

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



11 August 2009

Dear STF member,

Welcome to your weekly news digest from STF, the independent forum of Scottish tourism businesses and associations. This digest gives a brief round up of the main stories concerning the industry over the past week.

If you have any comments about any of the issues mentioned in this week's digest I would be glad to hear them. Email ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk

STF News

Scottish Government has announced further measures to create a more effective **planning system** to support economic recovery, these measures came into effect on 3 August 2009. The changes include: establishing local review bodies so that councillors, rather than the Scottish Government, can review decisions made over small-scale, local developments; a requirement on developers to consult communities before submitting major development proposals; more information being made available on planning decisions; increasing the options for planning authorities to take effective enforcement action. For full details [click here](#).

Scottish Government's **Road Equivalent Tariff** pilot operating on all ferry routes to the Western Isles has attracted 23 per cent more cars and 14 per cent more passengers compared with the same period in 2007-08. [Click here](#) for more details **Tourism Intelligence Scotland** have recently launched their newsletter 'Ear to the Ground' featuring 'Emerging ideas in the downturn' and 'Top tips for success'. [Click here](#) to download your copy.

Scottish Tourism News

30 July 2009 - **MSP wants new rail service to include Clydesdale stations** - [Hamilton Advertiser](#)

1 August 2009 - **MPs 'back' new immigration system** - [BBC](#)

1 August 2009 - **Tattoo makes its mark with record box office receipts** - [Scotsman](#)

1 August 2009 - **Home of Scots victory over the English 'to host next Gathering'** - [Scotsman](#)

1 August 2009 - **Fire chiefs back safer cigarettes** - [BBC](#)

2 August 2009 - **Tourist chiefs planning huge tribute to**

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STF Swine Flu Web Poll - please cast your vote!

STF is running a web poll on the current impact of Swine Flu on tourism. Please vote and tell us if Swine Flu has affected your business. [Click here](#) to complete the web poll.

THE start of Scotland's **swine flu vaccination programme** seems to have slipped back, with the first jabs perhaps not now being given until the autumn. To read article [click here](#).

The **latest figures** about the incidence of influenza A (H1N1) in Scotland have been

Robert the Bruce - [Mail.co](#)

2 August 2009 - **New homepage for Scottish tourism** - [Focus on Travel News](#)

2 August 2009 - **Salmond urged to quit as MP over his pay** - [Times](#)

2 August 2009 - **Call to scrap alcohol laws as chaos looms** - [Scotsman on Sunday](#)

3 August 2009 - **Scotland hit by bin chaos** - [Daily Express](#)

3 August 2009 - **Labour clings to slim advantage over SNP** - [Scotsman](#)

3 August 2009 - **Deeside Games host global gathering** - [Press and Journal](#)

3 August 2009 - **Major sports event for Tayside** - [Press and Journal](#)

3 August 2009 - **The Curse of the Scottish tourist industry could soon be at an end - as Scots boffins unveil a cure for the pesky midgie** - [Deadline Press and Picture Agency](#)

3 August 2009 - **Island businesses feeling benefit of RET** - [Stornoway Gazette](#)

4 August 2009 - **Trains still late despite upgrade** - [Scotsman](#)

4 August 2009 - **Elie's Blue Flag lies in tatters** - [Fife Today](#)

4 August 2009 - **Celebrating the Island at the Edge of the World** - [Stornoway Gazette](#)

4 August 2009 - **Campervans ahoy - but islanders shun 'invasion'** - [Scotsman](#)

5 August 2009 - **Fears over ban on tobacco displays** - [Scotsman](#)

6 August 2009 - **Scotland won't be so bonny once it's been sold to the highest bidder** - [Scotsman](#)

6 August 2009 - **High-speed rail 'spells demise of air travel'** - [Scotsman](#)

7 August 2009 - **Trump tees up an autumn start date for golf resort** - [Press & Journal](#)

7 August 2009 - **Coming soon to town near you - £40m makeover** - [Scotsman](#)

7 August 2009 - **800 Royal Mail staff to strike for three days over jobs battle** - [Herald](#)

7 August 2009 - **'Inappropriate' bonus for Scottish Enterprise chief comes under fire** - [Scotsman](#)

7 August 2009 - **City braced for its biggest ever piping festival** - [The Herald](#)

7 August 2009 - **Fairmont St Andrews reopens after £17m renovation** - [Breaking Travel News](#)

8 August 2009 - **New bridge funding row continues** - [BBC](#)

published 6 August 2009. [Click here](#) for details.

