

# Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



27 October 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

**Iain Herbert** met with the British Tourism Week 2009 steering group. The 3rd British Tourism Week will start on 23 March 2009 and follows the 4th Scottish Tourism Week commencing on 2 March 2009. Highlights include 23 March Tourism Alliance hosting an evening **Westminster reception** and on the 26-27 March is the **Best of Britain & Ireland Show** for more information visit [www.britainandirelandevent.co.uk](http://www.britainandirelandevent.co.uk)

**Ruth Greig** attended the **SLTN 2008 Awards** the licensed trade awards ceremony. STF board member **Janet Hood** from **BII Scotland** sponsored the SLTN Training Award (together with BIIAB Scotland). Janet presented the award to the winner, The Balmoral Hotel.

**Jim Mather MSP** minister for enterprise energy and tourism comments on Iain Herbert's role in the review of Tourism Framework for Change read review [The Galloway Gazette](#)

**Business Gateway** have a series of **tools and guides** on their website to offer advice that could help businesses combat the effects of the credit crunch. The website has check lists and top tips to help manage cashflow, and improve efficiency and allows you to book a free appointment with an advisor. Visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)

## Scottish Tourism News

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## Events

**31 October - 2 November 2008**

**The BBC Good Food Show  
SECC Glasgow**

Speakers: Gordon Ramsay, James Martin, Nick Nairn, Tom Kitchin. For more information visit

[www.bbcgoodfoodshow.com](http://www.bbcgoodfoodshow.com)

**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

17 October 2008 - **Energy suppliers' Shetland wind farm plans meet local opposition** - [Energy Helpline](#)

17 October - **Smyril ferry to run again next year** - [John O'Groats Journal](#)

18 October 2008 - **Rural Scotland faces drink drought as crackdown forces up licence fees** - [Scotsman](#)

18 October 2008 - **Budget hotels failing to cash in on the downturn** - [Scotsman](#)

19 October 2008 - **Whisky distiller pours money into untapped tourism market** - [Scotsman](#)

20 October 2008 - **Lower ferry fares scheme starts** - [Guide and Gazette](#)

20 October 2008 - **Hogmanay party set to go off with a bang despite the crunch** - [Scotsman](#)

22 October 2008 - **New Sardinian base from Edinburgh for Ryanair** - [Travel Mole](#)

22 October 2008 - **Scottish economy weathers global uncertainty** - [Holyrood magazine](#)

23 October 2008 - **Scots economy grows by only 0.1% in quarter** - [The Herald](#)

23 October 2008 - **Prime Minister promises to help doomed wind turbine factory** - [Scotsman](#)

23 October 2008 - **Battlewagon storms in to fight Rossie wind farm proposal** - [Montrose Review](#)

24 October 2008 - **Travelodge unveils £150m expansion plan in Scotland** - [Scotsman](#)

24 October 2008 - **Scholarship opportunity** - [The Press and Journal](#)

24 October 2008 - **Industry to be 'envy' of world** - [The Galloway Gazette](#)

## UK Tourism News

19 October 2008 - **Tourist slump threatens jobs and business** - [The Times](#)

19 October 2008 - **UK wind farm plans on brink of failure** - [The Guardian](#)

22 October 2008 - **UK is offshore wind farm world leader** - [UK Trade and Investment](#)

22 October 2008 - **Oil prices fall to 16-month lows** - [BBC](#)

23 October 2008 - **Community skills "as important as engineering" for wind firms** - [New Energy Focus](#)

[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)

**6 November 2008**  
**Scottish Enterprise Tourism Masterclasses**  
**Creating Opportunities through Productivity**

**Gleneagles Hotel 9.30 - 1pm**

Henry Stewart, CE of Happy. Re-think your approach to productivity. Make the difference between being good and being great. Use productivity to increase customer loyalty.

£65 Plus VAT. To book email [katharine@starkeventsuk.com](mailto:katharine@starkeventsuk.com) or [www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles](http://www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles)

**6 November 2008 12.00 - 2.00pm**  
**21 Century Travel & Beyond Business Lunch**

**Scotsman Hotel, Edinburgh**  
Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Fife Chamber of Commerce and SEStran hold a business lunch with Brian Souter, CE, Stagecoach will discuss the future of transport in Scotland For more information visit [www.edinburghchamber.co.uk](http://www.edinburghchamber.co.uk)

**7 - 9 November 2008**  
**Strathspey Away, Kingussie**

A weekend of dance, song and highland hospitality. Ceilidhs, dance classes and concerts for all ages.

