

SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER



Magna Carta Guildhall Dinner, 13th October 2014

The biggest event this next month is the Magna Carta 800th black tie dinner at the Guildhall in the City of London on Monday, 13th October. Although we cannot yet say, for security reasons, who the main speaker will be, it will be a senior member of the Cabinet – and Jeffrey Archer has agreed to be the auctioneer, *pro bono*. The cost will be £100 a seat, with a £300 donation (tax deductible for individuals) per person.

This is an important event in the Magna Carta commemorative calendar to help raise funds to deliver a wide range of aspirations and also a great opportunity to meet others interested in supporting 800 years of Magna Carta.

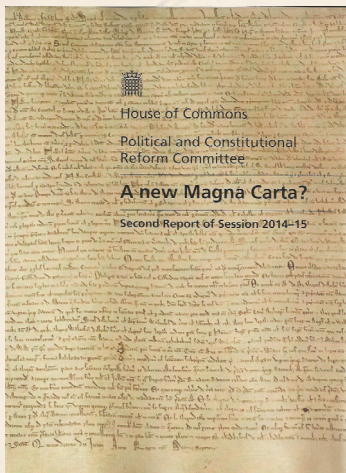
The Guildhall venue – one of the most spectacular halls in London – is being provided by the City of London Corporation. Guests for the dinner will have a private showing of the City of London's 1297 Magna Carta in its new home, the Guildhall's Heritage Centre, which opens its doors to the public on 12th September.

To reserve a seat or table, or if you would like more information, please email Mark Gill on, markgill@magnacarta800th.com



A NEW MAGNA CARTA?

Graham Allen MP (Chair, House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee) & Prof. Robert Blackburn (Professor of Constitutional Law, King's College London) launched the report 'A new Magna Carta?' in July of the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee.



The product of an unique four-year collaboration between the Committee and King's College London, this report constitutes the most comprehensive attempt to date to examine questions such as: should the UK adopt a written constitution? If so, what should it contain? And what steps would be necessary to its enactment? The report examines the arguments for and against a written constitution for the UK, and proposes three fully-developed options for future codification of the UK constitution: a non-statutory Constitutional Code, a Constitutional Consolidation Act, and a model Written Constitution, and considers the status quo vital.

This is a timely report. 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, one of the oldest constitutional documents in the world. There is also growing cross-party support for the adoption of a written constitution - it has been in the election manifestos of the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, and the earliest exponents of a written constitution came from the Conservative side.

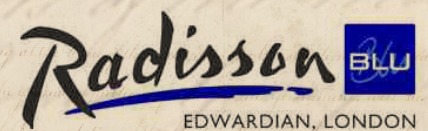
This offers us an opportunity also to think about the future of our democracy – what should the next 800 years look like?

The report launch marked the start of a six-month consultation, asking: Does the UK need a Written Constitution? Which, if any, of the options set out do you support? What should a written constitution for the UK contain? The Committee is also holding an open public competition to find the best Preamble for a future written constitution for the UK that is rousing, ringing, inspiring – and short.

All individuals and organisations - schools, universities and sixth forms, politicians from central and local government, academics, think tanks, charities and campaigning groups, and – most of all – members of the public – can and should take part in this conversation about the future – most of all – of our democracy.

Have your say! Email your comments to pcrc@parliament.uk or send them by post to the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. The consultation closes on 1 January 2015.

Radisson Blu Edwardian now Hotel Partners



We are delighted to announce that Radisson Blu Edwardian are the official hotel partner of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, and are proud supporters of the commemorations that the world will remember for a century. The hotels are a collection of 14 individual luxury hotels situated in great locations in London, Manchester and Guildford, and range from bijou boutique to large-scale luxe.

Look for the Radisson Blu Edwardian hotels: Bloomsbury, Canary Wharf, Covent Garden, Fitzrovia, Kensington, Heathrow, Leicester Square, Marble Arch, Oxford Street, Central Manchester and Guildford. There are also multiple Spa and Wellbeing centres across the country.

An exclusive promotional code for booking will be available on our website – check <http://magnacarta800th.com/tourist-information/radisson-blu-edwardian/> for updates and booking news.

For the full range of Radisson Blu Edwardian's deals, check www.radissonblu-edwardian.com

Battlefields: the punctuation marks of History

Commemorating Magna Carta and the Barons' Wars is the biggest undertaking yet for the Battlefields Trust.

