

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



8 September
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 was unfortunately unable to produce the NewsDigest last week, due to an internet failure for several days.

Iain Herbert quoted in [Scotsman](#) feature on the backlash to Lockerbie prisoner being released.

STF members' Springboard and Caterer.com featured in [Perthshire Advertiser](#) article.

STF attended SCDI Conference 'Global Ambitions' and STF was mentioned in Jim Mather's keynote speech as an excellent example of an industry applying a joined up approach to increase growth.

Planned investment of £23.5 million to ensure Scotland capitalises on the economic, social and cultural advantages of the 2014 Commonwealth Games was announced today. Full details [click here](#).

VisitBritain has published [Tourism Trends Quarterly](#), a publication providing a summary of the latest available tourism data for the UK, alongside an analysis of factors underpinning the latest trends.

First Minister Alex Salmond today set out the Scottish Government's programme for the coming year. [Click here](#)

Scottish Tourism News

21 August 2009 - **Fun run takes off at the racecourse** - [Perthshire Advertiser](#)

21 August 2009 - **Travel writers wild about Scotland** - [HeraldScotland](#)

21 August 2009 - **Missing north beaches put on map** - [BBC](#)
22 August 2009 - **'Boycott Scotland' bid to brand nation a**

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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.

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

The latest figures about the incidence of influenza A (H1N1) in Scotland have been published 4 September [Click here](#)..

Platinum Graphics M2M offer

platinum graphics

global pariah - [Scotsman](#)

24 August 2009 - **Plain sailing for tourism as more choose boating breaks** - [Scotsman](#)

26 August 2009 - **Children flock to beach for summer fun - in the heart of shopping malls** - [East Kilbride News](#)

26 August 2009 - **Restoration work brings Eyemouth's Gunsreen House back to life** - [Berwickshire News](#)

27 August 2009 - **Hotel boss to rescue of stranded tourists** - [The Highland News](#)

27 August 2009 - **Shock over end to isles ferry fares discounts** - [Press and Journal](#)

28 August 2009 - **Swine flu claims seventh victim in Scotland** - [The Herald](#)

28 August 2009 - **300 Glasgow jobs at risk after £180m Tennent's takeover** - [The Herald](#)

28 August 2009 - **Blair Castle Horse Trials got underway on Thursday with a record entry of nearly 1,000 horses and riders** - [STV](#)

28 August 2009 - **Arran's tourist industry outperforming national trend for falling figures** - [The Arran Banner](#)

30 August 2009 - **The Quality Hotel Edinburgh has been recognised as the best airport-based hotel in Scotland by the Scottish Hotel Awards** - [Franchise News International](#)

31 August 2009 - **Licensees forced to pay £60m to comply with new alcohol laws** - [Scotsman](#)

31 August 2009 - **Record numbers join National Trust stricken by civil war** - [Scotsman](#)

1 September 2009 - **Fringe ticket sales break record** - [BBC](#)

1 September 2009 - **New licensing laws come into force** - [Scottish Government](#)

1 September 2009 - **Plans to cut litter and ban camping at Loch Lomond** - [The Herald](#)

1 September 2009 - **Airport can keep economy flying with £867m per year** - [Scotsman](#)

2 September 2009 - **Neighbours angered by Trump expansion** - [The Herald](#)

2 September 2009 - **NTS chairman to resign after no-confidence row** - [The Times](#)

2 September 2009 - **What's the most popular UK attraction for overseas tourists?** - [Travelmole](#)

2 September 2009 - **Glasgow nets conferences events** - [BBC](#)

2 September 2009 - **Murrayfield brings £130million to economy last season** - [STV](#)

3 September 2009 - **Licensing laws may cost up to 4000 jobs, sector claims** - [Herald](#)

3 September 2009 - **Poles apart in our approach to tourism**

M2M Scheme - Scottish Tourism Forum
As new members of the Scottish Tourism Forum, Platinum Graphics is delighted to offer all STF members a 25% discount on any design projects.

Here at Platinum, we've been working with various clients over the last few months including Menzies Distribution, Holiday Inn and Edinburgh's Grassmarket. We've also been busy launching our new website, www.platinumgraphics.co.uk which will give you a further indication of the type of work we have done.

