

**City of London – Magna Carta Reception
Mansion House, Walbrook, London, EC4N 8BH**

**Tuesday 12 May 2015
12.30pm – 2.30pm**

Remarks for speech

- **Thank you, My Lord Mayor.**
- **I am honoured to be here to speak on behalf of the Magna Carta Barons Association.**
- **I am delighted to see so many of them here today.**
- **This event marks an important occasion.**
- **The Magna Carta is a founding document of our modern society.**
- **Its guarantee of freedom, justice and protection against arbitrary rule is the cornerstone of Western democracy.**
- **Today's event is, in fact, particularly pertinent to me.**
- **I stand here on the second day of my new term as Mayor of Leicester, having been elected on Friday.**
- **800 years ago the seizure of London by the rebel barons forced King John to grant London certain liberties – including the right to elect its own mayor.**

- **My Office could be seen as a direct descendant of that tradition.**
- **A tradition that we can celebrate today in the company of representatives of each of the rebel Barons – for the first time in 800 years.**
- **The legend of the Magna Carta is enduring and has been celebrated for centuries.**
- **I would like to share one such celebration with you.**
- **In ‘The Reeds of Runnymede’, Rudyard Kipling wrote a fitting testament to the legacy of Magna Carta.**
- **He said:**

***“At Runnymede, at Runnymede,
Your rights were won at Runnymede!
No freeman shall be fined or bound,
Or dispossessed of freehold ground,
Except by lawful judgement found
And passed upon him by his peers!
Forget not, after all these years,
The Charter signed at Runnymede.”***

- **And thanks to the work of Peter Sinclair and the Magna Carta Barons Association, the Magna Carta and its contribution to British political life will not be forgotten.**

- **The Association has been working tirelessly to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the 'Charter signed at Runnymede'.**
- **Using £12,500 from the Anniversary Committee – the Association can provide a facsimile of the 1215 Magna Carta to each village and town.**
- **They have also produced two exhibition banners, one about the document itself and one about the rebel barons.**
- **The Association has also produced a 16 page leaflet, taken cuttings from an 800 year-old oak tree associated with King John to be planted by nine members next year and they have arranged for horticultural displays with Magna Carta roses.**
- **Not to forget Magna Carta greetings cards, tea-towels and organising re-enactments, processions, pageants, tea-parties, embroidered tapestries, lectures, exhibitions and bell-ringing on 14 June as part of 'Strike a Blow for Democracy'.**
- **It has truly been a huge effort.**
- **As such, I would like to thank all the organisers in the villages and towns who have been working hard to make all the events and activities a success.**
- **And a thank you to all the Magna Carta representatives who have led on all the arrangements.**

- **I would also like to mention two guests from France, Mrs Primrose Mallet-Harris, representing William Malet and also a representative from Lanvarei in Brittany, where William de Lanvarei had his chief manor.**
- **We are also joined today by Lance Allan, the Town Clerk at Trowbridge, who is cycling 800 miles and visiting all the Magna Carta Baron towns and villages in June!**
- **It is an honour to speak on behalf of the Magna Carta Barons Association, and an honour to represent a city that formed a part of its creation – through Leicester’s Baron Saer de Quincy.**
- **Thank you.**