

**Subject: Weekly News Digest from Scottish Tourism Forum**

**Scottish Tourism Forum  
Weekly News Digest**



13 October 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](mailto:ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk)

### STF News

The economic picture continues to be a challenge and one highlighted in the UK figures from VisitBritain. The figures on inbound/ domestic tourism trends are now available on the STF web under the [news update column](#). If you have any particular comments on this please let us know.

This week Iain Herbert attended a key partner meeting with BHA Scottish and a dinner which brought together representatives of over 6000 hotel rooms across Edinburgh.

**Want to make a difference at VisitScotland?** VisitScotland has vacancies arising in 2009 for four Board members and is seeking applications from people with skills and experience which can be applied to promoting the tourism industry in Scotland. Further details can be found on [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

### Scottish Tourism News

6 October 2008 - **Revealed: the 67 Scottish roads at risk of landslide** - [Sunday Herald](#)

6 October 2008 - **Councils to set alcohol age limit** -

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### Events

10 - 18 October 2008  
The Royal National Mod Falkirk

## [Timesonline](#)

- 6 October 2008 - **Cutting travel time worth £40m to the economy** - [Scotsman](#)
- 6 October 2008 - **Space travellers set to benefit Scotland's tourism industry** - [Scotsman](#)
- 6 October 2008 - **'Inside guide' to Scotland launched** - [Opodo](#)
- 6 October 2008 - **EasyJet reports rise in passengers** - [Press Association](#)
- 6 October 2008 - **Celebrity chef praises quality of produce available on islands** - [The Press and Journal](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Edinburgh Film Fest Appoints New Chair** - [allmedia](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Dundee city council chief says government's proposal is 'confusing and contradictory'** - [The Press and Journal](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Strike response sparks rail fears** - [BBC](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Alcohol strategy consultation shows mixed responses** - [Holyrood magazine](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Scotland's First Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Arrives in Aberdeen** - [Market Watch](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **BA shuts Scots base to move to Heathrow** - [Scotsman](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Borders hillfarming in crisis** - [BerwickshireNews](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Orkney Food Producers Star in New TV Programme** - [allmedia](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Structure from Motherwell will be used to extend rail track over the Dulnain** - [The Press and Journal](#)
- 9 October 2008 - **Lochranza-Claonaig Winter Ferry** - [The Arran Voice](#)
- 9 October 2008 - **Clyde ferry service to be saved** - [BBC](#)

## **UK Tourism News**

- 3 October 2008 - **Economic gloom spreads to British Airways' business class** - [Timesonline](#)
- 6 October 2008 - **Hotel industry fights back against Margaret Hodge's criticism of British hotels** - [Telegraph](#)
- 6 October 2008 - **Industry urged to take fresh approach to environment** - [Travelmole](#)
- 7 October 2008 - **New Minister for UK tourism** - [Travelmole](#)
- 8 October 2008 - **Expect stagnation for the next 15 months** -

A celebration of Gaelic language and culture through music, song and poetry. For more information visit [www.mod2008falkirk.org](http://www.mod2008falkirk.org)

### **17 October - 2nd November Pitlochry Autumn Festival**

A series of events including films, shows, ghost tours, storytelling. For more information visit [www.pitlochryautumnfestival.co.uk](http://www.pitlochryautumnfestival.co.uk)

### **23 October 2008 Scottish Audience Development Forum**

How to develop audiences for arts and culture, film by maximising Web 2.0 technology. For more information visit [www.scottisharts.org.uk](http://www.scottisharts.org.uk)

### **21 October - 17 November 2008 Aberdeen City and Shire's Sound Festival**

A variety of events covering a range of music including; classical, contemporary, improvisation, traditional and jazz. For more information visit [www.sound-scotland.co.uk](http://www.sound-scotland.co.uk)

### **24th October 2008 Scottish Thistle Awards ceremony and gala dinner, EICC.**

Tickets are £110. To book a place [www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk](http://www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk)  
F:0131 472 2223

### **3 November 2008 HIT Scotland Edinburgh Lunch Sheraton Grand Hotel**

Speakers: Will Whitehorn, President of Virgin Galactic. For more information [www.hitscotland.co.uk](http://www.hitscotland.co.uk) or [hit@eventconsultants.com](mailto:hit@eventconsultants.com)

### **4 November 2008 UK Customer Management Conference EICC**

For the agenda or to book a place visit [www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk](http://www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk)

### **6 November 2008 Scottish Enterprise Tourism Masterclasses**

**Creating Opportunities through  
Productivity**

**Gleneagles Hotel 9.30 - 1pm**

Henry Stewart, CE of Happy. Re-think your approach to productivity. Make the difference between being good and being great. Use productivity to increase customer loyalty.