If you'd like any more information or wish to discuss a forthcoming project, please don't hesitate to contact us on 0845 123 5525 or email hello@platinumgraphics.co.uk

Events

11-13 September 2009
eatBute

Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute
eatBute is a food initiative to promote fresh, local produce. This year's event will include a Bute Food and Craft market showcasing the best produce and craft from Bute and the surrounding areas, a programme of children's activities, cookery demonstrations, a programme of talks and lectures, a ticketed lunch and a Bute ceilidh. Visit www.eatbute.com for more details.

17 - 18 September 2009
The Changing Nature of Scotland
Perth Concert Hall

Scottish Natural Heritage's conference explores the changes that are taking place in Scotland's natural heritage. Changes in important ecosystems such as woodland, uplands, marine and fresh waters both urban and rural will be discussed by specialists and business representatives. Day two includes a dedicated session on how the natural heritage contributes to improved health and well being. For further information and details of how to register please go to our conference website.

www.eventsforce.net/SNHConference2009
18 September, The Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

H&I Annual Dinner & Business Excellence Awards 2009

These awards provide a unique platform to showcase the achievements of the region's companies and is the key event for the recognition of excellence in a wide range of sectors.

Single tickets £110 + VAT. Table of 10 £1,110 + VAT. To reserve your space email lesley.rhind@sodi.org.uk 01463 231 878

24 September 2009 1.30 - 5pm
Tourism is Everyone's Business
Cowalfest tourism forum

Ardkinglas House, Cairndow
Speakers include Scott Armstrong, Regional Director covering Argyll & Bute; Ben Thorburn, VisitScotland Highland marketing team; Iain Herbert, CE, Scottish Tourism Forum; Fiona Murray, Manager,

- [The Herald](#)

3 September 2009 - **Easyjet to cut flights from Luton by 20%** - [Times](#)

4 September 2009 - **Loch Lomond cruise company sails through to contest finals** - [Lennox Herald](#)

UK Tourism News

24 August 2009 - **Recession in Britain 'at an end'** - [BBC](#)

24 August 2009 - **Airports face holiday strike action (Manchester/Gatwick)** - [Travelmole](#)

24 August 2009 - **UK-Ireland ferry link to be reinstated (Swansea/Cork)** - [Travelmole](#)

24 August 2009 - **Visitors up to capital attractions** - [Travelmole](#)

26 August 2009 - **New high-speed rail plan unveiled** - [BBC](#)

International Tourism News

22 August 2009 - **Americans expected to keep visiting Scotland** - [The Courier](#)

23 August 2009 - **Lufthansa plots sale of BMI British Midland to Virgin Atlantic** - [Times](#)

24 August 2009 - **Website urges Americans to boycott Scotland over Lockerbie bomber release** - [Times](#)

24 August 2009 - **America's rage (affects tourism)** - [Sunday Herald](#)

2 September 2009 - **The world of ambiguous airports** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

Open Meeting "Leading by Example" 1 October 2009

(FULL - waiting list in operation)

Venue: Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee DD1 4XA.

Registration 10.30 open meeting 11.00 - 4.00



Scotland the brand already enjoys a worldwide reputation disproportionate to its size and population, it is up to us all to enhance this even further, to work together to unlock the economic potential that exists within tourism in Scotland.

Investment in the workforce is investment for the future; leading to development of sustainable growth. Good working practices sit at the core of the TFFC, and people are at the heart of success for tourism. A skilled and positive workforce can make the difference to a business's potential success or failure. We need to develop inspirational leadership, to deliver change and engage with grass roots where the economic growth is generated.

The open meeting will discuss the TFFC review on leadership, investment and customer experience; and seek speakers from public, retail, and business sectors to encourage entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation.

The open meeting is now full. We are operating a waiting list so please

Forest Tourism Initiative and Elaine Jamieson, Development Officer at Perth & Argyll Conservancy of Forestry Commission Scotland; Dr Mike Cantlay, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. To register please visit www.cowalfest.org £8 per delegate.

