

Piece for Parish Council website;

To mark the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta in June 2015, and to celebrate Castle Hedingham's association with it, we decided to arrange events and some commemorative items that would be enjoyed and remembered by the parishioners and also pass on information to any visitors who may come to our village.

A heritage signed walk from here to Clare was arranged and mapped (two of the 25 rebel Barons were from Clare).

We had an exhibition in St. Nicholas Church for 5 weeks which then went to the castle until September 2015 and then to Braintree District Museum until January 31st 2016. It will go to Saffron Walden Museum in July 2016.

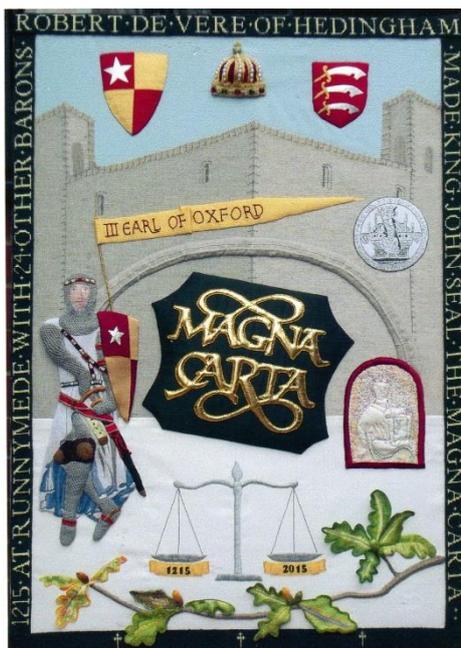
It is in storage at the moment but we will add any other venues if it is exhibited again.



We had a picnic at the Castle on 21st June 2015 courtesy of Jason and Demetra Lindsay (the current custodians of Hedingham Castle) where a variety of events took place including a pageant about the Magna Carta by the de Vere Primary school.



A group of needlewomen from the Hedinghams embroidered a panel dedicated to Robert de Vere and two embroidered pennants (wall hangings); one for the Magna Carta and its legacy, the other one refers to the Castle and the De Vere family.



A group of students from the Design and Technology department of Hedingham School worked on a design for an information board about the Magna Carta to be erected in the village in summer 2016

The sign is 1330mm x 1080mm



A painting was also commissioned to show an impression of how the Castle and surrounding area would have looked in 1215 at the time the Barons met King John at Runnymede

We hope to display the exhibition in St Mary's Church, Hatfield Regis in early 2017. Hatfield Priory was a de Vere foundation, and the effigy of Robert the 3rd Earl of Oxford lies in the chancel. Robert was wounded in the siege of Damietta in Egypt during the Crusades, and he died in Italy, his corpse being embalmed and conveyed to Hatfield priory where it survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VIII. The exhibition has a life size reproduction of Robert de Vere, in full chain mail, shield and sword, together with a realistic model of his castle at Hedingham which was captured by King John in 1215. We commissioned a painting showing the appearance of the town as Robert would have known it before the arrival of John's forces. It is a remarkable piece of work and the bustling market place and castle complex shown in intricate detail.

We are very grateful to The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Magna Carta 500 Barons who helped with the funding of these projects.

Castle Hedingham Parish Council