Battlefields Trust is an independent charitable trust, with a main role of uniting the discovery, exploration, protection and interpretation of battlefields. A key aspect of the Trust is its engagement with local communities, and empowering them to understand their own histories. All history is local history – of which the declaration of Magna Carta in 1215 was only the beginning. Fifty years later, Simon de Montfort created Parliament and influenced liberty across the globe.

The Battlefields Trust and the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for making funds available to enable a range of celebratory and commemorative events to take place.

The Battlefields Trust is developing an educational and tourism programme that will continue for many years afterwards, to tell the story. This will provide interpretative resources, including the creation of an exciting battlefields trail that integrates with the Magna Carta Trail. This is being provided with the cooperation of Visit England, and English Heritage.

Edward Dawson has been appointed as the Magna Carta 800th Project Director. He was previously Regional Director of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and has a strong background in heritage and countryside protection. He will also be concerned with the protection, enhancement and care of battlefield sites. The Trust also feels that it should emphasise the historic nature and value of liberties gained as a result of the Barons' Wars.

Many local projects are inspired and underway. The small town of Odiham, with its King John's castle has developed a blueprint that other towns can follow. A magnificent embroidery showing key events in history will be a focus for local Magna Carta 800th celebrations. Study days on Magna Carta, the First Barons' War (1215-17), and the Second Barons' War (1264-65) are being planned for teachers and volunteers. Odiham resident Steve Brown has recently completed a herculean cycling venture from Odiham, which took him on 1,000 mile journey to deliver a Magna



Carta Anthem, to Magna Carta 800th towns by hand. This anthem was composed by Malcolm Archer and published on parchment by the Royal School of Church Music.

Over the weekend of 25-27th July 2014, BT Trustee Dr Matthew Bennett led a delegation from the Battlefields Trust to attend the commemorations at Bouvines, in France, near the modern city of Lille. This marked the 800th anniversary of the battle, the decisive victory by Philip II, King of France over King John's continental allies. Sir Robert Worcester, the Chairman of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee, who joined the tour, spoke from the podium to an assembly of officials from local and regional government, a large and enthusiastic gathering of local people - and even the Dauphin of France, who otherwise might have been Louis XXth.

The Battlefields Trust Magna Carta 800 Project is now under way. It will make an increasing impact over the coming months. One of its key programme priorities is to inspire and encourage local volunteers. The Trust will also promote re-enactments, study days, guided walks, and trails over the sites of past conflicts – these events, which can be enjoyed by everyone.



The Magna Carta Trail: City of London

Home to the Lord Mayor and Temple, the only place to be mentioned in Magna Carta by name, and custodian of a superb issue of Magna Carta: the City of London has a uniquely strong connection to the ancient document and the events that led to its issue.

In the crisis of 1214-5 King John had two London headquarters: the Tower and the Temple. It was in the City in January 1215 that the King was confronted by a posse of barons demanding a charter. Four months later, the original charter was issued from the Temple – a historic collection of Inns of Court within the City of London and testament to the character of an area that combines 2,000 years of history with cutting-edge and innovative modern architecture. Cobbled streets lead to towering skyscrapers and Wren churches; old streets wind around modern global headquarters. Home to world-class visitor attractions and Royal gems alike, the City is the ideal place to explore the continuing legacy of Magna Carta.

Foremost among the celebrations is the City of London Heritage Gallery – a brand-new showcase of important treasures from the City of London Corporation's impressive archives. Opening on 12 September 2014, the first major piece on display will be the City Corporation's stunning 1297 Magna Carta, complete with the first-ever post-it-style note from the king. From January 2015, the Mayoral Charter – a Royal Charter allowing the City to appoint its own Lord Mayor, who was to ensure the provisions of Magna Carta were carried out – will lead the display.

Magna Carta will return to the Heritage Gallery for the City's season of celebrations running from 1 June to 20 September 2015. Throughout the summer, free Magna Carta walks will run daily from Temple to the Heritage Gallery, taking in other sites of importance on the way. A series of public talks and lectures will open up Magna Carta and examine its origins, significance and legacy. Alongside this, the celebrations organised by the Inns at Temple will run, including concerts from Temple Church choir, a conference on human rights, talks on Magna Carta and its role in British society, an exhibition in Temple Church and the season's culmination in an open weekend on 20-21 September.



