

**Magna Carta Speech  
National Society Magna Charta  
Dames and Barons Dinner  
Washington, D.C., USA  
14 April 2012**

# **The Relevance of Magna Carta:**

## **under threat as never before after nearly 800 years of evolution?**

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Chairman, Magna Carta 2015 800<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Committee

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to visit Washington where I lived for several years some fifty years ago to speak to the National Society Magna Charta Dames and Barons' Annual Dinner.

I have a confession to make. I am not eligible to become a member of your fine organisation.

Chances are I cannot make a solid claim to have descended from one or more of the 25 Barons of Runnymede. The odds are stacked against me. Only one Baron, just one of the 25, was of Anglo-Saxon stock. Only 17 had children. If he didn't, I had no chance at all!

**This means that at least 16 of the 17  
Barons were of Norman/French descent.**

By the 13<sup>th</sup> Century there had been considerable reduction in the distance between the Normans who had conquered England in 1066 and had separated it into the French/Norman aristocracy and the Anglo-Saxon peasants. The Anglo-Saxon nobles were recovering from the time of William and his son Rufus, who had confiscated the property of the English ruling class, divided the spoils of war, and subjugated its people.













Over the 150 years since, the very fact that the likes of Guilbert and Richard de Clare, William de Lanvellei, Saher de Quincy, William de Mowbray and John de Lacy were present at Runnymede is a clear signal that they were descended through several generations of the landed gentry, while the likes of my ancestors had lost their power, their lands and castles, their wealth and their status in society.














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And yet by the beginning of the XIII Century the people of England, having been conquered by the foreign aristocracy who had done this to them, despised their language and lack of culture, were becoming more conscious of England as their country, rather than Kent, Mercia, and the other peoples sharing the island of the English.

**The Barons of Runnymede**

|   |                           |   |                         |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|    | William de Hardell        |    | William Marshall        |
|    | Richard de Montfitchet    |    | Robert de Vere          |
|   | John FitzRobert           |   | Roger Bigod             |
|  | William Mallet'           |  | John de Lacy (or Lasci) |
|  | Robert de Ros             |  | Robert Fitzwalter       |
|  | Geoffrey de Say (or Saye) |  | Hugh Bigod              |

|   |                                     |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|    | Saher de Quincy                     |    | Geoffrey de Mandevile (or Magnavil) |
|    | Eustace de Vesci (or Vescy)         |    | William de Mowbray                  |
|    | Richard de Clare                    |    | Henry de Bohun                      |
|    | Richard de Percy                    |    | William d'Aubigney (de Albini)      |
|   | William de Lanvellei (or Lanvallei) |   | Roger de Montbegan                  |
|  | Guilbert de Clare                   |  | William de Forz (or Fortibus)       |
|  | William de Huntingfield             |   |                                     |

2015 is the 800th anniversary of the sealing (not signing, as in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century woodcuts) of the Magna Carta, that great charter which laid down the basis for English common law, now spread throughout the world. Magna Carta gave protection of law against despotism by kings and their cronies, which has been challenged by self-appointed and elective dictatorships over centuries, but solidly upheld by both public opinion and legal testing over centuries, and which survives even today, 797 years later.

I take much pride and not a little pleasure being asked to attend as your speaker this evening to deliver a lecture on the Magna Carta and our plans for 2015. I do so for many reasons.

One is historic. A short history of just 55 years ago in my case, compared with the 800 years of English history since the barons and bishops met with King John at Runnymede. When I first visited the country of my ancestors, England, in 1957, my first visit was to the British Museum to gaze with awe at the the Magna Carta of 1215.

When I came to London with my family to live in January 1969, my first weekend here we made a pilgrimage to Runnymede to visit the site of the confrontation between the Barons (and Bishops) and the King. Nearly twenty years ago, as chairman of the Pilgrims Society, I became a Trustee of the Magna Carta.

This past year I was at a Dichley Conference dinner and at my table were the German Ambassador and a former Canadian High Commissioner. When I told them that I'd taken on the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Chairmanship, and asked them the salience of Magna Carta in their countries. To my surprise, it was the German Ambassador who was the first to speak up, saying 'Everyone in Germany knows the Magna Carta, it's the foundation of Democracy, it's in the schools' syllabus...'. Is it in American schools?

Even more recently, last month in fact, I was even more surprised in Gdansk at an academic conference where there was a professor of the history of law, Zbigniew Rau, who followed up after the conference to say that he had a conversation with some of his associates about the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that an idea instantly emerged that they could contribute to it by organizing a Central & East European conference at the Alexis de Tocqueville Center for Political and Legal Thought, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Lodz.

