'Grand Tournament of Foote' at Urquhart Castle this weekend

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Date: 5th & 6th May 2013 | Time: 11am - 4:30pm | Price: included in admission price

(Adult £7.90, Child £4.80, Concession £6.40)

The picturesque Urquhart Castle, which is located in the banks of Loch Ness, will provide a spectacular background for a celebration of military skill this bank holiday weekend.

The 'Grand Tournament of Foote' event is taking place this Sunday 5th and Monday 6th May, as part of the <u>Year of Natural Scotland</u>, a government initiative aimed at inspiring local people and visitors to celebrate Scotland's outstanding natural beauty, landscapes and biodiversity a Scotland prepares to welcome the world in 2014 and beyond.

Apart from enjoying an exciting day out with a difference, visitors will be rewarded with splendid views of the famous loch and Great Glen from a magnificent location! Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart's one still remains an impressive stronghold despite its ruinous state.

The event will bring to life a medieval *foote* tournament, which involves a series of military combats fought as a contest between noble knights to demonstrate agility and expertise. The tournament will be in five parts, commencing with the knights battle and culminating in the general *mêlée* to leave the last man standing to be crowned champion!

According to Gillian Urquhart, Events Manager for <u>Historic</u> <u>Scotland</u>: - "This event is a great opportunity to step back in

time and get a flavour of how a medieval *foote* tournament would have been held".

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She explained: "Fully armoured foot soldiers will once again be at the castle, putting on a spectacular show of skill in a series of colourful and lively bouts, in a bid to be crowned overall champion.

"Visitors can also see a living history camp and discover how squires would prepare their knights for battle, or test their own skills with a bow and arrow".

The event will run each day from 11:00am — 4.30pm. <u>Tickets for the event can be bought online</u> or on the day. **Ticket prices are included in the normal admission price**: Adult: £7.90, Concession: £6.40, Child: £4.80, Child under 5: free. Admission free to HS members

A free park and ride shuttle service will be running each day from the car park at Glen Urquhart High School -in Drumnadrochit- to the visitor centre at Urquhart Castle from 10 am until 5 pm.

For further details about the event, click here.

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