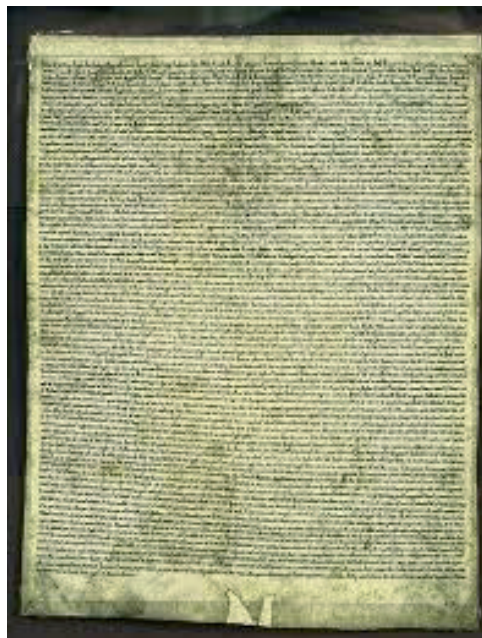
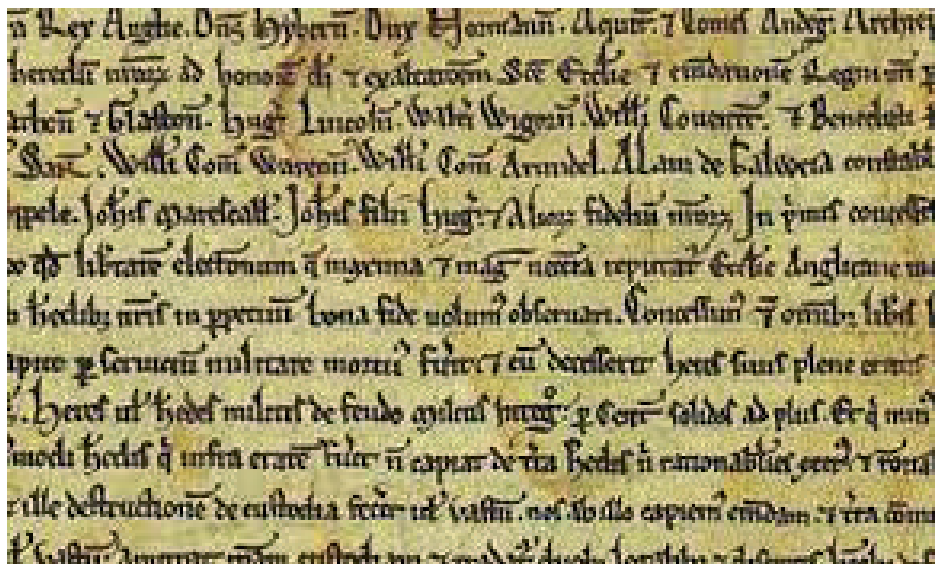


## SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY - SEPTEMBER 2014



Next year is the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta's acceptance at Runnymede. Part of the celebration will be all four surviving copies being brought together in London. There will be many events in Salisbury. Some information is to be found on pages 12-15.

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## **SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY**

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE, SECURING OUR ENVIRONMENT,  
SHAPING OUR FUTURE

***To promote high standards of planning and architecture  
To educate in the architecture, history and geography of the area  
To secure the preservation, development and improvement of features of  
public interest within the former Salisbury District***

- The Salisbury Civic Society, which was founded in 1960 as the Salisbury & District Preservation Trust, is involved with the past, present and future of the City and its district. This generates a substantial amount of work which is carried out largely by the Development Committee.
- Its meetings are monthly. New planning applications are examined where they concern listed buildings or conservation areas. Other applications are also looked at where they have special relevance to the future of the city and district. The remit is both ancient and modern. Opinions are formed and comments made where appropriate by this committee the members of which are a mix of both lay and professionally qualified, including architects.
- The Society keeps its members well informed and arranges a very active social calendar. Interesting visits are arranged as well as an exceptional programme of lectures. There is also a scheme to install Society Blue Plaques which are prized by their recipients. All this is the responsibility of the General Purposes Committee.
- The Society's remit is broad so that complex wider issues can be addressed such as the Salisbury Vision, where the Society is represented on the Executive Board.
- The Society is a charity and there is no connection with or formal affiliation to any Local Authority. However the Society is frequently consulted by the Local Authority and has built up a respected working relationship.
- There is a prestigious Architectural Awards Competition, covering both Conservation and New Build with the Awards being presented each year at a New Year's party, traditionally in the Guildhall. Each year a person of distinction is invited to chair the judging panel.
- Members are kept informed through our website, by emails and this quarterly publication.
- The affairs of the Society are overseen by the Executive Committee. Committee lists are on the inside back page.

