**31st January 2020 - PRESS RELEASE

Friends of Lincoln Castle have released the following statement to the press:

​**March 1985 saw a notice placed in the Lincolnshire Echo announcing that ………
‘a meeting will be held at Lincoln Castle on 21st March for all those interested in forming a Friends of Lincoln Castle group’

The newly elected chairman, Brengle Burn, recalled that ‘the meeting was quite well attended, and things progressed from that first meeting’ to the extent that the group was prepared to produce a ‘mission statement’, as we would say today, that its purpose was to be:

*‘furthering the public educational purposes of the castle’......and.....’fostering the use and enjoyment of the castle by the public and by means of lectures, meetings, events, discussions and visits to advance the education of the public in those subjects which are of concern to the castle’*

35 years on the Friends of Lincoln Castle continue to fulfil that commitment providing a guiding service, a costumed Victorian Prison Group and a Medieval re-enactment Garrison with some 110 active members supporting the castle in its day to day activities.

To mark this anniversary year ‘The Friends’ will be hosting a **‘Showcase Weekend’** at Lincoln Castle on **28th and 29th March 2020.**

*Kimberley Vickers, Castle Manager, says that ‘we have valued the contribution that ‘The Friends’ have made to the castle since 1985. Their daily engagement is an essential part of the visitor experience and we hope that you will enjoy what promises to be an interesting and entertaining weekend of anniversary activities’*

The programme of events for the weekend offers hourly guided walking tours of the castle grounds, tours of the Victorian Prison and, for the first time, guided tours around the castle walls.  The Lincoln Castle Garrison will also be present to demonstrate a snapshot of medieval life.  There will also be a series of short talks on a range of topics related to castle history. Spaces for these talks will be limited so interested visitors are asked to book their place early on the day.

On both days families and children can enjoy a treasure trail around the grounds, giving the opportunity to see some familiar sites from unfamiliar angles and the chance on each day to win a Family Annual Visitor Pass.

*Mike Clay, Chair of ‘The Friends, says ‘The Friends are proud to have been associated with one of Lincolnshire’s foremost heritage attractions for the past 35 years. Our members give freely of their time throughout the year to share their own enthusiasm with many thousands of visitors. Why not come and join us as we celebrate those 35 years ….talk to us, see what we do, enjoy what we do and  take the opportunity to become a “Friend of Lincoln Castle’.*

……..and if you can’t join us for the celebrations but would like to become a member you can  find full detailsonline at   www.folc.co.uk,

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO  CASTLE ADMISSION CHARGES
End of statement.