament have released a video covering the day here. The schoolchildren present were not seeing just one Magna Carta for their first time – but all four.

The unification at Parliament was part of the Parliament 2015 programme, marking both the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, but also the 750th anniversary of Simon De Montfort's Parliament. There are more details on this programme of commemorative events in our newsletter below.

Marking the event, the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon John Bercow MP, said that "*Today's event, bringing together the four surviving originals of Magna Carta [...] provides a truly extraordinary opportunity.*"

After the unification, the Charters will return to their usual locations in the UK. However, another issue of the Charter will be travelling this year. Durham Cathedral's 1225 issue will travel in Canada between 11th June – 29th December.

* * * *

A further event, to be held in Parliament's Westminster Hall, will be held on Friday 31 July, the Supreme Court's "Trial of the Barons". Further details here.



Books

There are many books released this year to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. All books here can be viewed, with more information provided, on our books section.

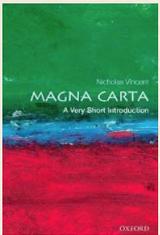
Academic & Adult



Vincent, Nicholas; Musson, Anthony

Magna Carta: The Foundation of Freedom 1215 – 2015. (1st April 2015: Third Millennium Publishing)

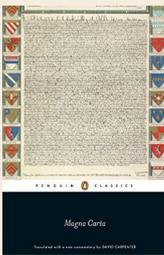
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Magna-Carta-Foundation-Freedom-1215-2015/dp/1908990481/carta/4554235311>



Vincent, Nicholas

Magna Carta: A Very Short Introduction. (28th June 2012: OUP Oxford)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Magna-Carta-Short-Introduction-Introductions/dp/0199582874/>



Carpenter, David

Magna Carta (1st January 2015: Penguin Classics)

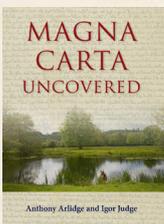
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0241953375/>



Holland, Randy (Editor)

Magna Carta: Muse & Mentor (Co-published Library of Congress and Thomson Reuters)

<http://www.loc.gov/shop/index.php?action=cCatalog.showItem&cid=78&scid=687&iid=5197>



Arlidge, Anthony (QC); Judge, Igor

Magna Carta Uncovered (30th Oct. 2014: Hart Publishing)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Magna-Carta-Uncovered-Anthony-Arlidge/dp/1849465568/>

For Children



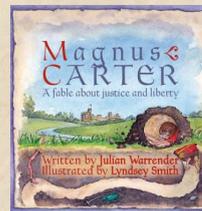
Harper, Kourtney

Happy Anniversary, Magna Carta! (Guy Fox)



Lloyd, Christopher & Skipworth, Patrick

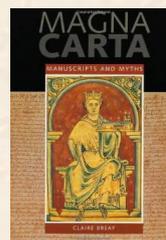
The Magna Carta Chronicle (What on Earth Publishing)



Warrender, Julian

Magnus Carter: a fable about justice and liberty (23rd March 2015: Hare and Heron Press)

<http://hareandheronpress.com/>



Brey, Claire

Magna Carta: Manuscripts and Myths (17th February 2011: The British Library Publishing Division; 2nd edition)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0712358331/>



Jones, Dan

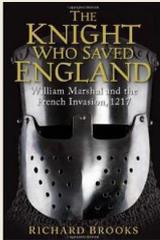
Magna Carta: The Making and Legacy of the Great Charter (4th December 2015: Head of Zeus)



Asbridge, Thomas

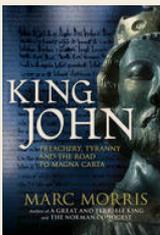
The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, the Power Behind Five English Thrones (15th January 2015: Simon & Schuster UK)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0743268628/>

**Brooks, Richard**

The Knight Who Saved England (22nd April 2014: Osprey Publishing)

<http://www.amazon.com/Knight-Who-Saved-England-Invasion/dp/1849085501/>

**Morris, Marc**

King John: Treachery, Tyranny and the Road to Magna Carta (12th March 2015: Hutchinson)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0091954231/>

