

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



8 December 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

STF News

STF attended the National Event Conference at Gleneagles, in which Jim Mather MSP commented how Scotland is now established on the international events stage and 40% of visitors come to Scotland to attend an event.

STF attended the second Scottish Government led Skills Task Group meeting on Tuesday.

STF held their open meeting '**Surviving the Crunch**' at The Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan this week, which was extremely successful running at full capacity. Presentations are available on the STF members section of our website ([Click here](#)).

We have forwarded a feedback survey to all attendees, and thank those that have completed the survey and encourage others that have yet to complete the survey to spend a short amount of time to give back their views of

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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

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,

the day.

Tickets are selling fast for our [STW Industry Dinner](#) in March with 70% tickets sold so far. We expect to sell out fairly soon, so please book your tickets soon.

Scottish Tourism News

30 November 2008 - **Wildlife tourism booms as people holiday in UK** - [Guardian](#)

30 November 2008 - **Travel agent website to rival VisitScotland** - [Scotsman](#)

1 December 2008 - **Policy makers cannot rely solely on 2009 Homecoming to boost tourism** - [Scotsman](#)

1 December 2008 - **New Horizons for visitors to Thurso, Tourists' centre and museum will finally open after £4m refurbishment of town hall and library** - [Press and Journal](#)

1 December 2008 - **'Whisky Bars of Edinburgh' Join Together** - [allmedia](#)

1 December 2008 - **Separate alcohol counters may increase sales** - [Holyrood](#)

1 December 2008 - **Prestwick owner would "look at" buying BAA airport** - [Holyrood](#)

1 December 2008 - **Expert calls for greater bus regulation in Scotland** - [Holyrood](#)

2 December 2008 - **Hamish Macdonell: Great message - shame target audience won't see it** - [Scotsman](#)

2 December 2008 - **Dilapidated transport system 'is costing Scottish economy billions'** - [The Herald](#)

2 December 2008 - **Full Scots fiscal power ruled out** - [BBC](#)

2 December 2008 - **Viking museum to become a centre for north Brochs** - [Press and Journal](#)

3 December 2008 - **Course clear for £50m golf hotel** - [BBC](#)

3 December 2008 - **World heritage site bids 'are too costly and provide little benefit'** - [The Herald](#)

3 December 2008 - **Coach tour firm beats the gloom with strong sales** - [The Herald](#)

3 December 2008 - **Fort William Launches 2009 Mountain Festival Programme** -

TripAdvisor, Bettina von Stamm, Innovation Leadership Forum; Ellis Watson, Mirror Group Newspapers. For more information visit 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

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 or www.registerforevent.co.uk/gleneagles

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

28-29 March 2009

Best of Britain & Ireland Travel Trade Forum

ExCel, London

For more information visit www.tourismtrade.org.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.

Competitions for Chefs

[allmedia](#)

3 December 2008 - **New look Glasgow Airport opens** - [Scottish Architecture](#)

4 December 2008 - **Ambitious plans could make Scotland the home of big sporting events** - [The Herald](#)

4 December 2008 - **Council backs £6,000 spending on moving Elgin tourist office** - [Press & Journal](#)

4 December 2008 - **Forest leasing risks losing tourism and not improving climate** - [Scotsman](#)

4 December 2008 - **Hospitality students get slice of £100k fund** - [The Northern Scot](#)

4 December - **SECC wins award for Best Business Tourism Company at top industry** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

5 December 2008 - **Residents 'devastated' at wind farm decision** - [Berwickshire News](#)

UK Tourism News

1 December 2008 - **UK 'closer' to adopting the euro** - [BBC](#)

1 December 2008 - **Travel industry in for 'white knuckle ride' in 2009** - [Travelmole](#)

3 December 2008 - **Flybe announces new routes for summer 2009 (Glasgow)** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

4 December 2008 - **Stagecoach shares plunge as City commuter numbers fall** - [Scotsman](#)

International Tourism News

1 December 2008 - **Ryanair in new Aer Lingus offer** - [BBC](#)

4 December 2008 - **BA confirms merger talks with Qantas** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

STW Open Meeting - Coming to Scotland, Uniting to be the Best

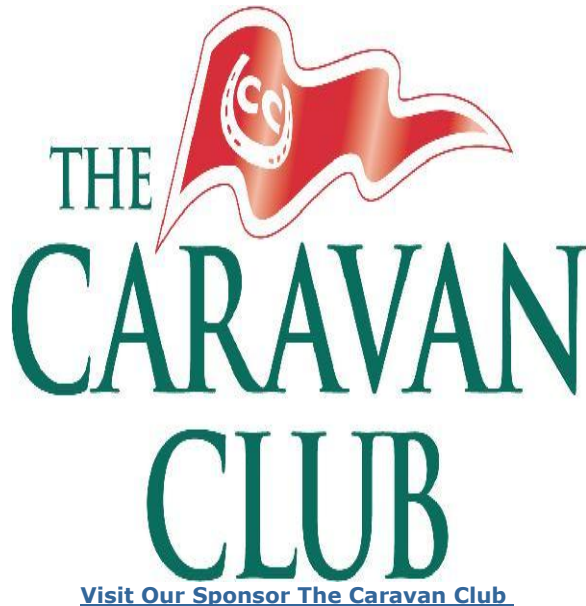


British
Pie
Week

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 your 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

Our Scottish Tourism Week Sponsors





**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 together.

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 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 across Scotland.

Make sure your voice is heard. STF listens to you, the operators across Scotland, and in turn offers a robust, concerted voice for the tourism industry as a whole.

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

STW ScotHot Seminars, SECC



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ScotHot 2009 held at SECC Glasgow, will be the first event to fall within Scottish Tourism Week (2-4 March 2009).

Meet the Minister Jim Mather at 10.30 on 2 March, or attend e-business clinics for one2one advice.



Find out how Water Audit Services through auditing of water costs can provide refunds. Listen to keynote industry speakers at one of the Life in the Industry seminars. Attend Caterer.com seminars and hear about market trends/recruitment.

For more information visit www.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

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

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Growth.

Tickets for the event are: £70 + VAT per person or £650 + VAT for a table of ten. **Early Bird discount** available if you book before 19 December 2008. £5 discount for individual ticket and £50 discount for table of ten.

Tickets are selling fast with 70% 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

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