

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



14 July 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

STF met with The Lord Provost of Edinburgh to discuss the TFFC review.

STF are running a short survey regarding the implications of the new licensing regulations and ask members involved in the licensing business to spend a few minutes to complete the survey. Please [click here](#). If you are unsure of the new regulations please visit our website for full details of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. www.stforum.co.uk

Scottish Government has released the first set of figures providing a rate for all flu-like illnesses - not necessarily H1N1 - for which a GP consultation has been sought across Scotland. [Click here](#).

Scottish Government is asking for a response to the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill Consultation www.scotland.gov.uk/consultation If you do have any concerns please email ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk

Scottish Government is asking for a response to the consultation [Cycling Action Plan for Scotland](#). Please raise any concerns by emailing ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk

Scottish Government is asking for a response to the consultation on [The Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings \(Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#). If you have any comments please email ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk

Scottish Tourism News

29 June 2009 - **Banks meet to support tourism** - [Holyrood](#)

3 July 2009 - **An opportunity lost £10k Plans for morning games parade collapse** - [Dunoon Observer](#)

5 July 2009 - **Trump, Golf Channel Talk Deal Project features criticized new course in Scotland** -

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STF Swine Flu Web Poll - please cast your vote!

STF is running a new 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.

Events

25 - 26 July 2009

Cowalfest Summer Walks Weekend

A weekend of taster walks that will put you in the mood for Cowalfest's Walking and Arts Festival in October. Enjoy guided walks from Forestry Commission rangers, hill walks, and a magical walk through a glen. For further details on the walks visit

[Broadcast Newsroom](#)

6 July 2009 - **Listen Sweet sixteen for food funding** - [Scottish Government](#)

6 July 2009 - **European and Asian visitors make up for loss of Americans Highland tourist businesses booming** - [Press and Journal](#)

6 July 2009 - **Annie Lennox set to rock parliament as Festival of Politics speaker** - [The Scotsman](#)

7 July 2009 - **New tourism Initiative launched in the Scottish Borders** - [STV](#)

6 July 2009 - **Fairmont St. Andrews prepares to re-open Torrance Course** - [Examiner.com](#)

7 July 2009 - **Edinburgh to enter Clipper 09-10 Round the World Yacht Race** - [Yachte.com](#)

7 July 2009 - **Cruise halted after bug hits ship** - [BBC](#)

7 July 2009 - **HIE Gives Boost to Region's Arts and Culture** - [allmediascotland](#)

8 July 2009 - **Aberdeen faces chaos as strike looms on buses** - [Press and Journal](#)

8 July 2009 - **Swine flu: Scots will be forced to wait 1½ years for full vaccination** - [Scotsman](#)

8 July 2009 - **Stagecoach expands Icomera Wi-Fi on board UK bus fleets** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

8 July 2009 - **Riding stormy economic waters** - [The Inverness Courier](#)

8 July 2009 - **Plans unveiled for £20m waterfront hotel** - [Scotsman](#)

9 July 2009 - **Zoo could quit capital after homes vision is kicked out** - [Scotsman](#)

10 July 2009 - **Golf is swinging £220m a year into economy** - [The Herald](#)

10 July 2009 - **Eats shoots and leaves for Glasgow (giant panda Edinburgh zoo)** - [Scotsman](#)

10 July 2009 - **Golf's biggest stars come to Loch Lomond for the Scottish Open** - [Lennox Herald](#)

10 July 2009 - **Experience lost in civil service shake-up** - [Scotsman](#)

10 July 2009 - **An action plan aimed at improving the skills and qualifications of the Scottish workforce is to be launched today** - [Scotsman](#)

10 July 2009 - **Edinburgh Airport's fortunes soar** - [BBC](#)

11 July 2009 - **Cowalfest steps up tourism role - attempts rescue, hosts forum newsroom** - [Argyll News](#)

UK Tourism News

[www.cowalfest.org](#)

**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

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

Ardkinglas House, Cairndow
Details to follow. [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.