In fact, he said, the Hungarians, the Czechs, the Poles, the Lithuanians, and the Ukrainians had had a considerable experience of successful attempts to limit royal powers by law and to protect the privileges of their gentry between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. And it might be interesting to discuss these parallel developments with other legal historians like ourselves and suggested a working title of the conference could be *Magna Carta: Our Common Heritage of Freedom. A Central & East European Perspective*.

**So with that personal preface, let me share with you four themes in my remarks this evening:**

- 1. What was happening in 1215?**
- 2. What is happening now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** threats to our civil liberties and the enduring support civil liberties receive from the people and from the courts.
- 3. What are the risks we face?**
- 4. The Aspirations we have for the commemoration of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015.**

# 1. What was happening in 1215?

What must it have been like, in 1215?

Danzinger & Gillingham's **1215**, shows how much had transpired in England in the wake of William's victory in 1066 including castles galore to house the barons and their entourage to oversee their lands and impress the peasants.

What we know from **1215** is that improvements in spinning (the spinning wheel had been invented), weaving and dyeing meant people were much better, and more attractively dressed, horses were harnessed, leveraging their power, windmills (and dovecotes) were first erected, clocks appeared, and importantly, spectacles, which allowed those visually impaired to read and write, if we had learned to, and communicate at longer distances than just within the village or town. The transport system was improved, new ports were opened, and trade flourished in the market towns.

But as the population of England grew, estimated at four million then, 1/11<sup>th</sup> of today, the rich grew richer and life for the poor became harder. Nine tenths of the population lived in the countryside, most living and working on small farms, of between ten and thirty acres, plowing their lands and tilling their soil and serving their masters.

The ancient universities were founded, with all that promised and over centuries delivered. Both French and English was spoken, and in the clergy and among scholars Latin as well. Fiction, some which were long-passed-down troubadours' tales, were written down and in a primitive way published.

The rich lived very well, warm, clothed in wool and furs, in castles that were comparatively cool in the summer and warm in the winter, some even with running water and indoor facilities, and nooks and crannies into which privies were concealed. Furniture became something more than rushes on stone floors, with beds on wood flooring in rooms above the ground-floor level, and even tile floors, back after 1,000 years since the Romans.

Waited on literally hand and foot, with dozens of servants and serfs, life within was good for the ruling class. Life without however was risky for both master and subject. War was continual, God was feared. The king was king, and not too kind or just at that. Disease was unconcerned with rank or class, and the plagues of the day were as likely to strike the rich as the poor.

The poor were however ill fed, ill housed, and ill treated, lucky to get rushes to sleep on covering dirt floors.

For decades there had been no inflation, but early in King John's reign prices rose sharply, doubling or even tripling in the first five years of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This led to the development of a large army of accountants, bailiffs, receivers, clerks and the like, and there was even a school of business administration at Oxford.

John seemed to have a facility for losing battles, in office but not in power, we might say today. Losing the French lands, some of it estates of the descendants of the Barons of Runnymede, making the wrong treaties, betraying his partners in war, losing the vast fortune he'd acquired in just a decade or so, he was withdrawn to England without French allies, and had broken the bank. This led him to plunder his subjects to rebuild his exchequer.

And King John had a facility for making enemies, the Pope, other churchmen, barons and other gentry, yeomen and serfs. It was said that he'd offended everyone except his entourage, and even they were treated badly, seemingly just for the pleasure of the King. They may or may not have been angry, but they were determined to get even.

And that led up to 1215. In January of that momentous year, the barons were ready for rebellion, coming to the conference with King John armed, and ready for battle. Instead of placating them, he enforced his financial demands, and asked the Pope to condemn those who opposed him. Yet as indicated earlier, there was no easy alternative to the King, Arthur disappeared, there were no other Royal princes to rally round. The barons were in a pickle; so they devised a document in lieu of a person, a charter of liberties, which later became the Great Charter, Magna Carta.

They were following the leadership of a king themselves, as in 1100 Henry I had granted a charter on the occasion of his coronation, a Coronation Charter, over 100 years earlier, but still in the memory of men and king alike. And his Coronation Charter followed on from the early 7<sup>th</sup> Century and the first code of English laws, by the remarkable King Aethelbert of Kent and subsequent Kings of Kent.

