



OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER



**MAGNA
800th
CARTA**

FOUNDATION OF LIBERTY

Monday 12 January 2015

Magna Carta's 800th Anniversary Dinner
Guildhall, City of London

Magna Carta Guildhall Dinner

New Date: 12th January, 2015

The Magna Carta 800th anniversary commemorative Dinner at the Guildhall in the City of London has been rescheduled to Monday 12th January 2015, due to the unavailability of our keynote speaker in October.

This is an important event in the Magna Carta commemorative calendar to recognise our supporters and activists by bringing them to the Guildhall to view the 1297 copy of Magna Carta, and have a chance to question the City's Archivist to ask those questions about that you've wondered for years, like 'Where was it signed?' Answer: 'It wasn't, it was sealed'; and 'How do you translate Magna Carta into Modern English?' Answer: 'Great Charter'; to have fun, and also to help raise funds to deliver a wide range of aspirations. It will also be 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 new City's Heritage Gallery will be open for our private viewing. There will be both a live auction and a silent auction.

The cost will be £250 per person (£100 for the seat, plus a £150 donation, which is tax deductible for individuals). A table of ten, however, will cost £2,000.

The dinner is Black Tie.

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



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Six Magna Carta tourism trails launched with official hotel partner Radisson Blu Edwardian, London

The story of Magna Carta is being promoted with the launch of the new website:

www.magnacartatrails.com

The website was officially launched in September at the May Fair hotel in London (part of the Radisson Blu Edwardian group) and it will provide users with a wealth of information about the range of towns and locations across the country associated with Magna Carta. These include major tourist destinations, such as the British Library, to some of the most beautiful Cathedrals, including Canterbury, Durham, Lincoln and Salisbury, to small towns and villages that all played an important role in securing Magna Carta almost 800 years ago.

At the core of the website are six new geographic tourist trails, each covering different aspects of the Magna Carta story to provide visitors with two to three day itineraries. The trails are designed to be self-guided, but a number of tour operators can also book elements of the trails for incoming visitors.

Radisson Blu Edwardian is the official hotel partner to the Magna Carta 800th Committee and is providing special rates for visitors during the anniversary year.

The trails include:

- London to Windsor: 4 days
- Salisbury and Wiltshire: 2 days
- The cathedral cities of the north: 3 days
- Kent and East Sussex: 3 days
- East of England: 2 days
- The heart of England: 3 days

Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL, chair of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee said: "We are keen to encourage visitors and all those interested in England's heritage to visit the many sites associated with Magna Carta. This website and the suggested trails will be an invaluable source for everyone. They will be handy guides for the thousands of visitors who will converge on England from around the world next summer, wishing to explore the areas which are part of the Magna Carta story. Doing all six trails will take visitors just over a fortnight, immersed in 800 years of history."

Judith West, Director of Partnerships introduced proceedings, saying "We're delighted to be the official hotel partner to the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. We recognise the importance of a strong heritage and values – we're proud of ours. Founded in London in 1977, The Edwardian Group – who own and operate Radisson Blu Edwardian, London – have been developing leading hotels and hospitality brands ever since, with the guiding principle of delivering a truly exceptional and memorable experience for our guests, time and time again."

Frank Baldwin, Chairman of The Battlefields Trust said: "When people think about Magna Carta they do not normally associate it with battles and sieges. But the Great Charter arose from the conflict between King John, his barons and the other European princes.

"The immediate consequences were eighteen months of fighting across England between King John and the Barons assisted by the French. These battles and sieges took place across England from Dover to Berwick and Exeter to Norwich.

"The Trust's Magna Carta 800th Project is making an important contribution to the Magna Carta Trails and we are delighted to be associated with it."



Left to right: Judith West (Radisson Blu Edwardian); Sir Robert Worcester (Chairman, Magna Carta 800th); Mrs Amanda Cottrell (Chairman, Visit Kent), Edward Dawson (Battlefield Trust); Cllr Ian Stephens (Local Government Association)

Magna Carta to be Key Feature of Lord Mayor's Show:

The City of London's 1297 copy of the Magna Carta will be a key feature of the ceremonial procession in the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday 8th November. The Lord Mayor's show is expected to draw huge crowds in to central London and generate a viewership of several million on the BBC, and is a tradition entering its 800th year in 2015.

The roots of the show come from the concerns of King John in 1215. To ensure London would remain stalwart to the Crown, it was his decree that all newly elected Lord Mayors of London should leave the safety of their abode and present themselves to the people of London in a public display of allegiance. The Lord Mayor was expected to pledge allegiance to the King, and thus ensure the representative of London would not encourage rebellion against the State.

