

THE KING'S VISIT



■ Crowds - The King and Queen Consort greet guests outside the castle



■ Art - Charles speaks to members of Firstsite



■ Caht - King Charles with school children

Charles is king of the castle during royal visit

KING Charles became the king of the castle as he made a historic visit to Colchester's most iconic building.

King Charles and The Queen Consort headed to Colchester Castle, as part of a special trip to celebrate the city's new status.

The monarch was greeted by a Guard of Honour and the city's British Army Band as thousands of flag-waving crowds cheered and the National Anthem played.

Before venturing inside the heritage-draped venue, the 74-year-old royal, alongside wife, the Queen Consort

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Camilla, spent time outside the castle greeting wellwishers of all ages - and ignoring protests.

While outside, the royal couple met with charity representatives, volunteers and refugees who had settled in Colchester, all of whom had starred in last year's city status procession.

School children visiting the Castle Museum for educational purposes also interacted with the royals with friendly chats.

Having wrapped up the outside meet and greets, the King and Queen Consort then headed inside Europe's largest Norman Keep.

On their way into the 947-year-old castle they greeted MPs including Will Quince, Priti Patel and Sir Bernard Jenkin.

The couple spoke then with soldiers from Colchester Garrison and were shown an artefact handling trolley by students from Market Field College.

They then took part in a reception to celebrate Colchester's city status, which featured dignitaries such as

Colchester High Steward Sir Bob Russell and Colchester mayor Tim Young.

Representatives from a host of celebrated organisations were then invited to tell the royals of their work.

Teams from the Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative, Firstsite and domestic abuse charity Next Chapter were all present before Mr Young made a speech.

He said: "We are grateful this honour has been bestowed on us.

"Colchester's residents and everyone associated with our city are delighted you have made this visit and

words cannot describe how much it means to us you are here.

"On behalf of Colchester Council and its residents thank you for honouring us with your visit and we hope you will remember it fondly.

"We will certainly never forget this memorable and historic occasion."

David King, leader of Colchester Council said: "It has been a great experience for so many here today.

"I had a warm conversation with the King and it was clear the King and the Queen Consort had the same types of conversations with others."



■ Supportive - most of the crowd welcomed the royals

Protesters lobby Charles and Camilla

THE King and Queen Consort were met by shouts and boos from protesters with a yellow "not my King" banner as they visited Colchester to celebrate its city status.

As Charles and Camilla got out of a car at Colchester Castle, a protester said through a megaphone: "Answer your critics, Charles.

"Come over and talk to your

critics."

The protester also said "Why are you wasting our money?", and "Don't you believe in democracy, Charles?".

The protesters, a small minority, were joined by conspiracy theorist Piers Corbyn.

Some held up signs stating: 'Not my King'.

However, the vast majority of the crowds were there to

welcome the royal couple.

The King waved to gathered crowds and spoke to schoolchildren before going through a gate into Colchester Castle's grounds.

He did not appear to acknowledge the protesters who were stood on the far side of the road behind a police presence.