

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Magna Carta 800 Celebrations

17/06/2013 York House 5pm

Cllr John Lenton, Margaret Lenton, Cllr Alan Mellins, Cllr Richard Kellaway, Cllr James Evans, Cllr Quick, Karnail Pannu, Fraser Jansen, Jane Dawson, Suzy Shearer plus...
RBWM: Julia White, Margaret Kirby, Mark Taylor

The purpose of the meeting was to establish what can be done to spread the celebrations for Magna Carta 800 throughout the Royal Borough. Margaret Lenton welcomed the attendees and led introductions.

1. Event Planning

There were few plans in place for significant events in RBWM for June 2015 and the meeting had been called to help pursue ideas.

National events were slow to get off the ground, and Surrey had yet to announce plans.

(Ideas from the National Committee can be seen on their website
... <http://magnacarta800th.com/magna-carta-today/2015-aspirations/>)

St Albans have events planned as part of their 2013 summer festival. <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/press-room/items/2013/May-2013/stalbanslaunchesmagnacartaannivesary.aspx>

Margaret Lenton had the following suggestions which would be addition to those already on the attached list below:

- an event in each ward
- school children to write their own Magna Carta
- competition for design of a shield in middle schools
- a big event on 7th June or thereabouts with a Maidenhead link
- decorate the main towns -Windsor and Maidenhead
- Museum to borrow significant historical document (re Henry II coronation ?)
- tie in with local events such as Old Windsor Carnival
- bell ringing throughout the borough on Sunday 14th June 2015

Other ideas

- A procession for children to be dressed in costume down the centuries (Suzy Shearer) Margaret noted that it could include historical revolutions -Derek Cotty was mentioned as a contact for previous Magna Carta Events
- River Pageant - Maidenhead -Runnymede (Cllr James Evans)
- Medieval joust on Home Park to be timed on same day as river events Cookham-Maidenhead, Maidenhead - Windsor, Windsor -Runnymede (Cllr Alan Mellins) (suggestion from Museum Forum : could it be tagged onto the Royal Windsor Horse Show to achieve economies for road alterations and barrier/crowd control? – we have a couple of people in our Libraries group who know of jousters)

- Julia has contact with river boat operators for initial suggestions/discussions.
- Ferry crossings to Ankerwyke's 2500 year old tree (needs input from National Trust) (opportunity for visitors to see where Arch Bishop Stephen Langton waited -probably at the Priory -in a flood area)
- A concert at Eton led by Berkshire Maestros (But see plans below re Martin Denny)
- Archery competitions
- Involve commonwealth, human rights orgs, ambassadors (Fraser Jansen)
- Could London 2012 Ambassadors be used –if still available
- Margaret Kirby described plans for an individual who is planning a walk in May June 2015 -Tony Hewitt's Walk from Lincoln to Salisbury via Runnymede-carrying a facsimile of Magna Carta-on behalf of the Gurkha Welfare Trust

2. Concerns

There were concerns that 15th June would clash with Royal Ascot, exams, and Garter ceremony

Julia noted that to inform and attract the US market, we need to have the dates planned as soon as possible

Julia warned of the high cost of street activity and need for plenty of advance warning for events. Based on costs for these activities during the Olympics - film on wall of Windsor Castle -cost £70K, Road closures cost £3-4K, Ceremonial Flags cost £20K for 6-8 weeks? River activity needs careful planning and input from operators

Transport to the area is not good and Runnymede is outside of Borough - RBWM will liaise with Surrey CC in coming weeks.

3. Potential Sponsorship / Links

Sponsorship would be key - hotels not likely to sponsor, try Legoland? Julia suggested that Paul Roach could ask for advice from Louise Wilson of Signature Sponsorship.

- International schools with wealthy parents, American ambassador
- find descendants of the barons
- Universities Brunel and Royal Holloway
- Elton John, Adam Afriye
- Law firms - opportunity for big names to be associated with Magna Carta
- High Sheriff
- Lord Lieutenant
- Hugo Vickers
- Seek opportunities to bid for Heritage Lottery Fund, or Arts Council Grants for the Arts

Margaret Lenton suggested a cocktail party to target likely sponsors -but not to clash with Windsor Festival and not too early in September (Castle/Balmoral)

4. Date for next meeting 2nd Sept 2013

5. Updates since 17th June

Caterina Loriggio

Martin Denny is building up a choral piece which will be national and he will lead.

