

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



14 December
2009

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.

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 STF Open Meeting in Inverness welcomed around 100 delegates to the Eden Court Theatre. There was a range of speakers bringing different view points on a range of issues however they all reflected on the real need and potential from working in partnership. There was general support for the approach being taken by STF in forming a new leadership group to provide a single and effective voice for the Industry through the Tourism Framework for Change Review. A report summary of the day will be placed on the website along with the presentations.

The Furnished Holiday Let debate continues with lobbying taking place at Westminster. The impact of this piece of legislation would be highly damaging to the self-catering operators and potentially reduce the offer across Scotland and the UK in general.

We would like to hear your views on the Bed & Breakfast and Self Catering fire guidance which is now out for consultation. A web site has been set up by the B&B sector at www.savescottishbandbs.co.uk.

STF supports the industry campaign to achieve suitable and proportionate standards for fire safety based on risk assessments in B&Bs and self-catering premises

In This Issue

[STF News](#)

[Scottish Tourism News](#)

[UK Tourism News](#)

[M2M offer Service Assured discount](#)

[Scottish Tourist Guides Association](#)

[Web Poll](#)

[Events](#)

[Institute of Leadership and Management](#)

[Member2Member Offers](#)

[Training Courses](#)

[HIT Scholarships](#)

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.

Swine flu: the definitive guide.

Appointment of Chair Moray Tourism Development Ltd. applications for the chairs position are being looked for. The person appointed will lead the Board and Executive who will grow tourism in Moray. They should recognise the importance of tourism to Scotland.

If you're interested please write to:

Jim Royan, Interim Chair, The Old Steading,
Pluscarden, Elgin, IV30 8TZ

or e-mail the _royans@yahoo.com

Closing date for applications is 20 December 2009.

Interviews are expected to take place in January 2010.

Scottish Tourism News

7 December - Cut of least £1.2bn in the Scottish Government's grant [Scotsman](#)

7 December - Energy firm chief criticises lack of action on high-speed rail link [SundayHerald](#)

7 December - The luxury four star Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spa has been crowned Outstanding Large Hotel of the Year [JournalLive](#)

7 December - Clubs back Inverness velodrome bid [Press&Journal](#)

7 December - Crieff Hydro Hotel review [ManchesterTimes](#)

8 December - EICC warns it'll lose £60m if city rejects extension plans [Scotsman](#)

8 December - Course is best in Scotland [Press&Journal](#)

8 December - Edinburgh Military Tattoo: The best seats in the house [Scotsman](#)

8 December - Plans for new Skye village revealed [Press&Journal](#)

8 December - Glencoe Ski Centre is gearing up for business [allmediascotland](#)

8 December - Call for Holyrood to join crusade against excess [Herald](#)

8 December - Homcoming Scotland has received a mixed report card from Banffshire community leaders [Banffshire](#)

8 December - VisitScotland says come here for Hogmanay - then escape the crowds [Scotsman](#)

9 December - Zoo upgrade ordered or sea lions will be left high and dry [Scotsman](#)

9 December - Businesses urged to "Get Ready to Compete" for Olympic and Commonwealth Games opportunities [ScottishEnterprise](#)

9 December - Tattoo rejects seats-for-life plan to fund arena

Events

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.

For further details or to book a stand, email Angie Watson angie@bobevents.co.uk or Madeleine Johnson maddy@bobevents.co.uk or call 020 8563 3249. [Click here](#) for more details

Institute of Leadership and Management Level 4 Programme



Tickety-Boo Scotland
EXPLORE | SOAK | GROW

Tickety-Boo Training would like to invite you to join their Institute of Leadership and Management Development

Programmes. STF members will benefit from a 20% discount on these interactive and informative programmes held in Spring 2010. Designed to improve delegate's performance in the organisation through focus on understanding the management role and developing management skills. These highly practical programmes can also generate significant payback for the employer in terms of cost savings and quality improvements in the workplace through work-based assessment. ILM Level 3 Award in First Line Management 5 days
Who should attend at this level? Ideal for first line managers and team leaders in all organisations
What does it cover? Units covered - Solving Problems and Making Decisions, Organising and Delegating and Developing Yourself and Others

ILM Level 5 Award in First Line Management 7 days
Who should attend? Ideal for middle managers in large complex organisations through to those managing individual companies.

