

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



11 November
2008

Dear STF,

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.

The digest also includes updates on forthcoming events. Red Tape News, STF Member News, New Members and a fuller Events directory will continue to appear in the STF Member Newsletter.

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

The first meeting of the Government lead Skills Task Force took place in Glasgow last week. The Forum was in attendance representing the industry and has suggested a number of key industry invitees to join the group. The output from short series of meetings is to address the points raised in the EET Inquiry Report that highlighted industry concerns over skills within the sector.

Iain Herbert met with Michael Russell MSP Minister for the Environment last week.

VisitScotland announces it is to bring the national tourism website VisitScotland.com into public ownership. [Read here](#). STF has contacted VisitScotland to encourage early industry engagement over future planning and has offered to assist in this process.

Congratulations to STF member **Forestry Commission Scotland's** north-east attraction [Huntly Peregrine WildWatch](#) which won Customer Care (Activities & Attractions) for the second time in three years. Forestry Commission Scotland was also shortlisted for [7stanes](#) a Marketing Initiative finalist this year.

STF Board Members' **Peter Taylor** and **Beverley Payne** mentioned in Herald article. [The Herald](#)

STF Member **Bob Downie** of The Royal Yacht Britannia featured

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Events

18-27 November 2008

**A series of Pride & Passion Visitor Experience Workshops (free)
Wigtown, Stornoway, Troon,
Macduff, Callander, Nairn, Oban,
Dunoon**

Find out first hand what it takes to turn customers into ambassadors for the area and an extra sales force. For

in Scotsman article on the highly successful UK Customer Management Conference. The [Scotsman](#)

STF Member **Federation of Small Businesses** (FSB) featured in article by the [Scotsman](#) on SMEs and the credit crunch.

Scottish Tourism News

31 October 2008 - **Free Admission Days to Edinburgh Castle and Other Sites** - [Edinburgh Guide](#)

31 October 2008 - **Murrayfield rated number one hospitality venue** - [Catering.co](#)

1 November 2008 - **Overseas bank lines up to bid for HBOS** - [Scotsman](#)

1 November 2008 - **A word in the right mentor's ear and a five-star hotel is born** - [The Herald](#)

2 November 2008 - **Sceptics are proved wrong as Scots name their favourite places** - [Times](#)

2 November 2008 - **UK slowdown crippling small businesses north of the border** - [The Scotsman](#)

3 November 2008 - **HBOS deal to save Lloyds £1.5bn** - [BBC](#)

3 November 2008 - **Smaller Scottish start-ups could face funding gap** - [FT](#)

3 November 2008 - **How Scottish tourism can develop into a nightmare** - [The Herald](#)

3 November 2008 - **Transport expert calls for greater regional planning** - [Holyrood](#)

3 November 2008 - **In quotes: Trump resort reaction** - [BBC](#)

3 November 2008 - **Saga of Tycoon's golfing vision** - [BBC](#)

3 November 2008 - **Trump golf resort gets go ahead** - [Scottish Government](#)

3 November 2008 - **North-east businesses continuing to boom in economic downturn** - [Press and Journal](#)

4 November 2008 - **Green awards for a magnificent seven** - [Scotsman](#)

4 November 2008 - **Tory Scot: licensing reform a kick in teeth** - [Morning Advertiser](#)

4 November 2008 - **Masterplan for Prestwick Airport** - [Ayr Advertiser](#)

5 November 2008 - **Going green 'can aid the tourist industry'** - [Scotsman](#)

5 November 2008 - **Scots environment 'worth £17bn'**

more information visit www.pride&passion.net or email team@prideandpassion.net

**18 November 2008
Innovation Showcase
University of Dundee**

How do you stay ahead of your competitors? Find out how innovation can deliver long term success as well as how to access funding and support. Speakers: Jim Mather MSP, Ken Keir, MD of Honda UK, Peter Day of BBC. For more information visit www.innovationportal.co.uk/showcase
Cost: Free

**19 November 2008
Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh
Demand Responsive Transport:
Connecting People and Places**
Speakers: Stewart Stevenson MSP; Frazer Scott, Forward Scotland; John MacDonald, Community Transport Association; John Nelson, Prof of Transport Studies, University of Aberdeen. For more information visit www.holyrood.com

