Hereford’s 1217 Magna Carta had a companion charter, the Charter of the Forest. That second charter expanded provisions made in the earlier issues of Magna Carta, laying them out separately. If Magna Carta seems to concern itself with the affairs of the great and the good, the Charter of the Forest opens our eyes to the life and struggles of ordinary people in a much more direct and accessible way. Although Hereford’s original copy of the Charter of the Forest is lost, we have the text of it copied into Bishop Richard Swinfield’s Register later in the same century. The 1217 Magna Carta and Bishop Swinfield’s Register form the centrepiece of the cathedral’s current exhibition, ‘Law, Life and Landscape’. The Charter of the Forest is far less well-known than Magna Carta, but is worthy of much wider recognition and interest.

To book a place for this informative and enjoyable evening, please return a copy of the attached Booking Form asap and by Monday, 6th November, at the latest, to Anthony Priddis who is organizing this event which is a joint one with the Herefordshire, Brecon and Radnor Ox Soc (who have invited us).