

**F**OUR film location managers have just completed a very successful three-day fact finding mission to the North-east.

The four (pictured right) were guests of the Grampian Film Office under the guidance of Grampian Film Commissioner, Joyce Ogilvie.

The purpose of the visit was to give the managers an opportunity to assess Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire as a setting for films, television programmes and commercials which are shown worldwide.

During their stay, the group visited historic buildings including Cluny and Drum Castles and Aberdeen Town House. Tours of Royal Lochnagar Distillery, a land rig at Downhole Technology, Bridge of Don, and Fraserburgh Lighthouse were also part of their itinerary.

Joyce said: "The feedback has been very encouraging. The managers loved the landscape of the region and felt that it was accessible and diverse, as well as being 'film friendly'.

"They were especially impressed with Cluny Castle and its owner, Julia Linzee-Gordon, who again was not only knowledgeable but would be very helpful for filming crews. They also loved the art deco Carron restaurant in Stonehaven for the lovely interiors, which could definitely be used.

"On a modern note, they felt the land drilling rig at Downhole

## It's location, location, as film managers take North-east tour



*Enjoying some welcome sunshine during their tour of the North-east area are film location managers, from left, Caroline Barnes, Richard Blackburn, Johnny Ludlow and Mick Ratman, who is chairman of the 500-strong Location Managers Guild.*

*Below: A harbour location provides plenty of interest for the visitors.*



Technology would be very useful for filming along with the surrounding grounds.

"Generally, all four would encourage shooting in the

region and I have also discovered locations that perhaps were not of interest to them but might be for the next group, scheduled for March."

Since its launch last year, the Grampian Film Office has worked to raise the profile of the North-east as a location for films, television commercials and photo-shoots.

It is supported via a partnership agreement between Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Grampian and Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board.

### Northern stars shine ...

THREE Aberdeenshire businesses were among award winners at the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce Northern Star Business Awards.

They were Ross Deeptech Initiatives and Macphie of Glenbervie, both based in Stonehaven, and J. G. Ross (Bakers), of Inverurie.

The awards were presented at a gala evening attended by 600 leading business people and guests. They are sponsored by the University of Aberdeen, in association with Mearns & Gill, the Clydesdale Bank and the Press & Journal.

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