Contributions to this Quarterly on any relevant subject are welcomed by the Editor and will be acknowledged. Opinions expressed here are those of the contributors and not of the Society, unless attributed.

**Editor: Dr Charles Villiers.**

**Printing: Salisbury Printing.**

**Registered Charity no. 293143**

***www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk***

***E-mail: civic@salisburycivicsociety.org.uk***

*Illustrations in this issue:*

© Peter Dunbar, Jean Lunnnon,  
Salisbury Cathedral, Charles  
Villiers.

Meetings will be held at 6.30pm - doors open at 6pm - in the Sanctuary of the Methodist Church in St Edmund's Church Street unless otherwise stated. Details of visits and any changes will be notified on this page and on the Website.

**Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 September  
Historic Open Days**

This year's theme is "Hotels, Inns and their Chequers". Professional guides will conduct free morning one-hour tours, 10.30-11.30 am, and afternoon tours, 3-4 pm, on Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th September 2014 in each of three chequers: Cross Keys, Antelope and White Hart. Booking essential. Free tickets and details of times and venues will be available at Salisbury Information Centre, Fish Row, from Friday 29th August. The tours will provide an opportunity to learn more about the rich and varied history, architecture and environment of some of Salisbury's inns, past and present.

**Thursday 25 September**

Tom Beaumont Jones,  
former professor of archaeology, Winchester University,  
*'Clarendon – From Royal Palace to Georgian Mansion'*

**Thursday 13 November**

David Richards, Blue Badge Tourist Guide,  
*'Religion, Politics & Witchcraft in 17C Salisbury': a brief look at the turbulent C17; these traumatic political and social changes are the backdrop to an examination of witchcraft in Salisbury.*

**Tuesday 25 November**

Open Meeting in the Guildhall at 7.30pm.  
*Do we need green spaces?*

***We welcome new members .....***

Jim and Heather Platt, Mrs Daphne Beagrie,  
Mr and Mrs Timothy Reeve.



Salisbury Civic Society  
www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk

Wiltshire Council  
Where everybody matters

## HISTORIC OPEN DAYS 2014

Thursday 11, Friday 12, Saturday 13 September 2014

### "HOTELS, INNS & THEIR CHEQUERS"

#### FREE BLUE BADGE GUIDED TOURS

With the generous support of Wiltshire Council

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** Tickets available, free of charge, from 28 August 2014  
at Salisbury Information Centre, Fish Row, Salisbury SP1 1EJ Tel: 01722 342860

#### CROSS KEYS CHEQUER

Tours start in the **Cathedral Hotel**,  
7-9 Milford Street,  
Salisbury SP1 2AJ

at 10.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.  
on each of the three days



#### ANTELOPE CHEQUER

Tours start in the **Cloisters Inn**,  
83 Catherine Street,  
Salisbury SP1 2DH

at 10.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.  
on each of the three days



#### WHITE HART CHEQUER

Tours start in the **White Hart Hotel**,  
1 St. John Street,  
Salisbury SP1 2SD

at 10.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.  
on each of the three days



Tours last one hour and are mostly wheelchair accessible, but a few features involve steps

## AN ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MYSELF – JONATHAN MEADES

Many Society members, though probably not all, will be familiar with the name Jonathan Meades – a writer on buildings, and most prominently a presenter of television programmes on them. Most recently, two programmes on brutalist architecture, shown on BBC4 in February, combining some startling images with a mordant and occasionally opaque commentary, in a style which marks him out as very much an original. More recent still is the book *An Encyclopaedia of Myself*, a memoir of growing up in the 1950s, and potentially of considerable interest to members because that growing up was done in Salisbury.

From 1947, when he was born, till the early 1960s Jonathan lived at 55 Harnham Road, one of the group of four thatched cottages between the Rose & Crown and the main Harnham road. After that the family moved a few hundred yards, to a newly built house at 4 Watersmeet Road. The book combines a lively curiosity, from an early age, with a remarkable ability to recall the details of events and people, to a degree which most of us would struggle to match. The names and characteristics of friends and acquaintances in profusion, a compendium of items stocked at the local grocers on the corner of Harnham Road and Ayleswade Road, the interior fittings and decoration of houses possibly only visited once, all recounted with relish in a style that sometimes borders on stream of consciousness.

