

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



25 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

Scottish Government announced the number of board members for Scotland's National Park Authorities will be reduced as part of the Scottish Government's commitment to streamlining the public sector.

A National Parks Strategy Group, chaired by Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham, will also be set up to shape the future direction of Scotland's most iconic areas. For full details [click here](#).

STF AGM/Open Meeting 'Leading by Example' is now 75% full and we advise members to book a delegate place before 28 August 2009 to secure a place as demand from non-members is high and we anticipate the conference selling out soon. Please email Elaine Townsend on events@stforum.co.uk to secure your place at the conference.

VisitEngland has announced that it is undertaking a review of the harmonised hotel grading scheme in which 13,000 accommodation businesses are being canvassed for their views.

In the autumn, consumer research will also be undertaken to assess the relevance of the criteria presently used. For full report [click here](#).

Scottish Tourism News

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

16 August 2009 - **Fringe benefits** - [Scotsman](#)

16 August 2009 - **Eviction bid threatens Trump resort** - [Scotland on Sunday](#)

17 August 2009 - **Edinburgh to Glasgow in 35 minutes** - [Herald](#)

17 August 2009 - **Labour backing paves way for minimum**

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**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.

Swine flu: the definitive guide. [Guardian](#)

Platinum Graphics M2M offer

platinumgraphics

M2M Scheme - Scottish Tourism Forum

pricing of alcohol - [Herald](#)

17 August 2009 - **Rail link could help return of air services** - [Press and Journal](#)

17 August 2009 - **£1b boost for high-speed trains** - [BBC](#)

18 August 2009 - **Salmond announces £2.6m for green energy centre** - [Scotsman](#)

18 August 2009 - **Capital to get £40k heritage tsar** - [Scotsman](#)

18 August 2009 - **Uproar over Edinburgh's plans to outlaw alcohol promotions** - [Herald](#)

19 August 2009 - **See Edinburgh and die: capital voted No1** - [Scotsman](#)

20 August 2009 - **An unexpected double boost for golf in the commercial field gives Scotland the chance to cash-in big time** - [Press and Journal](#)

20 August 2009 - **Bosses do-it-themselves for tourism** - [Dumfries.co.uk](#)

20 August 2009 - **Edinburgh's new tourism marketing agency is facing a £300,000 'black hole' in its finances, even before it has completed its first year.**
[TravelandCarHireNews](#)

20 August 2009 - **Lochaber Museum Looks to the Future** - [allmediascotland](#)

21 August 2009 - **Transport chief calls for ticket levy to ease transit trouble** - [The Herald](#)

21 August 2009 - **Roadworks planned for a stretch of the A82 leading into Fort William have provoked anger among local businesses** - [The Herald](#)

21 August 2009 - **Minister unveils plans for a 'zero waste' Scotland** - [Scotsman](#)

UK Tourism News

19 August 2009 - **Teletext Holidays responds to staycation trend** - [Travelmole](#)

20 August 2009 - **UK tourism exhibition is ditched** - [Travelmole](#)

20 August 2009 - **Slump in tax take leaves £8bn deficit** - [Telegraph](#)

21 August 2009 - **Peggy Sue on the way to UK (Greyhound Bus)** - [Travelmole](#)

21 August 2009 - **New Europe boss for VisitBritain** - [Travelmole](#)

21 August 2009 - **Shorter Ireland-France ferry link** - [Travelmole](#)

International Tourism News

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 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.

20 August 2009 - **British Airways cuts fares** - [Gulf Times](#)

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 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



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, Forest Tourism Initiative and Elaine Jamieson, Development Officer at Perth & Argyll Conservancy of Forestry Commission Scotland; Dr Mike Cantlay, Loch Lomond & 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. 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 website 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

**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 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



**Business
Development
Centre**

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

Kirkcaldy Comedy Festival 2009

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, firch, 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

23 October 2009 11am - 3pm

Technology Showcase 2009

Promoting Small Business

Collaboration with Glasgow Caledonian

University

Saltire Centre, Glasgow Caledonian

University

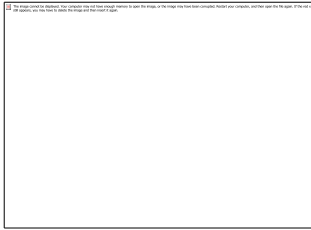
Expert advice on; green technologies, IT & Communications, food technology, sustainable construction, business process improvement, current project exhibitions, discuss project ideas with experts, network with businesses over lunch, business and grant advice, information on placements, CPD.

To register visit www.kit-out.org email kitout@gcal.ac.uk 0131 331 8458

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



The second annual Kirkcaldy Comedy Festival was launched this week. This year the festival has doubled in size, with 23 performances, and four workshops over nine days 26 September - 4 October. Comedy acts include: Kevin Bridges, Tam Cowan, Des Clarke, Adam Hills, Sean Hughes.

A full programme is available from the website www.kirkcaldycomedyfestival.com

and tickets are on sale now through the website or hotline 0844 481 5659.

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@bobevents.co.uk or Madeleine Johnson maddy@bobevents.co.uk or call 020 8563 3249. [Click here](#) for more details

Rally of Scotland: Business Opportunity Networking Event

**Wednesday 2 September 2009, 12 - 2pm
Royal Hotel, 55 Henderson Street, Bridge Of Allan, Stirlingshire, FK9 4HG**



The route for the inaugural Rally of Scotland will take in some of Scotland's most stunning landscapes, historical locations and world-renowned rally stages on the background of Stirling, Perth & Kinross.

The three day event, which takes place between 19 and 21 November, will be the twelfth and final

round of the prestigious Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) and will welcome many of the world's top drivers, media and motorsport fans.

BusinessClub Scotland is delighted to host the **Rally of Scotland: Business Opportunities Networking Event** at the Royal Hotel, Bridge Of Allan on **Wednesday 2 September**. This is your opportunity to find out from the Rally organisers how to access the business opportunities around this event which will come to Scotland for three consecutive years. The event is also an

excellent opportunity to network with fellow club members and build new business contacts.

The Rally is another high profile event in our world class event calendar in 2009. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of it.

To register your interest in attending please follow the weblink below. Names will be chosen by random generated ballot and BusinessClub Scotland will contact you no later than Thursday 28 August if successful.

Rally of Scotland: Business Opportunities Networking Lunch. For further information on the Rally of Scotland please visit www.rallyofscotland.com. Full information on the business opportunities around the Rally of Scotland will be available on our website following the networking event.

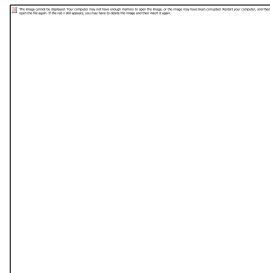


Competitions and Awards



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.

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.

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.