The Lord Mayor's Show has taken many forms since 1215, and has faced great adversity. It has weathered two bouts of plague, the great fire of London, and interference from the Blitz. Coming up to the 800th anniversary of the show is the acknowledgement that its very existence depended on the political activity of King John and the Barons in 1215. The City of London's 1297 copy of the Magna Carta will take a prime position in the ceremonial procession, to remind London of its ancient roots, second only to the Lord Mayor's coach (below).



Some words from Dominic Reid OBE, Pageantmaster:

"The Lord Mayor's Show has always tried to recognise major national and international events. There is no doubt that Magna Carta is major nationally and internationally. It is especially important in London due to its relationship with the Mayoral Charter, an even earlier charter, during 1215. We are in a great position to do something – the Show will draw an audience of over 2 million. The 1297 Magna Carta is a powerful object to display. When an object is displayed in this way, to so many people, the significance of the object becomes clear. With it on display, there will be a palpable and authentic link to the events that led to the inception of the office of the Lord Mayor of London.

We are very lucky to have been granted use of the Edward 7th Carriage. This is a Semi-State coach, with two very important features that will help us display the 1297 Magna Carta safely and strikingly. It has large windows which will provide great visibility for the crowds. The Magna Carta will be raised above the windowsill. The carriage also has rubber tyres, which will ensure the transportation of this precious document will be smooth. In the planning of this, curatorial responsibilities have been taken extremely seriously. A special case has been constructed, within another case, to ensure the safety of the document.

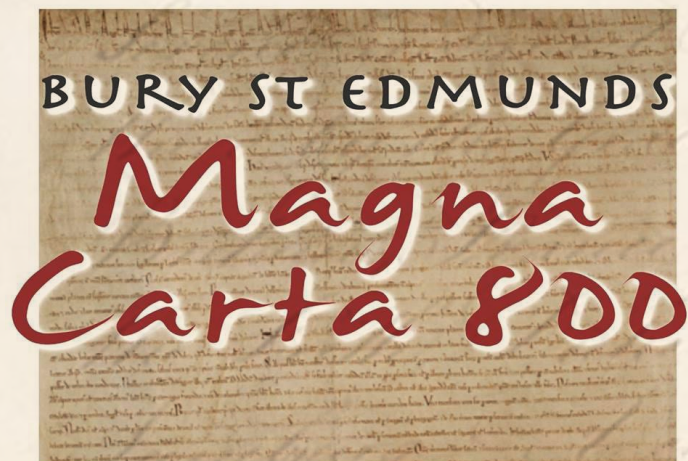
The City of London is one of the most modernised cities in the world. The Show is an opportunity to link the City to its larger history. It is a very legitimate way of juxtaposing modernity and tradition. Research over the last twenty years has shown an increase in the appetite of Londoners for historical heritage elements to appear in the show. The Show paints an interesting picture; it is the presentation of a global centre, with an unbroken history of 800 years. This makes the Show unique & ancient and gives the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration a big opening salvo that will catch the attention of those watching on 8th November 2014."

Dominic Reid OBE has been the Pageantmaster of the Lord Mayor's show since 1993. He was awarded the OBE in 2004 for his services to the Golden Jubilee and to the City of London. For more information on the history of the Lord Mayor's Show, please visit

<http://www.lordmayorsshow.org/history/>

Want to get involved?

Stakeholder Day at Bury St Edmunds, 24th October 2014



Our next Stakeholder Day will be on the 24th October at the Athenaeum, Bury St Edmunds. The event will begin at 1.30 pm, following the meeting of the Magna Carta 800th Committee, which starts at 10 am. There will be presentations from existing Stakeholders on their plans and projects for this year and the next. Interspersed throughout these presentations will be breaks and opportunities to network with others attending, and time for questions.

This Stakeholder Day will be a great opportunity for any businesses, communities, and other interests to come together to discuss how to coordinate and get involved with the Magna Carta 800th Commemoration. Group discussion and debate will explore what opportunities can be pursued to ensure the 800th commemoration of Magna Carta is one that will build a legacy for the future.

The earlier Stakeholder Day on 17th June 2014 at Royal Holloway, University of London, was a great success. There stakeholders were able to discuss their plans and aspirations amidst the inspiring environment, and share ideas and contacts to the benefit of all.

This time all those attending are invited to the Bury Light and Sound Show in the evening, part of Bury's Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations. Tours for this will leave at 7pm and 7.15 and shall last for approximately one hour. Recent evidence discovered by historian Professor David Carpenter of King's College London has found that it is very likely King John visited Bury on 19th October, 1215 – coincidentally, the very day Bury's Light and Sound Show was launched.

