

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



16 March 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.

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

Scottish Tourism Week closed with the final event, the Industry Dinner with John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth giving the keynote speech. The end of week report will be featured on our website from Wednesday this week.

STF attended Cross Party Group on Town Centre Management. Chaired by Marilyn Livingstone MSP, a presentation on the importance of small towns both for the local economy and the potential tourism was heard. It also reflected on the refurbishment costs in the built environment and money made available by the Scottish Government for this year. Concerns were raised that this was used for projects that make a real difference and not cosmetic street furniture.

STF attended a strategic review workshop on investment and quality, run by Water Industry Commission for Scotland. The second phase of the business planning process is underway and the group is overseeing the balance between costs and outputs.

The Scottish Government today published its framework for tackling Scotland's £2.25 billion alcohol misuse problem. [Click here](#) to view the 'Tackling alcohol misuse framework'. The strategy was launched by Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon

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Events

19 March 2009

Preparing for the Commonwealth Games 2014

**Matching ambition and opportunity
Hampden Park, Glasgow**

On 23 July 2014, Celtic Park in Glasgow will be hosting the opening ceremony for the 20th Commonwealth Games ahead of 11 days of high level sporting competition. But what will hosting the Games mean to Glasgow, and to Scotland, in terms of its sporting, and wider ambition? Join high profile speakers to examine how Glasgow and the whole of Scotland can best meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that hosting the Games will bring. For full details please see www.holyrood.com/commonwealthgames

19-20 March 2009

**The 38th Scottish Council Forum
Fairmont St Andrews Hotel**

Speakers: Alex Salmond MSP, Peter

and Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill with minimum pricing and local flexibility to ban off-sales to under-21s among its key elements in tackling what health experts regard as Scotland's most pressing public health concern. What is your opinion of Scottish Government's introduction of a minimum price unit of alcohol? [Click here](#) to place your vote on STF's web poll survey.

Scottish Tourism News

6 March 2009 - **Edinburgh B&B: New airborne attractions with Scotland's flight museum** - [Places2Stay](#)

8 March 2009 - **Richard Bath: Last chance saloons | Pubs call time for good as recession keeps boozers at home** - [The Scotsman on Sunday](#)

8 March 2009 - **National Trust could axe eleven heritage sites following loss of £2m** - [Sunday Mail](#)

9 March 2009 - **Power line delay would be a 'green disaster'** - [Sunday Herald](#)

9 March 2009 - **Lloyds insists it is '100% committed' to Edinburgh** - [Scotsman](#)

9 March 2009 - **Lottery scratchcard 'would help fund 2014 Games'** - [The Herald](#)

9 March 2009 - **Restaurant's dozen has the recipe for success** - [Evening Times](#)

9 March 2009 - **Scotland's Got a Talent Summit** - [allmediascotland](#)

10 March 2009 - **Top bosses warn SNP on alcohol crackdown** - [Press & Journal](#)

10 March 2009 - **Scots needed for plinth project** - [BBC](#)

10 March 2009 - **Homecoming Ideas in Action** - [VisitScotland](#)

10 March 2009 - **New Edinburgh Art Festival funding announced** - [Holyrood Today](#)

10 March 2009 - **Funding agreed for Dundee waterfront scheme** - [STV.tv](#)

11 March 2009 - **Let's work together to sell Scotland to world** - [The Scotsman](#)

11 March 2009 - **Wanted: new tourism tsar for Edinburgh** - [News.scotsman.com](#)

11 March 2009 - **Highland folk museum aims to lead way** - [The Press and Journal](#)

12 March 2009 - **Words of wisdom sought to mark tenth anniversary of the Scottish Parliament** - [Scotsman.com](#)

Head, Sustainability, Arup; Jim Hyde, T-Mobile; Ian Livingstone, BT; Eric Reilly, New Media Literacies; Dr E Sreedharan, Delhi Metro.

The 2009 Forum will focus on the theme of connectivity with a range of high profile international and national speakers. Key areas include: ICT, transport, energy, connecting people in education, business and wider society.

For more information visit www.connecting-scotland.com

**20-22 March 2009
Scottish Golf Show
SECC**

Try the latest golfing equipment from the biggest brand names. Stands with over 100 exhibitors, short game and putting practice areas, free lessons from professional golfers and trick-shot demonstrations.

www.thescottishgolfshow.co.uk

23-25 March 2009

Free 100k Welcomes training in West Dunbartonshire

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that businesses need to keep investing in quality staff and service training, despite the current economic conditions, and so the council is funding two courses in the nationally recognised 100k Welcomes programme so that you can keep delivering world-class service even when budgets are tight.

www.100kwelcomes.co.uk

**25 March 2009
Scottish Enterprise Business Insight 2009. Scotland - the Outdoor Spa of Europe?**

A Business Insight looking at the business benefits of focusing on wellbeing as an integral part of your business. For more information and to register [Click Here](#)

**25 March 2009
Focus on Fife Networking at Balbirnie**

VisitScotland's Business Tourism Unit would like to offer Fife businesses involved in the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Events) sector a unique invitation to a networking lunch. [Convention Scotland](#)

