

# Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



22 December  
2008

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.

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

## STF News

STF recently set up the **STF Policy Group** which met for the first time in October. The group agreed it would set up key lobbying priorities and outline STF activity to be agreed at the next meeting in January. As a member of STF, we value your involvement in policy lobbying and this is an opportunity for you to become involved with policy development. Details will follow in January. If you wish to raise policy issues directly please email [ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk](mailto:ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk)

The winter issue of **STF's Newsletter** will be sent in the New Year. If members have any key news from their organisations then please let us know and we can include this in the m2m section. The newsletter is emailed to approximately 2500 contacts in the tourism industry, and **we would like to hear news from members of any events, training courses, awards, competitions, new staff announcements or member to member offers** that might be of interest to the Newsletter readers. Please email [ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk](mailto:ruth.greig@stforum.co.uk)

**Congratulations** to STF member **Edinburgh International Conference Centre** which has been given the Green Tourism Business Scheme's gold

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## Traveline Scotland unwrap new look website in time for Christmas

Traveline Scotland are pleased to launch their new look website. The site has been modernised with enhanced navigation features. Traveline Scotland provides information on all public transport throughout Scotland and you can create your own organisations

award.

STF members Professor John Lennon, Moffat Centre for Travel & Tourism, Glasgow Caledonian University and Robin Worsnop, of Rabbits Trail Burners mentioned in Homecoming article in [The Scotsman](#).

STF office will be **closed for the Christmas break from 22 December 2008 - 2 January 2009**. The office will reopen on 5 January. Emergency contact is available through the office main number during the festive period.

## Scottish Tourism News

12 December 2008 - **Elgin anger at bypass snub** - [Northern Scot](#)

12 December 2008 - **Scottish planning framework to 2030 announced** - [Holyrood](#)

12 December 2008 - **Scotland is perfectly placed to meet green targets at minimal extra cost** - [Scotsman](#)

12 December 2008 - **Talks over enterprise budget cuts** - [BBC](#)

12 December 2008 - **Financial package for Edinburgh Fringe** - [STV](#)

13 December 2008 - **EICC awarded green honour** - [Evening News](#)

13 December 2008 - **Holiday at home** - [Scotsman](#)

13 December 2008 - **Weakening currency could be 'good for tourism'** - [Press and Journal](#)

14 December 2008 - **ENERGY: Scots company's radar invisible turbines to expand wind industry** - [Sunday Herald](#)

14 December 2008 - **Bidding war looms for Glasgow airport as BAA faces more pressure to sell** - [Scotsman](#)

14 December 2008 - **Salmund 'must consider' nuclear option** - [Times](#)

15 December 2008 - **Labour accused of scaremongering over £2bn Forth crossing threat to hospital** - [The Herald](#)

15 December 2008 - **Call for franchises to take greater control of rail infrastructure** - [Holyrood](#)

15 December 2008 - **STPR proposals could see projects "fall between stools"** - [Holyrood](#)

15 December 2008 - **Real Taste of Orkney Creates Huge Impact at Exhibitions** - [allmedia](#)

journey planner for free for your website through the Traveline Scotland website. Please see: [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

## Events

**19 January 2009**

**Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh**  
**Scotland's Transport Infrastructure: The Strategic Transport Projects Review**  
Speakers: Stewart Stevenson MSP; Dr Iain Docherty, University of Glasgow; Iain McMillan, CBI Scotland; Max Friedli, Federal Office for Transport Switzerland; Paul Tetlaw, TRANSform Scotland; Ron McAulay, Neetwork Rail.  
For more information visit [www.holyrood.com](http://www.holyrood.com)

**26 January 2009**

**Visitor Experience Workshop**  
**Royal Dunkeld Hotel, Dunkeld**  
The free workshop will offer a chance to see the visitor's view. Tourism business people and front line staff are invited to see first hand what it takes to turn customers into ambassadors for the area and an extra salesforce for businesses that really follow through on their sales pitch and anticipate visitors' needs. To book a place please call 0800 028 0588 or email [team@prideandpassion.net](mailto:team@prideandpassion.net)  
[www.prideandpassion.net](http://www.prideandpassion.net)

