



# MAGNA CARTA BARONS



Arms of John FitzRobert,  
Lord of Warkworth Castle

Warkworth Parish Council and Warkworth History Society are delighted to announce that **Warkworth** will be receiving a facsimile copy of the Magna Carta in 2015. Its baron, **John FitzRobert**, was one of the principal rebel barons who secured the charter from King John in 1215.

At Runnymede, beside the Thames, the baronial army met King John in June 1215 and there, twenty-four of their barons – and the Mayor of London – were chosen to ensure that the king kept to his word. Twenty of the twenty-two towns and villages that made up their chief manors in 1215 have come together to form the Magna Carta Barons Association and celebrate eight hundred years of their communities' history and the connection their barons had with a document that has become the foundation of the rights and liberties of much of the English-speaking world and beyond.

A facsimile of the rare 1215 edition held by the British Library will be printed on parchment for each of the following villages and towns:

*North of England barons*

Helmsley, North Yorkshire  
Skipton, North Yorkshire  
Thirsk, North Yorkshire  
Topcliffe, North Yorkshire  
Alnwick, Northumberland  
Warkworth, Northumberland

*East of England barons*

Castle Hedingham, Essex  
Little Dunmow, Essex  
Pleshey, Essex  
Stansted Mountfichet, Essex  
Framlingham, Suffolk  
Huntingfield, Suffolk  
  
Walkern, Hertfordshire

Pontefract, West Yorkshire  
Leicester, Leicestershire  
Belvoir, Leicestershire  
Curry Mallet, Somerset  
Trowbridge, Wiltshire  
Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire  
West Greenwich, London

Each facsimile will be displayed with two exhibition banners, one about the charter and the other about the local baron, to become the centrepiece of a wide range of events and activities being planned in the lead-up to June 2015. After the celebrations are over, our facsimile will remain in **Warkworth** as a permanent reminder of its connection with Magna Carta for local residents, schoolchildren and visitors. The facsimile and exhibition have been made possible by a grant of £12,500 to the Magna Carta Barons Association from the 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee of the Magna Carta Trust.

More information on Magna Carta Barons website:

<http://www.magnacartabarons.info/index.php/the-towns-and-villages/warkworth-northumberland/>



*The Magna Carta Trust's 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee is charged by the Magna Carta Trust to co-ordinate activities, raise the profile of the anniversary and deliver a number of key national and international aspirations. For more information, visit [www.magnacarta800th.com](http://www.magnacarta800th.com).*

## WARKWORTH MAGNA CARTA 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2015

Media coverage of events leading up to June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 leaves us in no doubt that this is a significant occasion, in both an historic and a modern context.. At a national and international level, statesmen, lawyers, churchmen and the populace at large are planning solemn ritual and exuberant celebrations. Here in Warkworth we are a long way from Runnymede. This did not deter our baron John FitzRobert when he joined his other northern counterparts in the great undertaking which culminated in Magna Carta. Our village, along with twenty-five others has its part to play. With support from the Parish Council, a programme of events is planned as follows:

Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>: at 6 pm Magna Party at the Cricket Club, bar and refreshments.

Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm all free of charge :

- United Reformed Church Hall Exhibition of Facsimile Magna Carta, with historical background. Exhibition of art work and written work from the schools. Refreshments will be available
- Demonstrations of mediaeval crafts in St Lawrence Churchyard.
- Children's workshop and story-telling for young and old in St Lawrence Church
- Outdoor drama at various locations
- History walks

Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm: Magna Concert at Memorial Hall, including Werca's Folk, compere, Fred Calvert. Bar available.

Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm: Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving in St Lawrence Church at which Sir Alan Beith will be guest speaker and our framed Magna Carta facsimile will be installed. This will be followed by teas.

We are grateful to the Cricket Club, the Drama Group, Rotary and Inner Wheel, WI, the History Society and many others who have helped put this together – now it only needs you to come along and enjoy what's on offer!

Tickets for the Cricket Club party and the evening concert will be on sale locally in May.

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