**McGlynn, Sean**

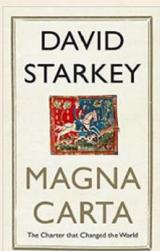
King John and Magna Carta (Pitkin Guide) (2nd February 2015: The History Press)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/King-Magna-Carta-Pitkin-Guide/dp/1841656046/>

**Church, Stephen**

King John: England, Magna Carta, and the Making of a Tyrant (12th March 2015: Macmillan)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/King-John-England-Making-Tyrant/dp/0230772455/>

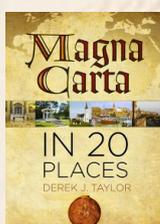
**Starkey, David**

Magna Carta: The Charter that Changed the World (9th April 2015: Hodder & Stoughton)



Magna Carta: Making & Legacy (12th June: The Bodleian Library)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Magna-Carta-Origins-Nicholas-Vincent/dp/1851243631/>

**Taylor, Derek**

Magna Carta in 20 Places, (May 2015: The History Press)

<http://www.derekjtaylorbooks.com/magna-carta/4554235311>

**J.C Holt**

Magna Carta (May 2015: Cambridge University Press)

Cambridge University Press to print new edition of J.C Holt's 'Magna Carta' updated by George Garnett & John Hudson

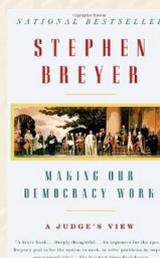
"Re-reading Jim Holt's *Magna Carta* from cover to cover in order to prepare a new edition has been an intensely pleasurable experience. We thought we knew it inside out, and simply had to supplement or qualify it with an assessment of the implications of the scholarship which had appeared since the second edition was published in 1992. But in truth it has been a revelation to be obliged to read it again, slowly and thoughtfully, in both the editions which Holt saw through the press.

"The Introduction to the new edition discusses the changes made by Holt in 1992 to the original. It also addresses a number of issues which have been raised (or raised again) in recent publications, and which will be familiar to all active historians of Medieval England: the putative influence of Canon and Roman Law; that old *canard*, the role of Archbishop Stephen Langton; the very date of the document. These will doubtless be central to the debates generated by the current anniversary. For the most part, the Introduction judges that Holt's instincts on these questions have turned out to be sound. He has sustained no palpable hits. His book continues to entitle him to be numbered among the greatest historians of Medieval England, as V.H. Galbraith authoritatively prophesied just prior to the publication of the first edition."

**Danziger, Danny; Gillingham, John**

1215: The Year of Magna Carta (10th May 2004: Hodder Paperbacks)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0340824751/>

**Breyer, Justice Stephen**

Making Our Democracy Work: A Judge's View (14th September 2010: Knopf Publishing Group)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Making-Our-Democracy-Work-Judges/dp/0307269914/>

Parliament in the Making: an update



January saw the launch of the Houses of Parliament's year-long anniversaries programme, *Parliament in the Making*, which commemorates significant historic anniversaries that underpinned the establishment of Parliamentary democracy and the legal system in the UK. These include 750 years since the Simon de Montfort Parliament (20th January 1265) and 800 years since the sealing of Magna Carta (15th June 1215).

Taking place across the United Kingdom, this public programme will present collaborations, create participatory opportunities, develop new learning and education resources, commission new works of art, include ceremonial events, conferences, talks and debates, and curate cultural projects.

Starting on 20th January – exactly 750 years since Montfort summoned his Hilary Parliament to meet in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey in 1265 – The Speaker, Rt Hon John Bercow MP, was presented with a giant birthday cake for the House of Commons. In the shape of the Palace of Westminster, the cake was a gift from the Worshipful Company of Bakers and the National Bakery School, London Southbank University.

That day Parliament also launched 'The Beginnings of that Freedome' exhibition in Westminster Hall, in the Palace of Westminster. Featuring 18 banners, created by nine artists, the exhibition commemorates 800 years of constitutional history – from Magna Carta to modern day.