'I am developing resources for schools, libraries and archives as well as running school competitions so there will be plenty of routes in for you within 2015. The British Library will also run school programmes. I am also setting up a big join in moment and it would be fab if you could host one of these in Windsor. It is for June 14 2015 – the ask is that the nation stops for tea and remembers their rights, representations, freedoms etc. and we are looking for Local Authorities as well as individuals to lead these. It will be called LiberTeas.'

Julia White

'a colleague in the press office at VisitEngland (the national tourist board) has been in touch to get information about our planned Magna Carta Celebrations.

She tells me that she'll be running a number of press trips including visits to Runnymede. Clearly the more information we can supply about events and the more help we can offer her in terms of research the more likely we are to reap the benefit of national and international media exposure. We work closely with VisitEngland to host press trips to the borough so they know we will look after them very well.'

Rhian Boast Surrey CC

Rhian gave a summary at the Magna Carta Museum Forum on Monday 24th June.

Surrey CC have commissioned Chris Blandford Associates to look at options for developing 'Magna Carta Country' (They have advised on Stonehenge and Avebury in the past) –Surrey want to develop branding, better connectivity, emphasising the natural environment – work with RBWM and National Trust on a plan that spans both sides of the river. Full costed report due at the end of July.

Recognise that they need to consider signage, transport, toilets, information provision, joined up visitor strategy, look at use of the river –crossings to Ankerwyke if appropriate. Develop shared digital resources, web pages, or smart phone aps.

They are looking at events and may commission someone with London 2012 experience – Ruth McKenzie- possible light show – (national committee –possible pop concert in large venue- with tv coverage and cutaways to beautiful Magna Carta scenes and visual event) Public Art commissions or international art exchanges –plus a Surrey event at Albert Hall on 15/05/15. Have considered river and or road parade and maybe pageants.

They want to apply for funding in partnership and to load projects into one request. St Albans had failed recently because they did not demonstrate sufficient consultation and programming.

6. Current Plans

National			
National Cttee		http://magnacarta800th.com	
		Website	
	June 2015	HMQ booked?	
Parliament		loriggio@parliament.uk	Caterina Loriggio
	June 2015	LiberTeas nationwide	(Like Big Lunch)
		Touring Archive project?	
		De Montfort Anniversary tie in	
		National UK elections	
British Library		Exhibition	Dr Claire Breay
Schools	10 June 2015	National day for schools	Mark.gill@magnacarta800th.com
		Touring exhibition for schools	
National Trust			
		Work with museum group	Olivia Nelson
Area			
Surrey		Due to meet with RBWM to share plans following consultation in local Surrey areas-online survey complete	NB Strong wish for meadow to be preserved in natural state
Runnymede			
Royal Holloway	June 2014	Constitutional Conference at Cumberland Lodge	
		Revive play Left Handed Liberty	
Museums Group			
		Also includes Olivia from N Trust	Dr Matthew Smith
		Kelmarsh Hall style Festival of History? National Cttee? Museums act as co-ordinating hubs for volunteers	
Egham		Consultation with schools Plans for panel discussions /talks	
Spelthorne		Display about the Barons	
RBWM			
	7 Mar 2013	Talk by Zoe Smith	
	July 2013	Visitors from Walken	
	Nov 2013	Talk by Adam Afriye	
	Mar 2015	Conference at St Georges	
RBWM schools			
RBWM libraries		Bid for Grant for arts with Surrey Libs	To be progressed Rose Wilson/Peter Milton
Windsor & Royal Borough Museum		Loan of Historic Document	
		Encourage Digital resources - touch screen -online info available in all local	Progress with Nat Trust and Surrey CC

		areas -incl 360 film of meadow	
		medieval event at Guildhall	
Other			
Tony Hewitt Walk			
Lincoln to Salisbury			
Wraysbury			
	Nov 2012	900 Years of St Andrews	
	In progress	Embroidery	
		Local Pamphlet	
	6 June 2015	Archery Contest	
	11 June 2015	Flower Festival	
	11 June 2015	Readings at Village Hall	
	13 June 2015	Medieval Fair	
	14 June 2015	Songs of Praise -bells	

