

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



9 March 2009

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 is delighted with the positive feedback from delegates attending events during the Scottish Tourism Week.

Jim Mather, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism opened ScotHot Exhibition and Scottish Tourism Week on Monday 2 March and commented 'This is the first year of a joint ScotHot and Scottish Tourism Week alliance and is poised to be hugely successful. Tourism can play a disproportional part in the recovery of Scottish economy.'

Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland addressed seminar delegates on Tuesday 3 March and commented 'Scottish Tourism Week is an important week for tourism, in an important year for tourism as of course, this is the year of Homecoming.' To read his press release [click here](#).

ScotHot received over 9,000 visitors with the STF Seminars receiving 600 visitors.

At the STF Conference 'Coming to Scotland, Uniting to be the Best' Jim Mather, Minister for

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Events

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/

17 March 2009

**Business and Flood Risk Seminar
Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh**

SEPA is hosting a free event for businesses, which will address issues of flooding in Scotland. Areas of discussion; upcoming flooding projects and legislation, flood trauma and impact on workforce, business continuity modelling and business recovery from floods. For more information email jean.atkinson@sepa.org.uk

19 March 2009

**Preparing the Commonwealth Games 2014
Matching ambition and opportunity
Hampden Park, Glasgow**

On 23 July 2014, Celtic Park in Glasgow will be hosting the opening ceremony for the 20th Commonwealth Games ahead of 11 days of high level sporting

Enterprise, Energy and Tourism gave the keynote address, the STF Chair set out the vision for an industry lead approach for the future including information on the reviewed Tourism Framework for Change and its inclusive grass roots up approach.

The MSP Reception held in the Garden Lobby of Scottish Parliament was the highest attended reception since Scottish Tourism Forum started. Over 250 guests were present with 55 MSP's registered to attend.

Presentations for the Seminars and Conference are available to download from the members' section of the [STF website](#).

Scottish Tourism News

27 February 2009 - **SNP skills strategy 'inadequate', says Labour** - [Holyrood](#)

27 February 2009 - **Lib Dems 'divided' over independence referendum** - [Holyrood](#)

27 February 2009 - **Call for Scotland to be included in plans to develop high-speed rail links** - [STV](#)

27 February 2009 - **Climate helps Highlands weather storm** - [FT](#)

27 February 2009 - **Waterfront funding package 'soon'** - [BBC](#)

28 February 2009 - **Bob Downie: Scottish tourism needs big changes to reach its profit ambitions** - [Scotsman](#)

28 February 2009 - **National museums buck Scottish tourism trend** - [Scotsman](#)

28 February 2009 - **Honours pour in for Ardnamurchan hotel** - [Press and Journal](#)

1 March 2009 - **The battle to sell Scotland** - [Sunday Herald](#)

1 March 2009 - **Tourism in crisis as capital goes solo** - [Scotsman](#)

2 March 2009 - **Scottish Tourism Week** - [Scottish Government](#)

2 March 2009 - **Scottish hotels suffer as visitors stay at home** - [Scotsman](#)

2 March 2009 - **Scottish tourism in need of better standard bearer** - [Scotsman](#)

2 March 2009 - **'Flawed' alcohol legislation set**

competition. But what will hosting the Games mean to Glasgow, and to Scotland, in terms of its sporting, and wider ambition? Join our high profile speakers to examine how Glasgow and the whole of Scotland can best meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that hosting the Games will bring. For full details please see

www.holyrood.com/commonwealthgames

19-20 March 2009

**The 38th Scottish Council Forum
Fairmont 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.connecting-scotland.com

20-22 March 2009

**Scottish Golf Show
SECC**

Try the latest golfing equipment from the biggest brand names. Stands from over 100 exhibitors, short game and putting practice areas, free lessons from professional golfers, trick-shot demonstrations.

www.thescottishgolfshow.co.uk

25 March 2009

Golf Tourism Summit

Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spar, North Berwick

The morning will feature the National Golf Tourism Monitor - reports from the 2008 monitor, how it has worked for one golf course operator, interpreting the findings for each course, using results positively and generating ideas.

£25 for GTS members, £40 for non-members. For more information or to register [Click Here](#).