On 22nd January Parliament hosted a special event in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey as a symbolic 're-summoning' of the shires and towns that Montfort bought together in January 1265. 40 Members from both Houses of Parliament, representing the whole of the UK, as well as their respective representatives from the UK Youth Parliament were present. This was followed by a special Evensong, which was open to the public, in Westminster Abbey at which the Speakers laid wreaths at the Montfort shield.

On 5th February 2015, the four surviving original copies of Magna Carta were displayed in Parliament. This launched the exhibition 'Magna Carta & Parliament' (9th – 26th February). This exhibition charts the constitutional journey from Magna Carta to today's parliamentary democracy using iconic documents from the Parliamentary Archives, including the Bill of Rights 1689 and the Great Reform Act 1832. Elements of it will tour to venues across the UK as part of the De Montfort outreach project being run by the Parliamentary Archives later in the year.

On the afternoon of Sunday 14 June 2015 at 3pm Parliament and the National Trust will host LiberTeas. Communities across the UK will sit down to tea, taking a moment to celebrate, debate or reflect on our liberties. Visit the website to find out more about how to host or attend a local LiberTea www.liberteas.co.uk.

Find out more about the Parliament in the Making programme www.parliament.uk/2015, magnacarta800th.com/events/uk-parliament/, @UKParliament | #Parliament2015

Lincoln Castle welcomes donation towards new Magna Carta Vault

The Historic Lincoln Trust has secured a £1.4m donation for the Lincoln Castle Revealed project.

The generous donation was made by the David Ross Foundation, which helps children and young people discover their strengths through a wide-range of world-class opportunities focusing on education, sports, arts and the community.

The money will go towards the creation of a new underground home to showcase Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest, which will be named the David P.J. Ross Magna Carta Vault in honour of the Foundation's contribution.

Lord Cormack, Chairman of the Historic Lincoln Trust, said: 'We are extremely grateful to the David Ross Foundation for ensuring that Lincoln Cathedral's copy of Magna Carta, one of only four to survive, will be displayed in a special purpose-built vault in Lincoln Castle. This will mean that generations of visitors and students will have a unique opportunity to appreciate the full significance of the most important constitutional document in our history: the foundation of the Rule of Law in this country and inspiration to countries throughout the world'.

David Ross, Chairman of the David Ross Foundation, added: 'Having grown up in Lincolnshire, I am very proud to be able to be part of the new Magna Carta Vault development at Lincoln Castle. Not only is it important for Lincoln and the area to attract more visitors but it will also be a significant educational facility, offering learning across a broad range of National Curriculum subject areas for primary and secondary pupils.'



From left to right: Cllr Colin Davie, Executive Member for Economic Development and Tourism at Lincolnshire County Council; David Ross, Chairman of the David Ross Foundation; Lord Cormack, Chairman of the Historic Lincoln Trust, and The Very Reverend Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln.

The Very Reverend Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln, said: 'I am delighted that in its 800th anniversary year Lincoln Cathedral's 1215 Magna Carta is to be displayed in the new Magna Carta Vault being built in Lincoln Castle with the generous support of David Ross and his Foundation'.

Work on the project is on track to be completed in time to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015.

Lincoln Cathedral's 1215 Magna Carta will take pride of place from 1st April 2015 in the new state-of-the-art visitor attraction, the David P J Ross Magna Carta Vault at Lincoln Castle, part of a £22m restoration. www.lincolncastle.com



Magna Carta in 2015: An LGA Update

Councillor David Sparks OBE, Chair, Local Government Association.

Local government owes a lot to The Great Charter of Liberty. Our very existence is rooted in the rights granted to this country's citizens by the various Charters of which the Magna Carta is but the most famous.



This year is a time to celebrate those freedoms but it is more than that. The balance between central control and local autonomy is as live an issue today as it was for the barons eight hundred years ago. In this General Election year I'm keen that we take inspiration from the principles that informed the Magna Carta and reset the relationship between national and local government.

We at the Local Government Association have been campaigning to reverse years of centralising control. We argue that a financially sustainable, democratically healthy system depends on proper devolution of powers to the local level, so that those who best

understand the needs of a particular area have the powers they need to address them. As part of that, one aspect of the anniversary that is particularly exciting is the opportunity to move the decentralisation discussion beyond the Town Hall or Whitehall, and use it as a springboard to get a generation of young people involved in thinking about what democracy means for them.

