

# Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



14 April 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.

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 Scottish Government has recently updated its website with full details of support and help available to businesses and households through the downturn - please visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Economy/help> to find out more.

STF met with VisitScotland on a Quality Assurance workshop session discussing the future direction of the Quality Assurance scheme. More information following the meeting will be published in the next few weeks.

## Scottish Tourism News

- 1 April 2009 - **Tax cut for small businesses** - [Scottish Government](#)
- 5 April 2009 - **John Swinney turns down £1.5bn Treasury offer for new Forth crossing** - [Times Online](#)
- 6 April 2009 - **Edinburgh air links to increase** - [TravelDailyNews](#)
- 6 April 2009 - **200mph link to London is on the right lines, says rail minister** - [Scotsman](#)
- 7 April 2009 - **French and Germans will hang on every word in Scottish tourism showcase** - [Press and Journal](#)
- 7 April 2009 - **Edinburgh clubs end 'irresponsible' alcohol**

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## Events

**21 April - 14 May 2009**  
**Pride & Passion Discovery Tours**  
**Skye, Oban, Perthshire, Nairn,**  
**Tweedvalley, Banffshire, Cowal, Angus,**  
**Machars**

The discovery tours will help extend and refresh your local knowledge of what your area has to offer visitors. And if you can talk about things from personal experience it helps create that 'must do' vibe for visitors. If your work brings you into contact with people coming to the district do join one of the one day tours. Please email [team@prideandpassion.net](mailto:team@prideandpassion.net) or call 0800 028 0588 to register for your free place. The tours will take place from 10am to 4.00pm. For locations visit [www.prideandpassion.net](http://www.prideandpassion.net)

**21 April 2009**  
**Scottish Enterprise Business Insight 2009**  
**Rufflets Country House Hotel, St Andrews**

**promotions** - [Holyrood](#)

7 April 2009 - **Inverness holiday hotels 'cut off' from tourists** - [Inverness Courier](#)

7 April 2009 - **Gleneagles boss Peter Lederer given Lifetime Achievement Award** - [Big Hospitality](#)

7 April 2009 - **Poetry in Motion: Burns Festival Gets Underway** - [Ayr Advertiser](#)

8 April 2009 - **Green energy brings new comforts to remote hostel** - [Press and Journal](#)

8 April 2009 - **£1.8m to power up use of green cars** - [Scotsman](#)

8 April 2009 - **Beach litter levels down** - [STV](#)

8 April 2009 - **Wilderness sees Scots sales soar** - [Scotsman](#)

9 April 2009 - **Top Salmond aide knocks independence** - [Scotsman](#)

9 April 2009 - **Climate Change Bill criticised by SSE and climate campaigners** - [Holyrood](#)

9 April 2009 - **Homecoming website fails to hit the mark** - [Deadline Press and Picture Agency](#)

9 April 2009 - **Rory Bremner's set to leave a big impression on Melrose** - [Southern Reporter](#)

9 April 2009 - **Wind farm inquiry costs revealed** - [BBC](#)

9 April 2009 - **Edinburgh B&B: Science festival proves a big hit in the Scottish capital** - [Places2stay](#)

9 April 2009 - **Hebridean International Cruises goes into administration** - [Travelweekly](#)

10 April 2009 - **Concorde celebrates its 40th birthday at two new exhibitions** - [The Herald](#)

10 April 2009 - **Improving the West Highland Line would provide boost for tourism** - [The Herald](#)

10 April 2009 - **Scottish businesses holding up better than UK** - [Scotsman](#)

11 April 2009 - **Wind farm inquiries are 'good value'** - [The Herald](#)

11 April 2009 - **Weak pound fuels visitor surge at museums** - [The Herald](#)

11 April 2009 - **Gleneagles hit by drop in bookings** - [Scotsman](#)

11 April 2009 - **After 70 years, the Road to the Isles is finally finished** - [Scotsman](#)

12 April 2009 - **A new economy of bright ideas - tourism** - [Sunday Herald](#)

12 April 2009 - **America still sees Scotland as a land of opportunity, claims Mather** - [Sunday Herald](#)

12 April 2009 - **Weak pound sparks rush as tourists flood**

Half day event for businesses involved in the golf market, both as operators and in the wider tourism community, to meet with Bob Morris of Billy Casper golf, USA. Bob will focus on the following:

An overview of the Golf Tourism Industry  
Examples of how clubs have adapted to focus more on the tourism and visitor market. How to attract and increase golf visitors. Examples of collaboration and golf packages. How are destinations and golf groups communicating to their visitors. His perception of the golf industry in Scotland. Fee: £20 + VAT. To book your place email [katharine@starkeventsuk.com](mailto:katharine@starkeventsuk.com). For more information visit

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

**22-23 April 2009**

**VisitScotland Expo 2009  
SECC, Glasgow**

Flagship business to business event for the travel trade. VisitScotland Expo is open to buyers from all sectors of the industry - coach tour operators, group travel organisers, conference and incentive buyers, travel agents, independent tour operators and wholesalers. For more information visit

[www.visitscotlandexpo.com](http://www.visitscotlandexpo.com) or email [events@visitscotland.com](mailto:events@visitscotland.com)

**23 April 2009**

**Going Green with Technology  
The Sustainability Event for Businesses in Tourism**

**Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan**

Free drop in event with information on how to use green technologies in your business. For more information [Click Here](#)

**24 April 2009**

**Angus & Dundee Tourism Conference  
Carnoustie Golf Hotel**

keynote speakers: John Swinney MSP, Peter Lederer, MD of Gleneagles Hotel.

