

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Magna Carta 800



Bury St Edmunds and the Magna Carta

In 2014 Bury St Edmunds celebrates the 800th anniversary of its very special heritage as a Magna Carta Charter Town.

Roger of Wendover describes a meeting at Bury St. Edmunds in 1214. The most likely date for this meeting is November 20, 1214 because that was St. Edmund's day. A group of Barons met in St. Edmunds' Abbey Church and swore an oath to compel King John to accept the Charter of Liberties, a proclamation of Henry I. This act led directly to the Great Charter or the Magna Carta, agreed at Runnymede in 1215.

The people of Bury St Edmunds have celebrated this link for hundreds of years with the town's motto Shrine of a King, Cradle of the Law which refers to King Edmund and the Magna Carta meeting. Events throughout this year in the town show how the anniversary continues to be celebrated in different ways.

Bury St Edmunds Magna Carta 800 Timeline

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| <i>1214</i> Nov. 20, the Barons meet in Bury St Edmunds | <i>1974</i> Other Charter Town commemorations in Bury St Edmunds |
| <i>1215</i> June 15, King John agrees the Great Charter at Runnymede | <i>1989</i> Other Charter Town commemorations in Bury St Edmunds |
| <i>1689</i> British Bill of Rights is passed by Parliament | <i>2004</i> Other Charter Town commemorations in Bury St Edmunds |
| <i>1787</i> The Constitution of the United States is signed | <i>2014</i> The Lincoln Cathedral copy of the 1215 Magna Carta comes to Bury St Edmunds for the first time. |
| <i>1849</i> Plaques erected at the ruins of the Abbey of St Edmund crossing, motto Shrine of a King, Cradle of the Law dates from this time | |
| <i>1907</i> Pageant performed in the Abbey Gardens | |
| <i>1957</i> Magna Carta Trust established | |
| <i>1959</i> First triennial Charter Town celebration at Bury St Edmunds, Pageant performed in the Abbey Gardens | |
| <i>1967</i> Shields of the Magna Carta barons installed in the Cathedral choir | |
| <i>1970</i> Pageant Play for 1100th anniversary of King Edmund performed in the Abbey Gardens | |



Olle centrepiece

www.burymagnacarta.org



Magna Carta is owned and loaned by Lincoln Cathedral.

Bury St Edmunds Magna Carta 800 Partnership