All are welcome. This event is a great way to explore ways your business, organisation, or area can get involved in an international celebration. If you would like more information, or would like to attend the Bury St Edmunds Stakeholder Day, please contact Mark Gill on: markgill@magnacarta800th.com



Angela Monkman Brushett: In The Footsteps of William Marshal (1147-1219)



Travelling by train recently, a fellow passenger revealed to me that he was Professor of History at a regional University, and we talked about the wealth of local historical provenance in the North West. His speciality was Industrial England; he admitted to knowing less about the Cartmel Peninsula than perhaps he should. He had never been to the pretty village of Cartmel nor inside Cartmel Priory Church! Even as an academic historian he appeared to be unaware of the name and influence of William Marshal. This lack of knowledge about the founder of Cartmel Priory is quite common. How many of the visiting general public to this wonderful building in the northern reaches of England, have previously heard of him before entering through the Norman porch which forms the South doorway?

So who was this man? And why should we acknowledge and celebrate his life at this time?

A man of faith, legendary loyalty and great military accomplishments, he grew up in the Royal Norman Court of Henry II. He was placed under the care of Eleanor of Aquitaine, to whose sons the princes Henry, Richard and John he became a tutor - especially in matters of chivalry and martial arts. Subsequently it is said that he became a hero at tournaments and was known as the greatest soldier of his age. He travelled for three years as a soldier and Crusader through the Holy Land. On his return, now in middle age, he was granted in marriage, the hand of the teenage Isabel de Clare, daughter of the King of Leinster, Richard Strongbow. Through Isabel he inherited Pembroke Castle and Chepstow Castle as well as extensive lands in Ireland. He was also granted the keeping of the large royal estate of Cartmel where, in thanks to God in 1189, he founded his Priory of Cartmel, one of three known foundations.

William Marshal remained a close and loyal counsel for the young King Richard Lion Heart and after Richard's death for his brother, the unpopular King John. Differences resulted in hostility between King John and his Barons, with William Marshal as mediator. These differences eventually led to the instigation of a Charter of Rights culminating in the sealing of Magna Carta, the basis of law and justice to this day. When King John died a year later, it was William Marshal who was named by the major Barons as Lord Regent of England during the childhood of the nine year old King Henry III. In 1217 he reviewed Magna Carta. As he approached his death, he was invested into the order of Knights Templar, dying in his old family home in Berkshire but buried at the Crusaders' Temple Church in London.

Justifiably, we who live on the Cartmel Peninsula and those who worship in the Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael, might wish to see acknowledgment of William Marshal's memory centre stage of the Magna Carta celebrations in 2015.

A Magna Carta Embroidery

Runnymede Borough Council has commissioned Rhoda Nevins, a member of the Royal School of Needlework, to design and embroider a twelve-panel embroidery to tell the story of the sealing of the Magna Carta. The twelve panel Magna Carta Embroidery project is a pictorial representation of important events and the spread of law and order in both the charter towns and in the countries that have adopted the principles of the Magna Carta throughout the world.

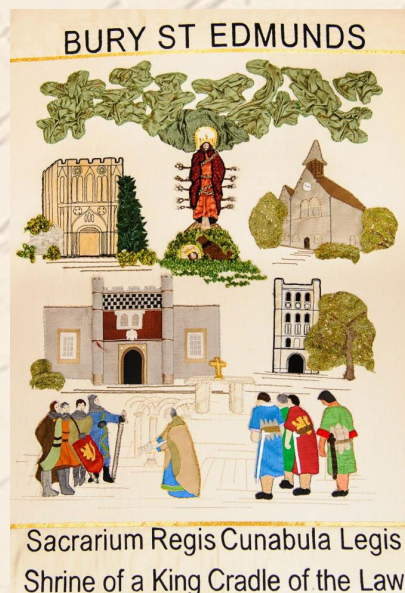
Each Magna Carta Trust town will have its own panel, these include Runnymede, Bury St Edmunds, St Albans, the City of London, Canterbury and Hereford and features the key people and events that happened in those towns. So far the Runnymede, Bury and Canterbury panels are completed as is the panel depicting the shields of the 25 barons who were present at the sealing. Rhoda and her team are currently working on the City of London panel.

This beautifully designed embroidery will bring to life the story of the Magna Carta, with each Charter Town panel featuring King John, the Barons, Stephen Langton and various relevant buildings and events in order to show

what happened leading up to 1215 and beyond.