An early interest in buildings is no great surprise. The one on the corner of Queen Street and Winchester Street, built as a bank and now offices above and shops below, was 'a hamfisted lump of tudorbethan gigantism', while over the way he says of the Guildhall 'I was beguiled and repulsed by its primitive rustication, which broke through the smooth ashlar stone like petrified suppuration'. He goes on a mental tour of the market place with its sights and smells – livestock on Tuesdays till the mid 50s, stalls with 'suspiciously coloured cakes' and 'dirty veg' – and the cafes and shops around it, he critiques the city's five fish and chip shops, with the best chips at Yorkshire Fisheries, presumably the Fisherton Street establishment which has just closed down, he branches off into a consideration of the writing implements of the time, with Biro's forbidden at school – 'newness was a crime, rejection of any form of technological advance was Salisbury's norm, derived maybe from the excessive temporal power wielded by the Dean and Chapter'.

The adults of his acquaintance get far more detailed descriptions than the children, a whole host of them, met through his parents' gregariousness and the ever-changing military population of the post-war era. Among the most memorable are those from Porton Down, in particular some involved in testing nerve-gas on volunteer national servicemen, a phase well-known from a 2004 inquest verdict of 'unlawful killing' on one of the



latter, for which he has little sympathy, characterising it as 'the presumptuous verdict of the present on the past'. Less well-known is the testing of LSD which also went on, for its potential use in conflict and interrogation, terminated when the substance was deemed too unpredictable. One of his parents' friends, head of the Physiology Section at Porton, brings LSD home and takes it himself in profusion, 15 years before its popularity as a recreational drug led to it becoming illegal. This particular person later becomes the government's Chief Scientific Officer, so presumably there are no long-term effects from the self-experimentation.

Typically, the LSD episode takes Jonathan into a consideration (it can't really be called a digression, in a sense the whole book is a series of digressions) of the basis of religious faiths. Anyone with a strong regard for religion in general, or for the Salisbury Dean and Chapter in particular, probably ought to approach the book with caution – this is an area which engenders some of the author's most caustic comments. In general, his greater rudenesses tend to be directed at generations now mostly departed, a deliberate policy, as he told his audience when reading out passages from the book during the recent Salisbury Festival.

Other potential readers who might find it a bit daunting would include anyone looking for a structured memoir, particularly one with any sort of chronological framework. The 'encyclopaedia' title denotes a work arranged in alphabetical order of chapter headings, which only becomes systematic in any way when six successive chapters are headed 'Major' followed by various names. Immediately before is a chapter titled 'Laker', which deals briefly with that bowler's 19 wicket haul at Old Trafford in 1956 before spending much more time on a rain-lashed descent on foot from the summit of Snowden by his family, while the train was occupied carrying down the body of someone killed by lightning. After the various majors comes 'Marden, Cyril', about the 'misanthropic, misogynistic, grudge-bearing, treacherous, paranoid...' (see book for complete list of adjectives) proprietor of the then Crown Hotel, on the corner of the High Street and Crane Street. Here Jonathan seems to display a slightly cavalier attitude to factualities, since he writes that 'it was to the Crown's advantage that the delightful Old George Inn across the street had been demolished by Hammersons, vandal property speculators and comprehensive redevelopers, in order to build a rotten shopping 'precinct', precursor of many an ill mall'. In fact, of course, major parts of the Old George Inn survive (though some certainly went), and the actual Hammersons work to the Old George (it may have closed some time earlier) did not take place till 1967, some time after the main period covered in the book – Jonathan describes lunch at the Crown Hotel on Christmas Day 1964, with food of 'aggressive nastiness'. And there are degrees of precinct awfulness -

Pevsner says of the Old George Mall that it is 'a welcome lesson that with imaginative planning, such developments need not wreck the intimate scale of older streets'. The Devon Pevsner, moreover, says of a similar 'concealed' precinct in Exeter 'cf. e.g. Salisbury, where it was done rather better'. It is certainly true, however, that initial buying-up of city centre properties by Hammersons was one of the warning signs that led to the formation in 1960 of the Salisbury and District Preservation Trust, the Society's precursor body.

