

**Subject: Weekly News Digest from Scottish Tourism Forum**

**Scottish Tourism Forum  
Weekly News Digest**



21 September  
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](mailto:ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk)

### **STF News**

STF attended a meeting on the 2014 Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan at Scottish Government.

STF attended a meeting with the Employability and Skills Division of Scottish Government on Skills Utilisation Communication and Learning Network.

STF attended a meeting at VisitBritain discussing plans for British Tourism Week 2010 and 2011.

The Scottish Government presented the [Draft Scottish Budget](#) John Swinney commented 'It will protect frontline services, despite having to wrestle with the first real terms cut in its budget since devolution.

[Draft Budget - what it means for education and skills](#). Protecting investment in people and providing skills and training to aid economic recovery is the key priority of the Education and Lifelong Learning (ELL) budget.

Minimum Wage Reminder: all the rates of the National Minimum Wage rise on 1 October by around 1.2%: the adult (22+) rate rises to £5.80 an hour; the youth rate (for 18 - 21) rises to £4.83; the 16-17 age rises to £3.57 and the daily accommodation rate rises to £4.51.

### **Scottish Tourism News**

14 September 2009 - **Listen Windfarm extension approved** - [Scottish Government](#)

15 September 2009 - **Rock-bottom hotel prices in Granite City** - [Scotsman](#)

15 September 2009 - **Trump golf resort plans brought to life at exhibition** - [Press & Journal](#)

### **In This Issue**

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**STF Swine Flu Web Poll - please cast your vote!**

- 15 September 2009 - **Pricing threat to whisky trade** - [Energy360](#)
- 15 September 2009 - **Capital urges MSPs to put new Forth crossing on hold** - [Scotland](#)
- 15 September 2009 - **Businesses 'head for turnaround'** - [BBC](#)
- 16 September 2009 - **Optimism over tourism figures** - [Press & Journal](#)
- 16 September 2009 - **Rail project on track to be under budget, say officials** - [Scotsman](#)
- 16 September 2009 - **Nevis Bakery Winner of Great Taste Awards 2009** - [allmediascotland](#)
- 17 September 2009 - **Call for rethink on holiday lets tax change** - [Press and Journal](#)
- 17 September 2009 - **Monty opens new city golf course** - [BBC](#)
- 17 September 2009 - **Report: High Speed Rail Offers Big Benefits to Edinburgh and Glasgow** - [Edinburgh Guide](#)
- 17 September 2009 - **Rail link decision 'anti-Glasgow'** - [BBC](#)

## UK Tourism News

- 14 September 2009 - **VisitBritain report shows impact of recession on inbound tourism** - [Travelmole](#)
- 14 September 2009 - **UK tourism 'can deliver rapid employment'** - [Travelmole](#)
- 14 September 2009 - **Tourism Society and TMI join forces** - [TravelDailyNews](#)
- 17 September 2009 - **UK hotels are over the worse, says PwC** - [Travelmole](#)

## International Tourism News

- 14 September 2009 - **Whisky firms await US Megrahi impact** - [Herald](#)
- 16 September 2009 - **Survey shows distrust of travel agents** - [Travelmole](#)
- 16 September 2009 - **Record 2010 forecast for UK cruise industry** - [Travelmole](#)
- 16 September 2009 - **Flybe launches early 2010 summer schedule** - [Travelmole](#)

## Training Courses



Business  
Development  
Centre

### REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene Course - 1 Day - £80

Essential learning for anyone involved in any aspect of food handling  
Dates (2009) 08 Oct (exam 15 Oct), 22 Oct (exam 29 Oct), 12 Nov (exam 19 Nov), 26 Nov (exam 03 Dec), 03 Dec (exam 10 Dec)

### BIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders - 1 day - £150

This course is for anyone who wishes to work in a licensed premises or any venue or

**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. [Guardian](#)

The latest figures about the incidence of influenza A (H1N1) in Scotland have been published [17 September 2009](#).

## Events

### 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. Performers include: Adam Hills, Kevin Bridges, Tam Cowan, Sean Hughes and Des Clarke. The full programme is now on the website, book tickets through the webiste [www.kirkcaldycomedyfestival.com](http://www.kirkcaldycomedyfestival.com) or hotline 0844 481 5659.