Events

1 September 2009

Global Ambitions: Scotland's International Future Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

Improving Scotland's international performance and integrating our international activity will be key to growing the Scottish economy in the future. This action learning event will examine Scotland's current position in the global community, share and exchange best practice in international trade and business development and provide practical, experience based information and support to help Scottish businesses grow their export business.

Confirmed speakers to date include: John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth; Marcia Campbell, Head of Operations, Standard Life; Ian Irvine, Co-Founder and Technical Director, SgurrEnergy; Alan Keir, Group General Manager, Commercial Banking Europe, HSBC; Lena Wilson, Chief Executive, Scottish Development International

The conference will provide the opportunity to network with over 250 business delegates from a range of sectors of the Scottish economy.

For more information email info@global-ambitions.com

4 September 2009

Hospitality Industry Trust POETS lunch Radisson SAS Glasgow

Early bird rate £65 pp bookings post July 31st £70pp.

Email sophie@eventconsultants.com

17 - 18 September 2009

The Changing Nature of Scotland Perth Concert Hall

Scottish Natural Heritage's conference explores the changes that are taking place in Scotland's natural heritage. Changes in important ecosystems such as woodland, uplands, marine and fresh waters both urban and rural will be discussed by specialists and business representatives. Day two includes a dedicated session on how the natural heritage contributes to improved health and well being.

For further information and details of how to register please go to our conference website.

www.eventsforce.net/SNHConference2009

18 September, The Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

H&I Annual Dinner & Business Excellence Awards 2009

These awards provide a unique platform to showcase the achievements of the region's companies and is the key event for the recognition of excellence in a wide range of sectors.

Single tickets £110 + VAT. Table of 10 £1,110 + VAT. To reserve your space

9 August 2009 - **Huge protests over quarry threat to Scottish beauty spot** - [Guardian](#)

9 August 2009 - **Record takings for Scots tourism** - [BBC](#)

UK Tourism News

31 July 2009 - **Staycation gives UK tourist industry a £27 million boost** - [PR Fire](#)

31 July 2009 - **Demand soars for summer holidays with the family pet** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

31 July 2009 - **Gold Tee success for the Old Course Hotel** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

3 August 2009 - **Corporate Travel to decline 15% in 2009** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

3 August 2009 - **Old war bunker now up for sale with great views** - [Tourism Review](#)

4 August 2009 - **Over 50% rise in short breakers travelling by train to London** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

6 August 2009 - **British manufacturing enjoys its best month since January 2008** - [Press and Journal](#)

International Tourism News

3 August 2009 - **Salt Hotel: please don't lick the walls** - [Tourism Review](#)

3 August 2009 - **ETC: European Tourism in decline** - [Tourism Review](#)

3 August 2009 - **Giant cities seem to have the worst airports for sleeping** - [Tourism Review](#)

5 August 2009 - **British Airways announces improved July load factor of 84.6%** - [Trading Markets](#)

Open Meeting "Leading by Example" 1 October 2009

Venue: Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee DD1 4XA.

Registration 10.30 open meeting 11.00 - 4.00



Scotland the brand already enjoys a worldwide reputation disproportionate to its size and population, it is up to us all to enhance this even further, to work together to unlock the economic potential that exists within tourism in Scotland.

Investment in the workforce is investment for the future; leading to development of sustainable growth. Good working practices sit at the core of the TFFC, and people are at the heart of success for tourism. A skilled and positive workforce can make the difference to a business's potential success or failure. We need to develop inspirational leadership, to deliver change and engage with grass roots where the economic growth is generated.

The open meeting will discuss the TFFC review on leadership, investment and customer experience; and seek speakers from public, retail, and business sectors to encourage entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation.

email lesley.rhind@scdi.org.uk 01463 231 878

24 September 2009
Tourism is Everyone's Business
Cowalfest tourism forum

Ardkinglas House, Cairndow
Cowalfest 2009 programme now available from Dunoon Visitor Information Centre 08707 200629 or www.cowalfest.org to browse this years walks and other activities. www.cowalfest.org

26 September - 4 October 2009
Kirkcaldy Comedy Festival
The Kirkcaldy Comedy festival returns as a bigger and better Festival than the inaugural festival last year. Thanks to funding from EventScotland, the Festival will be expanded from 4 days to 9 days. More details available shortly.

