

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

News Release

For immediate use

Photo opportunity

5.5.15

8/15

Photo opportunity: Magna Carta charter bearers

Time: Tuesday 12 May at 6pm

Place: Council Chamber, Guildhall, Windsor

Event: Reception to welcome the charter bearers

A special reception attended by Deputy Lord Lieutenant His Honour Charles Elly is being held to welcome the Magna Carta charter bearers and their nominators.

A replica scroll, which the charter bearers will be carrying in Magna Carta 800th – The River Relay, will be available to view in its presentation oak box. There will also be samples of the charter bearers' tabard, the commemoration t-shirt, serf's felt hat and straw hat.

Warren Cruikshank, who created the scroll and oak box, and calligrapher Mark Bhogun-Scott will also be present.

The names of the charter bearers will be provided on the evening, along with further information for media.

The charter bearers will each receive a signed copy of the Penguin Classics book Magna Carta, which includes a new commentary by Professor David Carpenter, a leading expert on Magna Carta who spoke at the Windsor Guildhall in April.

After the photo opportunity the charter bearers will attend a briefing.

Key details

Twenty-three charter bearers have been nominated and selected to carry a replica Magna Carta down the River Thames in Magna Carta 800th – The River Relay.

They all live, work or study in one of the three local authorities which, together with Thames Alive, are organising the event: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Runnymede Borough Council and Spelthorne Borough Council.

The bearers will be aboard the Royal Shallop Jubilant on the various legs from Hurley to Runnymede over the weekend of Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June.

The charter will be transferred at selected points along the route including at the six points where playlets representing the story and legacy of Magna Carta will be acted out.

The replica Magna Carta is written in medieval Latin copied from the text of the 1215 original onto velum using authentic inks. It is mounted on English oak scroll bars with finials and carried

in a presentation box. Once the relay is over it will be added to the permanent collection of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum for display alongside the improved medieval stories display.

Background

- In June 1215 English barons assembled at Runnymede to challenge the authority of King John and on the 15th the Magna Carta was authenticated by the Great Seal.
- The river relay, which runs from Hurley to Runnymede, is being organised by the Royal Borough in partnership with Thames Alive, which helped to organise the Queen's Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant in 2012. Runnymede Borough Council and Spelthorne Borough Council are the council's key funding partners. Costs beyond those contributions are being underwritten by the Royal Borough.
- Businesses can find out more about sponsorship opportunities by contacting MC800@rbwm.gov.uk
- Residents can support the celebrations via crowdfunding at www.magnacartaflotilla.co.uk
- For further details about Magna Carta events, as they are added, visit www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/museum_magna_carta.htm and <http://magnacarta800th.com/>
- For a map of the route: www.thamesalive.org.uk/magnacarta

ends



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