While the book has a key focus on Salisbury, because that's where Jonathan was living during his childhood, it is not about Salisbury so much as about Jonathan himself and his family, and there are quite a few passages which deal with relations living elsewhere, or excursions to other counties. And his style, and some of his forthright opinions, will not necessarily be to everyone's taste. It is probably no great surprise that the Salisbury Journal, which barely did justice to Salisbury in Detail when it came out, has made no mention whatsoever of the book, though the absence of any prominent display in Waterstones is surely lamentable. But the fluidity of some of the writing is dazzling, and the book is a treasure-house of memories of an era which in terms of historic timescales is relatively recent, but which is still astonishingly distant, connecting the epoch's patterns of thought and behaviour with specific geographic landmarks, and thereby making them that much more vivid. If in doubt, give the book a try – something like this doesn't turn up very often.

During 2013 Jonathan, despite living in Marseilles (in a Le Corbusier Unité d'Habitation), agreed to take on the role of judging panel chairman for the Society's Buildings Awards Scheme. Prior commitments made it difficult for him to do it that year, so it was agreed he should take on the 2014 scheme, which is looking at work to existing buildings. Publication of his book near the start of the year immediately raised an interesting query. He describes a route from his home to the centre of town that takes him past Trinity Hospital, where he imagines he can 'smell dying people'. A friend of his parents later suggests that what he's actually detecting is the smell of the Gibbs Mew brewery round the corner, which indeed while the brewery was functioning was a significant addition to the city's character. Not entirely willing to accept this highly likely explanation, Jonathan shifts to architectural critic mode, and refers to Trinity Hospital's 'crumbly red brick and worn stone quoins. It has been grotesquely restored when it should have been allowed to perish like the generations within it'. In the 2008 awards scheme the most recent 'grotesque restoration', actually a conservative and carefully handled like for like repair exercise, won an award, and the obvious question was how Jonathan would have viewed this particular nomination had he chaired the judging panel that year. This

question was never really resolved, and new ones took its place. In a comment on a list of likely nominations which had been sent to him, Jonathan indicated that the market place (in fact now not likely to be a nomination, because any proposed work to the bin store area won't have taken place by judging day) would never get his vote, because he objected in principle to the withdrawal of car parking, something the Preservation Trust was pressing for 50 years ago. And more fundamentally, it became clear that Jonathan's strong views on matters relating to buildings would make it very difficult for him to adopt the traditional chairman stance, which is that if you find you are in a minority of one on any particular project, with the other four judges taking on a contrary view, you defer to the majority opinion. Judging panel chairmen or women are usually generalists, with an educated and intelligent interest in buildings, but no very fixed theories about them, and no particular reason to take a stand on any issue that arises. The very characteristics which made Jonathan a lively and out of the ordinary choice for the role also had the unfortunate effect of creating difficulties in how he interpreted it. In the end there was mutual agreement that it wasn't going to work, and Jonathan stood down.

It was one of those things that were well worth trying, but which didn't quite work out. The final stage was to send Jonathan a copy of *Salisbury in Detail*, by way of thanking him for putting quite a lot of thought into what the chairing role would entail and how well he could fit into the standard mode of carrying it out. His response was unable to resist a dig at some images of Georgian buildings at the start of the book, which 'reinforced my conviction that there is little that's more boring than Georgian architecture', but generally the response was a warm appreciation of the book, which he hadn't previously seen, saying that 'there is great richness here. What a very thorough endeavour' and 'there is far more high quality Victorian and Edwardian stuff here than I would ever have guessed at. Something of a revelation.'

Another judging panel chairman has been found, and things move on. Perhaps the Society might be able to find another way to engage Jonathan – organise a talk by him, or something. His acuties of perception and determinedly individual views on architecture, combined with a long-term knowledge of Salisbury, form a rare resource, and one it would be a shame for the Society not to find some way to utilise.

*Richard Deane.*





Here are two photographs that our Chairman took on the visit to Hereford that he made to see the work of Stanhope who have the contract with the Council to develop the Maltings site.



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2014**

### **Annual general Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June**

A good show of numbers for this year's Meeting and on a very warm summer evening when distractions of the World Cup and other sporting events would compete for attention! We were very pleased to have the sound system operators in attendance and this was very much appreciated by all. We are researching the possible use of other venues at present, where audio visual systems are less challenging to operate and give better sound and vision.