Fees: £15 (inc lunch). For more information [click here](#).

**12-15 May 2009**

**World Mountainbike Conference  
Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries**

For more information visit

[www.worldmountainbikeconference.com](http://www.worldmountainbikeconference.com)

**19-20 May 2009**

**Travel Distribution Summit  
Business Design Centre, London**

A series of conferences including: Online Travel Strategies Conference, Revenue Management Conference, Travel Payment and Fraud Conference, Hotel Technology Forum, Ancillary Revenue & Partnership Technology Conference. For more information

[events.eyefortravel.com/tds/conference/](http://events.eyefortravel.com/tds/conference/)

**25 June 2009 11am**

**Tourism Society Annual Conference  
2009, Hospitium, York**

**Scotland** - [Sunday Mail](#)

12 April 2009 - **Brown to host Scottish all-party talks on economy** - [The Times](#)

14 April 2009 - **Administrators called into Hebridean** - [Travelmole](#)

14 April 2009 - **Key survey raises hopes worst of recession is over** - [The Herald](#)

14 April 2009 - **Chief calls for a clan gathering fringe festival** - [The Scotsman](#)

14 April 2009 - **Scots hotels defy weather and gloom** - [The Scotsman](#)

14 April 2009 - **Scottish recovery 'still out of sight'** - [The Scotsman](#)

14 April 2009 - **Wind farm bonanza could blow Fife's way** - [The Courier](#)

### UK Tourism News

6 April 2009 - **Domestic travel industry praises inaugural Best Of Britain & Ireland 2009** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

6 April 2009 - **Britons say 'Yes' to child-free zones on planes** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

7 April 2009 - **Tories plan to overhaul English tourism bodies** - [Marketing](#)

8 April 2009 - **Motorists offered money to buy electric cars** - [Telegraph](#)

9 April 2009 - **George Osborne says Tories would break up Lloyds and RBS** - [Guardian](#)

9 April 2009 - **Rates expected to stay unchanged** - [BBC](#)

10 April 2009 - **Easter attractions: stay-at-home Britons become culture vultures** - [Guardian](#)

10 April 2009 - **Opposing wind farms should not be socially unacceptable** - [The Guardian](#)

11 April 2009 - **Demand for oil plummeting at rates not seen since the 1980s** - [Scotsman](#)

### International Tourism News

7 April 2009 - **Homecoming Scotland 2009** - [Marketwire](#)

8 April 2009 - **Ministers push Scotland overseas** - [UK Trade and Investment](#)

8 April 2009 - **Mather and Trump meet in Scotland Week** - [Scottish Government](#)

9 April 2009 - **'Home of golf' offer to Chinese** - [BBC](#)

2009 marks the fortieth anniversary of Labour's Development of Tourist Act, and will be a crucial year for changes that will determine the future performance of Britain's tourism industry.

Nigel Leacock, Director of Lloyds TSB Cardnet will set the scene with a keynote address on 'The State of the UK Economy'. Iain Herbert, CE of STF will be speaking. Other speakers include Penelope Viscountess Cobham FTS, Chair of VisitEngland; Andy Tordoff FTS, Assistant Director Environment (Tourism) Yorkshire Forward and Garry Verity, CE, York Tourist Board; Carolyn Smith, Director of International Promotion and Visitor Economy, London Development Agency. In the afternoon there will be an overview from different sectors; Tour Operations, Hospitality, Attractions, Aviation.

For more information  
[www.tourismsociety.org](http://www.tourismsociety.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](http://www.wtmwrtd.com)

### STW Conference Dinner Raffle Prize Funds



At the Scottish Tourism Week Conference Dinner, Jeremy Speirs,

Head of Commercial Projects, [Edrington Group](#), kindly donated a 37 year old bottle of Famous Grouse blended malt whisky, from a limited edition of 250 bottles, to raffle at the conference dinner.

Donations on the night raised £1,916.55 with the proceeds going to [HIT Scotland](#). HIT Scotland is a Scottish based charity which raises funds to support and encourage excellence in the hospitality industry. Their mission is 'to assist people to achieve their potential within Scottish hospitality'. For the last 14 years HIT Scotland has helped those training to enter and those already within the industry, to realise their full potential. This is achieved through practical support including bursaries, scholarships, industry events and the Emerging Talent competition. The winner of the prize was Ben Carter.

## STF Open Meeting



Please note in your diary the next STF Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday **3 June 2009 at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, National Headquarters, Carrochan, Balloch**. Full details

of the agenda will follow shortly.

**Fees:** STF members are entitled to one free delegate place. Additional guests would be charged £20 + VAT (non-members rate £40 + VAT).

To book your place email Elaine Townsend at [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk) or tel 0131 220 6321

## Making the Most of STF

### Member2Member Scheme

We all know the current economic climate is tough for any business, and the tourism industry is no exception.

One of STF's strengths is the business to business networking opportunities, and we would like to use our communications to help strengthen these relationships. We know that some of our members are helping to fight off recession through packaging deals and special offers and we want to help members by raising the profile of these offers through our Member 2 Member 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.

With our help, your offers will reach a wider audience; not only STF members, but STF association\* members and staff, leading to thousands of individuals seeing your offers and learning more about your business. Email [ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk](mailto: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.

The photograph shows David Cochrane, Chief Executive of HIT Scotland, Jeremy Speirs, Edrington Group and Iain Limond, STF Board member.

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