

Magna Carta

Lincoln Cathedral has always held the Magna Carta, one of only four remaining originals. Now housed in its own vault, the David Ross Vault, based at Lincoln Castle. I can't believe it was so long ago but in 2014/15 the charter was lent to Bury St Edmunds to be exhibited while the Vault was being built and to celebrate its 800 years' anniversary.

It is written on doeskin parchment with 3,500 words which are written in iron gall ink, in 1215 AD. Hugh of Wells was Bishop of Lincoln at the time and John Marshall was the Sheriff. It was an agreement between King John and the Barons at Runnymede who were fighting for democracy. A translation into English is recreated on one wall of the David Ross Vault. The Vault has also a copy of the Charter of the Forest (1 of 2) signed in 1217.

Photos Niddy Walpole



Shields of the Barons



The David Ross Vault