28-29 March 2009

**Best of Britain & Ireland Travel Trade Forum
ExCel, London**

For more information visit www.tourismtrade.org.uk

31 March 2009

Fife Tourism and Business Conference

**Seizing Opportunities - Today and Tomorrow
The Old Course Hotel, St Andrews**

Join us for inspiring and innovative presentations from influential industry speakers who understand the challenges your business faces and the opportunities that these bring.

Keynote speakers: Bob Downie, CE, The Royal Yacht Britannia; Debbie Taylor, MD, Old Course Hotel, St Andrews.

Workshops include: E-Marketing, Know your Customer, Selling Techniques, Customer Feedback, The VisitScotland Growth Fund.

To book a place email fife@springboarduk.org.uk or tel 07724112954

2 April 2009

**Annual HiT Dinner
Glasgow Hilton**

The Industry dinner is once again at the Hilton Glasgow. We're transporting you back to the Sixties with a groovy

to be unveiled - [The Herald](#)

2 March 2009 - **National tourism body faces break-up as councils withdraw funding** - [The Herald](#)

2 March 2009 - **Wales and Scotland ditch Euro bid** - [BBC](#)

2 March 2009 - **Scots plan to stop cheap alcohol** - [BBC](#)

2 March 2009 - **Scottish Government launches framework to tackle alcohol misuse** - [Holyrood](#)

2 March 2009 - **Tackling Alcohol misuse** - [Scottish Government](#)

2 March 2009 - **High-speed rail talks 'must include Scotland'** - [Scotsman](#)

2 March 2009 - **Gordon Ramsay, Nick Nairn and Alex Salmond Hailed as Hospitality Heroes** - [allmediascotland](#)

2 March 2009 - **Call to celebrate Scotland's mountain culture** - [Times](#)

3 March 2009 - **Minimum price plan to curb Scotland's drink problem** - [Times](#)

3 March 2009 - **Scottish arts body 'will cost £4m to set up'** - [The Herald](#)

3 March 2009 - **Hundreds of food and drink products in Scots showcase** - [Belfast Telegraph](#)

3 March 2009 - **Appetite for Homecoming - Alex Salmond's speech at ScotHot** - [Scottish Government](#)

4 March 2009 - **Tourist industry 'missing out on Homecoming benefit'** - [Scotsman](#)

4 March 2009 - **Zoo visitor numbers go wild, bucking Scottish tourism downturn** - [Scotsman](#)

4 March 2009 - **Treasury funding plan bridges gap on Forth crossing** - [Guardian](#)

4 March 2009 - **I'm open to nuclear options, says SNP backer on ScottishPower board** - [Times](#)

4 March 2009 - **Opposition parties warn Salmond to dump Referendum Bill** - [Times](#)

5 March 2009 - **Survey predicts tourism boom** - [Lochaber News](#)

5 March 2009 - **Independence referendum plan rejected by Holyrood** - [Times](#)

6 March 2009 - **National Trust viability secured** - [BBC](#)

mix of music, food and entertainment. Don't miss out and book now! To book visit www.hitscotland.co.uk

14-15 April 2009 9.30am - 4.30pm

100k Welcomes - Leadership Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

A 2 day leadership programme concentrating on leadership skills which make a difference to you, your organisation and its ongoing profitability: Develop the Vision, Hire for Attitude and Train for Skills, Create Teams who are motivated and focussed, Maximise the Potential of your Customer Experience. £180 pp including lunch. For more information contact Heather Malcolm on 01383 845 019 or hmalcolm@carnegiecollege.ac.uk

21 April - 14 May 2009

Pride & Passion Discovery Tours Skye, Oban, Perthshire, Nairn, Tweeddale, Banffshire, Cowal, Angus, Machars

The discovery tours will help extend and refresh your local knowledge of what your area has to offer visitors. And if you can talk about things from personal experience it helps create that 'must do' vibe for visitors. If your work brings you into contact with people coming to the district we'd love you to join our one day tours. Please email us or call 0800 028 0588 to register for your free place.

