



Professor Muftah Salem Eljamel, above, performed back surgery on former dancer Winnie Williamson, right, at Ninewells Hospital in 2000.

## Professor at Magna Carta event

A ST Andrews University expert on medieval law has met the Queen at a reception to mark the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

Legal history Professor John Hudson was one of three mediaeval historians to attend the event at Buckingham Palace.

Mr Hudson said: "Buckingham Palace provided a majestic and peculiarly fitting setting for celebration of a document extracted by rebels from an unwilling and unpopular king, but rapidly transformed into a repeatedly granted royal promise of good government within the realm."

On display was a facsimile of a British Library copy of the 1215 charter.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no single original manuscript of Magna Carta.

Rather it was issued in multiple copies, of which four survive.

The original copies had been brought together — for the first time since 1215 — at the British Library earlier this month for comparison.

"Magna Carta provides the written foundation stone of our unwritten constitution, its constant interpretation over eight centuries unparalleled anywhere in the world as a process of negotiation between rulers and ruled," the professor added.

# 'Internal explosions' pain

### DANCER'S BOTCHED OPERATION:

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THE SURGEON, who no longer works for NHS Tayside, was also forced to step down from his teaching and research posts at Dundee University.

Speaking publicly for the first time, Mrs Williamson said she was 38 and working as the special needs dancer-in-residence with Clackmannanshire Leisure when the first surgery took place in 2000.

She said: "An MRI scan diagnosed the protruding disc was pressing on the nerve supply to my bowel and bladder, hence the urgency.

"The operation was, I was led to believe, a success but two weeks later I was reaching down to open a drawer and felt what can only be described as an internal explosion.

"After a night sitting upright I was rushed again to Ninewells Hospital and another MRI was organised for the next day.

"The on-call doctor told me that there had been remnants left in my spine following surgery by Professor Eljamel and the disc had relapsed.

"I had to have the exact same operation and this time the recovery process was much slower and my movement was totally compromised.

"Needless to say the following years

were impossible as I had to learn how to walk, swim, drive and also had to postpone very longed for IVF treatment.

"At the time I did not pursue anything as he was considered an expert in prolapse surgery."

Mrs Williamson said she was terrified to attempt any further physical activity and eventually had to give up her job as a dance practitioner.

She said: "Any core strength I had was gone because of the surgery on my lower back 12 days apart and this has never returned.

"I still to this day experience lower back pain at all times with varying degrees of

intensity. I am only able to do non-physical work."

The Courier previously revealed accident claims solicitors in Scotland are dealing with a number of cases relating to surgery by Prof Eljamel.

He has refused to comment on his suspension and is now believed to be living in Manchester.

NHS Tayside previously said that although they could not comment on individual cases they would "undertake appropriate investigation or review."

A spokeswoman yesterday said they had nothing to add to the previous statement.

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