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Lincoln Castle Revealed: Sunshine and 2,500 crowd greet Princess Anne as £22m makeover is unveiled

By CJHall_LE (http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/people/CJHall_LE/profile.html) | Posted: June 08, 2015



Princess Anne officially re-opened Lincoln Castle after its £22 million refurbishment

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A crowd of 2,500 invited guests and visitors have given a right royal welcome amid June sunshine to Lincoln's Royal visitor Princess Anne.

They packed into the castle grounds on Monday, June 8 for a spectacular climax to the £22 million Lincoln Castle Revealed project.

And the 10-year labour of love to transform the crumbling walls, ramparts and buildings into a top tourist attraction [home](#) for the city's own Magna Carta in time for its 800th anniversary celebrations this weekend received praise from all quarters.

After unveiling an official plaque, the Princess Royal, who was shown round the new ramparts walk by Lincolnshire County Council leader Martin Hill, met many of the craftsmen and women involved in the transformation.



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Visitors can now traverse the whole perimeter of Lincoln Castle for the first time in its 947-year history because of the huge [improvements](#) made to the walls.

And Princess Anne was also shown the Victorian prison, plus the showpiece David PJ Ross Magna Carta Vault, where she met the benefactor which gave it its name.

Meanwhile, the Dean of Lincoln the Very Rev Philip Buckler blessed the new tourist attraction.

Mr Buckler also led a special Lincoln cathedral service which the princess attended.

He said: "The castle [loans](#) the Magna Carta from the cathedral and this is a very exciting time for us."

Lincoln's own Hollywood celebrity, Batman actor Colin McFarlane, brought drama to the occasion by encouraging the crowd with his unique style.

"It's been a surreal experience, but very exciting for me," he said.

Councillor Hill said: "Over the decade the county council and its partners have been working very hard to give Lincoln Castle, which is the very heart of the city, a new lease of life."

Two hundred guests are readers of the Lincolnshire Echo and Target newspapers, who won their tickets in a ballot run by the newspapers in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council.

They included Marilyn Burton, 61, from North Hykeham, who won two tickets in the draw for herself and husband Derek.

"I was really interested to see what's been done at the castle," said Mrs Burton, who works part-time at the Fosse Way Academy.

"I think it's very nice that we have royalty here to [perform](#) the official opening."

[Retired](#) teacher Roger Thomas, 67, from Keddington, near Louth, said: "I am absolutely overjoyed to get tickets from the Lincolnshire Media ballot.

"Lincoln is very much on the up. It's got a wonderful [future](#). (<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/Princess-Royal-arrives-city-opening-22m-Lincoln/story-26655679-detail/story.html#>)."

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