

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



17 August 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

The Edinburgh Employer Consultation Event run jointly by People 1st and Scottish Tourism Forum was held on Friday in Edinburgh. The workshop style event was well attended and highly constructive. A report will be released in a few days.

Scottish Government announced (regarding the new **Alcohol licencing bill**) that pubs and shops will not have to stop selling alcohol just because the manager has not received their personal licence. The plans are designed to give some leeway for managers who have not yet received their licence. This means that those who have gained the licensing qualification and applied for a personal licence by the end of August will be able to continue trading after September 1. For full details [click here](#).

The Scottish Government published Scotland's first **National Food and Drink Policy** on June 26, 2009. The policy is based on the Report (also published June 26, 2009) of the Food and Drink Leadership Forum which takes account of the outputs from each of the five workstreams which considered in detail the key issues raised as a result of the food discussion. Full details [click here](#).

VisitBritain has just released the **IPS figures** for June. The good news is that they are showing a 5% increase in visitor numbers and an 8% increase in spend for the month. The main growth has been from Europe with EU figures up 14% and Accession states up 13% which provides some evidence that the weakness of the pound is stimulating growth. Overall, spend is up by 8% for the month and is down only 1% for the year to date. The results from the US are down 22% for the month and 20% for the year to date. It has to be remembered that this comes on top of a 11% drop in June last year and 7% for the 2008 year to date so visitor numbers from the USA are tracking at around 30% down over 2007. It also has to be remembered that it was around June 2008 when visitor

In This Issue

[STF News](#)

[Scottish Tourism News](#)

[UK Tourism News](#)

[International Tourism News](#)

[Open Meeting](#)

[SCDI Tourism Skills Forum](#)

[Training Courses](#)

[Timberbush Tours Ltd](#)

[Web Poll](#)

[Platinum Graphics](#)

[Events](#)

[Competitions and Awards](#)

[Scottish Seabird Centre](#)

[Scottish Thistle Award Finalists](#)

[Member2Member Offers](#)

**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.

A vaccination programme against swine flu is to get under way in the autumn, Scottish

numbers to the UK really started to drop so a rise this year does not mean that we are back to 2007 visitor numbers. To download the figures [click here](#). STF member **David Smythe** quoted in **Press and Journal** article on the proposed tax laws for self catering businesses. [Click here](#) to read report.

Scottish Tourism News

- 11 August 2009 - **Edinburgh fights back** - [Scotsman](#)
- 11 August 2009 - **Edinburgh soars ahead of Glasgow and Aberdeen airports** - [The Herald](#)
- 11 August 2009 - **Councillor cleared of defaming Trump's company** - [The Herald](#)
- 11 August 2009 - **Scottish Labour plans to replace council tax with property tax** - [Times](#)
- 11 August 2009 - **Glorious twelfth: Shooting of the grouse officially begins** - [Yorkshire Post](#)
- 12 August 2009 - **Tax moves 'catastrophe' for tourism** - [Press and Journal](#)
- 12 August 2009 - **Pedestrianisation: 'Disruption has led to reduction in footfall'** - [Scotsman](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **The Big Question: Why is Britain's tourism industry ailing, and what can be done to improve it?** - [The Independent](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **National Trust loses its own stately home - and faces bill for millions** - [Scotsman](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **Promising start for grouse season** - [Scotsman](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **Scots jobless total keeps on going up** - [Press and Journal](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **President Obama's campaign team joins fight to save Johnnie Walker plant** - [The Times](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **Jim Mather rebuked by unions over Scottish unemployment claims** - [The Times](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **Trump 'is plotting 21st-century Clearance'** - [Scotsman](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **No room at the Inn-verness (bumper business for tourism)** - [Highland News](#)
- 13 August 2009 - **First Open Debate To Discuss Future of Edinburgh's Festivals** - [Edinburgh Guide.com](#)
- 14 August 2009 - **New row threatens trams project** - [BBC](#)
- 14 August 2009 - **Fear new bus rules could put firms out of business** - [The Herald](#)
- 14 August 2009 - **Shetland 'must play part' in green energy revolution says windfarm minister** - [Shetland Times](#)
- 14 August 2009 - **Flybe feels Fringe Festival fever with**