**28 January 2009**

**Right Direction Conference - Inspiring you to Excellence in 2009**  
**Achnagairn House, Nr Inverness**  
Speakers: Bob Downie, CE, Royal Yacht Britannia, Ian Whitaker, CE, Chairngorms Mountain. The conference will centre on development and promotion of service and business excellence in Scotland, through quirky and innovative knowledge sharing exercises and workshops.  
For more information visit [www.tourism-excellence-scotland.co.uk](http://www.tourism-excellence-scotland.co.uk) or email [cathleen@prime-promotions.com](mailto:cathleen@prime-promotions.com)

**3 February 2009**

**Tourism Innovation Day**  
**Glasshouse, Eskmills**  
Spot the opportunities for innovation and growth in your organisation, learn from experts how to turn ideas into reality.  
Speakers: Murial Gray (Chair); Severine Philardeau, TripAdvisor, Bettina von Stamm, Innovation Leadership Forum; Ellis Watson, Mirror Group Newspapers.  
For more information visit [www.tourisminnovation.com](http://www.tourisminnovation.com)

**11 February 2009**

**HIT Emerging Talent Conference - Scottish Roots: Bright Future**  
**Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow**  
Host: Fred MacAulay. Keynote speakers: Charan Gill, Harlequin Leisure Group; Guy Crawford, CEO, Jumeirah Group (the largest hotel group in Dubai); Mick Jackson, entrepreneur, founder of Wild Hearts Foundation.  
Early bird offer £65 until 31 Dec. Then £75. For more information visit [www.hitscotland.org](http://www.hitscotland.org)

16 December 2008 - **How Scotland's future rests on hero from the past** - [Scotsman](#)

16 December 2008 - **Glasgow to London by train in 4½ hours** - [Scotsman](#)

16 December 2008 - **Golf Tourism Awards: who is the best?** - [Tourism Review](#)

16 December 2008 - **High hopes for improved rail links Hourly trains from Perth-Edinburgh** - [Press and Journal](#)

16 December 2008 - **Homecoming must deliver** - [Scotsman](#)

16 December 2008 - **Ayrshire is Focal Point for Launch of Homecoming Scotland 2009** - [allmedia](#)

16 December 2008 - **Edinburgh B&B: Cash injection for Edinburgh Fringe Festival** - [places2stay](#)

17 December 2008 - **BAA told to sell three airports** - [BBC](#)

17 December 2008 - **E-mails show anger at 'seriously misleading' ferries review** - [The Herald](#)

17 December 2008 - **Argyll leader attacks 'lack of commitment' for A82 upgrade** - [Press and Journal](#)

17 December 2008 - **New flights from Glasgow to Canada** - [Evening Times](#)

17 December 2009 - **Popular Lothians zoo appeals for aid in its fight for survival** - [Scotsman](#)

18 December 2008 - **Commuter train link now running** - [Perthshire Advertiser](#)

18 December 2008 - **Tram works may close main street** - [BBC](#)

18 December 2008 - **Zeebrugge ferry to restart in May** - [BBC](#)

18 December 2008 - **Commonwealth Games legacy plan takes shape** - [Scottish Government](#)

18 December 2008 - **Homcoming Scotland Guide 2009 Released** - [Edinburgh Guide](#)

18 December 2008 - **MSPs call on Government to almost halve the drink-drive limit** - [Telegraph](#)

## UK Tourism News

15 December 2008 - **Benn warns against breaching EU air pollution limits at Heathrow** - [The Guardian](#)

15 December 2008 - **UK hotels face further woes in**

**23 February 2009**

**Scottish Enterprise Tourism Masterclasses Future - Where our industry and your business is going**  
Gleneagles Hotel 9.30 - 1pm