The tours will take place from 10am to 4.30pm. For locations visit www.prideandpassion.net

22-23 April 2009

VisitScotland Expo 2009 SECC, Glasgow

Flagship business to business event for the travel trade. VisitScotland Expo is open to buyers from all sectors of the industry - coach tour operators, group travel organisers, conference incentive buyers, travel agents, independent tour operators and wholesalers. For more information visit www.visitscotlandexpo.com or email events@visitscotland.com

12-15 May 2009

World Mountainbike Conference Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries

For more information visit 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/

11 November 2009

World Responsible Tourism Day

World Responsible Tourism Day, the only global day of action of its kind, is being supported by the UNWTO and leading industry associations. The day is vital - for business, for profitability and for our planet. It means taking care of a world that we seek to promote. For more information visit www.wtmwrtd.com

Competitions

6 March 2009 - **NTS announces widespread cost saving measures** - [National Trust for Scotland](#)

7 March 2009 - **Sad estate of affairs as cash crisis forces 11 NTS historic properties to shut** - [Scotsman](#)

UK Tourism News

27 February 2009 - **UK tourism strategy attacked as 'confusing and conflicted'** - [Travelmole](#)

27 February 2009 - **£1 for an in-flight pee?** - [Travelmole](#)

27 February 2009 - **Almost 80% of Brits still planning on spending the same on a holiday as they did in 2008** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

2 March 2009 - **Events are a key part of VisitBritain's framework strategy** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

2 March 2009 - **British Kissing Ban at Train Station** - [Tourism Reveiw.com](#)

2 March 2009 - **Top Ten Literary Tourist Destinations** - [Tourism Review.com](#)

4 March 2009 - **British Tourism Week organisers suggest 'lit-trips' the new trend for 2009** - [TravelDailyNews](#)

5 March 2009 - **Tories must oppose the Bank of England's mad experiment Printing money is a disaster and David Cameron should say so.** - [Telegraph](#)

International Tourism News

4 March 2009 - **New UK visa regulations threaten tourism** - [Travelmole](#)

Making the Most of STF Member2Member Scheme

We all know the current economic climate is tough for any business, and the tourism industry is no exception.

One of STF's strengths is the business to business networking opportunities, and we would like to use our communications to help strengthen these relationships. We know that some of our members are helping to fight off recession through packaging deals and special offers and we want to



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 for an application form.

CIS Excellence Awards 2009.

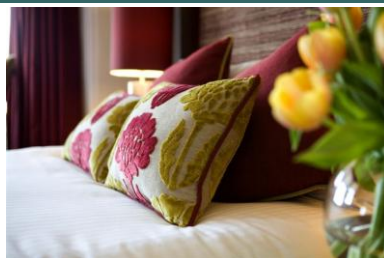


Nominations are now being invited for the CIS Excellent Awards 2009 in Scotland's catering, hospitality and tourism industry.

Open to all types of established and emerging businesses involved in these sectors. From chefs, foodie pubs, colleges and contract caterers, to hotels, restaurants, local authorities and food tourism enterprises, there is a category to suit you or your business.

Deadline 16 March 2009. Full details of all 11 categories, plus criteria, judging guidelines and entry nomination forms are available at www.cis-excellenceawards.com

Tourism Industry Friends' Offer



The Town House Collection, four individually designed 4 and 5 star Town House Hotels in central Edinburgh is extending the Tourism Industry Friend's offer valid from **January 2009 to 31 March 2009**. Bookings can be made online using promotional code reference STF99 or by telephoning 0131 274 7409. To book online click on the name of the hotel you wish to stay and the link will take you direct to the

help members by raising the profile of these offers through our Member 2 Member scheme.

Please tell us of any special offers you would like us to advertise to our members and we will feature these on our website, and promote weekly through NewsDigest with a link to the web for more information.

With our help, your offers will reach a wider audience; not only STF members, but STF association* members and staff, leading to thousands of individuals seeing your offers and learning more about your business. 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.

booking system. [The Bonham and Channings](#) £99.00 for 2 guests including 2 course dinner, bed, full breakfast and VAT at 15%. [The Howard and Edinburgh Residence](#) £139 for 2 guests including 2 course dinner, bed, full breakfast and VAT at 15%.

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