

FRIENDS OF THE FAVERSHAM MAGNA CARTA

NEWSLETTER No: 2

Dear Friend

We have been working hard on all things Magna Carta since our last newsletter, and I am delighted to tell you that we have been successful in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the touring exhibition: Magna Carta Rediscovered. In addition, our plans to celebrate Magna Carta 2015 in Faversham are well in hand, including schools work, a community choir and a medieval fair.



As well as Heritage Lottery funding, we have received grants from Swale Borough Council, Magna Carta 800 Committee, South East Water and NADFAS Young Arts Fund. We are always looking for sponsors to enable us to do more so please don't hesitate to contact me or Sally Wookey if you would like to get involved.

Councillor David Simmons,
Chairman, Magna Carta Committee, Faversham Town Council

Heritage Lottery Fund success

We are delighted to have received an award of £81,000 towards the cost of an audio-visual exhibition, Magna Carta Rediscovered, to be staged in Faversham, Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester during 2015. Our thanks go to Visit Kent staff for their hard work in pulling together the bid.

The exhibition will feature the copy of Magna Carta issued to the barons of Faversham in 1300. The valuable document, in the care of Faversham Town Council, has rarely been on public view before.

Audio-visual displays, supported by a team of volunteers, will interpret the importance of the medieval Magna Carta to today's concepts of the freedom of the individual, democracy and society. They will also highlight the role Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, played in setting the terms of the declarations.

The HLF gave the green light to what they have described as a 'very exciting project' on 15th October.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent said: "This is a major project to give public access to these historic documents and a real understanding of the context in which Magna Carta was fought for, specifically with its strong Kent connections.

"Magna Carta Rediscovered will bring visitors into the county to see for themselves our key Magna Carta locations, including Canterbury, one of the five charter towns and our very own Magna Carta held by Faversham Town Council."

Cllr David Simmons, Chair of Faversham Town Council Magna Carta Committee, said: "Faversham is delighted this wonderful project has been recognised by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

"We are immensely proud to be in possession of a Magna Carta, and we look forward to sharing this important document with the people of Kent and its many visitors during the 800th anniversary.

"Our campaign, supported by Visit Kent, to conserve and establish a permanent home for Magna Carta and our other wonderful charters starts here."

Magna Carta Rediscovered will open at The Alexander Centre, Faversham, on 23rd May, 2015 before going to The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, Canterbury; Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone; and Rochester Cathedral.

Rochester Cathedral is also home to the Textus Roffensis, which includes the oldest surviving English law code and the 1100 Coronation charter of Henry I alongside the oldest Rochester Cathedral registers.

Following its tour of the county, Magna Carta Rediscovered will return to Faversham and support the launch of a legacy campaign to secure a permanent home for the Faversham Charter Collection.

Curator and Designer for the Faversham Charter Collection and Magna Carta Rediscovered

We have been fortunate in securing the services of a first class curator as well as an international exhibition design company to deliver both the Faversham Charter Collection and Magna Carta Rediscovered exhibitions.

Laura Samuels (Jakaranda Tree) has been involved in delivering heritage projects for over ten years. She has worked on a wide range of projects, ranging from museums, art galleries & touring exhibitions, to places of worship & theatres, to battlefields, archaeological excavations & parks (<http://www.jakarandatree.com>).

ETT Solutions is an Italian company which uses IT and 21st century technology to make the role of the museum visitor "active". Much of their work has been in Italy, details of which can be found on their website (<http://www.ettsolutions.com>).

Swale Borough Council Regeneration Fund

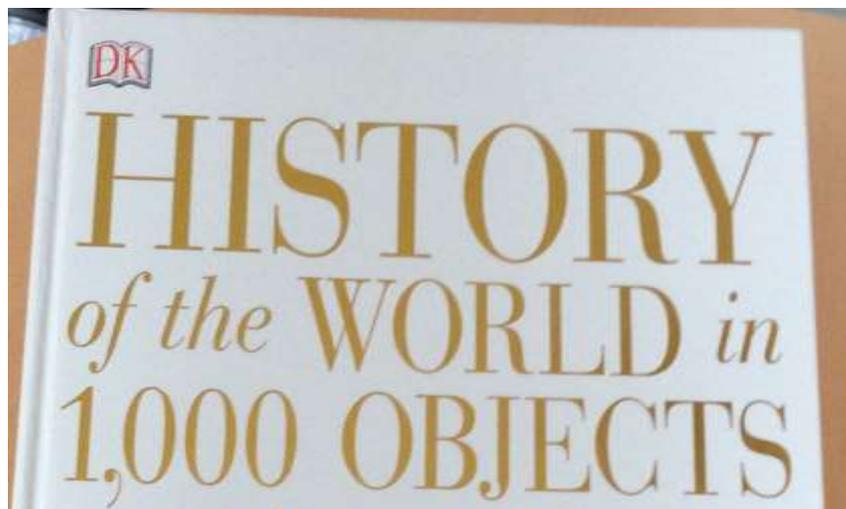
We are extremely pleased to have received a grant of £9,950 from Swale Borough Council as a contribution to support the 'Faversham Charter Collection' exhibition to be staged in the Alexander Centre as part of the 'Magna Carta Rediscovered' touring exhibition. Many thanks go to Lyn Newton for her help and advice to the Town Council in this bid.

