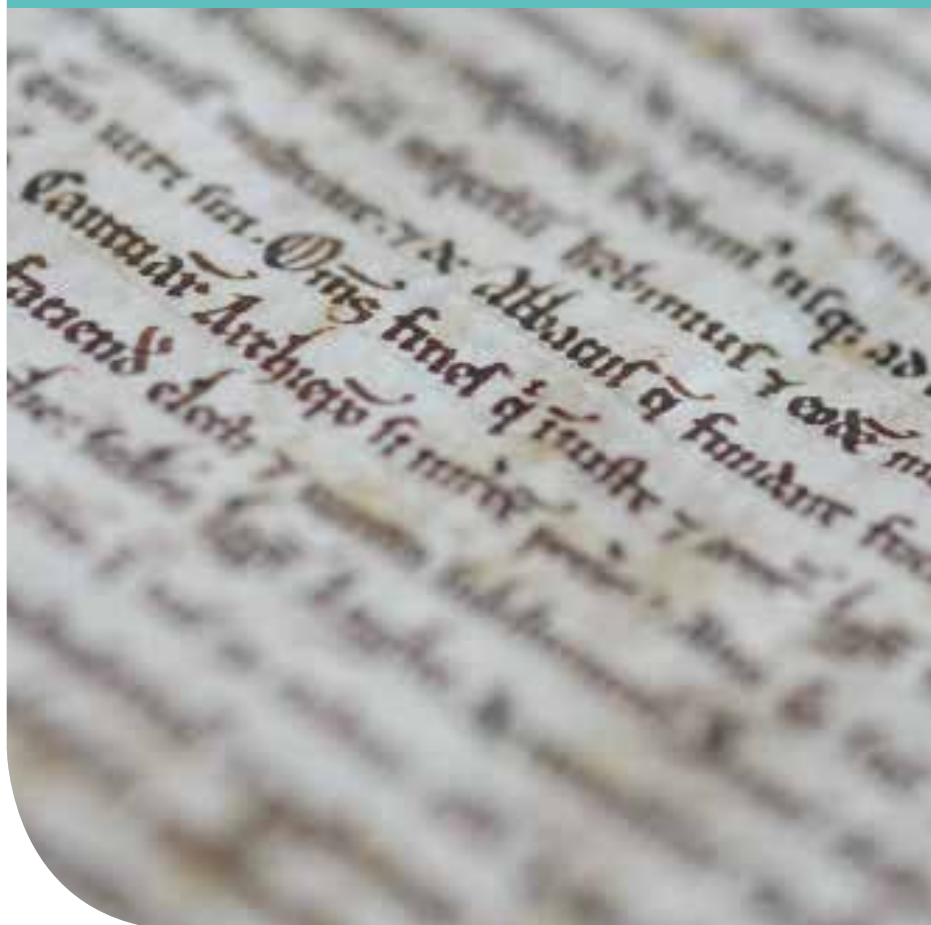


# Magna Carta anniversary events 2015

Your guide to getting involved





## Background

Described by some as one of the most famous documents in the world, the Magna Carta (also known as the Great Charter) was a practical solution to a political crisis in 1215.

Issued by King John of England, the Magna Carta established the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law and that people could have their say on justice and decisions that would affect them. It is recognised as perhaps the first building block to the democratic structures we have in today's world.

800 years on and in Wiltshire at a local community level this can be best demonstrated with the area board structures that we have in place. Decisions are made at local level with input from the community reflecting the individualism and uniqueness of each area.

In recognition of this important occasion and with one of only four preserved copies of the Magna Carta housed in Wiltshire, in Salisbury Cathedral, all our community areas are invited to participate in activities and events to mark the anniversary.



Working together with Salisbury Cathedral, we will have a modern day pageant which will take place on 15 June 2015. The pageant procession will go from the Market Square and finish its route at the Cathedral Close.

Each community area is invited to enliven the procession by promoting through displays and people the identity and heritage of each community. Many communities have lantern parades or carnival groups or have taken part in projects which celebrate the heritage of their community – this could be a good starting place.

The pageant has been developed as an event to bring together the wealth of creativity which exists within the county and to celebrate the role of our communities in shaping the democratic future of the county through the creation of a modern day Magna Carta (charter).

Each community area is invited to make flags or banners which reflect the key points of a modern day Magna Carta. These points should have a special resonance for each community and the design could reflect the traditions and heritage of the area.

The Community Area Managers will take the lead in each area to identify those groups and individuals who will coordinate and create the communities response. This could include local festivals and carnivals, museums and arts organisations as well as local businesses and charities.

Salisbury Cathedral and Wiltshire Council will jointly organise the event on 15 June 2015.



## What you need to do...

- ✓ First of all, start planning now! June isn't that far away and the more time you have to plan the more spectacular your presence in the pageant will be.
- ✓ You'll need to set up a group to help. You might be able to work with existing groups – for example; check out a local history group
- ✓ Be creative about your place in the procession. It is hoped that all 18 community areas will take part - think about how you can best showcase your community and make it stand out. It could be a float, or a giant, or a procession or all of these.



- ✓ How about creating a modern day Magna Carta (charter) for your community and flags or banners to reflect this – what would be in your charter?
- ✓ Decorate a Magna Cart, which illustrates the heritage of your community.
- ✓ Create a modern day baron, a giant puppet to animate the parade.
- ✓ This is an opportunity to reflect your community's local knowledge – find out what makes your community unique and what is significant about your area.



## What you need to do...

- ✓ Work with local businesses and charities to show the character of the community.
- ✓ Invite local bands, choirs, and dance companies to take part in the parade.
- ✓ Work with local amateur dramatics companies to tell the story of your community through performance.
- ✓ Be inclusive – the more people that are involved, the more ideas and local knowledge you're likely to find.
- ✓ Think about how you raise awareness – what did you do in 2012 to showcase your area as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Did it work and could this be improved?



- ✓ Are there any local groups or schools already working on Magna Carta activities and events – can these be linked to the pageant and a modern day charter?
- ✓ Be creative and maybe a local company could contribute, or provide sponsorship to help showcase your community area?
- ✓ This is an opportunity to promote your local community and take part in a national and historic anniversary that has significance in our county.



## How do you do it – tools to help

- Posters/flyers – an example is included with this guide
- Draft copy for local communication networks; Community Area Matters, Facebook page and Twitter – example below:

On Monday 15 June Wiltshire Council and Salisbury Cathedral will jointly organise a modern day pageant from Market Square to the Cathedral Close Salisbury as part of celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.

Communities are invited to come together to really showcase the traditions and heritage that make our 18 community areas special and unique.

Please contact your local community area manager to find out more about how you can get involved in the event and to see what other celebrations could be planned for your area.

- The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre will help communities to research their local heritage  
Tel: **01249 705500**  
Email: [heritageadmin@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:heritageadmin@wiltshire.gov.uk)
- Arts and Museums development teams will assist communities to develop creative ideas.  
Tel: **01249 705523**  
Email: [heritageadmin@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:heritageadmin@wiltshire.gov.uk)
- Salisbury Cathedral will work with the Area Board Managers to shape the modern day Magna Carta points and will help to co-ordinate the groups taking part in the pageant.

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