The official business of electing and re-electing Officers was conducted without contest or enquiry and I particularly welcome and thank Judy Payne for taking on the Chairmanship of the Development Committee and Stephanie Siddons-Deighton for stepping into the role of Membership Secretary. I also thank all others in Committees and Chair roles for their hard work for the Society membership.

The evening main event was the talk by David Andrews from Visit Wiltshire who gave an in depth account of the work carried out in marketing and promoting Wiltshire and Salisbury to the national public. His highlighting of some statistics from the considerable research was most illuminating and one item in particular was a surprise to me namely the fact that of the approximate 6,000 annual coach visits to Salisbury, half of them stayed for one hour or less. Quite how that statistic influences the future plans for revised coach parking in the City I do not yet know but the concept of mainly "drop off" and then wait at Britford before returning to collect passengers is clearly not in tune with a large number of existing operators.

As Alan Clarke highlighted in his address from the floor, the Society is to seek a suitably long consultation period when the future of the Central Car Park redevelopment is revealed and ask that the option of retaining the Coach Park in its present location is reviewed along with the alternatives. Ultimately, Wiltshire Council own the land and must decide if Stanhope's development justifies relocation or other arrangements. Consultations and Public Feedback will be extensive, I am sure.

### **Treasurer and Membership**

Ron Millar has stood down as the Society's Treasurer as has previously been announced and is now only acting in the post until Christmas. We are very grateful to him but It is crucial that a replacement is found now and no candidates have been discovered so I ask all to consider

who might be available and willing to stand. There are some ideas being followed up but if no successor is found then the Society could find itself being suspended from acting due to no proper financial controller in office and accountability to the Charity Commissioners in conflict with Statutory requirements. I would love to hear of any ideas we can follow up and I will have to place an advertisement in the Salisbury Journal in September to seek interest.

Membership has fallen slightly over the last year so it is necessary to restore levels back over 400 to ensure the subscription income is at a viable level again as we are running at a small deficit currently. All friends and family are welcome so do encourage them to join us.

### **Events**

Forthcoming events are dealt with elsewhere but I would just like to highlight the Historic Open Days on the 11th, 12th and 13th September when the visits to "Hotels, Inns and their Chequers" takes in a Blue badged guided tour of the Cathedral Hotel, The Cloisters Inn and the White Hart Hotel and their respective ancient Chequers and history associated with them. It will be a fascinating tour and I encourage members to support this event.

### **Stanhope and the Central Car Park/Maltings Development**

We have been promised a more detailed revelation of the development proposals in the coming Autumn and it is hoped that as well as designs, we might get a steer towards the type of retail environment that the developer has in mind and the timescale for the actual planning application and construction stages.

With this in mind I took in a visit to Hereford recently to look at the redevelopment of the old Cattle Market there as carried out by Stanhope. The centre opened in May of this year and is trading very well and is a vibrant thoroughfare with a good mix of shops including a major modern style Debenhams department store. It is a well considered layout and blends well into the surrounding centre.

I do not for one minute suggest that the same architectural styles apply to Salisbury as were used in Hereford but as a Cathedral City it had many criteria to apply which mirror our concern for a good architectural standard and a commercially viable scheme.

I include a couple of photographs here which show the Centre in use and for your interest.

*Peter Dunbar.*





The King is encouraged to agree by the presence of armed soldiers.

## *A Reluctant King*



*Magna Carta*

1215

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March Robert Key gave an informative and interesting talk on the Magna Carta to the Society in the Methodist Church. He included an account of King John's active resistance to modernisation which is neatly illustrated here with the King being ignominiously wrapped up in the document to which he agreed. Mr Key used the occasion to advertise and explain the ambitious programme of events that that will celebrate its 800 years.

## ROBERT KEY ON THE MAGNA CARTA.

On 13 March 2014 Robert Key used the 'power of words' to illuminate 'Our Magna Carta' to a numerous and interested audience in the Methodist Church.

There are four copies of the first Magna Carta (in Lincoln, London and Salisbury) of which Salisbury's is the finest preserved. It has been his passion since he was a lad when what looked like a dirty piece of paper was placed in his hands by the cathedral librarian. She was a woman who guarded the document so fiercely she took it home with her in wartime so the Germans shouldn't get at it! He understood what a privilege it was to hold a copy of the document.