For six months, the barons and the King maneuvered, involving the Pope and enlisting what allies they could. John even took the cross as a crusader to put himself in as Godly a position as he could, to defend his sovereignty while he, and they, prepared for civil war. They proposed to parlay with the King in May in Northampton, but he failed to show up, so on 5<sup>th</sup> May they effectively declared war on the King by renouncing their fealty.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May John granted Londoners a renewal of their traditional rights of liberty, but ten days later London embraced the rebel cause by opening its gates to the rebels. John's taxation of London's freemen had turned the City against him. John knew then he'd lost the bloodless, until then, civil war, and so sued for peace, and on 15<sup>th</sup> June, at Runnymede, accepted the Charter, 800 years ago in 2015.

## 2. What is happening now?

It is time then, to examine not what happened then, but what's happening now, the relevance of the Magna Carta in our lives, its applicability today. Why is this document thought to be the father of all constitutions, the basis of our civil liberties, the rights of free men, and now women, of legal tradition, the bedrock of our systems of democracy? And who are its guardians, our system of jurisprudence, of justice and of our parliamentary democracy. And are its principles under threat today?

It is clear that much of the issues of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century have no relevance to 21<sup>st</sup> Century British citizens, much less to Americans, not thought of in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, nor to Canadians, South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders, Samoans, Japanese, or even French, Germans, Poles and other citizens of today's European Union. We are no longer protective of our widows being compelled to marry (so far as I know), or kydells (i.e. fish weirs) being removed from the Thames and the Medway, or the banishment from the kingdom all foreign-born knights (I am happy to say), nor the imposition of responsibility removed for villages being compelled to make bridges.

I was interviewed several years ago on the BBC Radio 4's Today Programme about the topic tonight, the relevance today of the Magna Carta in the face of the threat of the removal of *habeas corpus*, the right to trial by jury by the then Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, and then Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, (now Lord) Charlie Falconer, who were arguing that it was reasonable in the light that the imprisonment of a suspect would be reviewed by a judge within seven days of internment.

The interviewer, in that irritating way the BBC seems to think attracts listeners, sneeringly enquired of me how I could justify any importance to such an out of date, arcane, document. Inevitably I had little time to make my point before interruption again from her researcher's script, so I had one point only to make in my allotted 2.5 minutes. "No free man shall be taken or imprisoned..." (I quoted), and it doesn't say for seven days, for seven hours, for seven minutes, it says "No free man shall be taken or imprisoned". What I did not say was that only three of the clauses of the 1215 Magna Carta have not been repealed by Acts of Parliament over the past 200 years.

What are the other rights we have under the Magna Carta that are relevant today, so long as a despotic or even misguided Prime Minister, under our system of government an elective dictator if upheld by a compliant Parliament and Cabinet, hasn't repealed them?

So, in the words of Monte Python's Life of Brian, what have the Romans ever done for us? ...except laws, justice, roads, water viaducts, military protection, peace, and the like.

What has Magna Carta done for us? Let me list a few still relevant today even if most are no longer enforceable:

1. In the first, general, point, the guarantee that the Great Charter's principles would apply "to all the free men of the realm to have and to hold to them and their heirs from us (the king) and our heirs (the Monarchy) in perpetuity" That means, as I read it, and as courts have for centuries, now.
2. A free Church.
3. Responsibility of guardians of minors not to exploit their charge.
4. Prevention of bailiffs from seizing land where chattels of the debtor are sufficient to repay the debt.
5. London's privileges extended to all other cities and towns.
6. A permanent venue for the court of common pleas.
7. Reasonable penalties for small offences and not so harsh a penalty for a 'grave offence' that life cannot be maintained, and not except by the oath of honest men of the neighbourhood.
8. No one allowed to requisition horses or carts of any freeman.
9. Nor wood...for castle building or any other work.
10. Uniform weights and measures.
11. Official's unsupported complaints required to be backed up with credible witnesses.
12. No one imprisoned except by the lawful judgment of his peers (trial by jury) or by the law of the land (get out clause).
13. Right of justice not delayed.
14. Freedom of movement of foreigners in time of peace.
15. Right of foreign travel and safety of return.

What does public opinion say in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century about the relevance of the Magna Carta specifically and other rights generally that should be included in a modern-day Great Charter?

