

BURY ST EDMUNDS

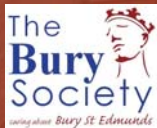
# Magna Carta 800 In 2014



LOTTERY FUNDED



*The Olle Centrepiece*



**“One of the most celebrated documents in history  
comes to Bury St Edmunds”**

[www.burymagnacarta.org](http://www.burymagnacarta.org)

[facebook.com/burymagnacarta800](https://facebook.com/burymagnacarta800)

# BURY ST EDMUNDS AND THE MAGNA CARTA

This year Bury St Edmunds celebrates the 800th anniversary of its very special heritage as a Magna Carta Town.

Roger of Wendover describes a meeting at Bury St Edmunds in 1214. A group of Barons met in St Edmund's Abbey 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 the King, Cradle of the Law* which refers to King Edmund and the Barons' meeting. Events throughout this year in the town show how the anniversary continues to be celebrated in different ways.

As the home of the Lincoln copy of Magna Carta is closed for redevelopment from 2013 until 2015, we requested Lincoln Cathedral to loan it to Bury St Edmunds. This rare opportunity is unlikely to arise again and it will be on display for local schools and people to visit free of charge.

## BURY ST EDMUNDS MAGI



**1214** - The Barons meet in Bury St Edmunds



**1215** - June 15, King John agrees the Great Charter at Runnymede



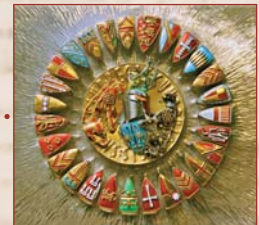
**1689** - British Bill of Rights is passed by Parliament



**1957** - Magna Carta Trust established



**1959** - First triennial Charter Town celebration at Bury St Edmunds, Pageant performed in the Abbey Gardens



**1967** - Shields of the Magna Carta barons installed in the Cathedral choir

# WHY IS THE MAGNA CARTA IMPORTANT?

**No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land.**

**To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.**

These words from the Magna Carta show why it has become so important today. However, at the time they were only part of a document that was a solution to a political crisis where the King was in conflict with the barons and the church.

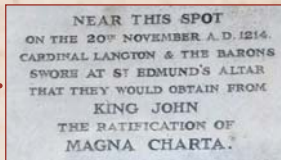
So the Magna Carta was not intended to be the cornerstone of democracy and human rights in England and the world, but that is what it has become. Some key clauses in the document, like that above, have been interpreted by succeeding generations so that the iconic status of the Magna Carta has been guaranteed.

**For further information on the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary  
in 2015 visit [www.magnacarta800th.com](http://www.magnacarta800th.com)**

## MAGNA CARTA 800 TIMELINE



**1787** - The Constitution of the United States is signed



**1849** - Plaque erected in the ruins at the crossing of St Edmund's Abbey. Motto *Shrine of the King, Cradle of the Law* dates from this time



**1907** - Pageant performed in the Abbey Gardens



**1970** - Pageant Play for 1100th anniversary of King Edmund performed in the Abbey Gardens



**1974, 1989, 2004**  
- Other Charter Town commemorations in Bury St Edmunds



**2014** - An original copy of the 1215 Magna Carta comes to Bury St Edmunds for the first time

# EVENTS IN 2014

## May 1-31 – The Magna Carta comes to Bury St Edmunds

This free event is a unique opportunity to see an original 1215 copy of the Great Charter in the Treasury of St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

The Olle Centrepiece and other items will also be on show.

**Book your place to see this very special document.**

- May 11** **Tour of Britain Cycle Event**  
Magna Carta closed
- May 16-25** **The Bury St Edmunds Festival**
- May 17-26** **Suffolk Heraldry Society exhibition**  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

**June 15** **Hidden Gardens**  
and **Magna Carta Day**

**September 20** **University of the Third Age**  
**Magna Carta Study Day**

**October 11** **Human Rights and Democracy Fair**  
Lecture Room, St Edmundsbury Cathedral



*The Great Seal of King John*

## October 19-21 and 26-28 – Our Magna Carta Light and Sound event

An exciting and attractive free event held on six early evenings in October.

This will draw together strands from the past and the present to show how the Magna Carta has been and still is part of Bury St Edmunds' heritage

**October 28** **Reception in the Nave**  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

**November 20** **Medieval Banquet in celebration of St Edmund and Magna Carta**  
For details contact the Mayor's office 01284 757135

**For information about these and other events please contact the Bury St Edmunds Tourist Information Service 6 Angel Hill IP33 1UZ. Tel: 01284 764667 and after June 1st The Apex, Charter Square IP33 3FD. Tel: 01284 764667**

**How to book to see the Magna Carta FREE at the Cathedral**  
Places are free but limited so please book early online at [www.westsuffolkdiary.co.uk](http://www.westsuffolkdiary.co.uk)

A limited number of tickets will be available from The Apex Box Office if you visit in person.  
No telephone orders will be taken. Please check availability before your visit.

## Bury St Edmunds Magna Carta 800 Partnership



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
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