Firstly, he asked us to picture ourselves back in 1215 during King John's reign when life was hard, cruel and short - particularly for women, one in five of whom died in childbirth and who were considered as chattels. For many people, the only escape from grinding poverty was hope of a better afterlife and so not surprisingly, this was a period of great church building, as encapsulated in William Golding's 'The Spire'.

It was during King John's reign that Britain was last invaded by a foreign power - the French - who occupied south-east England and were actually invited in by the Barons, many of whom were themselves of French origin. Despite having talent as an administrator, to quote the book '1066 And All That' – John was considered to be a 'bad king'.

Secondly, he clarified that Magna Carta was not a constitutional document but a peace treaty between the King and the barons and was actually repealed nine weeks later by the Pope. Nevertheless, in its 63 clauses, it laid down a set of rights which have thereafter been enshrined in British culture such as trial by jury, no imprisonment without charge and the standardisation of weights and measures. Some clauses carry less significance today, owing to social change and the advancement of women's rights. However it expresses the right of a widow not to be forced to remarry against her will.

Thirdly, he then told us all about the Magna Carta 2015 project, entitled 'The Power of Words'. Salisbury will be at the heart of these 800th anniversary celebrations, which not only involve raising awareness of the document and its importance through education and festivities but also embodying the spirit of the document through social justice programmes.

2015 promises to be an exciting year for Salisbury.

*Judy Howles.*



## **MAGNA CARTA CELEBRATIONS 1215 – 2015. THE POWER OF WORDS.**

Robert Key used his lecture, already described by Judy Howells, to publicise events in the coming year and here is an expansion of what he said plus some further information, largely supplied by the Cathedral's website. He is Chairman of Salisbury Cathedral's Magna Carta 800th anniversary committee, The Magna Carta is important to people from across the globe in what it represents for them. So its edition in 1215 is inscribed in the UNESCO 'Memory of the World' register underlining the fact that the documents held by Salisbury Cathedral, Lincoln Cathedral and The British Library are regarded amongst the world's most significant documentary heritage. The Dean, the Very Revd June Osborne talks of advanced plans to run a wonderful mix of spiritual and secular celebrations, promoting justice and freedom in a practical sense. Salisbury Cathedral will re-display and re-present its Magna Carta in the newly-conserved Chapter House, safeguarding the document for the future and using the latest interpretation techniques to communicate Magna Carta's historic background and modern significance to the many extra visitors it expects to welcome in 2015. It has already conserved and repaired the Cathedral's medieval Cloisters where the Chapter House is located.

The Cathedral will also work with partners to present a Medieval Fair for all the family, a pageant involving hundreds of local people, a special concert, a Celebratory Eucharist and a week-long flower festival (15-20 September 2015), as well as other events. Alongside this activity, the Cathedral's education department will work closely with schools throughout the year to deliver curriculum-focused programmes supporting citizenship and history.

Salisbury Cathedral will work closely with partners to deliver its ambitious programme, these include: The British Library, The Diocese of Salisbury, Lincoln Cathedral, Magna Carta 800th Committee / Magna Carta Trust, Wiltshire Council, Dorset County Council, Salisbury City Council, Visit Wiltshire, UNESCO, and AGEAS Salisbury International Arts Festival.

### **LONDON**

The British Library plans to celebrate the 800th birthday of Magna Carta in 2015 by uniting all four surviving original copies under one roof for the first time.

The library has announced plans to mark the anniversary by bringing together for three days only all the remaining original copies of the charter endorsed by King John in June 1215 to quell an uprising by England's nobles – a document that laid the foundations of Britain's common law.

"Multiple copies were written up and sent to the bishops and possibly the sheriffs" across England, said Claire Breay, the library's lead curator of medieval manuscripts. "It's four of those that survive." Two are in the British Library's collection, one is at Lincoln cathedral and another at Salisbury cathedral. These four copies represent the text that was, very reluctantly approved by King John but it was only valid for less than 10 weeks. Magna Carta – the great charter – was endorsed by King John to resolve an uprising by nobles angered by the monarch's despotic behaviour and extortionate taxes.

The barons, knowing what King John was like, put in a clause making him say he would not seek to have it annulled. Almost the first thing he did was send someone off to Rome to Pope Innocent III to seek to have it revoked.

The Pope did annul it, and England was plunged back into civil war. But John died the next year, leaving his nine-year-old son on the throne as Henry III. The regent who ruled for young Henry, William Marshall Earl of Pembroke, reissued Magna Carta.