£65 Plus VAT. To book email [katharine@starkeventsuk.com](mailto:katharine@starkeventsuk.com) or [www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles](http://www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles)

### **7 - 9 November 2008 Strathspey Away, Kingussie**

A weekend of dance, song and

## [Travelmole](#)

8 October 2008 - **UK seaside towns set for revival** - [Travelmole](#)

9 October 2008 - **VisitBritain reveals top visitor attractions** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

## International Tourism News

7 October 2008 - **British Airways and Iberia Merger is Delayed** - [Merchant News](#)

## 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](http://www.potatoesforcaterers.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](mailto:jfirrell@tiscali.co.uk) or visit [www.consideratehoteliers.com](http://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.

## Northern Light Tourism Awards

**Closing date** for nominations is **17 October 2008.**

Shortlisted entrants will be notified week commencing 27 October 2008. Winners will be announced at the North East Scotland Tourism Industry Conference, at Marcliffe Hotel & Spar, Pitfodells, Aberdeen on 27 November 2008. Categories include:

Come to Aberdeen Trophy, Aberdeenshire Tourism Initiative, Customer Service, Tourism and Sustainability, Innovation, Visitor Experience and Manager of the year.

For more information visit [www.visitscotland.org](http://www.visitscotland.org)

## East Coast Consultants

STF member and former board member **Roger Brown** has formed a new consultancy service in association with another

highland hospitality. Ceilidhs, dance classes and concerts for all ages.

For more information visit [www.dannsa.com](http://www.dannsa.com)

### **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](http://www.innovationportal.co.uk/showcase)  
Cost: Free

### **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](http://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](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com)

### **2 December 2008 Developing a Sustainable Events Industry**

**National Events Conference -  
Gleneagles Hotel**  
Speakers: Jim Mather MSP, Chris Hoy MBE, Louise Martin CBE (Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games). For details and to book a place visit [EventScotland2008.com](http://EventScotland2008.com)

### **3 December 2008 STF Open Meeting**

The Royal Hotel Bridge of Allan  
Details will be available soon. To register interest please email [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk) T:0131 2206321

### **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](mailto:katharine@starkeventsuk.com) or

STF member **Rory Malcolm**. They are combining their skills and experience in tourism, leisure, rural development and the food and drink sectors to provide a range of support services for small and medium enterprises. Full details are on the members' section of the STF website [www.stforum.co.uk](http://www.stforum.co.uk)

## Business Tourism Conference

27 November 08

27 November 2008

SECC Glasgow 10.00 - 5pm

Scottish Enterprise/VisitScotland Business Tourism Conference 2008

**Rising to the Challenge**

Chaired by Martin Lewis, Managing Editor of Meetings and Incentive Travel Magazine. Opening address Jack Perry, CEO, Scottish Enterprise.

**The State of Play** - UK Economy, the outlook and implications for the business tourism industry Dr Dominic Swords, Henley Management College.

**An International Perspective** - Anne Rodven, VisitOSLO

Maximising the Procurement Process - Peter Rand, Zibrant

**Winning Business in a Competitive Environment** - Andrew Stembridge MD  
Chewton Glen Hotel

**Working with Corporate Buyers** - Lesley Williams, Karen Playfair, John Drymond

**Contracting Venues with Clients, Current Challenges** - Peter Rand

**Trends and Opportunities in the UK Association Market** - Martin Lewis, Sally Greenhill

**Ten Strategies for Surviving and Thriving in the Current Market** - Peter Fisk.

£85 + VAT. email [robin@starkeventsuk.com](mailto:robin@starkeventsuk.com) or register online at

[www.registerforevent.co.uk](http://www.registerforevent.co.uk)

[www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles](http://www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles)

## Training Courses

3 & 4 November 2008

**100k Leadership**

**Carnegie Conference Centre**

This is a two-day leadership program aimed for individuals in overall charge of an organisation or for individuals responsible for managing others and influencing the way a business operates.

The following topics will be covered: hiring for attitude and training for skills, how to motivate staff, to create teams who perform, stay focused, and adapt to circumstances, maximising the potential of your customer experience.

Two day course is £165. 10.00 - 4.30 for more information email

[hmalcolm@carnegiecollege.ac.uk](mailto:hmalcolm@carnegiecollege.ac.uk) or visit [www.carnegieenterprise.com](http://www.carnegieenterprise.com)

## UK Customer Management Conference

4 November 2008 - EICC

Looking after your customer is more important now than ever. Raise your company's profitability and gain the edge on your competitors. Motivate your staff to deliver great service.

**Discount for STF members of 50%** of the delegate rate, or if you have already paid you can take a colleague for free. For more information visit

[www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk](http://www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk)

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