26 September - 4 October 2009 Kirkcaldy Comedy Festival

The Kirkcaldy Comedy festival returns as a bigger and better Festival than the inaugural festival last year. Thanks to funding from EventScotland, the Festival will be expanded from 4 days to 9 days. Performers include: Adam Hills, Kevin Bridges, Tam Cowan, Sean Hughes and Des Clarke. The full programme is now on the website, book tickets through the website www.kirkcaldycomedyfestival.com or hotline 0844 481 5659.

28-29 September 2009

CPT Conference: A Climate Change for Sustainable Growth

Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire

28 September: John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth. Gavin Booth (Chairman, Bus Users UK). Panel members include: Jonathan Pryce, Head of Transport Directorate, The Scottish Government; David Middleton, CE, Transport Scotland; Brian Juffs, Senior Bus Development Advisor; Russell Imrie, Regional Transport Partnership Chair; Alison Hay, COSLA; Eric Guthrie, SCOTs; Brian Souter, CE, Stagecoach PCL.

29 September: Stewart Stephenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change; Gordon Hanning, Head of Concessionary Travel and Integrated Ticketing Transport Scotland; Ian Morgan CPT President; Richard Noble OBE, Project Director, Bloodhound SSC & Thrust SCC. To book your place at the 2009 CPT Conference visit their website www.cpt-uk.org

3 October 2009

Kirkcaldy Light Night

Scotland's first 'Light Night' hits the streets of Kirkcaldy Town Centre with the spectacular 'Big Man Walking' being the centrepiece of the family friendly event. More details available shortly.

6 October 2009 2-5pm

Institute of Hospitality Scotland 'Developing Your Business and Your Team'

Culloden House Hotel, Inverness

Join IoH Scotland for an informative and interactive afternoon with presentations from IoH Management Qualifications, VisitScotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Hospitality Assured, Johnstone Carmichael - Accountants and Business Advisers. The event is free but pre-booking essential. Please email your name, telephone and email address to IoHScotland@hotmail.com or call IoHScotland Chair, Rob Moore on 077717 78187

7 October 2009

HIT Aberdeen Dinner

email events@stforum.co.uk if you wish to be added to the waiting list. Full details are on STF website.



**Sponsor of STF AGM and Open Meeting 'Leading by Example'
1 October 2009**

Training Courses



BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders - 1 day - £140

This course is for anyone who wishes to work in a licensed premises or any venue or site where alcohol is sold, for drinking on or off the premises; in a position where they will authorise the sale of alcohol to the public.
Dates (2009) 22 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov

For more information or to book your place on this programme contact:
Business Development Centre, Perth College Tel: 01738 877333 Email:
info.bdc@perth.uhi.ac.uk

New Members



Aberdeen City Council is the local authority for Aberdeen City. The city has a population of just over 200,000 and offers a wide variety of tourist attractions including many museums, golf courses, a fabulous sandy beach, parks and of course the famous David Welch Winter Gardens. The city is also known for its magnificent floral displays having

won the Britain in Bloom titles on many occasions. Most recently the city has undergone significant change with the addition of a new shopping centre and the extension of an existing one. In addition a number of new hotels and restaurants including Malmaison are opening in the city making it an ideal destination for a weekend break. The city council supports Visit Scotland to promote Aberdeen as a unique location for both leisure and business tourism.

Springboard and Caterer.com 5km Charity Fun Run

Springboard and Caterer.com have joined forces to present the Scottish 5k Charity Fun Run in aid of The Springboard Charity, at Perth Racecourses, with BBQ. Springboard and Caterer.com are seeking organisations to sponsor the event, employers to sponsor teams of employees to participate in the run; employees to register to run individually; students to run individually or represent a college; members of the community will register and run to support a worthwhile cause.

The event starts at 1pm and the fun run starts at 2pm. To register visit www.3coursechallenge.com

St Andrews Skills Academy Web Site live

An innovative Fife-based project has celebrated the launch of its website this summer. The St Andrews Skills Academy is a not-for-profit organisation helping Fife tourism businesses to source the training they need. The website will serve as a one-stop-shop for businesses and individuals who wish to discover and book local training from quality-assured providers. To

The Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen
£55 pp. Email
sophie@eventconsultants.com

9-18 October 2009

Cowalfest

Cowalfest in 2009 will be a very special festival. All this set within the breathtaking scenery, so inspirational to artists and writers, of Argyll's Cowal Peninsula with its hills, lochs, firth, forests and the exotic trees and shrubs that flourish in the mild west coast climate, and of course our great diversity of wildlife including red squirrels and eagles, not to mention our wonderfully varied and enticing walks.