For more information visit [www.dannsa.com](http://www.dannsa.com)

**11-27 November 2008**  
**A series of Pride & Passion Visitor Experience Workshops (free)**  
**Innerleithen, Wigtown, Stornoway, Troon, Macduff, Callander, Nairn, Oban, Dunoon**

Find out first hand what it takes to turn customers into ambassadors for the area and an extra sales force. For more information visit [www.pride&passion.net](http://www.pride&passion.net) or email [team@prideandpassion.net](mailto:team@prideandpassion.net)

**18 November 2008**  
**Innovation Showcase**  
**University of Dundee**

How do you stay ahead of your competitors? Find out how innovation can deliver long term success as well as how to access funding and support. Speakers: Jim Mather MSP, Ken Keir, MD of Honda UK, Peter Day of BBC. For more information visit [www.innovationportal.co.uk/showcase](http://www.innovationportal.co.uk/showcase)  
Cost: Free

**21 November 2008**

23 October 2008 - **British Airways' move to terminal 5 complete** - [Times](#)

24 October 2008 - **Cameron defends the Union - but admits Scotland could stand alone** - [The Herald](#)

## International Tourism News

17 October 2008 - **Spanish airline suspends flights** - [BBC](#)

October 2008 - **Business Tourism News** - [VisitScotland](#)

21 October 2008 - **British Airways launches new premier economy product** - [Easier.com](#)

## STF Open Day: Surviving the Crunch

**3rd December 2008 The Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan**

With difficult times over the past year, and more challenging times ahead, it is important that the tourism industry is pro-active, meeting consumer needs.

Gain an insight into the information available for business, future trends and local intelligence from VisitScotland; find out new techniques on e-commerce to boost revenue and benefit your business; examine how cross and upselling approaches can help a business in difficult times; listen to a working example of a hotel turned around by ambition and raised quality against the odds, and raise your questions to the panel at the Q&A sessions. The open day finishes with a networking lunch.

For the full agenda visit [www.stforum.co.uk](http://www.stforum.co.uk) and to register for the event email Elaine Townsend at [events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk)

## Apprenticeship Frameworks for Scotland

STF member, People 1st urgently require your contribution to the review and development of **Apprenticeship Frameworks for Scotland**.

For the first time it is recommended that Modern Apprenticeships (MA) become available for all staff not just those in supervisory or chef positions. The Apprenticeship must provide the skills your business needs. What do you want? SVQs, in-house programmes, customer service, food hygiene, core skills? Please spare 10 minutes and complete People 1st's on-line questionnaire at (**deadline 14 November**):

[www.people1stsurveys.co.uk/apprenticeshipsscotland](http://www.people1stsurveys.co.uk/apprenticeshipsscotland)

You will be aware that it is vital that any tourism programme or skills intervention is adequately supported by employer demand. We have already seen this year how lack of perceived demand from industry has led to drastic cuts in funding for training in the tourism workplace. People1st are anxious to ensure that the right level of funding is available for tourism, however this must be supported by evidence that employers do value the skills

## 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)

## 27 November 2008 Scottish Enterprise Business Tourism Conference SECC Glasgow

Aimed for senior managers in Scotland's conference, meeting and corporate hospitality sectors. For more information visit [www.scottish-enterprise.com](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com)

## 27 November 2008 Crowne Plaza, Glasgow Scottish Asian Business Awards

Alex Salmond keynote speaker. 'The Scottish Asian business community makes a major contribution to Scotland's economy and these annual awards are a great opportunity to celebrate and recognise the success of these businesses'.

To book your table email [fozia@oceanicconsulting.co.uk](mailto:fozia@oceanicconsulting.co.uk) or tel 0141 243 2848

## 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 on the web [www.stforum.co.uk](http://www.stforum.co.uk)  
[events@stforum.co.uk](mailto:events@stforum.co.uk) T:0131 2206321

## 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)

## Television Competitions

development available. **Please do take this opportunity to show your support and influence provision.**

If you have additional feedback on any areas of tourism skills development or funding please contact People1st through [david.allen@people1st.co.uk](mailto:david.allen@people1st.co.uk) or [kate.tetley@people1st.co.uk](mailto:kate.tetley@people1st.co.uk)

## Competitions for Chefs

### 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)

## Considerate Hoteliers Awards 2008

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. For more information email [jfirrell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jfirrell@tiscali.co.uk) or visit [www.consideratehoteliers.com](http://www.consideratehoteliers.com). The Considerate Hotel of the year 2008 Awards Presentation will take place on Monday 27 April 2009 at The Cavendish Hotel, London.

## Scotland's Emerging Talent Scholarships

Applications are now open for the 2009 Hospitality Industry Trust (HIT) **Scotland Emerging Talent Scholarships**. The charity is offering up to 200 scholarships towards developing future industry leaders. The scholarships are open to anyone working in Scotland's hospitality leisure, travel and tourism industries and places scholars on world-class fully funded training and work placements.

Applicants have the opportunity to attend courses at Cornell University, The Disney Institute and Lausanne Hotel School. For more detail on Emerging Talent Scholarship or to apply visit [www.hitscotland.org](http://www.hitscotland.org). **Deadline for applications 30 November 2008.**

**ITV Productions** is looking for contestants, with a passion for food, to take part in a day-time cookery series called **Taste the Nation**. Contestants will be mentored and by a celebrity chef.

Filming starts from November 2008 to Feb 2009. For more information visit [www.visitscotlandupdate.co.uk](http://www.visitscotlandupdate.co.uk)

**Channel 5** are looking for accommodation providers for their next series of **The Hotel Inspector**. For more information visit [www.visitscotlandupdate.co.uk](http://www.visitscotlandupdate.co.uk)

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