

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



6 October 2008

Dear Ruth,

Please note in the article on **Traveline Scotland** we incorrectly named the web address as **Traveline** not **TravelineScotland**. Apologies to Traveline Scotland and we have now corrected the web name. The link is active to Traveline Scotland in both issues.

STF News



The new Chair of STF was announced at the Open Meeting on 2 October. **Khaled Shahbo** (left) was nominated by the Board and accepted by the position. At the meeting Khaled and Iain (right) thanked Peter (centre) for all his extensive contribution as Chair over the past four years and his commitment to remain actively involved as a member of the Board. Khaled commented 'With the change in Government, and a change in national priorities with a focus on raising GDP there is now a stronger need than ever for a focused and relevant industry voice. We need to increase external investment and improve the positioning of Scottish tourism within the international market to build for the future'.



Tavish Scott MSP, Leader Scottish Liberal Democrats updated delegates on the EET report, as ex-Chair of the EET Committee and confirmed that STF will be reviewing how the report has progressed over the next year. Tavish Scott commented on the importance of micro business with approximately 17-19,000 small businesses in Scotland which needs the support of the Government.

A summary of the meeting and the presentation is to be added to the members area of the STF website on Wednesday 8 October.

The meeting was reported in [The Herald](#) on Saturday 4 October.

Scottish Tourism News

27 September 2008 - **Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards Winners announced** - [HIE](#)

29 September 2008 - **New North East Scotland link from Oslo** -

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Events

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

10 - 18 October 2008

[BoardingNo](#)

29 September 2008 - **Hopes high for more trains** - [Edinburgh Evening News](#)

1 October 2008 - **Unanimous opposition to Bower wind plan** - [John O'Groat Journal](#)

1 October 2008 - **Edinburgh B&B: Royal Botanic Garden voted second best in UK** - [Lothian news](#)

2 October 2008 - **Croft commission is saved from the axe** - [The Scotsman](#)

2 October 2008 - **Public transport takes the strain** - [Scotsman](#)

2 October 2008 - **Aer Arann adds Cork - Glasgow to its network** - [easier.com](#)

2 October 2008 - **Spean tourism fears are raised** - [Lochaber News](#)

2 October 2008 - **Ferry numbers down, but businesses remain confident** - [The Arran Voice](#)

3 October 2008 - **High speed rail sites in Scotland need protection, says rail expert** - [Holyrood Magazine](#)

UK Tourism News

30 September 2008 - **Travel firms cash in on collapse of rival** - [Scotsman](#)

30 September 2008 - **Heathrow owner rejects Tory high speed rail plan** - [Travelmole](#)

30 September 2008 - **BA slams Tory plans to scrap third runway** - [Guardian](#)

30 September 2008 - **Tory Party Conference: David Cameron denies Scotland snub over high-speed rail plans** - [Telegraph](#)

30 September 2008 - **Tories accused of high-speed rail snub** - [The Herald](#)

1 October 2008 - **£4bn tourism industry at risk from wind farms** - [Journal Live](#)

International Tourism News

2 October 2008 - **Alitalia cleared for take-off** - [Traveldaileynews](#)

2 October 2008 - **NEW Trans-Atlantic links have been forged between West Lothian and the USA** - [WestLothian .co.uk](#)

2 October 2008 - **British Airways mulling partnership with Alitalia** - [AFP](#)

Traveline Scotland

The Royal National Mod Falkirk

A celebration of Gaelic language and culture through music, song and poetry. For more information visit

www.mod2008falkirk.org

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

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

21 October - 17 November 2008 Aberdeen City and Shire's Sound Festival

A variety of events covering a range of music including; classical, contemporary, improvisation, traditional and jazz. For more information visit www.sound-scotland.co.uk

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

3 November 2008 HIT Scotland Edinburgh Lunch Sheraton Grand Hotel
Speakers: Will Whitehorn, President of Virgin Galactic. For more information www.hitscotland.co.uk or hit@eventconsultants.com

4 November 2008 UK Customer Management Conference EICC
For the agenda or to book a place visit 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

27 November 2008 Scottish Enterprise Business Tourism Conference SECC Glasgow
Aimed for senior managers in Scotland's conference, meeting and



STF member Traveline Scotland launched their travel information brochure at the CPT conference on 29 September. The brochure is designed to help organisations access a range of public transport information services provided by Traveline Scotland. The brochures highlights the

services on offer: 24/7 call centre, online journey planner, SMS text service and a staff travel plan service that allows employers to inform staff of their travel options. There is even the opportunity to download a personal journey planner for your organisation. Use of Traveline Scotland also counts towards accreditation of the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS).

Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson MSP (centre) with Robert Andrew, Chair of Traveline Scotland (left) and John Elliot, Chief Executive of Traveline Scotland(right), commented 'Traveline Scotland is an outstanding service that simplifies journey planning'. For more information www.travelinescotland.com

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

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 or visit 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.

Northern Light Tourism Awards

Closing date for nominations is **17 October 2008.**

Shortlisted entrants will be notified week commencing 27 October 2008. Winners will be announced at the North East Scotland Tourism Industry Conference, at Marcliffe Hotel & Spar, Pitfodells, Aberdeen on 27 November 2008. Categories include:

Come to Aberdeen Trophy, Aberdeenshire Tourism Initiative, Customer Service, Tourism and Sustainability, Innovation, Visitor

corporate hospitality sectors.

For more information visit www.scottish-enterprise.com

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

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 T:0131 220 6321

Training Courses

3 & 4 November 2008

100k Leadership Carnegie Conference Centre

This is a two-day leadership program aimed for individuals in overall charge of an organisation or for individuals responsible for managing others and influencing the way a business operates.

The following topics will be covered: hiring for attitude and training for skills, how to motivate staff, to create teams who perform, stay focused, and adapt to circumstances, maximising the potential of your customer experience.

Two day course is £165. 10.00 - 4.30 for more information email hmalcolm@carnegiecollege.ac.uk or visit www.carnegieenterprise.com

Technology Showcase Exhibition 2008

9 October 2008 10.30

Lodge on Loch Lomond, Luss
Kit-Out in the Park together with Glasgow Caledonian University are running an exhibition aimed at businesses active in the tourism industry operating in or supplying the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Area.

Exhibitors include: Department of Food Science, Mobile & Ubiquitous Computing, Caledonian Creates, together with business developing

Experience and Manager of the year.

For more information visit www.visitscotland.org

Minimum Wage Increase

From 29 September 2008 the minimum wage increases to; £5.75 per hour for workers aged over 22, £4.77 per hour for those aged between 18-21 and £3.53 per hour for those aged 16 and 17.

organisation on hand to discuss grants and funding schemes available.

For more information visit www.kit-out.org/events.htm. It is FREE to attend but please register by visiting the website.

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