

# Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



6 January 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 two weeks.

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 member **David Smythe**, of Association of Scotland's Self Caterers has released ASSC's latest Season-to-Date Survey conducted in November 2008. David comments that the self catering sector seems in an optimistic mood, with 75% of ASSC respondents claiming 2008 bookings as good as, or better than 2007. Looking forward to 2009, over 81% said that forward bookings were as good or better than in November last year. He considers despite early optimism, that 2009 will be a challenging year for self-catering, particularly early season and the short-break market. David also advises self-caterers to maintain close contact with their previous visitors, making sure all marketing is up-to-date and to consider using Web 2 platforms for 2009. ASSC is also urging self-caterers to get behind the Homecoming 09 campaign, which is providing some 100 reasons for visitors to holiday in Scotland. [Click here for report](#)

STF board member, **Shirley Spear** mentioned in Independent restaurant review. [Click here](#).

**Contratulations to Marjory Rodger, STF Board member**, Director of Government Relations (Scotland), Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, as Marjory

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## 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**

has been awarded an MBE for services the business industry in the recent New Years Honours List. **Congratulations to Nigel Embry**, former Chief Executive of Farm Stay UK (STF member) who has been awarded an MBE in the recent New Year Honours list.

## Scottish Tourism News

- 20 December 2008 - **Five Scottish gastro hotels - Independent**
- 20 December 2008 - **Pound's plunge against the euro is boosting tourism say VisitBritain chiefs - Scotsman**
- 21 December 2008 - **High-speed rail link 'viable in downturn' - Scotsman**
- 22 December 2008 - **1st Scottish debate on leisure boating - Boating Business**
- 23 December 2008 - **Relief as B&B fire rules put on hold - Galloway Gazette**
- 25 December 2008 - **'Iconic' space tourism opportunity for Scotland - SNP**
- 29 December 2008 - **Museum in Dundee could make "millions" - The Courier**
- 29 December 2008 - **Trump golf houses 'not on hold' - BBC**
- 1 January 2009 - **Scottish hoteliers reporting influx of European visitors for Hogmanay - Carrentals**
- 3 January 2009 - **Descendants of Scotland's forest communities urged to trace roots - Press & Journal**
- 4 January 2009 - **Salmond in call for euro rethink - BBC**
- 4 January 2009 - **New Forth Bridge plan in disarray - Scotsman**
- 4 January 2009 - **Doctors say golfers using latest generation of titanium drivers should wear earplugs to protect them from noise - Scotsman**
- 5 January 2009 - **Bridge row may scupper schools and new hospitals - Scotsman**
- 5 January 2009 - **Search on to find north-east's most innovative food and drink business - Press and Journal**

## UK Tourism News

- 19 December 2008 - **BAA pushing ahead with**

### 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)

### 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)

### 1 March 2009

#### The Scottish Hotel Awards

##### Crown Plaza, SECC, Glasgow

The opening event for ScotHot 09, launched by the First Minister. There is still time to nominate a hotel (including self nomination), finalists will be

terminal plan at city airport - [Scotsman](#)

21 December 2008 - **Promoters overstated the environmental benefit of wind farms** - [Telegraph](#)

22 December 2008 - **VisitEngland chairman named** - [Travelmole](#)

2 January 2009 - **Ten reasons to travel in 2009 (Scotland listed 10)** - [Telegraph](#)

2 January 2009 - **Hotel rates slid last summer for first time in four years** - [Travelmole](#)

3 January 2009 - **Britain's tourist industry can see some sun peeking through as falling pound lifts holidays** - [Mail online](#)

4 January 2009 - **Responsible tourism 2009: This year's motto must be watch your carbon footprint** - [Independent](#)

5 January 2009 - **Slowdown 'has yet to bottom out'** - [BBC](#)

## International Tourism News

23 December 2008 - **Tourist revenue falls €200m this year** - [Irish Times](#)

23 December 2008 - **Tourism 'key' in drive out of recession** - [Travelmole](#)

2 January 2009 - **UK faces fight for foreign tourists in '09** - [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.

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

announced in January. A list of categories is available on [www.scottishhoteloftheyear.com](http://www.scottishhoteloftheyear.com). Tickets £89 per person or £890 for tables of ten.

**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/)

## Awards

### 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

TFFC report and future plans.

We are delighted **John Swinney 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.

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 (party 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.scotshot.com](http://www.scotshot.com)



or 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

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 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)*

## Policy

The **Proposed National Planning Framework** was laid before the Scottish Parliament on December 12. The next milestone in the modernisation of planning has been reached with the laying in the Scottish Parliament of 8 sets of regulations. When they come into force in February, April and August 2009 it will be the biggest change to planning in 60 years.

The Scottish Government is undertaking a public consultation on proposed revisions to Circular 12/1996



### 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 pub 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)



### 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.

## Our Scottish Tourism Week Sponsors



[Visit Our Sponsor The Caravan Club](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk)



[Visit our sponsor VisitScotland](http://www.visitScotland.co.uk)

Planning Agreements. The Consultation was published on the Scottish Government website on 24 December and will close on 27 March 2009. For more information [click here](#).

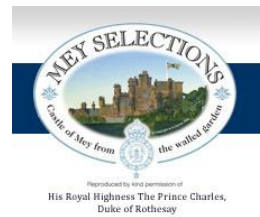
A working group is being formed to produce new **Fire Regulation guidance material** for the small bed and breakfast providers, we have been concerned by the number of operators being asked to install top end precautions in low risk assessed premises. The industry puts visitor safety at the top of the list, however it must be practical and appropriate - and we congratulate Government on taking swift and appropriate action.



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