

Kilts to the fore on cooks' tour of Keith

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KEITH was the first stop for a group of Swiss journalists, broadcasters and authors on a four-day visit to Scotland.

The group of 27, many accompanied by their partners, flew in to Aberdeen last Wednesday morning.

From there they travelled straight to Keith and were fascinated by the art of kilt making and other crafts on display at the Keith Kilt and Textile Centre on Mid Street.

Kurt Metz explained about the group and their visit:

"We are members of a group called Presse Chuci Zurich

which is a cooking club for media people.

"Group members are not food or cookery writers. In fact we have financial journalists, fiction writers, broadcasters, photographers – just media people who love cooking.

"We gather on the last Friday every month and cook a four-course meal, then we all sit down together to enjoy the food.

"The group celebrates its 50th anniversary this year so we decided to do something out of the ordinary. And here we are, embarking on our trip of Scotland."

The group spent two nights based in Aberlour, before

setting off to Edinburgh for a couple of nights.

Paula Hunter, tutor at the kilt school, explained about how kilts are made.

The visitors were amazed at the amount of tartan needed to make a full-weight kilt, and also that everything is hand-sewn.

A number of current students at the school were also on hand to show their creative skills. Dina Farkas from Hungary is currently on her second trip to the kilt school and is in the process of making her second kilt.

"And I am determined to get it finished before I have to go home," she said.

Elaine Bunce, a regular at the school, and June Miller were able to show the visitors the pictures they are creating using felting.

After what they all agreed was a most interesting visit, the group left the kilt school and made their way down to Keith Town Station where railway volunteer Ron Smith, a friend of Mr Metz, had arranged a special train to take the visitors on the heritage line to Dufftown.

An action-packed second day in Moray took the Swiss party to the Speyside Cooperage, Walkers, Baxters, Johnstons of Elgin, and Gordon and Macphail before they caught a train to Edinburgh.



Kilt school tutor Paula Hunter shows the Swiss guests the finer points of kilt making.



Karin Glanzmann with a tartan-clad doll.



Walter Finkbohner tries on a hat.

Dina Farkas from Hungary, on her second visit to the kilt school, works on her second kilt.

Pictures: Lyn MacDonald



The Swiss visitors at Keith Town Station before boarding a train to Dufftown.



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