

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Spring into battle at Crathes Castle

The usually tranquil grounds of the National Trust for Scotland's Crathes Castle near Banchory are being taken over by rival troops on the weekend of 20 and 21 May.

Redcoats and Jacobites are setting up camp on the historic site with its links to Robert the Bruce and there will be risky raids, fearsome attacks and daring duels, showcasing the weaponry and tactics of 18th century warfare – a perfect family day out to celebrate the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

Re-enactors will be setting up camp at the castle, and visitors will be able to wander amongst the actors, gaining an insight into life as a soldier during the Jacobite rebellion.

For those that fancy getting more involved in the action, there's the chance to take part in drills with the soldiers, and even have a go at handling some replica weaponry – always popular with younger visitors.

Ruth Morris from The Creative Station Aberdeen North and Shire will be in the Horsemill where children can try their hand at soap-carving and other art activities to support the troops, creating flags and cockades.

The event runs from 11am until 5pm on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May. Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1 for children – buy online at www.nts.org.uk/events_or_call_01330_844525.

Don't forget to explore the castle and its grounds too. There are many treasures to be found such as the 700 year old Horn of Leys, reportedly given to the Burnett family by Robert the Bruce himself. Outside there's 240 hectares to explore with resident wildlife including otters, badgers, roe deer and kingfishers.

Conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland cares for several sites with links to the Jacobite cause, most notably Culloden. However, Glenfinnan Monument, Glen Shiel, Killiecrankie, Alloa Tower and Drum Castle all have links to this turbulent and fascinating period in Scottish history.

For more information and events, visit www.nts.org.uk.