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Magna Carta 800 Celebrations

02/09/2013 York House 5pm

Cllr John Lenton, Margaret Lenton, Cllr Alan Mellins, Cllr James Evans, Cllr Quick, Suzy Shearer, Samantha Rayner, Hazel... Runnymede Cllrs...plus from RBWM: Paul Roach, Margaret Kirby

The purpose of the meeting was to establish what can be done to spread the celebrations for Magna Carta 800 throughout the Royal Borough. Margaret Lenton welcomed the attendees and led introductions.

1. Event Planning

1.1 Samantha Rayner spoke about a potential prestigious dinner event at Cowarth Park with tickets priced around £75 with medieval music, champagne and dancing - max numbers around 100.

1.2 As covered in the last meeting, the group had discussions about options for the list below:

- an event in each ward
- school children to write their own Magna Carta
- competition for design of a shield in middle schools
- a big event on 7th June or thereabouts with a Maidenhead link
- decorate the main towns -Windsor and Maidenhead
- Museum to borrow significant historical document (re Henry II coronation ?)
- tie in with local events such as Old Windsor Carnival
- bell ringing throughout the borough on Sunday 14th June 2015

1.3 Others ideas discussed regarding the river

- a flotilla starting in Maidenhead managed by registrations -look at options for Saturday 13th am
- RBC – Gloriana may be available on 15/06/15.
- HRM will be busy with Garter Day celebrations from midday on 15/06/15, but may be available am -depends on what is required – likely to be short
- Paul Roach support may be available from French and Salter –did get involved in Diamond Jubilee
- overnight moorings need to be managed, and closures will be difficult due to locks
- Royal Windsor Horse Show -options for links, tournament

- idea that a bottle of water from the head of the Thames should be transferred in relays right along the Thames to the sea involve d day vessels, link to Olympic legacy – start at Bisham Abbey.
Cllr Mellins to work on idea
- Cllr Evans mentioned the flotilla made up of different crafts - eye catching boats

1.4 Others ideas discussed

- Schools -contact to be made with David Scott re Magna Carta.
Margaret Lenton spoke of St Georges, exhibition –see previous notes
Primary schools – heraldry shield
- Pageant childrens parade
- W&RM Museum exhibition plus link to Egham and Spethorne museums, Art exhibition and project in libraries
-
- Picnic at Ankewyke Farm, using Magna Carta Lane and the sailing lake opportunity for parking (Phil Jackson –sailing lake)
- National event -opportunity to do something for 'Liberteas'
Cllr Quick mentioned the use of volunteers from the Olympics and planning a tea on the Long Walk. Royal to attend tea?
King Edward Court ?– sponsorship from supermarkets
- Guildford cathedral will have flower festival over weekend
- Adam Afryie-Churchmead school event –speakers for planned Magna Carta talks.
- Bell ringing, bonfire, beacon on St Anne's Hill Sunday 14/06 or 7/06
Songs of Praise –churches together
- Memorabilia will be produced by MC800
- Transgenerational opportunity for many to join in -celebration that shows banners of all nations - Magna Carta named in constitutions worldwide
- Susy mentioned the idea of planting a tree -fit with the planting of 800 trees in 800 destinations

1.5 Date of next meeting 4th November 2013

NB from Margaret Kirby

Note following meeting hosted by National Trust / Surrey County Council 'Magna Carta Country' report is due out and RBWM officers will work with consultants commissioned by the National Trust and Surrey (Chris Blandford Associates) to work a high profile legacy project to improve access, facilities, and signage in the area, in keeping with the meadow aspect. The areas covered stretch from Egham, Runnymede, Ankewyke, up the Colne River valley and takes into consideration the various memorials, tourist and the river experience. It will be a 2 phase project delivered partly by June 2015 and some post the celebration date.