Scotsman

[Scotsman](#)

9 December - Cairngorm resort to get makeover before sale
[Aberdeen P&J](#)

9 December - Council attempts to force venue open later to sell alcohol
[Publican](#)

9 December - Big losers in the big squeeze
[Herald](#)

10 December - EICC to get £85 million extension
[STV](#)

10 December - Scotland's golf tourism industry has sent the clearest signal yet that confidence is returning
[Straspey](#)

10 December - Blair Castle Horse trials to host major championship
[Perthshire](#)

10 December - Bid to save £60m for Glasgow
[EveningTimes](#)

10 December - Kohler acquired famed Hamilton Hall in St. Andrews, Scotland
[examiner.com](#)

10 December - Rural broadband upgrade unveiled
[bbc](#)

10 December - Industry experts gather for HIT Scotland's Emerging Talent Conference
[eatout](#)

11 December - Edinburgh could become home to giant Ferris wheel
[Press&Journal](#)

11 December - Legislation that will have an impact on Scottish tourism
[Hamilton Advertiser](#)

11 December - Jobs fears as agencies hold merger talks
[Evening News](#)

11 December - Tourism in Scotland is static or in decline while in Arran it is on the up
[Arran](#)

12 December - Green attack on anti-pylon groups
[bbc](#)

12 December - Drop in on the Scottish Snowdrop Festival
[easiertravel](#)

13 December - SNP in talks to cut fat cat pay by 5%
[Scotland on Sunday](#)

13 December - Ugly side of Scotland's beauty spots
[Scotsman](#)

UK Tourism News & International

9 December - Airlines slam Tories on Heathrow runway
[Times](#)

9 December - Tourism tax dead
[Gazette](#)

9 December - Tourism groups welcome moves
[Irish Times](#)

10 December - Watch your wallet! -
[TourismReview](#)

What does it cover? Units covered -
Understanding the management role,
Leading Teams and Becoming an
Effective Leader

To benefit from this exclusive offer call the Tickety-Boo team on 01786 825200 or email val@ticketybootraining.com or check out our details on www.ticketybootraining.com

Making the most of STF - member2member scheme

Please tell us of any offers you would like us to forward onto our members and we will feature these on our website, and feature 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.

Training Courses



St Andrews Skills

Academy

REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate (4 March: 9am-5pm, Golf Practice Centre)

Scottish Certificate for the Responsible Sale of Alcohol (9 Feb, 10am-1pm, Rufflets Hotel)

Emergency First Aid at Work (3 Dec, 15 Jan, 9am-5pm, Rufflets Hotel)

St Andrews Standard (14 Jan, 25 Feb, 9 March: full-day, Rufflets Hotel).

Booking facilities, prices and more details are available on our website - www.standrewsskillsacademy.co.uk or

by contacting us directly: info@standrewsskillsacademy.co.uk or 0845 1300074

Be a HIT: Scholarships

Hospitality Industry Trust (HIT)

Spirit of Scotland Food Award for Pete Gottgens

Ardeonaig Hotel & Restaurant chef/owner Pete Gottgens has just been awarded the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Food Award.

Up against some of Scotland's top chefs including two who hold Michelin Stars, the rural hotelier on Perthshire's Loch Tay was announced overall winner during the prestigious awards ceremony at Edinburgh's Prestonfield House last night.

The Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards are arguably the most coveted in Scotland. The organisers state that "they have been devised to mark the incredible achievements of the independent minded individuals who inspire our nation through their contributions to Scottish cultural life in all its guises." The finalists are nominated by a number of well respected figures within the industry and then it is open to everyone to vote for the outright winner. The Food Award winner is a chef who "showcases the very finest of Scottish produce to delight our palates".

