LEEDS CASTLE'S TUDOR TRAIL

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO ....

LEEDS CASTLE
KENT ENGLAND

LEEDS CASTLE'S TUDOR TRAIL

WELCOME TO LEEDS CASTLE.

Look carefully at the outside of the castle.
Leeds Castle is over 900 years old, and has grown, developed and been re-born several times through the centuries

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEEDS CASTLE

When the Normans invaded England in 1066, William the Conqueror and his knights built many castles. Some were built for defence; others, like Leeds, were built as homes, to show off wealth and strength. A Norman Knight called Robert de Crevecoeur built Leeds Castle in 1119. The moat that runs around the castle was made in the 13th century and is fed by the river Len.

In 1278, King Edward I became the owner and it stayed a royal castle until 1552. Its most famous owner was Henry VIII. Soon after his death, the castle passed into private hands where it remained until 1926 when a very rich lady called Lady Baillie bought it to create a fabulous country house. She spent over £20 million in today's money restoring it. She had French artists and craftsmen rebuild the inside to make it look like it did in Tudor times.

The buildings themselves date from different periods of history - some go back as far as Norman times, while others belong to the Tudor Period or later.

Before going into the Castle look at the Gatehouse.

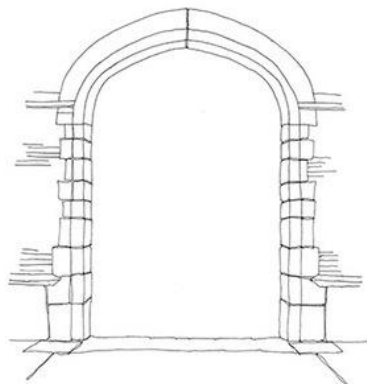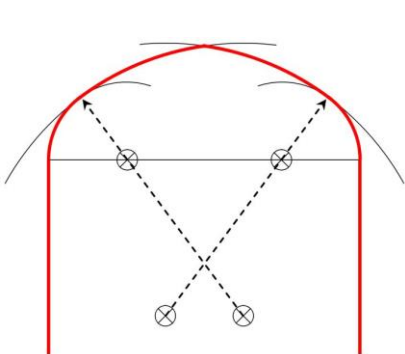1. Who do you think would have lived there?

King and Queen ☐   Servants ☐   Guards/Soldiers ☐

Here are some of the key features of Tudor architecture to look out for in the castle:

- Flattened arches, used in doorways and windows
- Leaded window panes set in groups of flattened arch windows
- Symmetry, for example doors and windows are often balanced in pairs or mirror images

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Enter through the front door of the 'New Castle', rebuilt in 1822, and updated with plumbing and electricity by Lady Baillie in the 1920s. You now find yourself in the Entrance Hall Did you notice the 'door within the door' as you came through? You will not find any Tudor clues in this part of the castle. So, walk slowly through ....

THE LIBRARY
This room was once the schoolroom for Lady Baillie's two daughters. When they grew up it was converted into a library.
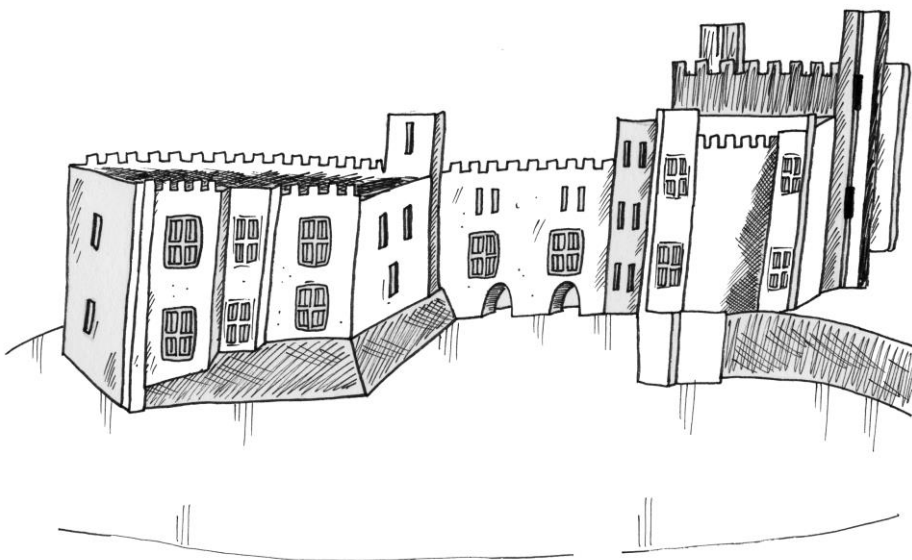
THE DINING ROOM
If this room is open, you may see a large dining table that can seat up to 30 people. This room is also used for weddings and dinners.

THE SERVANTS QUARTERS
Here you can read about the different people employed during lady Baillie's time here As you leave this room and go down the Servants Corridor, you are crossing the moat into the Gloriette, the oldest part of the castle.

