

# 1215-2015

## 800 Years of Magna Carta

In June 1215, at the instigation of 25 barons from across England, Magna Carta was signed at Runnymede by King John. Who could have imagined that eight centuries later this 'great charter' would still be shaping the law in over 100 countries around the world?

Step inside the Chapter House at Salisbury's magnificent Gothic Cathedral and you can see for yourself the best preserved of only four remaining original 1215 Magna Carta manuscripts, displayed in a spectacular medieval setting. A major exhibition opening in late February/early March 2015 will explain the historic context behind Magna Carta and show how it remains as relevant as ever today.

Trowbridge, Wiltshire's county town, is also linked to Magna Carta as it was the headquarters of Henry de Bohun, one of only two barons from the West Country. He is pictured in a stained glass window at St James's Church, holding a copy of the Charter.

A wide range of Magna Carta themed events for you to enjoy will take place in Salisbury, Trowbridge and Wiltshire during the course of 2015. These include contemporary art installations, a barons' trail, musical performances, specially commissioned theatre, family activities, a flower festival and a medieval Charter Fayre.

### Magna Carta Events

#### Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival

**Wednesday 27-Saturday 30 May:** Shakespeare's Globe Theatre presents King John

#### Salisbury

**March-September** (selected dates): Salisbury City Guides' Magna Carta Walks

**Mid June-Early September:** Barons' Trail

#### Salisbury Cathedral

**Opens late February / early March:** Magna Carta Exhibition

**June-September:** 'Enlightenment' and 'The Power of Words' - interactive lighting projections

**Saturday 13-Sunday 14 June:** Gala Weekend

**Wednesday 15-Sunday 19 July:** Southern Cathedrals' Festival

**Tuesday 15-Sunday 20 September** 'Magna Flora' Flower Festival

#### Salisbury Playhouse

**Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 June:** Members of Stage '65, Salisbury Playhouse's youth theatre, will perform a new, specially written play at Salisbury Cathedral exploring the themes of Magna Carta. Younger members of Stage '65 will also be involved, performing an interactive piece of theatre in the Cathedral Close.

**Autumn:** Salisbury Playhouse will be staging The Magna Carta Plays, specially written by four leading British playwrights. Taking inspiration from Magna Carta, they illustrate how the principals laid out in this document still influence the civilised world.

#### Trowbridge

**Saturday 21 February-Saturday 25 July:** The Magna Carta & Trowbridge Exhibition

**Saturday 25 April:** King John and Magna Carta England, the reality behind the myth

**Sunday 14 June:** Ringing of the 12 bells and service, Parish Church of St. James.

**From June:** Trowbridge in Bloom: floral displays throughout the town.

**July:** Trowbridge in Bloom: Flower Festival at St. James Church.

**Friday 24-Sunday 26 July:** Magna Carta Extravaganza

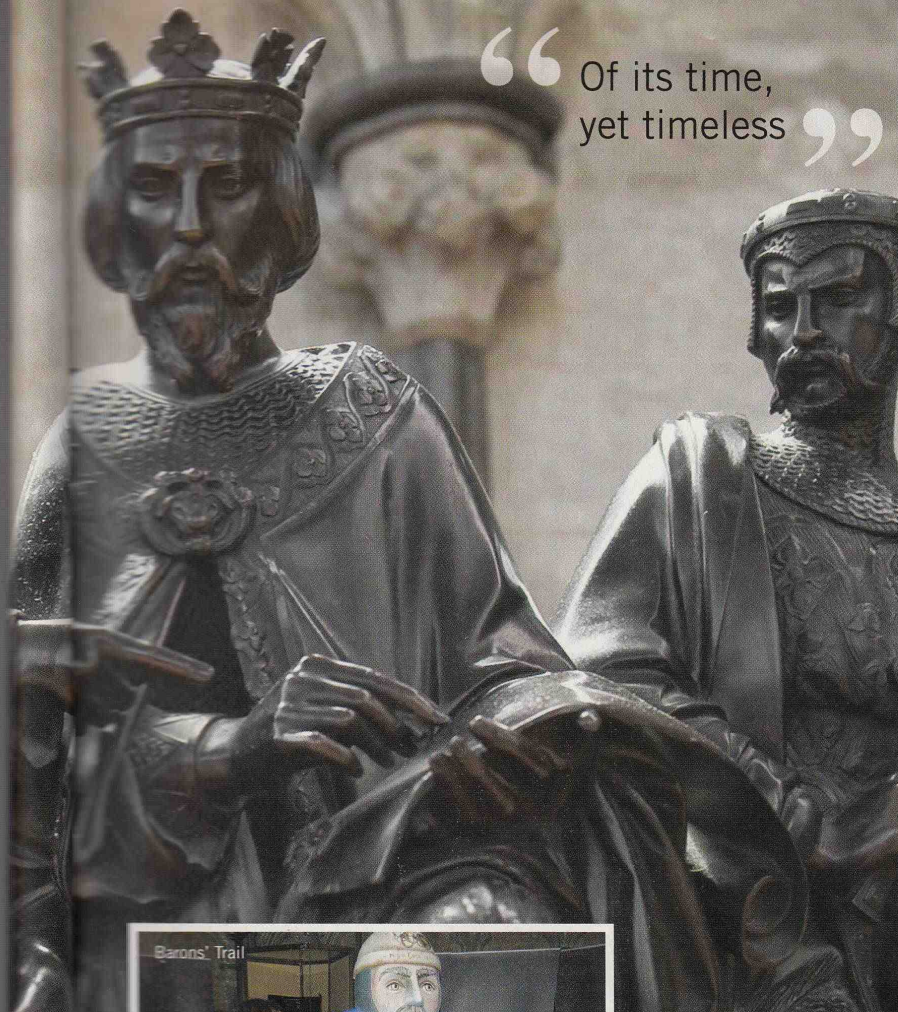
#### Two-day Magna Carta Trail across Wiltshire

A special trail leaflet detailing locations around the country with links to the story of Magna Carta can be downloaded from our website:  
[www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/magnacarta](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/magnacarta)



“Magna Carta represents the cornerstone of English freedom and justice”

“Of its time,  
yet timeless”



Henry de Bohun holding Magna Carta



Barons' Trail



Artist's Impression of Magna Carta Exhibition

*Et venerabilis pater noster dominus Johannes rex Anglorum... Magna Carta...*

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