Elsewhere in London, Magna Carta will be celebrated in the Houses of Parliament's 'Parliament in the Making' celebration, which explores the development of British democracy from 1215 to the present day (from February 2015; www.parliament.uk/2015). The British Library will also be staging its landmark 'Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy' exhibition, tracing the history and long-lasting impact of Magna Carta (13 March-1 September; <http://www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/magna-carta/>).

Find out more at
<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/heritagegallery>
and <http://www.innertemple.org.uk/>

Global Law Summit: inspiring legal innovation

by Julia Bateman, Director Global Law Summit

The Global Law Summit is a world-class international Summit that will be held in London from 23 – 25 February 2015, celebrating 800 years since the sealing of Magna Carta.

The Summit will host a variety of world-class speakers and delegates including international Ministers, law firms, general counsel, multinationals, academics, and non-governmental organisations. It is supported by the UK Ministry of Justice, the British Council, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK Trade and Investment, the Bar Council, the Law Society, the City of London Corporation, the Judiciary, and an international network of law firms and businesses. We are working in close partnership with the Magna Carta Trust 800th Committee and its sub-committee of Legal Affairs.

This unique event will examine how the rights established by Magna Carta remain crucial to underpinning economic growth as the lifeblood to business, government and society.

The Summit will be structured on four key themes:

- Driving economic growth through the Rule of Law
- Law at the heart of the 21st Century business
- Magna Carta principles and modern world solutions
- Law as the foundation of a strong and prosperous society

We are fortunate that the UK can pull on a long tradition of the Rule of Law, and the Summit marks 800 years since Magna Carta first set down many of the principles of freedom and justice that still guide our law, and that of many other countries, today. One of our discussion sessions, led by the Law Society, will examine the impact of Magna Carta on those countries that gained their independence from



Global Law Summit

Inspiring legal innovation

the UK in the last century. It will explore the way in which those new states developed their legal systems using Magna Carta's principles to go further than what they had inherited and to drive their own economic development. Questions of whose responsibility it is to defend the Rule of Law and how to get the balance right in judicial review are designed to offer a lively exchange between profession, judiciary and government!

The Summit also provides the UK with a chance to show how that heritage still inspires us to meet the very modern legal needs of global business and trade. Key business leaders and leading general counsel will take part in a debate which will examine aspects of the Rule of Law and what business needs in order to invest. A specialist session to be hosted in the new world-class court centre, the Rolls Building, will focus on how our legal traditions enable us to be the jurisdiction of choice for dispute resolution in today's ever-competitive global world.

We will explore the predicted trends in law, business and the opportunity and challenges presented by technology and digital developments with the question of the need for a Magna Carta for a digital age being key to this debate.

To book tickets to this event please go to www.globallawsummit.com and we hope to welcome you to the Global Law Summit in February next year!

The Magna Carta Trail – written by Steve Brown

When King John set out from Odiham in 1215 on his steed to seal Magna Carta, his journey would change his society, and later inspire the development and foundations of liberty and democracy that would change the world.

Years later, it was not by horse but by bicycle that I would commemorate the 800th anniversary of that journey and connect Odiham with the main charter towns, places of interest, heritage, cities and cathedrals of the original Magna Carta by visiting these sites on a trail that would begin and end, as it did for King John, in Odiham. With me, in my saddlebags, I would take a special anthem, commissioned by Odiham and dedicated to the citizens of Odiham and a letter from the people of Odiham to each Magna Carta place in preparation for the national celebrations in England next year. I would also take a bag of stamp seals with the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary logo and name of place visited. This would be used to commemorate each port of call by stamping a Magna Carta Passport.

My journey of almost 1200 miles on this trail became an inspirational pilgrimage, challenge and adventure. It brought the joy of meeting so many different people, and the privilege of visiting wonderful heritage and countryside whilst travelling on my bicycle along the quiet backwaters of rural England.

The journey was reported and photographed; press and radio would



be engaged; my mission as emissary warmly received and encouraged as I visited Winchester, Salisbury, Oxford, Hereford, Durham and Lincoln Cathedrals. At Langton by Wragby, birthplace of Stephen Langton, Archbishop at the time of Magna Carta and whose words of *Veni Sancti Spiriti* are used in the anthem, almost the entire village turned out to greet me.

