

# Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



22 September 2008

Dear Ruth,

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

**Peter Taylor**, STF Chair, has been appointed to the board of the [Edinburgh Tattoo](#) along with Jamie Moffatt of the Moffat Charitable Trust.

**Ruth Greig**, STF Policy & Communications Manager watched the Economy Energy and Tourism Committee Debate in Parliament on 18th September. Iain Smith, newly appointed Convenor of the EET Committee, submitted the 6th Report which focussed on investment, skills, transport and the relationship between public and private sector as the key challenges facing tourism in the industry's target to hit a 50% growth by 2015. The motion was agreed. Visit [www.scottishparliament.co.uk](http://www.scottishparliament.co.uk) for the full report.

**Congratulations** to STF member **Edinburgh Convention Bureau** who have been shortlisted for this year's **Scottish Thistle Award** in the **Business Tourism** category. The winners will be announced on the 24 October 2008 at the Gala Dinner held at the EICC. For the full report visit [www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk](http://www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk)

**Good luck** to STF member **Caravan Club**, who is entering a team in the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile's (FIA's) EcoTour 2008. The Caravan Club team will use a Ford Focus 1.6 towing a Lunar Zenith 5 Lightweight caravan to demonstrate that caravanning can be economical and eco-driving techniques can lead to real fuel savings when towing. The tour will cover 2,500 km over seven days this month, through nine European countries using 42 of the most fuel-efficient cars on the market. For more information visit [www.caravanclub.co.uk](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk)

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## Article Headline

**Every Weekend in September 08 Highland Feast**

The largest food and drink festival in the north of Scotland. For further information visit [www.highlandfeast.co.uk](http://www.highlandfeast.co.uk)

**25-28 September 2008 Kirkcaldy Comedy Festival**

STF member, Kirkcaldy Town Centre Management Initiative launches four day comedy festival. For more information visit [www.kirkcaldycomedyfestival.com](http://www.kirkcaldycomedyfestival.com)

**26 September 2008 Stirling Management Centre e-Business Workshops**

## Scottish Tourism News

11 September 2008 - **Doors Open Day at landmark buildings** - [Hamilton Advertiser](#)

12 September 2008 - **Tourism body is promoting Scotland in the Far East Published: 12 September, 2008** - [Inverness Courier](#)

12 September 2008 - **Call for changes at top of national tourism body** By Val Sweeney - [Inverness Courier](#)

13 September 2008 - **Mining is all yours during open days** - [Evening News](#)

13 September 2008 - **Boost for SRU as Murrayfield is recognised as major cash cow** - [The Herald](#)

14 September 2008 - **Anger as Bannockburn battlefield is excluded from protected list** - [Times](#)

15 September 2008 - **How to make £46m: Plug Scotland as great place to visit in dead of winter** - [Scotsman](#)

15 September 2008 - **Is this the end of the road for Rosyth's motorway of the sea** - [Scotsman](#)

15 September 2008 - **Flights between Scotland and Dalaman by Flyglobespan** - [Turkish Daily News](#)

16 September 2008 - **Concern over rise in red diesel duty increase will 'attack' marine tourism** - [Press and Journal](#)

16 September 2008 - **Edinburgh Airport buys pods to drive public transport use** - [BAA](#)

17 September 2008 - **Is VisitScotland good for the city? Answers on a postcard please** - [Scotsman](#)

17 September 2008 - **Clubs toast £1,000 windfall from Murrayfield beer sales** - [Scotsman](#)

17 September 2008 - **Gatwick Airport put up for sale** - [BBC](#)

17 September 2008 - **Ferry operator announcement due** - [BBC](#)

18 September 2008 - **BAA faces questions on Scottish airports** - [Scotsman](#)

18 September 2008 - **Ferry route to resume** - [Holyrood](#)

18 September 2008 - **Tourism industry 'facing challenge'** - [Paisley Daily Express](#)

18 September 2008 - **Islay Ferry - Bicycles Carried Free of Charge** - [Islay Webblog](#)

19 September 2008 - **Wizz Air is further expanding in Poland** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

## UK Tourism News

12 September 2008 - **Rain washes away £200m on tourism** - [BBC](#)

15 September 2008 - **UK suffers inbound visitor slump** -

STF in partnership with SE and Netdata are running a series of one day workshops designed specifically for people working in the tourism industry. For more information contact [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk) T: 0131 220 6321

