

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



30 November 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

STF News

STF attended a golf planning meeting with VisitScotland to look at developing a forward plan for the sector. There was recognition of the highly competitive landscape particularly with the reduced rates in Ireland however in general the sector was holding up well and new opportunities coming forward including the development of new air routes into Scotland such as Inverness.

The Scottish Government are looking for feed in to the Fire Guidance Consultation for Bed & Breakfast and self catering establishments. This approach sees a move away from a risk assessment to a more prescriptive route with the application of minimum standards. While a review of the original guidance was supported by the sector there is real concern over the blanket approach being taken given the agreed negligible risk, resulting in the potential withdrawal of B&B from across Scotland greatly reducing customer choice. There is no doubt that safety must come first and professional operators would always act accordingly however accepted practise is that this should be carried out through a risk assessment approach. Concern has been expressed that a considerable number of B&B operators will see this new guidance as onerous, costly and damaging to the fabric of their homes and may result in many closing across Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/26164339/0>

Scottish Tourism News

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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.

23 November - damage caused by flooding in southern Scotland and Cumbria could cost up to £100 million to repair [Scotsman](#)

23 November - councils warned as cash time bomb tick on [Herald](#)

23 November - rare whisky goes on sale [News3](#)

23 November - VAT threat to accom providers [Travelmole](#)

23 November - at last - a 'Gathering' event that won't cost taxpayers a penny [Scotsman](#)

24 November - Trump resort under pressure [bbc](#)

24 November - Ryanair name worst family airline [mail](#)

24 November - tourism chiefs hail Homecoming success [Scotsman](#)

24 November - Edinburgh and Glasgow hotels buck trend [opodo](#)

24 November - Homecoming success - [Daily Record](#)

25 November - homesweet Homecoming [Scotsman](#)

25 November - more Homecoming [Banffshire](#)

25 November - steam railway extension boost [Press & Journal](#)

25 November - Scotland on a plate - [stock](#)

25 November - gathering storm on clans bash [Scotsman](#)

25 November - Castletown's outstanding tourism [John O'Grouts Journal](#)

25 November - Jackie Stewart set of Perth rally [Perthshire Advertiser](#)

25 November - Ravenscraig regeneration starts [Scotsman](#)

26 November - wild boars set loose in Inverness [bbc](#)

26 November - green firms honoured at awards [Evening Times](#)

26 November - museums hold exhibition on slavery [Inverurie Herald](#)

27 November - new golf course for Irvine Bay [allmedia](#)

27 November - Mining Museum wins award [advertiser](#)

27 November - raising the bar in drinks industry [Press&Journal](#)

27 November - Nessie goes family friendly - [bbc](#)

27 November - Caithness MOD rooms nearly full [John O'Groats](#)

28 November - MUSA St Andrews celebrates 1st birthday [medianews](#)

28 November - Politicians in call for county tourist trail [advertiser](#)

28 November - Moray artists group goes global

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

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon announced plans for the second phase of the H1N1 vaccination programme [19 November 2009.](#)

Events

HIT Scotland Christmas Party 3 December 2009

Glasgow Crown Plaza Hotel

HIT Scotland is throwing a stylish Christmas party in Glasgow for hospitality workers. The Glitz & Glamour themed party promises fine food and opens with an oyster bar, luxury cheese stall and a jazz band.

The evening draws to a close with headline 80s tribute band Vienna. The money raised for the event will support HIT Scotland's hardship and bursary scheme for Scottish students. Tickets cost £68 per person. Visit www.hitscotland.org for more details.

The money will also support the emerging talent scholarship programme that helps to raise aspirations in the industry.

Scholarship applications are open to anyone working in the hospitality, leisure, tourism and travel. Entries close on 12 December.

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

Institute of Leadership and Management Level 4 Programme

[Press&Journal](#)

UK Tourism News & International

27 November - BMI cuts 600 staff and routes under threat
[carnews](#)

27 November - China sees tourism as main industry [GlobalTimes](#)

27 November - Olsen cruises increase [bignews](#)

25 November - Hadrians Wall illuminations [auto](#)

2 December 2009 - Open Meeting "Combining Forces, Building for Success"



Venue: Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

Timing: 11am - 3.30pm

Tourism requires a collective approach that allows local tourism businesses to contribute effectively to the local economy with a focussed support from the public sector in that particular area. There is a need for entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation and a sense of community both locally and nationally. In Scotland it is recognised that investment is essential as a means of supporting growth

across the industry and accessibility is the key element that impacts on the tourism offer across Scotland.

Iain Herbert, CE, STF will be reporting on the review of the framework for change and the next step forward. Iain will discuss the TFFC's review on priorities and on accessibility and the focus on skills, leadership and sales and marketing.