Onto Bury St Edmunds and St Albans Cathedrals and Runnymede National Trust. At the Parishes of Wraybury and Egham a welcome and hospitality was complemented by the special visit of a peloton of cyclists from Odiham. My journey continued to London via the Thames path, Bushey and Richmond Parks and would embrace delivery of the anthem to Guildhall, Temple Church and the House of Commons, before the next day and final delivery to Canterbury Cathedral.

My return, two days later, to Odiham was a warm and wonderful experience as the High Street, lined by people who had been following my journey had taken their time to welcome me home and over 500 on-line followers would follow my return.

The legacy of this Magna Carta Trail was more than a personal journey. Its impact has opened doors, introduced a network and inspired dialogue for the extension and development of the trail involving the National Cycle network and Church Care. This initiative will combine cycling networks around each Magna Carta site with the interests of the Battlefield Trust and historic rural churches.

In Odiham moves are already in place to establish Odiham as a Magna Carta town with enterprise initiatives for Magna Carta merchandise, signage and the establishment of the first Magna Carta Passport office from where tourists and visitors can acquire a passport and information about Magna Carta, its various sites and the opportunity for their passport to be stamped either in the office or in a local bar and restaurant. It is the legacy of Magna Carta and our heritage, the influence of Christian teaching and the freedom provided by democracy that has inspired and given me my opportunity. I hope others will follow, if not by bicycle, by car or public transport, and come to enjoy and experience for themselves the Magna Carta Trail.

St. Andrew's Abbey in Vercelli: the gift of a King.

What is the link connecting the North Italian town of Vercelli in Piemonte and the English document Magna Carta?

The answer to this question takes us to thirteenth century at the time of the English Barons' revolt against King John.

In June 1215 King John reluctantly placed his seal on the Magna Carta at Runnymede as a concession to the Barons. The intention was to limit the power of the Monarch, but John had no intention of abiding by the Magna Carta. Indeed, the current Pope, Innocent III, declared that the agreement was illegal, pushing England to the verge of a civil war. The Barons wanted to place Prince Louis of France on the throne and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langdon, was in exile in France.

At the turn of the year in 1216, the Pope sent Cardinal Guala Bicchieri, a successful negotiator and member of a noble family of Vercelli, as his delegate to England to intervene between the King and the Barons.

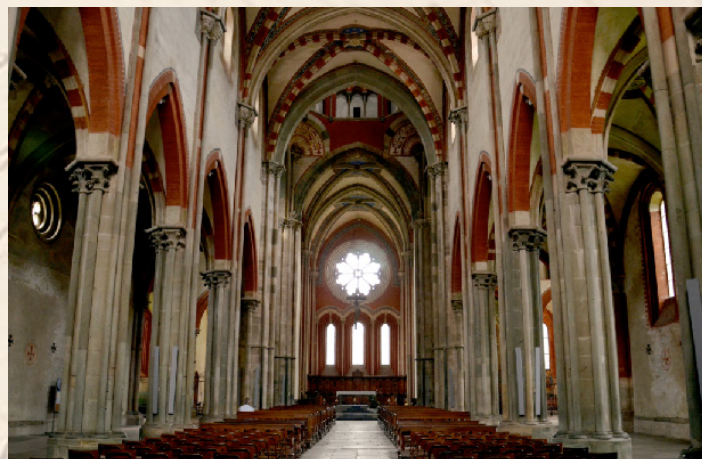
However, in July 1216 the Pope died, followed four months later by King John. This made Cardinal Guala Bicchieri a prominent player in the complicated sequence of events to follow.

Bicchieri helped organize the coronation of King John's eldest son, Henry III – only nine years old – with William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke. He did this without waiting for his orders from Rome.

Only a few days later, Bicchieri organised and chaired a Great Council meeting at Bristol. Here the newly crowned young king reissued the Magna Carta. Since Henry III didn't have yet a royal seal, it was endorsed with the seals of his guardians, William Marshal and Cardinal Bicchieri, as Papal Legate.

Magna Carta was confirmed a second time in November 1217 and also this third edition bears the seals of the King's two guardians. Thus, a document that only two years earlier had been forced upon the king by the rebel Barons and annulled by the Pope was accepted under Royal decree.

Bicchieri was active in supporting and counseling Henry III in the following months. He played an important role in the events that led to making peace with the French. As a reward for his services, Henry III and his council granted Bicchieri the church of St. Andrew



In mid 15th century the Chesterton rectory passed to King's Hall and to its successor, Trinity College Cambridge, who are still the rectors and patrons of the parish today. The Library of Trinity College still holds many ancient documents about the relationship between the two countries.

