## Museum gets 5 stars from VisitScotland

## Linlithgow Museum recently got a five star Quality Assurance Award from VisitScotland.

The museum which reopened earlier this year after refurbishment has three galleries and a community space. It tells the stories of Mary Queen of Scots the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge and the rich history and heritage of the Royal Burgh.

VisitScotland Regional Director Neil Christison visited the museum, located in the Linlithgow Partnership Centre on the High Street, to present the award.

He said: "Congratulations to Linlithgow Museum on this fantastic achievement. The new museum is a fantastic addition to the tourism offering in the region.

"Our Quality Assurance scheme helps businesses to reach their full potential and truly shine. The scheme is about more than just the 'stars' on the door — it's about the entire visitor experience, about investing in your business, driving-up quality and creating jobs.

"Delivering a quality experience that meets, and exceeds, visitor expectations is crucial in making Scotland a must-visit, must-return destination."

William Morrison, Chair, Linlithgow Heritage Trust, said: "We are delighted that the huge amount of work invested by the trust's staff and dedicated team of volunteers has resulted in our new Linlithgow Museum achieving a five-star award from VisitScotland.

"The project hasn't however just delivered a lovely new visitor attraction, our ambitious community activity plan comprising of archaeology digs, oral history interviews, animation, drama and singer-songwriter projects; has ensured that the museum has established strong connections with the local community also.

"The Linlithgow Heritage Trust are extremely grateful for the support provided by our various funders which include National Heritage Lottery Fund, LEADER West Lothian, Museums Galleries Scotland and West Lothian Council. We are extremely proud that the museum has achieved superb feedback from visitors, and in just 6 months we have managed to double the visitor numbers that our old museum space used to achieve in a calendar year!"



Front William Morrison, chair of Linlithgow Heritage Trust left to right Neil Christison, VisitScotland Regional Director Elaine Robertson, Linlithgow Museum volunteer James Sinclair, VisitScotland Industry Relationship Manager Back left to right — Stephen Balfour, Project Manager of Linlithgow Museum; Sheila Menzies, Secretary of the Linlithgow Heritage Trust; Julia Branch, Communities Coordinator, Linlithgow Museum and Cllr Tom Conn, trustee of the Linlithgow Heritage Trust.