Magnus Lindkvist, a leading expert on what the future holds for businesses will give an insight on how the world is changing. Future trends and brands, how they affect the way you do business, best practice examples from around the world.  
£65 Plus VAT. To book  
[katharine@starkeventsuk.com](mailto:katharine@starkeventsuk.com) or  
[www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles](http://www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles)

**17 March 2009**

**Edinburgh Tourism Action Group Conference James Watt Centre, Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot Watt University**  
Fee £50 + VAT 9am - 4.30pm  
To register for event  
[www.registerforevent.co.uk/etag\\_conference\\_2009/](http://www.registerforevent.co.uk/etag_conference_2009/)

**19-20 March 2009**

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

Speakers: Alex Salmond MSP, Peter 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.scdi.org.uk](http://www.scdi.org.uk)

**28-29 March 2009**

**Best of Britain & Ireland Travel Trade Forum**  
ExCel, London

For more information visit [www.tourismtrade.org.uk](http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk)

**31 March 2009**

**Fife Business Conference**  
The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa, St Andrews

Inspiring and innovative presentations from key industry speakers who understand the challenges businesses face the the opportunities these bring. Practical workshops delivered by businesses to share their innovative approaches.  
For more information [www.springboarduk.net](http://www.springboarduk.net) or email [fife@springboarduk.org.uk](mailto:fife@springboarduk.org.uk)

**12-15 May 2009**

**World Mountainbike Conference**  
Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries

For more information visit  
[www.worldmountainbikeconference.com](http://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/](http://events.eyefortravel.com/tds/conference/)

economic downturn - [Travelmole](#)

16 December 2008 - **UK tourism gains from economic turmoil** - [Travelmole](#)

16 December 2008 - **Fewer drivers to take to the roads this Christmas** - [Travelmole](#)

16 December 2008 - **Bmi cuts out regional fuel surcharges** - [Travelmole](#)

## International Tourism News

14 December 2008 - **British Airways aims to become the world's first 'global airline' but Sir Richard Branson will fight it all the way** - [Scotsman](#)

14 December 2008 - **Plans to build tourism links between Scotland and Slovenia are underway** - [STV](#)

15 December 2008 - **New Gatwick routes for Easyjet** - [Travelmole](#)

15 December 2008 - **Aer Lingus rejects latest hostile Ryanair offer** - [Travelmole](#)

17 December 2008 - **BA and Virgin drop fuel surcharge again** - [Travelmole](#)

## Scottish Tourism Conference - Coming to Scotland, Uniting to be the Best



### 4 March 2009, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

With challenging times for the foreseeable future, the tourism industry is demonstrating its endurance during the toughest economic

environment for many years. We need to remove barriers, and create opportunities together, to meet the economic battles that lie ahead together.

We have arranged a series of high profile guest speakers providing knowledge and inspiration from a range of organisations, across the tourism spectrum, including an international investor's viewpoint of Scotland and its unique offer on the world tourism stage. The meeting will provide an excellent platform to raise issues of importance such as the growing concern for rural tourism. Delegates will be updated on the TFFC report and future plans.

We are delighted **John Swinney**



## Awards

### Considerate Hotel of the Year Award

There are three categories open to any hotel in the UK. The Considerate Hotel of the Year 2008, The Considerate Green Team of the Year 2008 and The Considerate Green Hero/Champion of the Year 2008.

Deadline for entries is 30 December 2008. email [jfirrell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jfirrell@tiscali.co.uk) or visit [www.consideratehoteliers.com](http://www.consideratehoteliers.com)

### Scottish Hotel Awards

There is still time to nominate a hotel (including self-nomination). Finalists will be announced in January. Categories for the Grand Final are: The Scottish Hotel of 2009

The Scottish Hotel Awards Fellowship 2009

The Scottish Hotelier of 2009

The Scottish Hotel Group of 2009

The Scottish Hotel Manager of 2009

The Scottish International Resort of 2009 for further categories visit [www.scottishhotelssoftheyear.com](http://www.scottishhotelssoftheyear.com)



### Scottish Chef of the Year

(part of Scottish Culinary Championships)

Deadline 7 January for entries.