**21 November 2008
SCDI Gala Dinner & Awards 2008
Glasgow Hilton Hotel**
Speakers include: Jim Mather MSP, Jo Brand. Theme for the evening is Arabian Nights. Visit www.scdi.org.uk

**27 November 2008
Scottish Enterprise Business
Tourism Conference
SECC Glasgow**
Aimed for senior managers in Scotland's conference, meeting and corporate hospitality sectors. For more information visit www.scottish-enterprise.com

**27 November 2008
Crowne Plaza, Glasgow
Scottish Asian Business Awards**

Alex Salmond keynote speaker. 'The Scottish Asian business community makes a major contribution to Scotland's economy and these annual awards are a great opportunity to celebrate and recognise the success of these businesses'. To book your table email fozia@oceanicconsulting.co.uk or tel 0141 243 2848

**2 December 2008
Developing a Sustainable Events
Industry. National Events
Conference Gleneagles**

Hotel
Speakers: Jim Mather MSP, Chris Hoy MBE, Louise Martin CBE (Glasgow)

- [Scotsman](#)

5 November 2008 - **Bob Downie - Strive to keep customers on board** - [Scotsman](#)

5 November 2008 - **Late payment and tough banking terms put squeeze on small firms** - [Scotsman](#)

5 November 2008 - **National Trust set to be history in Capital** - [Scotsman](#)

6 November 2008 - **North-east on course for £3bn investment bonanza** - [The Herald](#)

6 November 2008 - **Prince Charles pressing for quality assurance scheme** - [Northern Times](#)

6 November 2008 - **Holiday lodges and five-star hotel set for Hillend check-in** - [Scotsman](#)

7 November 2008 - **National tourism website is handed £1.2m bail-out** - [Scotsman](#)

UK Tourism News

3 November 2008 - **Terminal 5 was 'national embarrassment'** - [BBC](#)

3 November 2008 - **Fuel costs dent Ryanair profits** - [BBC](#)

3 November 2008 - **BMI removes fuel surcharges** - [Opodo Travel News](#)

5 November 2008 - **Devolution body to take evidence** - [BBC](#)

5 November 2008 - **Downturn points to cut in rates** - [BBC](#)

5 November 2008 - **AITO members make predictions for 2009** - [Travelmole](#)

6 November 2008 - **Boss of VisitBritain quits** - [Travelmole](#)

6 November 2008 - **BAA stumps up £230 million for Crossrail project** - [Travelmole](#)

7 November 2008 - **BA profits tumble as costs soar in 'bleak' period** - [Travelmole](#)

International Tourism News

2 November 2008 - **New Alitalia up and flying by Dec 1: administrator** - [AFP](#)

3 November 2008 - **Ryanair reveals cut-price transatlantic plans** - [Telegraph](#)

4 November 2008 - **Use weak pound to aid tourism says space tour boss** - [Scotsman](#)

2014 Commonwealth Games). For details and to book a place visit [EventScotland2008.com](#)

3 December 2008 STF Open Meeting

The Royal Hotel Bridge of Allan
Details on the web [www.stforum.co.uk](#)
events@stforum.co.uk T:0131
2206321

19 January 2009

Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh Scotland's Transport Infrastructure: The Strategic Transport Projects Review

Speakers: Stewart Stevenson MSP;
Dr Iain Docherty, University of
Glasgow; Iain McMillan, CBI Scotland;
Max Friedli, Federal Office for
Transport Switzerland; Paul Tetlaw,
TRANSform Scotland; Ron McAulay,
Neetwork Rail.

For more information visit
[www.holyrood.com](#)

23 February 2009

Scottish Enterprise Tourism Masterclasses

**Future - Where our industry and
your business is going**
Gleneagles Hotel 9.30 - 1pm

Magnus Lindkvist, a leading expert on
what the future holds for businesses
will give an insight on how the world is
changing. Future trends and brands,
how they affect the way you do
business, best practice examples from
around the world.