THE LOWER GLORIETTE

The next four rooms is where you will find the Tudor clues. These rooms will often have different displays, and/or set dressings, depicting pre, during and post the Lady Baillie restoration.

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THE EVENING DINING ROOM

Although the room is now how it might have been during Lady Baillie's early years we can still see the clues that the castle was here in the Tudor period.

The fireplace, originally installed in what is now the Salon during the reign of Henry VIII was moved into this room as part of Lady Baillie's reconstruction of the Gloritte 1927-28.

Look closely at the carvings in the spandrels

2. Which symbols can you see carved into the stone?
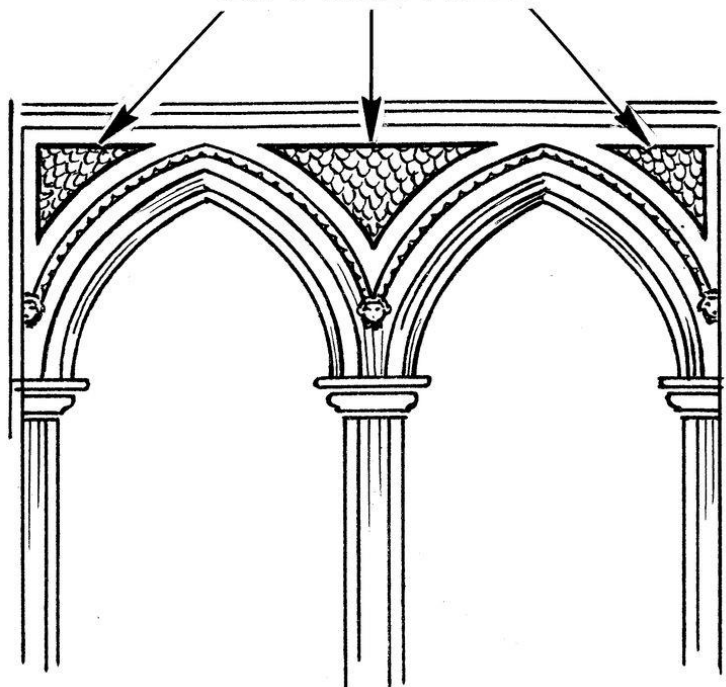

Coat of Arms ☐   Dragon ☐   Tudor Rose ☐   Elephant ☐

Tip: The spandrel is the triangular 'corner' of a doorway, fireplace etc.

SPANDREL

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THE GAMES ROOM

And into
THE WRITING ROOM

The chimneypiece in this room was previously in the room that is now Lady Baillie's Bedroom, having been installed there by King Henry VIII. We can pinpoint an approximate date, because the right hand spandrel is carved with the heraldic castle of Castille and pomegranate of Aragon, so we can deduce that it was installed before Catherine of Aragon fell out of favour in 1534.
Lady Baillie re-positioned it in this room during the restoration of the 1920s.

3.   How many wives did Henry VIII have?

4   6   8

THE SALON

Henry VIII ordered the windows in this room to be put in, to replace the older, smaller ones that were here before. Look at the bay window, it was installed in 1535 it would have been very expensive.

When Henry stayed at Leeds Castle in May 1520 he would have had a huge banquet in this room

4. Which of these foods would have been on the menu?

o   Pies

o   Peacocks

o   Roast potatoes

o   Swans

o   Pigs

o   Parsnips

o   Porpoises

Although this is a Tudor Trail, feel free to dance with the 1920s shadow dancers!

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From the Salon, make your way up the spiral staircase. Whilst it looks very old, it was put in by Lady Baillie one hundred years ago.

Henry VIII added this upper floor to the castle, although in Tudor times it did not look as it does now. The rooms are as they would have been when Lady Baillie owned the castle in the 1920s and 1930s.

LADY BAILLIE'S BOUDOIR, BEDROOM, DRESSING ROOM AND THE BAILLIE ROOM

We know that Henry VIII had a suite of rooms constructed on this upper level of the castle keep for himself, his queen, Catherine of Aragon, and their close personal attendants.

Be aware that these rooms may have Tudor features, such as Tudor style windows, but they will all have been reconstructed during the 1920s and 1930s. As you leave the Baillie Room and walk along the corridor, look out for the door frames which have Tudor carvings in the spandrels.

You will now go down the main staircase, and are back in the 1822 building, so no Tudor clues in this part of the castle.

This is The Maiden's Tower, but not on the castle visitor route so you cannot see inside it. However you can see clues on the exterior that this was a Tudor building.

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ACTIVITY

TUDOR QUIZ

- How many Tudor monarchs were there?..

- Who was King Henry VIII's father?..

- Who was King Henry VIII's mother?...

- How many children did he have? ....

- Who was the last Tudor monarch?...

- What was the full name of the Elizabethan explorer, Sir Francis...

- What was the role of a 'whipping boy' in a household?...

- How old did a girl have to be to get married in Tudor times...

- How many years did Mary 1 reign for? ....

- Who was Elizabeth 1's husband?..

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ACTIVITY

Start at 1 and join the dots to complete the Tudor symbol:

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