**25 March 2009
Golf Tourism Summit
Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spar, North Berwick**

The morning will feature the National Golf Tourism Monitor - reports from the 2008 monitor, how it has worked for one golf course operator, interpreting the findings for each course, using results positively

12 March 2009 - **First InterContinental for Scotland** - [TravelMole](#)

12 March 2009 - **Approval for hydro scheme** - [The Scottish Government News](#)

13 March 2009 - **Where the wind farm war is waged** - [BBC News](#)

13 March 2009 - **Brian Monteith: Don't let tourism honeymoon end** - [Edinburgh News](#)

13 March 2009 - **Capital invites namesakes to Homecoming** - [Scotsman.com](#)

14 March 2009 - **Wind farm Davids need a little help with Goliaths** - [Scotsman.com](#)

15 March 2009 - **Distillers toast spirited tourists as whisky route brings in £25m** - [Scotsman.com](#)

UK Tourism News

8 March 2009 - **Just how cheap are those no-frills flights once the hidden extras are taken on board?** - [The Independant](#)

9 March 2009 - **101 affordable summer holidays** - [The Telegraph](#)

9 March 2009 - **Domestic trade urged to back British Tourism Week** - [TravelMole](#)

11 March 2009 - **Grant Hearn: Turning the Olympics into a winner for tourism** - [Yorkshire Post](#)

14 March 2009 - **Boost for tourism hopes as flights resume from Inverness to Dublin** - [The Press and Journal](#)

International Tourism News

11 March 2009 - **French company chooses Scotland for hub** - [UKTI Today](#)

13 March 2009 - **Mayor supports added value** - [Otago Daily Times](#)

13 March 2009 - **UNWTO maintains its earlier forecasts, projecting decline in 2009** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

13 March 2009 - **IPK Int'l: Economic downturn will create new winners and losers in travel and tourism** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

Making the Most of STF

Member2Member Scheme

and generating ideas. £25 for GTS members, £40 for non-members. For more information or to register [Click Here](#).

28-29 March 2009

Best of Britain & Ireland Travel Trade Forum

ExCel, London

For more information visit

www.tourismtrade.org.uk

31 March 2009

Fife Tourism and Business Conference

Seizing Opportunities - Today and Tomorrow

The Old Course Hotel, St Andrews

Join inspiring and innovative presentations from influential industry speakers who understand the challenges your business faces and the opportunities that these bring.

Keynote speakers: Bob Downie, CE, The Royal Yacht Britannia; Debbie Taylor, MD, Old Course Hotel, St Andrews.

Workshops include: E-Marketing, Know your Customer, Selling Techniques, Customer Feedback, The VisitScotland Growth Fund.

To book a place email

fife@springboarduk.org.uk or tel

07724112954

2 April 2009

Annual HIT Dinner

Glasgow Hilton

The Industry dinner is once again at the Hilton Glasgow. Transporting you back to the Sixties with a groovy mix of music, food and entertainment. Don't miss out and book now! To book visit

www.hitscotland.co.uk

14-15 April 2009 9.30am - 4.30pm

100k Welcomes - Leadership

Carnegie Conference Centre,

Dunfermline

A 2 day leadership programme concentrating on leadership skills which make a difference to you, your organisation and its ongoing profitability: Develop the Vision, Hire for Attitude and Train for Skills, Create Teams who are motivated and focussed, Maximise the Potential of your Customer Experience.

£180 pp including lunch. For more information contact Heather Malcolm on 01383 845 019 or

hmalcolm@carnegiecollege.ac.uk

21 April - 14 May 2009

Pride & Passion Discovery Tours

Skye, Oban, Perthshire, Nairn,

Tweeddale, 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

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 with details of the offers you would like us to promote.

*Please note: This offer applies to all subscription paying members of STF.

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 please join the one day tours. Please email 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

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 or email events@visitscotland.com

12-15 May 2009
World Mountainbike Conference
Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries

For more information visit 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/

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.wtmwrt.com

Competitions



Photographic Competition launched - Vision of Banffshire Coast



The photographic competition is judged by members of the Scottish Professional Photographers

Association and invites pictures which are from the Banffshire Coast area in the last year. Prize fund of £1,000 and a series of trophies. **Closing date 20 March 2009.** visit www.banffshirecoast.com for an application form.

Tourism Industry Friends' Offer



The Town House Collection, four individually designed 4 and 5 star Town House Hotels in central Edinburgh is extending the Tourism Industry Friend's offer valid from **January 2009 to 31 March 2009**. Bookings can be made online using promotional code reference STF99 or by telephoning 0131 274 7409. To book online click on the name of the hotel you wish to stay and the link will take you direct to the booking system. [The Bonham and Channings](#) £99.00 for 2 guests including 2 course dinner, bed, full breakfast and VAT at

15%. [The Howard and Edinburgh Residence](#) £139 for 2 guests including 2 course dinner, bed, full breakfast and VAT at 15%.

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Scottish Tourism Forum | 29 Drumsheugh Gardens | Edinburgh | EH3 7RN | United Kingdom