The State of the Nation poll in 2000 for the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust asked: "On this card is a list of rights that some people have said should be included in a Bill of Rights...tell me which, if any, you yourself think should be included in a Bill of Rights." They found:

- 94% Right of hospital treatment on the NHS within a reasonable time
- 93% Right to a fair trial before a jury
- 90% Right to know the reasons for government decisions affecting you
- 90% Right to privacy in your phone and mail communications
- 89% Right to know what information government departments hold about you
- 87% Right to join, or not to join, a trade union
- 86% Right of free assembly for peaceful meetings and demonstrations
- 86% Right to join a legal strike without losing your job
- 86% Right to practice your religion without state interference
- 83% Right to privacy when you send or receive emails at home
- 82% Right of British subjects to equal treatment on entering and leaving the UK
- 79% Right of the press to report on matters of public interest

- 76% Right of a woman to have an abortion
- 76% Right of those who are homeless to be housed
- 66% Right of a defendant to remain silent in court without prejudicing his case.

And asked to look through the list again, and to tell them which if any they think should be excluded from a Bill of Rights, only four of that long list had as many as 10% of the public for excluding them: 20% for excluding the right of a defendant to remain silent in court without prejudicing his case, 13% each for excluding the right of those who are homeless to be housed and the right of a woman to have an abortion, and 11% would exclude the right of the press to report on matters of public interest.

But as to the last one, 12% tell us that they would like to have the press banned from reporting anything about elections whatsoever during election times.

### 3. What are the risks we face?

What are the risks we face? I am for one, personally worried about the tendency of governments, national governments, their predecessors, local and county governments, and especially supranational bodies, to take over the rights taken back from the **King and reserved to the people** in 1215.

I am worried about:

- Governments proposing universal ID cards, not ID cards per se, but what an irresponsible government could, and perhaps would, do with them, and what protection we would have
- Brussels telling me as I work in the European Union that I can only work 48 hours a week
- America telling Americans abroad they must pay income tax, but not vote, as was the case from 1912 when income tax was introduced until January 1977 when President Ford signed the Overseas Citizens' Voting Rights Act into law
- Local governments installing unwelcome and unnecessary chicanery (as I call it) without consultation or consideration to 'calm' traffic which instead infuriates this driver
- Manufacturers of torches putting labels on their products saying that the bulb in the torch should be changed only by a qualified electrician
- Lawyers working on contingency fees
- Doctors who are afraid to help in emergencies for fear of being sued
- Nurses cautious about moving patients on trolleys (union rules) or even in bed (health & safety)
- Gardeners who are not allowed to use chain saws for simple tasks, or use spray equipment at all, not just with a dangerous chemical, because of not having the correct certificate
- Teachers who are either afraid themselves or are warned by the teaching unions against taking children on school trips for fear of accidents for which they would be sued
- Head teachers who feel they must ban having cotton wool in their first aid kits in the school for fear that the wool might get caught in a child's skinned knee
- The British Government generally, in the absence of a written constitution
- The judiciary, which in Britain has no written constitution to be guardian of



- Political parties everywhere, who say one thing in opposition, and do another in government
- The police, kept by the courts and the system from defending our persons and property by enforcement of lawbreakers' civil rights
- Homeowners kept from being allowed to defend their property for fear of becoming the victim of the court as well as the thief.
- Parliament telling me I can't be critical at a private dinner party about the Americans forcing my 70+ English wife, all 5'4'' of her to take off her shoes to examine them for bombs while allowing three apparently Muslim young men through without a search. Indeed, if this legislation passes who could risk making Life of Brian?
- A Minister of Constitutional Affairs proposing to remove the right of trial by jury in fraud cases
- A Home Secretary telling me that information on the ID card is safe in his hands.
- And above all, the "nanny state" in which we must live.

And not getting enough sleep from all these things I'm worried about!

To close, let me tell you some of the things planned already for the 2015 Commemoration of the Magna Carta by the 800<sup>th</sup> Committee, given these objectives by the Trustees of the Magna Carta Trust when the Committee was established in 2010.

## 5. Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Committee Aspirations and Activities

[Tick (✓) means it is accomplished; Smiley (☺) means it is in train:  
 N.B. Anything anybody proposes it be included is welcome to add to this list  
 so that everybody who receives it will know what might be in the pipeline.  
 [Most critical factors in red.]