£65 Plus VAT. To book
katharine@starkeventsuk.com or
www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles

28-29 March 2009

Best of Britain & Ireland Travel Trade Forum ExCel, London

For more information visit
www.tourismtrade.org.uk

STW Industry Dinner



Scottish Tourism Week Industry Dinner 9 March 2009

The
prestigious
annual STW

Industry Dinner will be held at The
George Hotel, Edinburgh.

The Keynote speaker is John
Swinney, MSP.

Tickets for the event are: £70 + VAT
per person or £650 + VAT for a table

5 November 2008 - **Stocks rise after Obama victory** - [BBC](#)

5 November 2008 - **Ryanair Announce New Base Launch** - [Compare](#)

STF Open Day: Surviving the Crunch

3rd December 2008 The Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan



With difficult times over the past year, and more challenging times ahead, it is important that the tourism industry is pro-active, meeting consumer needs.

Gain an insight into the information available for business, future trends and local intelligence from

VisitScotland; find out new techniques on e-commerce to boost revenue and benefit your business; examine how cross and upselling approaches can help a business in difficult times; get tips from working example of a hotel turned around by ambition and raised quality against the odds, and raise your questions to the panel at the Q&A sessions. The open day finishes with a networking lunch.

Speakers include: [Professor John Lennon](#), Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism, Glasgow Caledonian University; [Debbie Taylor](#), Old Course Hotel, St Andrews; Neil MacLean, Smallmedialarge; David Smith, Buccleuch Arms Hotel and VisitScotland.

For the full agenda visit www.stforum.co.uk and to register for the event email Elaine Townsend at events@stforum.co.uk

Considerate Hoteliers Awards 2008

There are three categories open to any hotel in the UK. **The Considerate Hotel of the Year 2008, The Considerate Green Team of the Year 2008 and The Considerate Green Hero/Champion of the Year 2008.**

Deadline for entries is 30 December 2008. For more information email jfirrell@tiscali.co.uk or visit www.consideratehoteliers.com

The Considerate Hotel of the year 2008 Awards Presentation will take place on Monday 27 April 2009 at The Cavendish Hotel, London.

Scotland's Emerging Talent Scholarships

Applications are now open for the 2009 Hospitality Industry Trust (HIT) **Scotland Emerging Talent Scholarships**. The charity is offering up to 200 scholarships towards developing future industry leaders.

The scholarships are open to anyone working in Scotland's

of ten. **Early Bird discount** available if you book before 19 December 2008. £5 discount for individual ticket and £50 discount for table of ten.

To book your ticket email Elaine Townsend at dinner@stforum.co.uk

SCDI Renewable Heat & Transport Focus Group

Scotland must develop new ways of heating our homes and businesses and new ways to power transport if we are to cut our dependence on fossil fuels and meet international climate change targets. Building on SCDI's work on 'Scotland's Energy Future', and as part of SCDI's work on the Scottish Government's consultation on these two topics, SCDI is hosting focus groups on each of these topics on **14 and 24 November** respectively. Contact gareth.williams@scdi.org.uk if you would like to attend or find out more.

Competitions for Chefs

Great Potato Challenge Competition 2009

Student chefs are invited to submit recipes to win the Great Potato Challenge Champion's title. The winning student chef will receive £500, and second and third place prizes are £300 and £200 respectively. All shortlisted finalists will receive a seven piece knife set donated by catering supplier 3663.

Closing date 12 December 2008. For more information visit

www.potatoesforcaterers.co.uk



British Pie Week 2009 - Easy

As Pie Competition

Jus-Rol is on the hunt for the best pie of Britain. Submit your

hospitality leisure, travel and tourism industries and places scholars on world-class fully funded training and work placements.

Applicants have the opportunity to attend courses at Cornell University, The Disney Institute and Lausanne Hotel School.

For more detail on Emerging Talent Scholarship or to apply visit www.hitscotland.org. **Deadline for applications 30 November 2008.**

pub's favourite pie recipe and you pub could become the Face of British Pie Week and win £500. **Last date for entry 16 January 2009.** For more information visit

www.britishpieweek.co.uk

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