1 October 2009

6 July 2009 - **Ryanair's top 10 cost-cutting plans** - [Metro](#)

8 July 2009 - **UK set to reform bank regulation** - [BBC](#)

8 July 2009 - **The UK in airport subsidies** - [Guardian](#)

8 July 2009 - **MPs unite to condemn Diageo plan to axe jobs** - [The Herald](#)

International Tourism News

6 July 2009 - **Summer of chaos feared as British Airways workers vote against job plans** - [Scotsman](#)

7 July 2009 - **BA set for crunch talks to avoid summer strikes** - [thisismoney](#)

8 July 2009 - **Despite recession, Indians boost tourism in Scotland** - [The Hindu News](#)

10 July 2009 - **New taxes mean Irish pay less to fly to Glasgow than Capital** - [Scotsman](#)

10 July 2009 - **EasyJet has confirmed it is launching a new route between Edinburgh and Lyon** - [Business 7](#)

Open Meeting "Leading by Example" 1 October 2009



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.

Speakers include:

- 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 Thistle Award Winner)

Delegate Rates:

STF members are entitled to ONE free delegate space.
STF members' guests rate is £25+VAT (max of 3 guests per member)
Non-member: £50+VAT
To book your delegate space email Elaine Townsend at events@stforum.co.uk. Visit www.stforum.co.uk for full details.

New Members

STF AGM and Open Meeting Discovery Point, Dundee

See main article for details, or visit www.stforum.co.uk

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, firch, 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

More information to follow.

Competitions and Awards



The Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards

The regions prestigious hospitality and tourism industry awards has launched two new categories: Most Entrepreneurial



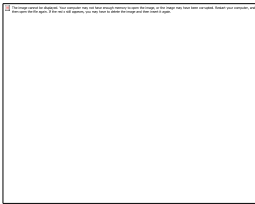
Liz Young - Marketing Consultant

An experienced marketer offering freelance services to tourism businesses on a project or retainer basis. I can provide a flexible support service for companies, destination partnerships or groups with no internal marketing resource or for those organisations looking for additional marketing support and specific expertise. I have a strong background in International marketing both in consumer communications and travel trade marketing and sales, from working in inbound travel companies and at VisitScotland. I'm well placed to help make the product right for market, carry out strategic planning and market

prioritisation, business development, as well as research and in house tourism and travel trade training.

Whatever the brief, I shall do my utmost to understand my clients' businesses, to provide hands on support, offer a fresh approach and explore realistic solutions to achieve success and business growth.

For more information on experience and current client work contact me on 01368 862581 07967 341 703 or email Lizyoung.dunbar@gmail.com



Mount Stuart Trust Ltd High quality, award-winning attraction featuring magnificent Victorian Gothic architecture & design, surrounded by 300 acres of gloriously maintained grounds & gardens. Licensed restaurant, audio-visual theatre, exhibition gallery and shop in new visitor centre. Adventure play area and picnic sites. Garden Centre offering

Mount Stuart grown plants, herbs, fruit and vegetables. Easily accessible by road/rail/ferry only 70 minutes from Glasgow airport.

Nether Stravannan is a re-developed 18th century farm steading comprising two separate lodges which are situated on the south west of the island with exceptional views over Stravannan Bay to Arran.

Nether Stravannan comprises two separate buildings, North Lodge and South Lodge. Each lodge has 2 double and 2 twin bedrooms, spacious living and dining areas and modern kitchens. Large patio doors open directly onto the gardens. South Lodge also benefits from a large open plan play area, situated on the upper floor. The lodges are adjacent to Kingarth's Golf Club, a 9 hole links course, and are ideally situated near to some of the best walking and



cycling routes on the island.

Nether Stravannan lodges are available for weekly lets from Saturday to Saturday, all year round. Short breaks may be available.

www.mountstuart.com t. 01700 503877 contactus@mountstuart.com

eatBute is a food initiative that was inaugurated by the Mount Stuart Trust in 2008. It is a celebration of fresh, seasonal and locally produced food. Now an annual event in Scotland's food calendar, eatBute showcases the finest produce from Bute and the surrounding area of Argyll. Highlights of the annual event include the eatBute Food & Craft Market, cookery demonstrations, an interactive lecture series, a banquet lunch and the Mount Stuart Ceilidh. eatBute is promoted throughout the year with a series of local Bute Food & Craft Markets held at Mount Stuart. www.eatbute.com t. 01700 503877 contactus@mountstuart.com

Training Courses

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 any of these programmes contact: Business Development Centre, Perth College Tel: 01738 877333

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 Drummoisie Hotel in Inverness on 20 November 2009.