"It is a true honour to have been given this accolade" says Pete. "However, it is certainly not about one person. I have a great team working with me at Ardeonaig to whom I am forever grateful. My respect for the farmers, crofters and fishermen continues to grow, along with our fantastic local suppliers who are often the invisible food heroes of Scotland. These are the people who produce the goods that continue to truly inspire Scotland's chefs.

With the recent acquisition of nearby Ardtalnaig Estate Pete is now actively involved in how the produce destined for Ardeonaig's tables is grown and reared then foraged, harvested or slaughtered.

Pete Gottgens was also awarded one of Scotland's other most prestigious accolades "Entrepreneur of the Year" at the SLTN Awards in October along with The Wine Award.

For more information please contact:
Diana Thompson

Scotland helps continuous development in the workplace.

To keep employees motivated and up to date in key skills, within the competitive world of hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism, HIT Scotland provides scholarships that can take place locally, nationally and internationally.

The Scholarships recognise the need to continually update skills within the industry, enhance personal development and bring fresh ideas back to Scottish businesses to remain at the forefront of international innovations. As a scholar you will potentially spend time working in many operational areas or on structured programmes to gain valuable knowledge that will give you the insight and confidence to get to the next level.

The limited Scholarships are available to all aspiring individuals working within Scottish hospitality (in its broadest sense) and the awards are presented at the annual Emerging Talent conference, which takes place in February. The conference moves around the country and has taken place in Aviemore, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ratho and the venue for 2010 is The Perth Concert Hall on the 3rd February.

Funds are raised by the industry, for the industry, at events such as the Industry Dinner, 18th March 2010 at the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow.

0131 467 3811 email: diana@thompsonpr.co.uk

Member2Member Offer

Service Assured offer £20 discount off training courses



Service Assured are delighted to offer STF members a special discounted members rate for the Delivering Service Assured programmes due to run in November. A rate of £75 + VAT (reduced from £95 + VAT). Dates are: 12 November - St Andrews, 17 November - Glasgow. For description of the course see 'Training Courses' in

NewsDigest.

To book your place or for more information email info@service-assured.com or T 0131 467 3131

Scottish Tourist Guides Association - Blue Badge Tourist Guide Training Course 2010-12

- Do you have a passion for Scotland?
- Can you be an ambassador for Scotland?
- Would you enjoy the freedom and flexibility of being self-employed?
- Can you cope with a demanding part-time University based course over two years, involving considerable self study time?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions we want to hear from you. The Scottish Tourist Guides Association, the organisation for Blue Badge Guides in Scotland is inviting applications for the 2010 intake for guide training at the University of Edinburgh.

Preference will be given to candidates who are fluent in a foreign language, especially French, German, Italian and Central and Eastern European languages.

Whilst we welcome applications from all over Scotland and beyond, there is a particular need for guides willing to work in the North-East of Scotland and the Highlands.

Deadline for applications: 30th November 2009

Application packs available from www.stga.co.uk/become_guide.aspx. For further information please contact our Training Manager, STGA, Norie's House, 18b Broad Street, Stirling, FK8 1EF; direct Tel: 0141 334 3170; email info@stga.co.uk

Scottish Tourism Week

1- 8 March

Visit STF website www.stforum.co.uk to find out full details of next years Scottish Tourism Week 1-8 March 2010.

- 2 March: Industry Dinner, The George Hotel, Edinburgh
- 3 March: STW Conference "Delivering for Scotland", Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
- 3 March: MSP Parliamentary Reception
- 4 March: Skills Conference
- 5 March: STW Seminar "Delivering for Scotland - The Rural Question", Easterbrook Hall Hotel, Dumfries
- 8 March: STW Seminar "Delivering for Scotland - The Highland Question", Drumossie Hotel,

2010

Inverness

Visit our website for the agenda, speakers and how to sign up and benefit from Early Bird offers (18 December deadline).

Early Bird Offer Expires: 18 December 2009

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