**29 - 30 September 2008**  
**CPT Annual Scottish Conference Adapting to our Environment**  
Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder  
Speakers: Stewart Stevenson MSP, Jim Mather MSP, Brian Souter - Stagecoach Group, Sir Tom Farmer CBE, Wilben Short, Head of Transport for London Olympic Games. For information visit [www.cpt-uk.org](http://www.cpt-uk.org)

**2 October 2008**  
**Scottish Licensed Trade Association Dinner**  
Radisson S.A.S Hotel Glasgow.  
Keynote: Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill MSP.  
Tickets £70 per person or £650 for a table of 10. For more information [www.slta.info](http://www.slta.info) T: 0131 225 5169

**2 October 2008**  
**STF AGM & Open Meeting**  
**Best Western Park Hotel Falkirk**  
'Taking the Lead'. To book your place please contact [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk) T: 0131 220 6321

**8th October 2008**  
**VisitScotland Scottish Business Tourism Workshop**  
**The Balmoral Edinburgh**  
For more information or to book a place contact [caroline.smith@visitscotland.com](mailto:caroline.smith@visitscotland.com) T: 01292 673756

**17 October - 2nd November**  
**Pitlochry Autumn Festival**  
A series of events including films, shows, ghost tours, storytelling. For more information visit [www.pitlochryautumnfestival.co.uk](http://www.pitlochryautumnfestival.co.uk)

**23 October 2008**  
**Scottish Audience Development Forum**  
How to develop audiences for arts and culture, film by maximising Web 2.0 technology.  
For more information visit [www.scottisharts.org.uk](http://www.scottisharts.org.uk)

**24th October 2008**  
**Scottish Thistle Awards ceremony and gala dinner**, EICC.  
Tickets are £110. To book a place [www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk](http://www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk) F:0131 472 2223

## [Travelmole](#)

16 September 2008 - **VisitBritain chairman warns of challenges to tourism industry growth** - [Travel Daily News](#)

17 September 2008 - **Key appointments in VisitBritain shake-up** - [Travelmole](#)

19 September 2008 - **Ryanair slashes winter fares in face of recession fears** - [Travelmole](#)

## International Tourism News

13 September 2008 - **'More airlines at risk' as XL's collapse strands thousands** - [Scotsman](#)

13 September 2008 - **Channel trains resume after fire** - [BBC](#)

13 September 2008 - **Stranded Britons returning to UK** - [BBC](#)

14 September 2008 - **Second British travel company goes under as taxpayers faces £20m compensation bill for XL collapse** - [Mail Online](#)

16 September 2008 - **Philip Hensher: Alitalia flies into the sunset, and not before time** - [Independent](#)

16 September 2008 - **American Airlines First to Offer Internet at 30.000 ft** - [Tourism Review](#)

19 September 2008 - **Alitalia 'on edge of abyss'** - [Travelmole](#)

## STF Open Meeting

Sign up for the Scottish Tourism Forum Open Meeting: ***Taking the Lead*** on 2 October 08 11am - 15.45pm.

Speakers include: Tavish Scott MSP, Catherine Maxwell Stuart, Chair Tweeddale DMO, Dr Craig Thompson, MD Centre of Applied Tourism and Hospitality Management, Kenneth Clark, Manager Tourism, Trade and Investment, Scottish development International. For a full agenda please visit our website

Members are entitled to one free delegate place, and up to three guests at a rate of £20 + VAT per delegate.