1. ✓ **Queen Elizabeth II as Patron of the Magna Carta Trust and of the Commemoration of the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta in 2015,**
2. Repeal of the Papal Bull of 1215,
3. PMs/Presidents invited to be Hon Presidents of 2015 Commemoration
4. ✓ **Advisory Board established**
5. ✓ **Committee and Sub-Committees to coordinate activity/support established**
6. ✓ **PR/Marketing Advisors appointed (HCL sponsorship)**
7. ✓ **All-Party Parliamentary Group of Members of Parliament, MPs and Peers in the UK established ,**
8. Congressional Caucus in the American Congress and comparable legislator groups in other nation assemblies,
9. ✓ **Parliamentary support of the activities planned for the 800<sup>th</sup> Commemoration approved,** and comparable legislator groups in other nation assemblies,
10. ☺ **Public Holiday: 15 June 2015 in UK and other countries bill introduced in Parliament**
11. ✓ **www.magnacarta800th.com website launched**
12. United Nations designation by the General Assembly as Year of Magna Carta in 2015

13. ☺ **Renovation of the ABA Memorial at Runnymede**
14. ☺ **Magna Carta Interpretation Centre at Runnymede**
15. **National Trust Contribution to 2015 at Runnymede**
16. ✓ **Funding for the restoration and construction of £19.9 m. “Lincoln Castle Revealed” project including creation of Magna Carta centre made possible by grants of £12 m. from Heritage Lottery Fund and £5.2 m. funding from Lincolnshire County Council.**
17. ☺ **Major Magna Carta exhibition at the British Library (April-July 2015)**
18. ☺ **and Salisbury Cathedral,**
19. ☺ **and at the Library of Congress** where a 1215 exemplar will be on loan from Lincoln Cathedral from 28 November 2014 for three months,
20. **and Lincoln Cathedral,** when it returns from the Library of Congress in 2015,
21. ☺ **and at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford,**
22. ☺ **at the Guildhall in London**
23. ☺ **and Durham Cathedral**
24. ☺ **and Hereford Cathedral**
25. ☺ **and the National Archive in Washington** where David Rubinstein’s copy is on permanent loan (he is a member of the MC 800th Advisory Board)
26. ☺ **and in Canberra, Australia**
27. ☺ **and in Philadelphia** and elsewhere in the USA and around the world
28. and in synagogues, mosques and temples and other places of worship throughout the world,
29. Magna Carta exhibitions in all British public (and some private) libraries and comparable international initiatives,
30. ✓ **Evensong and Dinner, begun in 2011 at the Temple Church in London,**
31. ☺ **to be repeated in 2013 and 2015,** followed by dinner at the Inner Temple and Magna Carta speech (✓ 2011 by Lord Neuberger)
32. ☺ **Magna Carta Evensongs and Sunday services** across Britain and abroad,
33. ☺ **International Bar Association (IBA) Rule of Law Day focusing on the Magna Carta at the IBA Annual Meeting in Boston in 2013**
34. ☺ **IBA article series in International Law Journals**
35. ☺ **IBA sponsored Webinar broadcast series in collaboration with CNN featuring the Magna Carta in support of the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**
36. ☺ **Moot court: UK Supreme Court, Friday, 30 July 2015:** broadcast on BBC,
37. ☺ **ESU moot courts in c. 40 countries, finals, Supreme Court, London,** broadcast on BBC,
38. Commemorative stamps (10 first day covers, for each of the Magna Carta towns)...
39. ☺ **Commemorative coinage in the UK – in the US, Commonwealth and other countries,**
40. Commemorative branded goods with Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> logo, royalties to 800<sup>th</sup> Committee,
41. ☺ **Magna Carta Weeks in all Magna Carta towns** Autumn 2014 through June 2015 (including Wales in 2015) and Magna Carta Days at all Magna Carta towns in 2012/13/14
42. ☺ **Magna Carta Commemoration at Runnymede, 15 June 2015 running through 15 September 2015**
43. Magna Carta Week in 2015 in America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and throughout the Commonwealth and elsewhere (including all countries with Magna Carta’s role in national heritage, constitutional & democratic development, and/or observation of the Rule of Law.
44. ☺ **Magna Carta “Trail” brochure and web presence to encourage tourism in all the Magna Carta towns,**
45. Tourists’ “brown signs” on all roads leading to Runnymede and everywhere exemplar are,
46. ☺ **Inclusion of the relevance of Magna Carta in the school syllabus,**
47. ☺ **British Council Magna Carta booklet for distribution to schools throughout the world,**
48. ☺ **English-Speaking Union (ESU) debate topic in 2015, finalists debate, London, BBC**
49. ☺ **ESU essay contest in 2015 in all ESU countries**