There are five international panels that tell the story of how the sealing of the Great Charter of Liberty in 1215 laid the foundations for democracy throughout the world. Rhoda has designed and created panels for America, Canada, Australia, India and the continent of Africa. Each International panel features significant moments in the histories of these areas, and cleverly depicts the spread of law and order. Notable panels include General Cornwallis surrendering to George Washington on the America panel; Mahatma Ghandi and Nelson Mandela are among others featured.

Like the Bayeux Tapestry (which is actually an embroidery) the intention is that the embroidery panels become a lasting pictorial legacy to the nation of one of the most important events in history.



The Magna Carta Embroidery is attracting a lot of interest from all over the UK and the rest of the world and will be exhibited at various events and museums throughout the coming 12 months, with the first major exhibition at the Quaker Tapestry Museum in Kendal in November. The embroidery will be present at other events in the year, culminating on 15th June when HRH the Queen will attend celebrations at Runnymede.

The first five panels went on display at Bury St Edmunds in May, and will be back in Bury for the event at the end of October.

The Magna Carta Embroidery has great educational value as each panel combines many different aspects of the national curriculum, including history, design and technology, science (the dyeing of the fabrics), geography and story-telling. We are working with Surrey schools and hope to be taking the embroideries into local primary and senior schools as part of Surrey's "Learning On My Doorstep" project.

The past few years have been busy for Rhoda, she has completed a magnificent piece depicting the skyline of the town of Guildford which was presented to the town in memory of her late husband, a former mayor of Guildford. She also helped to embroider one of the official Olympic quilts which were gifted to each country competing in the 2012 games. She has also recently been presented to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a visit to Southwark Cathedral as part of the team that embroidered Jubilee vestments for the Bishop of Southwark and his Area Bishops and has most recently finished a beautiful panel commemorating the 800th anniversary of there being a church in Pirbright in Surrey.

Worcester Cathedral: Site of King John's Tomb

Our thanks for the historical data supplied by Professor Stephen Church:

King John died on the night of 18th October 1216 at Newark-on-Trent. His kingdom was in ruins, a foreign prince stalked the land, and his heirs looked unlikely to succeed to the kingdom. It was a disastrous state of affairs, and John knew it, so when he drew up his last testament he urged his executors to do all in their power to help his sons. As for himself, he commended his body to the monks of Worcester Cathedral and his immortal soul to the two Worcester Saints, Oswald and Wulfstan, the latter was canonised partly because of John's interest in him. His body was carried from Newark to Worcester and sometime around 23rd October he was laid to rest, the tide of history moving on without him.

The community that undertook the duty of looking after King John's soul were assiduous. They said masses for his soul twice daily and serenaded him with the song of Kings, the *Christus Vincit*. They erected an effigy in his honour which to this day lies on top of the stone casket (now surrounded by a sixteenth-century altar tomb) in which the King's body still lies. And they made every effort to assure John's son, Henry III, that his father was in good hands. As a result of their efforts, Henry III rewarded the monks handsomely, so much so that they were able to afford to complete the rebuilding programme that gives us the Cathedral largely as it stands today.

In April 2016 there will be a conference to celebrate King John's burial in Worcester Cathedral. The purpose of the conference is to gather together a group of scholars to



Prof. Stephen Church



The tomb of King John

discuss the history of Worcester Cathedral in the Thirteenth Century and the impact that John's tomb had on the development of the Cathedral. There will be nine lectures, each one focusing on a key issue to do with Worcester in the Thirteenth Century. The two day conference will include an evening lecture by Prof Stephen Church asking 'Who was King John?' and a lecture by Prof David Carpenter on 'Henry III's perceptions of his father'.

Prof. Stephen Church, who is helping the Cathedral organise the conference, teaches medieval history at the University of East Anglia. He has published widely on King John including a biography; 'King John: England, Magna Carta, and the Making of a Tyrant' (Pan Macmillan 2015) and articles on Worcester, one on John's last testament, which still survives in the library of the Cathedral (English Historical Review 2010), and one on the treatment of John's tomb in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (The Antiquaries Journal 2009).

Prof. David Carpenter is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at King's College London. He has written extensively on Henry III, including an acclaimed biography of his early years, 'The Minority of Henry III' (1990), and he has recently published a book on 'Magna Carta' (2015). He is the director of the Fine Rolls project and he is a co-director of the Magna Carta project.

To register your interest in attending the King John Conference contact SusanmacLeod@worcestercathedral.org.uk or ring Worcester Cathedral Chapter office on 01905 732900. Visit www.worcestercathedral.co.uk to see details of the full programme of Magna Carta & King John events at Worcester Cathedral in 2015 & 2016.

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