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon announced. [BBC](#)

The latest figures about the incidence of influenza A (H1N1) in Scotland (13 August 2010). A rate of GP consultations for flu-like illnesses - not necessarily H1N1 - across Scotland of 44.4 per 100,000. This is a slight decrease from last week's figure of 48.4. [Click here](#) for more details.

VisitBritain has released the results of the survey on the 'impact of Swine Flu on UK Tourism Business'. The vast majority of tourism businesses in the UK say that swine flu had only a negligible impact. This is supported by international visitor figures published on 13 August that show visits were up by 5% in June. Only a small percentage of businesses report any changes or cancellations and even fewer expect a severe long term impact.

Platinum Graphics M2M offer

platinumgraphics

M2M Scheme - Scottish Tourism Forum
As new members of the Scottish Tourism Forum, Platinum Graphics is delighted to offer all STF members a 25% discount on any design projects.
Here at Platinum, we've been working with various clients over the last few months including Menzies Distribution, Holiday Inn and Edinburgh's Grassmarket. We've also been busy launching our new website, www.platinumgraphics.co.uk which will give you a further indication of the type of work we have done.

If you'd like any more information or wish to discuss a forthcoming project, please don't hesitate to contact us on 0845 123 5525 or email hello@platinumgraphics.co.uk

Events

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

increase in Edinburgh travel - [TravelDailyNews](#)

14 August 2009 - **Tourism marketing agency faces £300k gap in finances** - [Scotsman](#)

15 August 2009 - **Tourism being 'throttled' by lack of capacity on north boats** - Henry - [Shetland Times](#)

15 August 2009 - **Demand for inquiry into whisky industry** - [Press and Journal](#)

15 August 2009 - **'Oldest' golden eagle found dead** - [BBC](#)

16 August 2009 - **'Scots tourism industry in a shocking state'** - [Sunday Herald](#)

UK Tourism News

10 August 2009 - **UK hotel prices 13 percent above European average** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

10 August 2009 - **Retail sales 'continue to rise'** - [BBC](#)

10 August 2009 - **Heathrow's new-look terminal plans** - [Travelmole](#)

12 August 2009 - **Ryanair unveils new UK base** - [Travelmole](#)

12 August 2009 - **Bmi to revamp online booking engine** - [Travelmole](#)

12 August 2009 - **National Cruise Week** - [Travelmole](#)

13 August 2009 - **New Butlins hotel opens** - [Travelmole](#)

14 August 2009 - **New ex-UK cruise operation unveiled** - [Travelmole](#)

International Tourism News

10 August 2009 - **Brits ditch mini-breaks in favour of premium long haul holiday** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

13 August 2009 - **France and Germany exit recession** - [BBC](#)

13 August 2009 - **Swine flu bill hits Thomas Cook** - [BBC](#)

14 August 2009 - **Major excitement over Olympic move to add golf** - [AFP](#)

Open Meeting "Leading by Example" 1 October 2009

Venue: Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee DD1 4XA.

Registration 10.30 open meeting 11.00 - 4.00



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

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

7 September 2009 1.00 - 3.00pm

Scotland's Futures Forum

What might a Scottish welfare System look like in 2020

Scottish Parliament

Professor Joakim Palme, Director of the Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm, Sweden, will be exploring with the Forum the implications of having a Scottish Welfare system. Who should come? Policy makers and influencers, academics, researchers, strategists, economic development bodies, government and local authorities and individuals interested in the future of the Scottish welfare system.

To register for a free place email regevent@scotlandfutureforum.org

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

18 September, The Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

H&I Annual Dinner & Business Excellence Awards 2009

These awards provide a unique platform to showcase the achievements of the region's companies and is the key event for the recognition of excellence in a wide range of sectors.