The four original copies are written records of an oral agreement made between the king and his barons at Runnymede, west of London. The agreement outlined limits on the power of the crown, establishing that the king was subject to the law, rather than above it.

Its most famous passage has been interpreted as laying the foundations of trial by jury: "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, nor will we proceed with force against him, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land. Although many of its clauses were subsequently ignored, overturned or rewritten, the document is considered the basis of British law."

It was reissued several times in the 13th century and 17 of these later copies survive. Fifteen are in Britain, one is displayed at Australia's parliament and one, dating from 1297, is in the US national archives.

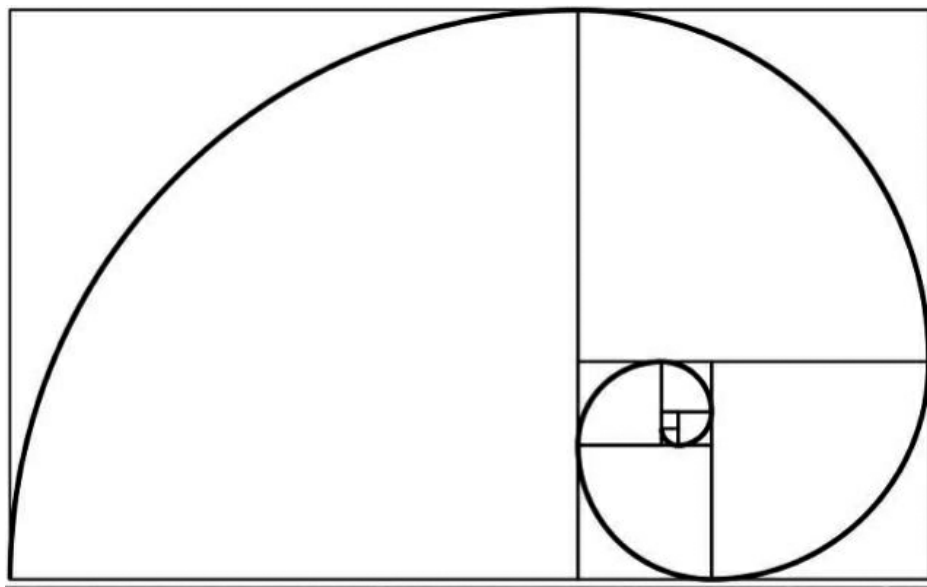
Early in 2015, the four documents will be scrutinised by scholars and visited by 1,215 members of the public selected by competition. Claire Breay said seeing the copies side-by-side might give academics new insights into the documents and the scribes who wrote them out in Latin on sheepskin parchment.

*Charles Villiers.*

## THE GOLDEN RATIO (DIVINE PROPORTION)

One of the determinants of architectural success in design is proportion. Circles and squares clearly have an important place but similar importance is related to use of the Divine Proportion, best understood in rectangles as the Golden Ratio. The value is 1.6180339887 ..... an irrational number more accurately described as  $\frac{\sqrt{5} + 1}{2}$ . It is known by mathematicians as  $\phi$ .

$\phi = 1.618$ . Interestingly  $\phi^2 = 2.618$  and  $1/\phi = 0.618$ . From which it comes only too naturally that  $\frac{1}{\phi} = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$ .



The mathematics is deceptively simple for such an intricate idea. Above is a large rectangle. It is formed with sides in the ratio of 1:1.618. It has the special property that it can be divided, as here, into two parts, the one of the left being a square. In which case the special feature of this ratio is that the remaining part forms a rectangle of exactly the same shape as the large one. (i.e. the two are *similar*). This can of course be similarly divided, Then a curve can be drawn in the first square to be continued

# FIBONACCI

## THE ARCHITECT AND THE SNAIL

The top and middle figures clearly show how a typical sample of attractive architectural design (it is, after all, moderately successful though I regret the absence of space under the eaves) uses the Golden Ratio and how it shares an eccentric spiral with the snail.