### 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: Jonathan 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](http://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

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) 22 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov

**3 Hour Staff Licensing Training - 3 hrs - £20 (am = 10:00 to 13:00, pm = 13:00 to 16:00)**

This course gives completed training records required for all staff in a position where they sell alcohol to the public. The Licensing Scotland Act (2005) becomes law on 01 Sept 09.

Dates (2009) 28 Oct (pm), 25 Nov (am), 10 Dec (am)

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](mailto:info.bdc@perth.uhi.ac.uk)

## Conference: Mind the Gap - Hospitality Skills Shortages in Scotland

27 October 2009 - Edinburgh

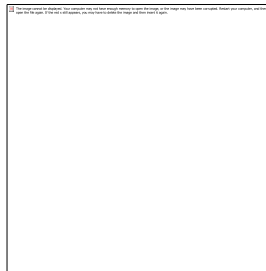
Join the debate and explore the solutions. Brought to you by Caterer.com in association with Scottish Tourism Forum this conference is aimed at employers operating within the Scottish hospitality industry.

Joined by leading industry figures and facilitated by BBC broadcaster Shereen Nanjiani, the conference will seek to tackle some of the key issues affecting your business.

- What makes your business attractive to jobseekers
- How to keep staff turnover down even after the recession
- How to develop your people without spending your budget
- How to tap into Government funding for training and development of your people.

Venue: Prestonfield Hotel, Edinburgh. 9am - 5pm. Full details on the web [Mind the Gap - Hospitality Skills Shortages in Scotland](#)

## Competitions and Awards



### 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.

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.



### The Robert Burns Humanitarian Award

Man Walking' being the centrepiece of the family friendly event. More details available shortly.

### 6 October 2009 2-5pm Institute of Hospitality Scotland 'Developing Your Business and Your Team'

**Culloden House Hotel, Inverness**

Join IoH Scotland for an informative and interactive afternoon with presentations from IoH Management Qualifications, VisitScotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Hospitality Assured, Johnston Carmichael - Accountants and Business Advisers. The event is free but pre-booking essential. Please email your name, telephone and email address to

[IoHScotland@hotmail.com](mailto:IoHScotland@hotmail.com) or call IoHScotland Chair, Rob Moore on 077717 78187

**7 October 2009**

**HIT Aberdeen Dinner  
The Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen**  
£55 pp. Email [sophie@eventconsultants.com](mailto: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](http://www.cowalfest.org)

**8 October 2009**

**Ayrshire & Arran Food Clinic  
Ayrshire Chamber of  
Commerce/Kit Out, The Gailes  
Hotel, Irvine**

Free drop-in event to meet food experts from Glasgow Caledonian University who will be available to provide advice on: shelf-life testing; labelling; food safety and hygiene; factory audits; nutrition and dietetics; business and grant advice; selling products to supermarkets. Over a buffet lunch you will have the chance to meet with other food companies and new suppliers.

11.30 - 3.30. To register your

### Nominations are now open for the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award 2010.

The award recognises individuals and groups for their tireless efforts to improve and enrich the lives of others. Previous nominees have included UNICEF ambassador Ewan McGregor and Bollywood actress and political activist Shabana Azmi.

Now in its ninth year, the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award is presented annually to a group or individual who has saved, improved or enriched the lives of others or society as a whole, through personal self-sacrifice, selfless service, 'hands on' charitable/volunteer work or other acts. The winner will receive 1759 guineas, a sum which signifies the year of the bard's birth and the coinage then in circulation, as well as a specially commissioned hand-made award.

Nominations will close on 30 September 2009 and the winner will be announced in January 2010.

To find out more about the criteria or to make a nomination please [click here](#).

## Institute of Leadership and Management Level 4 Programme



Tickety-Boo Training would like to invite you to join their Institute of Leadership and Management Level 4 Programme. STF members will benefit from a 20% discount on this interactive and informative 7 day programme held in the St Andrews area September to November.

Designed to improve delegate's performance in the organisation through focus on understanding the management role and developing management skills. This highly practical programme

can also generate significant payback for the employer in terms of cost savings and quality improvements in the workplace through work-based assessment.