50. ☺ **British Schools essay contest in 2015, organised by Schools England**
51. ☺ **ABA/National Geographic travelling Magna Carta exhibition for high schools in the US, designed to be flexible for use in other countries.**
52. Programme of University Open Lectures throughout the UK and abroad,
53. Programme of School Assembly Talks throughout the UK and abroad
54. New media, including Twitter, Facebook, etc., for both school-level young people and adults,
55. A new history of the Magna Carta for British/American/Canadian/Australian/New Zealand/Caribbean/Indian sub-continent and other English-speaking nations, and in other languages,
56. A new history of the Magna Carta tracing the development of the ideas up to the Magna Carta, from the Roman and Greek period through the first code of English law of King Aethelbert of Kent and succeeding Kings of Kent to the Barons of the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Century,
57. ☺ **A new biography of Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, and his role in the development of the 1215 Magna Carta, being written by Prof. Stephen Vincent, University of East Anglia,**
58. ☺ **History of Parliament Trust: “The Origins and Development History of Parliament Trust: The Origins and Development of a Constitutional Tradition” conference to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta and the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the De Montford Parliament,**
59. ☺ **Picture Book of Magna Carta history and events, photos, maps and illustrations.**
60. ☺ **International academic seminar on the relevance of the Magna Carta to the Rule of Law and democratic institutions today, Alexis de Tocqueville Center for Political and Legal Thought, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Lodz, Eastern and Western European legal historians. (Hungarians, Czechs, Poles, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians all had a considerable experience of successful attempts to limit royal powers by law and to protect the privileges of their gentry between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries) working title:: *Magna Carta. Our Common Heritage of Freedom. A Central & East European Perspective.***
61. Ditchley conference on the Legacy of Magna Carta in the 21st Century,
62. ☺ History of Parliament Trust distribution of suitable booklets on Magna Carta to all secondary schools and consideration of suitable booklets at the primary level,
63. A pamphlet series of the history of the Magna Carta for each Magna Carta town for distribution in the schools of each town and for the web sites,
64. ☺ **The British Department of Education distribution to every State school student of a replica of the Magna Carta one side and the other the translation,**
65. and, via the British Home Office, to every new citizen as part of the citizenship ceremony held in 2015,
66. ☺ **BBC/History Channel Documentary television series covering the significance of Magna Carta and its impact on constitutional democracy and human rights in the world today,**
67. BBC co-sponsored and franchised drama series, syndicated worldwide, based on a contemporary novel by a well known author,
68. BBC Reith Lecture on the Relevance of the Magna Carta in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in 2015,
69. BBC “Question Time” (TV) from one of the Magna Carta towns
70. ... and “Any Questions?” (radio) from Magna Carta towns in England...
71. ... and other news, current affairs, history, heritage and other programmes, including a debate, possibly tied into the planned ESU worldwide debate with the relevance of Magna Carta as the topic, with the ESU finalists flown to London to take part in the debate. BBC World Service,
72. Television international network coverage of Magna Carta events,
73. Local BBC and other TV regional coverage and local radio coverage in the Magna Carta towns in Britain on their local events,

74. Extensive press coverage, news and features, newspapers and magazines and an extensive new media presence from the autumn of this year, 2011,
75. A 'Magna Carta Prom' at the Albert Hall and other Magna Carta Concerts worldwide in 2015,
76. Anthem to the Magna Carta performed at the Albert Hall, the Metropolitan and other venues,
77. An opera composed for the occasion,
78. An English folk opera of the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century,
79. Pop music, Calypso and other musical tributes to the Magna Carta, with the Notting Hill Carnival in 2105 themed Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup>,
80. Magna Carta concerts in universities and schools,
81. Poetry contests worldwide, both at adult level and in schools,
82. A Hornsby toy cart of c. 1215 in a set of forms of transport through the centuries, to 2015.
83. Magna Carta Stakes during Ascot in 2015
84. Magna Carta Garden during Chelsea in 2015
85. ☺ Magna Carta Tapestry,
86. Royal Shakespeare Company to include King John during 2015.
87. A new Magna Carta play (National Theatre?)
88. Recreate XIII century 'beer' (without hops) to brand as Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> ale for 2015.
89. ☺ **Using survey research, establish a baseline of knowledge of and support for the Magna Carta and track the impact of the 800<sup>th</sup> Commemoration in Britain**, and other countries.
90. ☺ **Create a legacy tribute to Magna Carta, perhaps in the form of a high profile scholarship scheme involving all those countries where a connection to Magna Carta is felt,**
91. ☺ **Ensure that the Magna Carta Trust has capacity to sustain the continuing projects**
92. ☺ **Leave behind a written, audio and video record of the work of our Committee to guide those who'll be celebrating the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2065**

**Thank you**