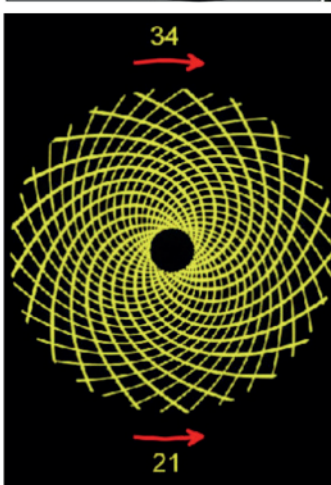
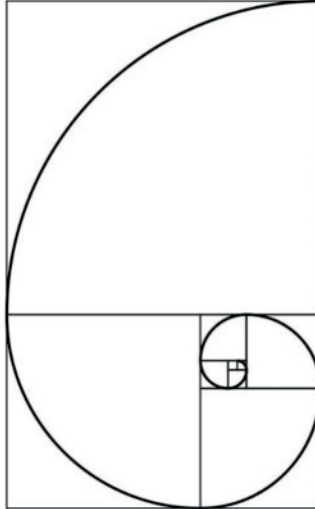
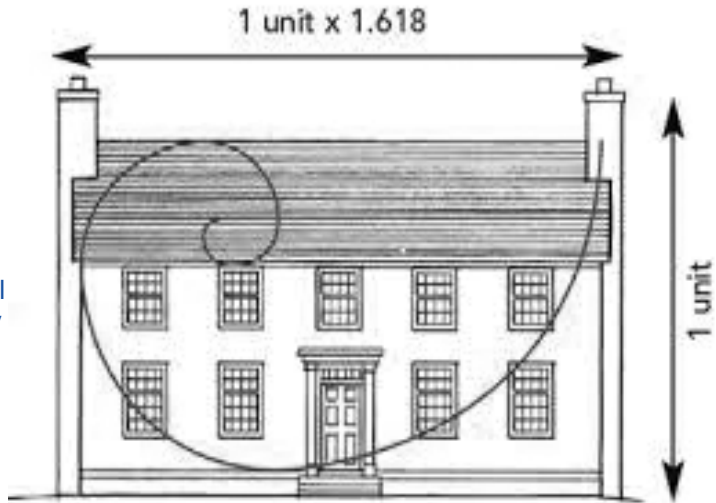
Shells, sunflowers and numerous other shape in nature reflect the Golden Ratio. But what has this to do with Fibonacci's numbers?

He suspected the connection but it took the 18th century Mathematician Robert Simpson from Scotland to prove it: he showed that not only that the ratio between any two Fibonacci numbers was about 1.618, but that it becomes more more true as the numbers became larger and larger in the series.

Even, at an early level,  $233/144 = 1.61805$ , recurring of course.

Thus we have the concept of perfect accuracy occurring only at infinity, leading to a whole new type of mathematics.

PS the numbers in the lowest of the three illustrations are Fibonacci numbers but I have not counted the spiral lines.



into the next one and so on, an ever diminishing curve to form a spiral. And this is where we find the linkage between aesthetically successful architecture and nature.

An architect would be traditionally happy to design a window of this shape although normally in its upright form. And that is where he has something in common with a snail - of course the rest of us would prefer it if that were where the resemblance stopped. The explanation is illustrated on the previous page. The centre of the snail's spiral lies, not at its centre, but at the confluence of the rectangles, just as is seen in its Golden companion.

Pythagoras was aware of the significance of this ratio, but even earlier - although there is no written proof - the Egyptians seemed aware: the ratio of the slant height of the side of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh to half its base is 1.618.



Leonardo Fibonacci,  
Italian Mathematician,  
1170-1250.

The Italian mathematician Fibonacci was asked to calculate, if two rabbits were left alone in a walled garden, how many pairs of rabbits would there be after a year if each pair produced a new pair each month. The answer lies in Fibonacci's sequence in which each number is the sum of the two previous. Thus:

1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55 .... etc.

He suspected that the series was related to the Golden ratio but it was not until the Scot Robert Simson in 1753 showed that any pair of numbers in the series approximat-

ed the ratio, the approximation becoming more accurate the higher the numbers: e.g.  $233/144=1.61805$  recurring. The rectangle and its associated series are represented throughout nature, for example in petal formation, floret spirals, tree branching and shells.

If you have read this far at least you now know the value of the Golden Ratio. It's 1.618.

*Charles Villiers.*



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In August Churches and Cathedrals throughout the land commemorated the outbreak of the First World War. At St Lawrence in Stratford-sub-Castle the sculptor Henry Gray added the names of those fallen in that war to the Wayside Cross. A special service was held on Sunday 3rd. The Cross itself was originally created by Jason Battle.