- [Scott Armstrong](#), Regional Director, VisitScotland will update delegates on localised marketing for the highlands.
- [Donald MacKenzie](#), Business Gateway Services Manager, Business Gateway, Inverness; will update delegates on funding and business advisory services.
- [Chris Taylor](#), Head of Tourism Food and Drink, Highlands and Islands Enterprise; will update delegates on HIE activities and opportunities.
- [Caroline Williams](#), Business Development Manager, Highlands and Islands Airport; will discuss transport accessibility.
- [Stewart Spence](#), Owner, Marcliffe Hotel; will discuss investment tourism.
- [Jane Gotts](#), Project Manager, Business Club Scotland; will discuss business opportunities in the area.
- [Russell Thomson](#), Highlands Canals Manager, British Waterways; will discuss customer experience.

Delegate rates:

STF members are entitled to one free delegate place and up to three guests at £25+VAT.

Non-member rate: £50+VAT

Inserts:

Members insert: £30 + VAT

Non-members insert: £75 + VAT

Exhibiting:

Members exhibition space (includes one free delegate place) £150 + VAT

Non-members exhibition space (includes one free delegate place) £250 + VAT



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 or check out our details on

www.ticketybooscotland.co.uk

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 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.

Training Courses



St Andrews

Skills Academy

REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene

Certificate (4 March: 9am-5pm, Golf Practice Centre)

Scottish Certificate for the

Insert and Exhibiting:

Member: £175 + VAT

Non-member: £275 + VAT

For full speaker details and an agenda visit www.stforum.co.ukTo register your delegate place email Elaine Townsend at events@stforum.co.uk

Member2Member Offer

Service Assured offer £20 discount off training courses



Service Assured are delighted to offer STF members a special discounted members rate for the Delivering Service Assured programmes due to run in November. A rate of £75 + VAT (reduced from £95 + VAT). Dates are: 12 November - St Andrews, 17 November - Glasgow. For description of the course see 'Training Courses' in

NewsDigest.

To book your place or for more information email info@service-assured.com or T 0131 467 3131

Scottish Tourist Guides Association - Blue Badge Tourist Guide Training Course 2010-12

- Do you have a passion for Scotland?
- Can you be an ambassador for Scotland?
- Would you enjoy the freedom and flexibility of being self-employed?
- Can you cope with a demanding part-time University based course over two years, involving considerable self study time?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions we want to hear from you. The Scottish Tourist Guides Association, the organisation for Blue Badge Guides in Scotland is inviting applications for the 2010 intake for guide training at the University of Edinburgh.

Preference will be given to candidates who are fluent in a foreign language, especially French, German, Italian and Central and Eastern European languages.

Whilst we welcome applications from all over Scotland and beyond, there is a particular need for guides willing to work in the North-East of Scotland and the Highlands.

Deadline for applications: 30th November 2009

Application packs available from www.stga.co.uk/become_guide.aspx. For further information please contact our Training Manager, STGA, Norie's House, 18b Broad Street, Stirling, FK8 1EF; direct Tel: 0141 334 3170; email info@stga.co.uk

Responsible Sale of Alcohol

(9 Feb, 10am-1pm, Rufflets Hotel)

Emergency First Aid at Work (3 Dec,

15 Jan, 9am-5pm, Rufflets Hotel)

St Andrews Standard (14 Jan, 25

Feb, 9 March: full-day, Rufflets Hotel).

Booking facilities, prices and more

details are available on our website -

www.standrewsskillsacademy.co.uk or

by contacting us directly:

info@standrewsskillsacademy.co.uk

or 0845 1300074

Be a HIT: Scholarships

Hospitality Industry Trust (HIT)

Scotland helps continuous development in the workplace.

To keep employees motivated and up to date in key skills, within the competitive world of hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism, HIT Scotland provides scholarships that can take place locally, nationally and internationally.

The Scholarships recognise the need to continually update skills within the industry, enhance personal development and bring fresh ideas back to Scottish businesses to remain at the forefront of international innovations. As a scholar you will potentially spend time working in many operational areas or on structured programmes to gain valuable knowledge that will give you the insight and confidence to get to the next level.

The limited Scholarships are available to all aspiring individuals working within Scottish hospitality (in its broadest sense) and the awards are presented at the annual Emerging Talent conference, which takes place in February. The conference moves around the country and has taken place in Aviemore, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ratho and the venue for 2010 is The Perth Concert Hall on the 3rd February.

Funds are raised by the industry, for the industry, at events such as the Industry Dinner, 18th March 2010 at the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow.

Scottish Tourism

Visit STF website www.stforum.co.uk to find out full details of next years Scottish Tourism Week 1-8 March 2010.

- 2 March: Industry Dinner, The George Hotel, Edinburgh

Week

1- 8 March 2010

- 3 March: STW Conference "Delivering for Scotland", Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
- 3 March: MSP Parliamentary Reception
- 4 March: Skills Conference
- 5 March: STW Seminar "Delivering for Scotland - The Rural Question", Easterbrook Hall Hotel, Dumfries
- 8 March: STW Seminar "Delivering for Scotland - The Highland Question", Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

Visit our website for the agenda, speakers and how to sign up and benefit from Early Bird offers (18 December deadline).

Early Bird Offer Expires: 18 December 2009

[Forward email](#)

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Scottish Tourism Forum | 29 Drumsheugh Gardens | Edinburgh | EH3 7RN | United Kingdom