The programme includes: walks: old favourites and exciting new ones; mountain bike rides; horse rides; tours of great houses in Cowal; theatre and food events; wildlife walks and events; music; talks. Full details on www.cowalfest.org

8 October 2009

Ayrshire & Arran Food Clinic Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce/Kit Out, The Gailes Hotel, Irvine

Free drop-in event to meet food experts from Glasgow Caledonian University who will be available to provide advice on: shelf-life testing; labelling; food safety and hygiene; factory audits; nutrition and dietetics; business and grant advice; selling products to supermarkets. Over a buffet lunch you will have the chance to meet with other food companies and new suppliers. 11.30 - 3.30. To register your interest please contact Audrey Meikle by calling 0141 331 8458 or email audrey.meikle@gcal.ac.uk or visit our website www.kit-out.org

19 October 2009

Springboard Charity Golf Day Dalmahey Marriott Hotel and Country Club, Kirnewton

The Golf Day is open to Hospitality senior executives and is likely to attract teams from the top hospitality and tourism companies in Scotland. The Springboard Scotland Golf Day will underline the Scottish industry's commitment to helping home grown talent of all ages find sustainable employment and rewarding careers in the Scottish Tourism industry. For more information contact Anne Piece, annep@springboarduk.org.uk

23 October 2009 11am - 3pm

Technology Showcase 2009 Promoting Small Business Collaboration with Glasgow Caledonian University Saltire Centre, Glasgow Caledonian University

Expert advice on; green technologies, IT & Communications, food technology, sustainable construction, business process improvement, current project exhibitions, discuss project ideas with experts, network with businesses over lunch, business and grant advice, information on placements, CPD.

To register visit www.kit-out.org email kitout@gcal.ac.uk 0131 331 8458

keep up to date with the progress of this exciting initiative, please email Bethany Craggs beth@standrewsskillsacademy.co.uk to sign up for the e-newsletter. Visit their website for more information. www.standrewsskillsacademy.co.uk

Competitions and Awards

Springboard Awards for Excellence 2009 Open for Entries

Hospitality skills champion Springboard is now calling for entries to its annual Awards For Excellence.

Now in their seventh year, the Springboard Awards for Excellence reward inspiring people, organisations and initiatives - those that work hard to elevate the profile of the hospitality industry as an employer and attract and retain talent.

With several awards in each category, there's something for everyone in every sector - and you can submit as many entries as you want.

Entries can be made by individuals, teams or partnerships for initiatives that have achieved measurable results over the past year. To enter the awards, [click here](#).

Tourism is undoubtedly one of the most promising drivers to get our economy back on track and through the Scottish Thistle Awards, VisitScotland encourages professionalism and promotes the quality service and products that reflect all that is great in Scotland's world reputed and foremost industry.

The Scottish Thistle Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner is the highlight of the tourism calendar. This year's black tie awards ceremony and dinner will take place on the evening of **Friday 23rd October 2009** at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

You can view all the finalists, find ticket/table prices and a downloadable booking form from the web link above.

28 October 2009

5.30 - 8.00

The Tourism Society Scotland The Changing Landscape of Destination Promotion: the DEMA approach.

Apex Waterloo Place Hotel, Edinburgh

Why Destination Edinburgh Marketing Alliance (DEMA), why now? What is it and what are its objectives? The seminar will look into the whole question of DMO's. What are the Destination Promotion trends and influences and different models and approaches being adopted around the world and what are the influencing factors leading to the different approaches?

Speakers: Sue Crossman, Tourism Innovation Group; Dr Constantia Anastasiadou, Tourism School of Marketing, Tourism & Languages, Business School Edinburgh Napier University; Kenneth Wardrop, Head of DEMA. Fees £15 for TS/TML members, Non-members £25, students £10. Visit web site to register www.tourismsociety.org

2 December 2009

STF Open Meeting Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

More information to follow.

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

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.

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