For immediate release

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**Zebras To Take Charge At Leeds Castle's Queen's Joust**

Leeds Castle’s Queen’s Joust, on the late May bank holiday, will be the first ever jousting event globally to use zebras in jousting displays.

The last private owner of Leeds Castle, Lady Baillie, loved everything exotic, including animals. She even kept zebras on the estate, which romped through the over 500 acre estate. To honour her legacy, the Queen's Joust, which was one of Lady Baillie’s favourite medieval past times, will not only showcase displays of combat and action, elegant and unusual equestrian, and medieval living and feasting, but exhilarating joust demonstrations with the first of the jousting zebras.

During the event visitors will gasp at the first crash of lances, cheer as their favourite knight, including last year’s crowned knight Emma Pearn, gallops past on their striped zebra, and watch as England and France not only battle for the coveted cup, but more importantly, for the honour and attention of the queen. As in English jousting history, no matter if you win the joust, if the queen doesn’t deem you as the worthy winner, she’ll choose someone else. A knight’s armour and demeanour may just win them her hand… it’s not all based on skill and combat.

This event is included in a Leeds Castle admission ticket, if visitors book online ahead they’ll receive the best price.

Leeds Castle is located near Maidstone in Kent just off Junction 8 of the M20, and only one hour’s drive from London. Grounds open at 10am daily and the castle is open from 10:30am. Last admission is 4:30pm and gates close at 6pm (April to September).

- ENDS -

**For press requests**, please contact Nicole Moor at nicolemoor@leeds-castle.co.uk

**About Leeds Castle**

Leeds Castle is considered a national treasure, providing a window onto over nine hundred years of British history. It is a haven of tranquillity and offers a wealth of discovery and enjoyment for all ages.

Situated five miles southeast of Maidstone in Kent, Leeds Castle’s rich and riveting history, including serving six of England’s medieval queens, to its elaborate transformation into a glamorous 1930s country house retreat for the influential and famous by Anglo-American heiress, Lady Olive Baillie, secures its place as one of the most visited historic attractions in Britain.

The Castle and its estate is preserved and maintained by the Leeds Castle Charitable Foundation, a not-for-profit charity

**For more visitor information,** please visit [www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com)

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