

# RUNNYMEDE GAZETTE

*MAGNA CARTA SPECIAL; JUNE 2015*

## A DECLARATION OF GRIEVANCE

We are a few days from the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. The Runnymede Gazette takes that opportunity to presents a Declaration of Grievance.

Drafts of this Declaration has been around for a while in various forms, and has been the subject of some previous consultations and amendments. In the last week or so it has been further circulated, mainly amongst those known to have a close interest in constitutional questions. A number of supportive comments, together with a couple of slight qualifications and amendments have already been received.

**Any further comments are invited. See contact details below.**

There are several things to note about the Declaration and its intentions.

Firstly, it is in no way set in stone. It is intended as a brief, but comprehensive, summary of our core problems. Thus it is open to all who accept the general direction of this summary to adapt it and add their own particular grievance.

Secondly it is intended to provide the first stage of a three stage process;-

- 1) **The diagnosis.** Without identifying the problem, we cannot prescribe the cure.
- 2) **The cure.** Our current constitutional settlement makes a dog's breakfast look like tea at Claridges. The need for a convention is paramount. We must again address King William's question ... 'How do you wish to be governed? But it must be a bottom up process, reconnecting with and re-affirming the core values of the Magna Carta, and all that went before and since then, and applying those values to contemporary problems.
- 3) **The mechanism.** How do we construct an organisation capable of getting from the first to the second stage. As has often been advocated in this journal, that will require good organisation both in breadth and depth. How do we mobilise the numbers necessary to prevail?

Thirdly it is couched in terms sufficiently broad to allow wide debate. For example, there are differing views on monetary reform, what constitutes 'local control', 'despoilation of the environment', or a 'gross invasion of privacy' and so forth. The important thing is that we are all moving in the right direction.

Fourthly, it eschews platitudes and sound-bites. This is because it is directed primarily towards those who are already politically well educated or who have embarked on the path to becoming so. Hopefully it will stimulate research in many others also.

*Frank Taylor; June 8th 2015*

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## DECLARATION OF GRIEVANCE

The power of government and corporate institutions has become ever more remote, inaccessible, arbitrary, deceitful, oppressive and abusive. It has been elevated to arrogant and greedy pinnacles far above our heads. In consequence we face a multitude of threats to our liberties, constitution and common law, self determination, prosperity and well-being, personal privacy; economy, and to the environment which sustains us.

Since law and government can only rightly derive from us, as free-born people, through our long established liberties and common law, we now lay our grievances before the nation and the world;-

1. The ever-growing turpitude of both civil and economic governance and the concomitant gulf of inequity between government and governed. The dominant power of financial and commercial interests, which places such power beyond the mandate of the people, and the manipulation of law and regulation by such interests.
2. The frequent resort by government to deceit and dissemblance and to mendacious techniques to fatigue the people into compliance with its will.
3. The transfer of our power of self-determination to the supranational agencies such as the European Union which have no mandate; and which has occurred by stealth and deceit and without the the free and untrammelled consent of the people.
4. The abridgement of our liberties and common law; the erosion of due process, including the granting of judicial and summary powers of conviction, fine and seizure to institutions which are not courts, and invasive investigatory powers to minor functionaries.
5. The increasing resort by government to excessive, onerous, invasive, coercive and repugnant measures masquerading as law.
6. The increasing resort of government to statutory instruments and other methods of effective government by decree.
7. The lack of separation of powers.
8. The decline in local control.
9. The gross invasions of personal privacy and anonymity by both government and corporate institutions.
10. The usurpation of the principle of innocence, so essential to a state of liberty, and its replacement by an alien and oppressive principle that all people are to held in criminal suspicion until proven otherwise.
11. The despoilation of the environment and the wanton squandering of our natural resources.
12. The dependence of our currency and economy upon the creation of debt and the consequent reduction of the people to debt servitude.

We reject civil and economic governance that is disproportionate, onerous, invasive, coercive, repugnant and treasonous, engineered for the benefit of interests and institutions beyond our mandate, devoid of principles of natural justice, ethics, equity, or otherwise subversive of our liberties and well-being, and that any such purported law or government cannot command our respect, fealty or obedience.

We affirm that all law and governance derives from the people through the rule of a common law rooted in natural justice, ethics and equity.

Insofar as governance has declined to impotence and turpitude; we affirm that we are not bound by, and are absolved from, any duty of respect, fealty or obedience to such purported law, and reject such law and government as void.

In such circumstances, we affirm our natural right of peaceful rebellion. and solemnly pledge ourselves to take all peaceful measures necessary to defend, preserve and protect or otherwise restore our liberties, self-determination, privacy, to control our currency and economy, to protect our environment, and to seek governance based on natural justice, ethics and equitability.