Single tickets £110 + VAT. Table of 10 £1,110 + VAT. To reserve your space email lesley.rhind@scdi.org.uk 01463 231 878

24 September 2009 1.30 - 5pm

Tourism is Everyone's Business Cowalfest tourism forum

Ardkinglas House, Cairndow

Speakers include Scott Armstrong, Regional Director covering Argyll & Bute; Ben Thorburn, VisitScotland Highland marketing team; Iain Herbert, CE, Scottish Tourism Forum; Fiona Murray, Manager,

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:

- Philip Riddle, OBE, Chief Executive, VisitScotland
- Brian Souter, Chief Executive, Stagecoach
- 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 Scottish Thistle Award Winner (Customer Care - Accommodation)
- Louise Mearley, and Ann Marie Wilkinson, Ramada Jarvis - winner of 2005 Scottish Thistle Award for People Development (Large Company)
- Iain Herbert, Chief Executive, Scottish Tourism Forum.

Delegate rates:

- STF Members are entitled to ONE free delegate space.
- STF members guests rate: £25 + VAT (maximum of 3 guests per member)
- Non-member delegate rate: £50 + VAT per delegate.

Inserts:

- Members insert £30 + VAT
- Non-members insert £75 + VAT

Exhibiting:

- Members exhibition space (includes one free delegate space) £150 + VAT
- Non-members exhibition space (includes one free delegate space) £250 + VAT

Insert and Exhibiting:

- Member £175 + VAT
- Non-member £275 + VAT

To book your place email Elaine Townsend at Scottish Tourism Forum events@stforum.co.uk 0131 220 6321



**Sponsor of STF AGM and Open Meeting 'Leading by Example'
1 October 2009**

SCDI Tourism Skills Forum - 25 August 2009 Glasgow



SCDI would like to invite you to take part in a round table discussion on the skills and training needs of Scotland's tourism sector with Maggie Morrison, business engagement at Skills Development Scotland and the Scottish Tourism Forum. This session follows on from the Government Skills Task Group report and will be held in SCDI's offices at 17 Park Circus Place,

Glasgow - 14.00 to 15.30 on Tuesday 25 August 2009.

Chaired by a senior member of the SCDI team, the discussion will give you the chance to set out your organisation's views on current skills and training support, the skills needs of the future, and how public sector support could be better targeted to the needs of your industry to this senior member of the Skills

Forest Tourism Initiative and Elaine Jamieson, Development Officer at Perth & Argyll Conservancy of Forestry Commission Scotland; Dr Mike Cantlay, Loch Lomand & The Trossachs National Park Authority. To register please visit www.cowalfest.org Fee £8 per delegate.

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.

28-29 September 2009 CPT Conference: A Climate Change for Sustainable Growth Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire

28 September: John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth. Gavin Booth (Chairman, Bus Users UK). Panel members include: Jonathon Pryce, Head of Transport Directorate, The Scottish Government; David Middleton, CE, Transport Scotland; Brian Juffs, Senior Bus Development Advisor; Russell Imrie, Regional Transport Partnership Chair; Alison Hay, COSLA; Eric Guthrie, SCOTs; Brian Souter, CE, Stagecoach PCL.
29 September: Stewart Stephenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change; Gordon Hanning, Head of Concessionary Travel and Integrated Ticketing Transport Scotland; Ian Morgan CPT President; Richard Noble OBE, Project Director, Bloodhound SSC & Thrust SCC. To book your place at the 2009 CPT Conference visit their website www.cpt-uk.org

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, firth, 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

Development Scotland team. Your input will help the formation of the new industry lead skills group, one of the key recommendation of the report which is to be coordinated by STF. This is also a key opportunity to influence the thinking and practical delivery of the agency as it begins to deliver its first Corporate Plan.