3 October 2009
Kirkcaldy Light Night
Scotland's first 'Light Night' hits the streets of Kirkcaldy Town Centre with the spectacular 'Big Man Walking' being the centrepiece of the family friendly event. More details available shortly.

7 October 2009
HIT Aberdeen Dinner
The Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen
£55 pp. Email sophie@eventconsultants.com

9-18 October 2009
Cowalfest
Cowalfest in 2009 will be a very special festival. All this set within the breathtaking scenery, so inspirational to artists and writers, of Argyll's Cowal Peninsula with its hills, lochs, firth, forests and the exotic trees and shrubs that flourish in the mild west coast climate, and of course our great diversity of wildlife including red squirrels and eagles, not to mention our wonderfully varied and enticing walks. The programme includes: walks: old favourites and exciting new ones; mountain bike rides; horse rides; tours of great houses in Cowal; theatre and food events; wildlife walks and events; music; talks. Full details on www.cowalfest.org

11 November 2009
World Responsible Tourism Day

World Responsible Tourism Day, the only global day of action of its kind, is being supported by the UNWTO and leading industry associations. The day is vital for business, for profitability and for our planet. It means taking care of a world that we seek to promote. For more information visit www.wtmwrtd.com

16 November 2009
HIT Edinburgh Lunch
Sheraton Hotel & Spa
Early bird rate £70 pp bookings post Sept 18th £75pp.
Email sophie@eventconsultants.com

2 December 2009
STF Open Meeting
Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

Speakers include:

- Philip Riddle, OBE, Chief Executive, VisitScotland
- Brian Souter, Chief Executive, Stagecoach
- Rebecca Brooks, Director, JAC Travel and Chair of SDMA
- David Valentine, Head of Economic Development, Angus Council.
- David Cochrane, Chief Executive, HIT Scotland
- Ewan Reid, District Forester, Communities Recreation & Tourism for Moray & Aberdeenshire Forest District (2008 Thistle Award Winner)
- Geraldine Hamilton, Crosswoodhill Farm - 2008 Scottish Thistle Award Winner (Customer Care - Accommodation)
- Louise Mearley, and Ann Marie Wilkinson, Ramada Jarvis - winner of 2005 Scottish Thistle Award for People Development (Large Company)
- Iain Herbert, Chief Executive, Scottish Tourism Forum.

Delegate rates:

- STF Members are entitled to ONE free delegate space.
- STF members guests rate: £25 + VAT (maximum of 3 guests per member)
- Non-member delegate rate: £50 + VAT per delegate.

Inserts:

- Members insert £30 + VAT
- Non-members insert £75 + VAT

Exhibiting:

- Members exhibition space (includes one free delegate space) £150 + VAT
- Non-members exhibition space (includes one free delegate space) £250 + VAT

Insert and Exhibiting:

- Member £175 + VAT
- Non-member £275 + VAT

To book your place email Elaine Townsend at Scottish Tourism Forum events@stforum.co.uk 0131 220 6321



Sponsor of STF AGM and Open Meeting 'Leading by Example' 1 October 2009

Consultation Event - Training and Skills 14 August 2009

People 1st and STF are running a consultation event on 14 August 2009.

Tell us what skills and training challenges your business faces and we'll advise you on we're going to do about them.

What?

You are invited to a consultation event comprising workshops, panel discussion and lunch (free of charge) hosted by People 1st and Scottish Tourism Forum.

Where?

Edinburgh - Friday 14 August

Why?

So that we understand your concerns, provide you with the support and guidance your business needs and lobby on skills issues on your behalf. Find out what's happening within the skills landscape in Scotland and how

More information to follow.