Highland and Islands Food and Drink Awards 2009

With just over two weeks remaining until the closing date for the prestigious Williamson Foodservice Highlands & Islands Food & Drink

Awards, businesses and individuals involved in the food and drink industry across the Highlands and Islands are encouraged to act now to ensure their entries are submitted in time for the deadline of 20 July. The Awards, sponsored by Williamson Foodservice, organised by the Highlands & Islands Food & Drink Forum, and supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scotland Food & Drink, celebrate excellence and achievement in the food and drink industry in the Highlands and Islands. Eleven award categories recognise high standards and quality across the industry, and include the exciting new award for Young Ambassador of the Year, recognising the important role of our young people in the industry, both today and in the future. Other categories reward successful new products and businesses, innovation, promotion of healthy living, good environmental practice, commitment to local produce, and individual achievement.

Entries for the awards close on **20 July 2009**. For full details of how to enter visit www.hifoodanddrinkawards.com. Winners of the awards will be announced at the Awards Dinner at the Drummoisie Hotel, Inverness on 23 October 2009.

Making the Most of STF - Set up a 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 www.stforum.co.uk for full details of offers below:

Members' Offer - The Townhouse Collection 2 course dinner, bed and

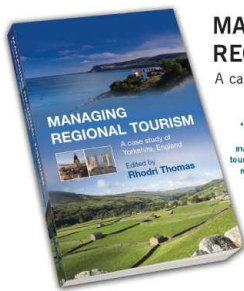
Email: info.bdc@perth.uhi.ac.uk



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. Details can be found in the attached PDF, and further information is available at www.caledonian.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/x00003.html For any queries, please contact: msctourism@gcal.ac.uk

"Managing Rural Tourism" £5 discount for STF members



MANAGING REGIONAL TOURISM
A case study of Yorkshire, England
Edited by Rhodri Thomas

"...valuable reading not only for those examining tourism in Yorkshire, for whom it should be mandatory, but also those with a wider interest in tourism ... how it is embedded in broader issues of regional development, governance and planning"
Professor C. Michael Hall,
University of Canterbury, New Zealand

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

GREAT NORTHERN

Great Northern Books is offering STF members a £5 discount on their new book "Managing Regional Tourism, A Case Study of Yorkshire, England". Managing Regional Tourism is the only book available on this topic and will be an invaluable tool for those involved in the tourism industry as a whole and particularly those involved in the regional tourism sector. The book examines in depth the challenges and opportunities of managing regional tourism in advanced capitalist economies. Emphasis is given to the following areas of study:

- tourism marketing
- economic development
- sustainable tourism
- social and cultural heritage
- 'governance' how tourism is organised

To find out more, or to order a copy visit www.gnbooks.co.uk/mrt and quote 'NewsDigest' to gain your £5 discount.

breakfast from £99. Tel 0131 274 7409 and quote STF99

Members' Offer - Profile Plus 10% discount on PR work. Tel Robyn Glynne-Percy on 0131 554 6111 or visit www.profileplus.co

Members' Offer - Enterprise-Rent-A-Car Book car hire for your customer via a web link and earn commission. Full details on the STF web site.

Members' Offer - Trees4Scotland 10% off trees, enabling STF members to plant a tree for £9. Call 0131476 5929 and quote STF01.

Members' Offer - Marcliffe Hotel Stay at Marcliffe Hotel 3 nights B&B and dinner on one night and one golf round at Royal Aberdeen, Murcar and Cruden Bay £555 pp. Email reservations@marcliffe.com or tel 01224 861 000

Members' Offer - The Inn at Lathones Pay for dinner and breakfast and accommodation is free. Minimum stay two nights at weekends. Call 01334 840 494 or email lathones@theinn.co.uk

Members' Offer - Highland Cottage £99 per person per night on DBB rate. Normally a restriction of 2 nights. Call 01688 302 030