To reserve a place please contact claire.miller@scdi.org.uk

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 this programme contact:
Business Development Centre, Perth College Tel: 01738 877333 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. Further information is available at www.caledonian.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/x00003.html

For any queries, please contact: msctourism@gcal.ac.uk

New Member - Timbersbush Tours Ltd



Timberbush Tours Ltd - STF Profile

Established in 1996 in Edinburgh and operating in Glasgow since 2006, Timberbush Tours is one of Scotland's best-loved tour providers of authentic mini and midi coach tour experiences for individuals and small groups.

We offer 5 Star scheduled departures and private tours from Edinburgh and Glasgow in contemporary Mercedes vehicles. 1, 2 & 3 day

scheduled Highland tours include Loch Ness, Skye and whisky tours to Scotland's oldest distillery and our partners, The Famous Grouse Experience. Experienced and passionate guides, an accommodation booking service for extended tours, multi-lingual tour descriptions including Mandarin & Russian and plenty of added value extras for customers.

Timberbush Corporate offers an established and extensive range of executive hire services across Scotland, including site inspections and transfers, in our owned fleet of air-conditioned, contemporary Mercedes vehicles.

We offer excellent commissionable rates and affiliate options to the travel trade. For more information please contact Lesley Judge, Marketing Manager www.timberbushtours.com Email lesley@timberbushtours.com T: 0131 226 6066

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.

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. Exhibiting packages start from £1,050 +VAT. For further details or to book a stand, email Angie Watson angie@boevents.co.uk or Madeleine Johnson maddy@boevents.co.uk or call 020 8563 3249. [Click here](#) for more details

Competitions and Awards

The Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards

The regions prestigious hospitality and tourism industry awards has launched two new categories: Most Entrepreneurial 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 Drummoissie Hotel in Inverness on 20 November 2009.



Springboard Awards for Excellence 2009 Open for Entries
Hospitality skills champion Springboard is now calling for entries to its annual

Awards For Excellence.

Now in their seventh year, the Springboard Awards for Excellence reward inspiring people, organisations and initiatives - those that work hard to elevate the profile of the hospitality industry as an employer and attract and retain talent.

With several awards in each category, there's something for everyone in every sector - and you can submit as many entries as you want.

Entries can be made by individuals, teams or partnerships for initiatives that have achieved measurable results over the past year.

To enter the awards, [click here](#).



Tourism is undoubtedly one of the most promising

drivers to get our economy back on track and through the Scottish Thistle Awards, VisitScotland encourages professionalism and promotes the quality service and products that reflect all that is great in Scotland's world reputed and foremost industry.

Find out who are Scotland's, most successful tourism businesses this year when we announce the 2009 finalists on 11th August on the Scottish Thistle Awards site www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk

The Scottish Thistle Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner is the highlight of the tourism calendar. This year's black tie awards ceremony and dinner will take place on the evening of Friday 23rd October 2009 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

You can view all the finalists, find ticket/table prices and a downloadable booking form from the web link above. Please note that tickets are allocated in a "first come first served" basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Scottish Seabird Centre



Scottish Seabird Centre has a range of activities from 1 August - 16 December. Visit their website to find out more. www.seabird.org

Scottish Thistle Award - Finalist for 2009



Congratulations and good luck to STF member; Rabbie's Trail Burners who has been nominated for two categories in this years Scottish Thistle Awards 2009; Extra Mile (large business) and Operator

Programme of the Year.

Congratulations also go to STF member McKinlay Kidd, for nomination for Scottish Thistle Awards 2009 for Operator Programme of the Year and also to JAC Travel Scotland who have also been nominated for the Scottish Thistle Awards 2009 for Operator Programme of the Year.

Congratulations also go to STF associate member Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa who has been nominated for two Scottish Thistle Awards 2009 for Extra Mile (large business) and Marketing Initiative.

Good luck to all.

Making the most of STF - 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 our website www.stforum.co.uk for full details of offers.