The Knorr Scottish Chef of the Year 2008-9 which carries a £1,500 top prize will be decided at ScotHot 2009, SECC, Glasgow. Those wishing to compete must submit a well-balanced four course menu for four covers using Scottish produce. The 10 finalists will be invited to a grand final at ScotHot on 4 March 09.

Visit [www.scothot.com](http://www.scothot.com) for downloading the entry form.

Other categories in the Scottish Culinary Championships include;

Brakes Student Team Chef Challenge

Scottish Contract Catering Chef of the Year

Scottish Pub Chef of the Year

Scottish Banqueting Challenge

Deadline for entries 7 January 2009

## Competitions

### British Pie Week 2009 - Easy As Pie Competition



Jus-Rol is on the hunt for the best pie of Britain. Submit your pub's favourite pie recipe and you could become the Face of British Pie Week and win £500. **Last date for entry 16 January 2009.** For more information visit [www.britishpieweek.co.uk](http://www.britishpieweek.co.uk)

**MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth**, has also confirmed his attendance offering to take questions from the industry.

**Fees:**

Members: £70 + VAT, non-members £110 + VAT

Exhibitor fees: members £150 + VAT, non-members £250 +VAT.

Insert: member £50 + VAT, non-member £75 + VAT.

Exhibitor & insert: member £175 + VAT, non-member £275 + VAT.

To book your place email [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk)

## STW ScotHot Seminars, SECC



ScotHot 2009 held at SECC Glasgow, will be the first event to fall within Scottish Tourism Week (2-

4 March 2009).

Meet the Minister Alex Salmond at 12.30 on 3 March, or Jim Mather at 10.30 on 2 March.



Listen to keynote industry speakers at one of the **Life in the Industry** seminars: Peter Taylor, The Townhouse Collection; David Maguire, Glasgow Restaurateurs' Association; Shirley Spear, The Three Chimneys.

Catch up on the latest **licensing update** and implications on your business with Janet Hood, BII.

Find out more about the **Green Tourism Business Scheme**.

Learn how Water Audit Services through auditing of **water costs** can provide refunds.

Attend Caterer.com seminars and hear about market trends/recruitment.

Listen to **VisitScotland** seminar on Future Markets - trends, analysis and tactical marketing.

Find out the latest on **Centres of Excellence** from Dr Craig Thompson, Centre of Applied Tourism & Hospitality Management.

Listen to the benefits of the **Commonwealth Games 2014** on tourism from Gordon Arthur, Glasgow 2014

For more information visit [www.stforum.co.uk](http://www.stforum.co.uk) or to



### Photographic Competition launched - Vision of Banffshire Coast



The photographic competition is judged by members of the Scottish Professional Photographers Association 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](http://www.banffshirecoast.com) for an application form.

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reserve your place at a seminar email  
[events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk)

## STW Industry Dinner



### Scottish Tourism Week Industry Dinner 9 March 2009

The prestigious annual STW Industry Dinner will be held at The George Hotel, Edinburgh.

The Keynote speaker is John Swinney, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth.

Tickets for the event are: £70 + VAT per person or £650 + VAT for a table of ten. **Tickets are selling fast with 76% of tickets sold to date.** We encourage you not to delay in booking your ticket as we expect to sell out.

To book your ticket email Elaine Townsend at  
[dinner@stforum.co.uk](mailto:dinner@stforum.co.uk)

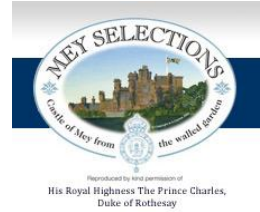
## STW MSP Reception - 4 March 2009

**6pm - 8pm The Garden Lobby, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh** Hosted by Tavish Scott, MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrat Party Leader. The reception is a chance for the tourism industry to network with decision makers at the highest



level.

*The reception is free, however numbers are limited. Those attending the Open Meeting wishing to attend the MSP Reception can register on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to attend the reception only will be added to the waiting list. Members will be given priority over non-members. To reserve your place email [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk)*



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