South East Water

Our thanks go to South East Water for their £1,000 sponsorship of the Guest Lecture Series.

Dorling Kindersley “History of the World in 1,000 Objects”

The Faversham Magna Carta has been used to illustrate the section relating to Magna Carta in the newly-published Dorling Kindersley History of the World in 1000 objects.



Magna Carta is recorded in the book as a key element of the history relating to Trade and Empire: Norman Crusaders and Conquerors. Faversham's Magna Carta is included in all its glory along with a photograph of Faversham's superbly illuminated Henry IV charter.

The purpose of the book is to provide “an impression of the overarching shape of human history and its development from stone tools to spaceflight” and uses 1000 objects to illustrate mankind's development.

Open Day: 22 November 2014

Come to the Alexander Centre and find out more about 'Faversham Magna Carta Rediscovered', the touring exhibition and our plans with community partners to commemorate and celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215. A presentation on the plans will be made at 11.00am and 2.00pm.

Events and Activities to Commemorate and Celebrate

We are continuing to develop events and activities over the next 9 months. Here is a taste of what we are planning:

Medieval Fair

The Faversham Business Partnership and the Faversham Traders' Association will be holding a Medieval Fair on the weekend of 13 and 14 June 2015. Come along for food, drink and medieval entertainment (no ducking stools in the Creek, though!).

Quiz Night

We will be holding a fund-raising Quiz Night with a Magna Carta theme on Saturday, 7 February 2015 at the Alexander Centre. Please contact Sally Wookey for more details and to book a table. Bring your friends and family for a fun evening where

you can test your knowledge of Magna Carta, Faversham and general knowledge, all in a good cause.

Community Choir



Local composer David Knotts brings together professional and amateur performers in a spectacular musical celebration of Faversham's association with the Magna Carta.

With music by David Knotts and words by John Gallas, this World Première will be staged in St Mary of Charity Church, Faversham. Performers will include: Nicole Tibbels, Soprano; Michelle Harris, Mezzo-soprano and Alan Ewing, Bass.

Schools Projects

Primary and Secondary schools local to Faversham are participating in a range of Magna Carta activities as part of the town's 800th anniversary celebrations.

Primary children from Years 5 and 6 and Secondary pupils from Year 7 will be invited to attend the *Magna Carta Rediscovered* exhibition with their teachers. Schools have been invited to take up the Faversham Mayor's Challenge to create a 21st C. Magna Carta for their schools, which will then be framed, sealed with the Faversham Town Seal and displayed as part of the Exhibition. Year 7 National Curriculum Studies of King John and Senior students' Research Projects will also be exhibited.

Younger children from Year 2 will have the opportunity to take a guided Faversham Town Trail, to learn about our Town's place in a Timeline of history. Secondary students will participate in their own version of the Magna Carta Town Trail.

The King John Musical Play will be performed by Year 5 and 6 children from Hernhill School and will be filmed so that all Primary children visiting the Exhibition will be able to see it.

6th Formers from across Swale will be invited to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School to participate in the Magna Carta Youth Debate concerning Magna Carta's significance for our Past, Present and Future. Invited guest speakers will present their views to be questioned and challenged by our local 6th Formers.

**Your contact is Sally Wookey, Tourism Officer, Faversham Town Council, The Alexander Centre, Faversham ME13 8NY; Tel: 01795 594442;
Email: sally.wookey@favershamtc.co.uk**

If you have any questions about any of the activities planned or are planning your own event to commemorate Magna Carta 2015 then please do get in touch.

If you would like this Newsletter emailed to you please contact Sally above with your email address.

Faversham Town Council is currently seeking sponsorship to support the programme of events and activities. If you are interested in discussing possible sponsorship opportunities please contact Sally Wookey.