

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Magna Carta 800



# The Magna Carta barons #1



King John's willingness to ignore custom and abuse his rights eventually led many of the barons to rebel against him. In 1212 there was an unsuccessful conspiracy to assassinate him involving Robert Fitz Walter and Eustace de Vesci. This plot seems to have had little effect on his treatment of the barons, and the more unjustly he behaved, the more he encouraged his opponents to organise themselves against him. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury was involved in trying to find a resolution.

*Stephen Langton c. 1170-1228), Archbishop of Canterbury, played a big role in the talks between King John and the rebel barons, which led to Magna Carta. It was Langton who came up with the idea to draw up Magna Carta, inspired by an earlier charter issued by King Henry I at his coronation. Langton was a great scholar, who spent many years in a monastery in Paris, writing commentaries on the Bible. He was also the man that King John tried to get the Pope to excommunicate back from in 1213, when he forced rebellion by barons and needed the Pope's support. After five years in exile in Paris, Langton was allowed to take up his work again.*



Illustrations by Peter Chrisp for Bury St Edmunds Magna Carta 800. These illustrations were funded by a grant from Bury St Edmunds Town Council

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