Members can buy exhibition space for £150 + VAT which includes one free delegate place. For inserts in the delegate pack members are charged £50 + VAT.

For both exhibiting and an insert the fee is £175 + VAT, the members logo will be placed on the web. For more information about exhibiting, attending the meeting or inserts into the delegate pack please contact Elaine Townsend

[events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk)

**3 November 2008**

**HIT Scotland Edinburgh Lunch Sheraton Grand Hotel**

Speakers: Will Whitehorn, President of Virgin Galactic. For more information [www.hitscotland.co.uk](http://www.hitscotland.co.uk) or [hit@eventconsultants.com](mailto:hit@eventconsultants.com)

**4 November 2008**

**UK Customer Management Conference EICC**

For the agenda or to book a place visit

[www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk](http://www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk)

**21 November 2008**

**SCDI Gala Dinner & Awards 2008 Glasgow Hilton Hotel**

Speakers include: Jim Mather MSP, Jo Brand. Theme for the evening is Arabian Nights. Visit [www.scdi.org.uk](http://www.scdi.org.uk)

**2 December 2008**

**Developing a Sustainable Events Industry National Events Conference - Gleneagles Hotel**

Speakers: Jim Mather MSP, Chris Hoy MBE, Louise Martin CBE (Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games). For details and to book a place visit [EventScotland2008.com](http://EventScotland2008.com)

**3 December 2008**

**STF Open Meeting**

**The Royal Hotel Bridge of Allan**

Details will be available soon. To register interest please email [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk) T:0131 220 6321

## UK Customer Management Conference

**4 November 2008, EICC Customer Management** is about improving your organisation's performance and resulting profitability by more consciously concentrating on your customers' needs and expectations. It means putting the customer firmly at the heart of your decision-making process in order to drive up quality and service standards, rather than viewing them as optional extras.

Learn how to motivate your staff to deliver great service. For more information visit

[www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk](http://www.ukcustomermanagement.co.uk)

## HR Training Course

## e-Business Workshops

2 October 2008

STF's Aberdeen Level 2 interactive workshops took place, with all delegates commenting they would recommend the course to others.

### 3 remaining spaces available at Glasgow e-Business Workshop

The workshops are aimed at businesses that already have an online presence but would like to develop their potential.

Are you attracting enough of the right kind of visitor to your web site? Are you sure your site is maximising business benefits for your company? Find out how to improve the functionality of your existing site.

At these workshops expert instructors will demonstrate ways in which you can use the internet to market your business, using real life case studies.

**25 September - Glasgow Audi Centre**

**26 September - Stirling Management Centre**

£35 + VAT members (£45 non-members).

Contact [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk) to book your place.

### Does your business have enough knowledge about HR issues?

STF member, Perth College, has a course running for those wishing to acquire a wide range of relevant, practical human resource skills which can be practically implemented back in the workplace.

Topics covered include; employment law, recruitment and selection, health and safety, grievance and discipline, performance management, training, stress management, industrial relations and negotiating.

For more information email [jean.donaghy@perth.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:jean.donaghy@perth.uhi.ac.uk) or T:01738 877553

## Competitions for Chefs

### Big Cheese Challenge

Chefs have until 24 September 2008 to submit their best recipes in the battle to win this years Bladen Cheese Competition. Entrants can submit their recipes by visiting [www.the-big-cheese.co.uk](http://www.the-big-cheese.co.uk) The winning chef will earn £1,000 and a development chef for the day to help them with their business.

### Great Potato Challenge Competition 2009

Student chefs are invited to submit recipes to win the Great Potato Challenge Champion's title. The winning student chef will receive £500, and second and third place prizes are £300 and £200 respectively. All shortlisted finalists will receive a seven piece knife set donated by catering supplier 3663. Closing date 12 December 2008. For more information visit [www.potatoesforcaterers.co.uk](http://www.potatoesforcaterers.co.uk)

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