We are working closely with the Magna Carta 2015 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, Parliament and others so that local authorities can make the most of the link between the anniversary and the idea of democratic renewal. From promoting local civic heritage, to exhibitions in libraries and museums, debates on the health of democracy and encouraging digital engagement, they will be able to ground the anniversary with local relevance. For example North Yorkshire, Durham and Cleveland will mark the role of the Northern rebel barons. In Windsor and Maidenhead Gloriana, the Diamond Jubilee barge, will lead a magnificent river pageant. Lincoln Castle has undergone a £22 million regeneration. You can see more about what local authorities are up to on our online Magna Carta resource at <http://www.local.gov.uk/magna-carta>.

I can think of no greater legacy for what happened in a field in Runnymede 800 years ago than helping young people to understand the importance of the basic rights and freedoms that we all enjoy today, so they can have a say in renewing and reinvigorating them for tomorrow and years to come.



Three ways to get involved in Magna Carta this month:

The English-Speaking Union: 'My Magna Carta'

'My Magna Carta' is an international creative essay competition for 11 to 18 year olds to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. Young people in the UK and across the ESU's member countries in the Commonwealth and across the world are invited to create their very own Magna Carta for the 21st Century. The competition is also open to entrants from other Commonwealth countries.

[Click here to enter.](#)

Kickstarter campaign: 'Our shared Legacy of Liberty'

Professor John Robson at the University of Ottawa, Canada, is looking to raise \$75,000 to produce a documentary on Magna Carta. \$35,000 of this has already been fundraised.

Professor Robson has previously produced an hour and a half long documentary about the First World War.

[Click here to view the
Kickstarter summary and
short film.](#)

The British Library: 'My Digital Rights'



Who is watching us when we're online? Should governments monitor our movements on the Web? Should trolling be made illegal? Do we need an equivalent Magna Carta or a new bill of rights to protect the future of the internet?

'Magna Carta: My Digital Rights' is a new national schools programme inviting secondary school pupils, further education students, and teachers to consider their rights and responsibilities online.

Use the British Library's free classroom resources, and share your thoughts with the world by uploading your students' clause to our Magna Carta for the digital age before 30th April 2015.

[Click here for more
information.](#)

Ditchley Report: The future of Democracy in the world: Magna Carta 800th Anniversary



The Ditchley Foundation brings together leading

practitioners and experts from around the world to help shape policy on the major international issues of the day.

On 15th January, the Ditchley Foundation hosted its first conference in 2015 with the support of the Magna Carta Trust. The conference was chaired by former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, The Rt Hon Lord Judge.

Here is a summary from the Foundation's Director, Sir John Holmes, of the recommendations that emerged from the discussion between some of Britain's most qualified legal experts and political commentators:

"Participants were in accord that democracy, though flawed in many of its incarnations, remained the least worst form of governance. The issue of a comprehensive definition of democracy was side-stepped, with those round the table preferring instead to identify the main features associated with the concept, whilst recognising that not every democracy had exactly the same values. It was found to be more useful to view democracy as a continuum rather than a binary issue.

"Some time was spent assessing the failings of mature 'western' democracies, with widespread concern about voting apathy, and the disillusion many felt with politicians and the political system. There was a digital disconnect between the electorate and the elected. This was in stark contrast to the enthusiasm and civic pride still associated with voting within the newer emerging democracies, although many of them faced more fundamental challenges too.

"Recent events had highlighted the importance of the values enshrined within democracy, the freedoms of expression and association, and the rule of law, and it was more important than ever that these should be upheld as the way forward for a strong civil society.

"Those attending did not arrive at a neat set of recommendations, but a number of key points did emerge and are included at the end of the Director's Note summarising discussions."

The full report from the conference can be read on our website.

800th Commemorative Merchandise



We have a wide range of Magna Carta 800th commemorative products available for sale at our exclusive online shop www.magnacarta800th.com/shop

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



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

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 to see what's happening near you.