17-20 March 2010 Best of Britain & Ireland Travel Trade Forum Olympia, London

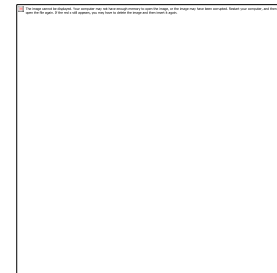
This event is dedicated to showcasing the wealth of tourism products and destinations from across the UK and Ireland to travel buyers and consumers. The travel trade forum takes place on 17-18 March 2010, with consumer days following on 19-20 March. Each event delivers thousands of engaged visitors and forms the centrepiece of the fourth annual British Tourism Week. Exhibiting packages start from £1,050 +VAT. For further details or to book a stand, email Angie Watson angie@boevents.co.uk or Madeleine Johnson maddy@boevents.co.uk or call 020 8563 3249. [Click here](#) for more details

Competitions and Awards



The Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards

The regions prestigious hospitality and tourism industry awards has launched two new categories: Most Entrepreneurial Business and Leadership Award. Nominations can be filed on-line at www.highland-tourism-awards.co.uk The closing date for registration is 31 August and entries is 7 September. Shortlist finalists will be announced in October and winners at the Award ceremony at Drummoissie Hotel in Inverness on 20 November 2009.



Springboard Awards for Excellence 2009 Open for Entries
Hospitality skills champion Springboard is now calling for entries to its annual

Awards For Excellence.

Now in their seventh year, the Springboard Awards for Excellence reward inspiring people, organisations and initiatives - those that work hard to elevate the profile of the hospitality industry as an employer and attract and retain talent.

With several awards in each category, there's something for everyone in every sector - and you can submit as many entries as you want.

Entries can be made by individuals, teams or partnerships for initiatives that have achieved measurable results over the past year.

To enter the awards, [click here](#).

your business could capitalise on new opportunities available to the sector. Your concerns and views are critical to People 1st and STF.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for the events.

SCDI Tourism Skills Forum - 25 August 2009 Glasgow



SCDI would like to invite you to take part in a round table discussion on the skills and training needs of Scotland's tourism sector with Maggie Morrison, business engagement at Skills Development Scotland and the Scottish Tourism Forum. This session follows on from the Government Skills Task Group report and will be held in SCDI's offices at 17 Park Circus

Place, Glasgow - 14.00 to 15.30 on Tuesday 25 August 2009.

Chaired by a senior member of the SCDI team, the discussion will give you the chance to set out your organisation's views on current skills and training support, the skills needs of the future, and how public sector support could be better targeted to the needs of your industry to this senior member of the Skills Development Scotland team. Your input will help the formation of the new industry lead skills group, one of the key recommendations of the report which is to be coordinated by STF. This is also a key opportunity to influence the thinking and practical delivery of the agency as it begins to deliver its first Corporate Plan.

To reserve a place please contact claire.miller@scdi.org.uk

Training Courses



Perth College

Creating the University of the Highlands and Islands

Business
Development
Centre

BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders - 1 day - £140

This course is for anyone who wishes to work in a licensed premises or any venue or site where alcohol is sold, for drinking on or off the premises; in a position where they will authorise the sale of alcohol to the public.

Dates (2009) 25 Aug, 22 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov

For more information or to book your place on this programme contact:
Business Development Centre, Perth College Tel: 01738 877333 Email:
info.bdc@perth.uhi.ac.uk



CPD opportunities available with new MSc International Tourism Enterprise at Glasgow Caledonian University

The University has just launched a new suite of postgraduate courses designed to maximise opportunities and specialise in specific areas of enterprise, with awards in: Tourism, Hospitality, Heritage and Events. The course combines management development skills with an understanding of international contexts. Taught within the Caledonian Business School's Division of Cultural Business, it is the only MSc International Tourism Enterprise programme in Scotland.

Offers flexible modes of study: individual modules can be taken; alternatively the course can be studied part-time over two years/full-time over one year.

The teaching format combines lectures, seminars, and utilisation of a virtual learning environment. September start date. Further information is available at

www.caledonian.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/x00003.html

For any queries, please contact: msctourism@gcal.ac.uk

Making the most of STF - member2member scheme

Please tell us of any special offers you would like us to advertise to our members and we will feature these on our website, and promote weekly through NewsDigest with a link to the web for more information.

Email ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk with details of the offers you would like us to promote. *Please note: This offer applies to all subscription paying members of STF.

Visit members' section of our website www.stforum.co.uk for full details of offers.

New Member

platinumgraphics

Platinum is a versatile agency who look after all elements of design from branding and advertising to websites and promotional literature.

We have worked with a variety of clients over a number of industries which include Merchiston Castle School, Holiday Inn and Jeffreys interiors.

With a direct to designer approach we have created a business that listens to our clients, is approachable and most importantly, is committed to delivering design that works and exceeds client's expectations.

Please have a look at our website - www.platinumgraphics.co.uk