The result of this extraordinary story is the church which is the pride of Vercelli and one of its most well known landmarks - the Abbey of St. Andrew. It represents an early example of Gothic architecture in Italy inspired by Cistercian buildings, featuring Romanesque elements. The abbey is a union of art, history and architecture. To complete his project, Cardinal Bicchieri built a hospital next to the church for the poor, and travelers and pilgrims who would stop in Vercelli along the "Via Francigena" on their way from Canterbury to Rome.

This same route was almost certainly followed by an unknown pilgrim, who in Vercelli left a book of poetry and prose. This is now one of the oldest English manuscripts (known as Vercelli Book), today preserved in the Capitulary Library. It is another important element of the long history that binds Vercelli to England.



If Magna Carta had not been confirmed in 1216, the Abbey of St. Andrew may never have been built – the two are inextricably linked.



Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor



The United States Library of Congress will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta with a 10-week exhibition, "Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor," opening Thursday, November 6, 2014 and running through Monday, January 19, 2015. The exhibition – to be located in the South Gallery on the second level of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building – will be free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The centerpiece of the exhibition will be the 1215 Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta. In addition, there will be approximately 75 items from the Law Library of Congress and from various other divisions of the Library, which will help tell the story of the influence 800 years of the Magna Carta has had on the history of political liberty.

The Library's exhibition will demonstrate how interpretations of Magna Carta through the centuries led to the constitutional guarantees of individual liberty brought forth by the Founding Fathers of the United States. It will describe how a number of the most basic principles of the U.S. Constitution – consent of the governed, the right to a trial by jury, the right to due process of law, freedom from unlawful imprisonment and limited government under the law – can be traced to Magna Carta.

The Library's exhibition also will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta's first visit to the Library of Congress. After a six-month exhibit in the British Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair, the document traveled to Washington, D.C. In an official ceremony on November 28, 1939, Lord Lothian, ambassador to the United States, handed Magna Carta over to Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish for safekeeping during World War II. The Library placed the document on exhibition until the U.S. entry into the war, when the Library sent Magna Carta to Fort Knox, Kentucky. The document returned to England in 1946. Law Librarian of Congress David S. Mao said, "Through this exhibition we will celebrate the core tradition of the rule of law. While aiming to detail the enduring impact of Magna Carta over 800 years, our exhibit will illuminate its influence on our legal traditions and political thought while examining the unfolding story of the rule of law throughout the world. We look forward to taking a leading role in the American commemoration of the 800th anniversary of this legal treasure."

A Magna Carta Musical: the work of Terry Trower

In 1999, composer Terry Trower and lyricist Stephen Sylvester worked together to create a song cycle about a fundamental moment in the history of England, as their contribution to the cultural celebrations to mark the start of a new millennium. Written for six actors and singers with a small band, the full length musical was performed in Runnymede in 2000. At that time, opera singers were used as they were able to sight-sing. Using modern beats and present-day language, the events leading up to the sealing of Magna Carta were told in an accessible way.

The genesis of this was an unusual one. While walking his dog on Runnymede, Terry stumbled across a woman from the United States and began talking about the significance of the site and the legacy of the Magna Carta. The woman was a descendent of the Archbishop Stephen Langton, one of the most influential pressures on unifying the barons against King John and asking him to give the Magna Carta Royal authority. Royal Holloway, University of London, now plan to stage a number of songs from the musical as part of their Great Charter Festival on Sunday 14 June 2015. There will be many photos of this event, forming a fun resource for the music that sang in the Millennium, and now sings in the 800th anniversary of the very even that inspired its inception.

More music is soon to be released. There is one comedic piece, about two monks being caught by 'demon drink', and a different piece about Eleanor of Aquitaine – these will be released shortly. Terry is now keen to share this resource with youth groups, schools, colleges and amateur musical societies across the world for a truly nominal fee. Performers may stage the whole musical in either version, or just select one or two songs, as suites – please simply email Terry at terrytrowermusic@gmail.com to discuss your requirements, and allow us to see how widely the songs and script are being enjoyed.

Furthermore, in September the Magna Carta 800th website will host some of Terry's music and a .pdf format of the script of the full length musical. Samples shall be able to be heard soon on: www.magnacarta800th.com

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.

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