To benefit from this exclusive offer call the Tickety-Boo team on 01786 825200 or email [val@ticketybootraining.com](mailto:val@ticketybootraining.com) or check out our details on [www.ticketybooscotland.co.uk](http://www.ticketybooscotland.co.uk)

## Member2Member Scheme: Profile Plus offer 10% discount



Profile Plus is a leading, specialist leisure and lifestyle PR agency, offering a full PR service to clients throughout the UK.

Our clients are primarily in the following sectors:

- Travel and tourism
- Events and venues
- Food and drink
- Health and beauty

Based in Scotland and London we have a strong local, regional and national reach, earning a reputation over the last 12 years for creative and effective solutions, our hands-on approach and the quality of our work.

Constantly looking at how we can innovate our service and offer improved ROI for clients, we have developed two new initiatives this year:

·**MERIT:** a robust media evaluation service (online and offline) with detailed quarterly feedback

·**PRISM:** with the increasing emphasis on online coverage and conversations, Profile Plus is able to provide a specific campaign and feedback through PRISM: Public Relations, Internet and Social Media.

Members of the Scottish Tourism Forum are offered a 10% discount on fees.

To discuss your PR requirements or to find out more about Profile Plus, please contact: Robyn Glynne-Percy, Managing Director, Profile Plus T: 0131 554 6111 E: [rgp@profileplus.co.uk](mailto:rgp@profileplus.co.uk) and web [www.profileplus.co.uk](http://www.profileplus.co.uk)

## Member2Member Offer - Perth College Free Management Training

interest please contact Audrey Meikle by calling 0141 331 8458 or email [audrey.meikle@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:audrey.meikle@gcal.ac.uk) or visit our website [www.kit-out.org](http://www.kit-out.org)

### 19 October 2009 Springboard Charity Golf Day Dalmahoy Marriott Hotel and Country Club, Kirknewton

The Golf Day is open to Hospitality senior executives and is likely to attract teams from the top hospitality and tourism companies in Scotland. The Springboard Scotland Golf Day will underline the Scottish industry's commitment to helping home grown talent of all ages find sustainable employment and rewarding careers in the Scottish Tourism industry. For more information contact Anne Piece, [annep@springboarduk.org.uk](mailto:annep@springboarduk.org.uk)

### 23 October 2009 11am - 3pm Technology Showcase 2009 Promoting Small Business Collaboration with Glasgow Caledonian University Saltire Centre, Glasgow Caledonian University

Expert advice on; green technologies, IT & Communications, food technology, sustainable construction, business process improvement, current project exhibitions, discuss project ideas with experts, network with businesses over lunch, business and grant advice, information on placements, CPD. To register visit [www.kit-out.org](http://www.kit-out.org) email [kitout@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:kitout@gcal.ac.uk) 0131 331 8458

### 28 October 2009 5.30 - 8.00 The Tourism Society Scotland The Changing Landscape of Destination Promotion: the DEMA approach. Apex Waterloo Place Hotel, Edinburgh

Why Destination Edinburgh Marketing Alliance (DEMA), why now? What is it and what are its objectives? The seminar will look into the whole question of DMO's. What are the Destination Promotion trends and influences and different models and approaches being adopted around the world and what are the influencing factors leading to the different approaches? Speakers: Sue Crossman, Tourism Innovation Group; Dr Constantia Anastasiadou, Tourism School of Marketing, Tourism & Languages, Business School Edinburgh Napier University; Kenneth Wardrop,



### Free Management Training

Are you considering starting a business or has your business been established for less than 6 months?

Under the new

Perth College Inspiring Enterprise project we are offering free management training which could help you develop your knowledge and skills. We have limited places available on the Chartered Management Institute's Introductory and Certificate in Management courses. If you would like further information contact

[lorna.mckinnie@perth.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.mckinnie@perth.uhi.ac.uk)

### HR Training for All

For the first time Perth College are offering the option of undertaking individual modules within the Certificate in Personnel Practice. The modules are:

- . Recruitment and Selection
- . Human Resource Plans and Organisational Context
- . Training and Development
- . Performance Management and Employee Relations

For more information contact [sheena.howden@perth.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:sheena.howden@perth.uhi.ac.uk)

Head of DEMA. Fees £15 for TS/TMI members, Non-members £25, students £10. Visit web site to register

[www.tourismsociety.org](http://www.tourismsociety.org)

**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.

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

## 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](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.

Visit members' section of our website [www.stforum.co.uk](http://www.stforum.co.uk) for full details of offers.

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