

Scottish Tourism Forum Weekly News Digest



29 September 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

Ian Herbert was invited with other Scottish Industry leaders to attend a meeting with the First Minister on Monday. This was to discuss the HBOS situation and the impact on the current talk with Lloyds TSB. There are clear concerns over the impact of a possible relocation of the HQ and the impact on employment and business tourism were raised on behalf of the industry.

STF Chief Executive, Iain Herbert, presented the proposal for a review of the *Tourism Framework for Change* this week to the TFFC monitoring group. The meeting was supportive of the outline review and its industry lead grass roots approach. Jim Mather MSP was unfortunately not able to attend however had indicated his support to the approach prior to the meeting.

We have been made aware of a new **Phone Scam** targetted at tourism providers in the Highlands. Email enquiries give minor details and ask for a call back on a premium rate number 07099 800152 visit www.visitscotland.co.uk for more information.

STF members' **Kirstie Grant and Mary McPherson from Source Tourism Solutions** received some positive press coverage regarding their business claims to take any hotel and turn it into a money-spinning success story in [The Press & Journal](#)

Scottish Tourism News

20 September 2008 - **Duart Castle Wins Award for Excellence at SCDI Highland Awards** - [allmedia](#)

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Events

Every Weekend in September 08 Highland Feast

The largest food and drink festival in the north of Scotland. For further information visit www.highlandfeast.co.uk

2 October 2008 Scottish Licensed Trade Association Dinner

Radisson S.A.S Hotel Glasgow.
Keynote: Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill MSP.

22 September 2008 - Get on the BID bandwagon, Elgin urged - [The Northern Scot](#)

22 September 2008 - **Students attack drink sales ban** - [BBC](#)

23 September 2008 - **Scottish hotels suffer 'credit-crunch effect'** - [The Scotsman](#)

23 September 2008 - **Homecoming 2009 campaign launched in USA** - [Holyrood](#)

23 September 2008 - **Scotland Seeks To Increase Business Collaboration Opportunities With Malaysia** - [Bernama](#)

24 September 2008 - **Flights face the axe if HBoS head office moves out of city** - [Scotsman](#)

24 September 2008 - **Loch Laggan wind farm threat recedes** - [Strathspey & Badenoch Herald](#)

24 September 2008 - **Scots economy 'in crisis' as the credit crunch bites** - [Times online](#)

25 September 2008 - **Historic Scotland has recorded a 10% drop in visitor numbers** - [The Herald](#)

25 September 2008 - **Salmond confirms return of Rosyth ferry service** - [Dunfermline Press](#)

25 September 2008 - **Want to know the strangest questions asked by Edinburgh tourists** - [Scotsman](#)

26 September 2008 - **Stena Line and VisitScotland to lure Northern Irish tourists to Scotland** - [TravelWeekly](#)

26 September 2008 - **Controversial wind farm plans receive major boost** - [PeebleshireNews](#)

27 September 2008 - **Clamour to extend cheaper ferry fares** - [Press and Journal](#)

29 September 2008 - **Window into industrial past reopens after a £10.5m revamp** - [The Herald](#)

UK Tourism News

22 September 2008 - **CAA called in after flight specialist firm fails** - [TravelDaileyNews](#)

22 September 2008 - **Lines between business and leisure travel 'blurring'** - [TravelMole](#)

22 September 2008 - **Travellers booking UK autumn breaks to escape 'doom and gloom'** - [TravelMole](#)

23 September 2008 - **British Airways Offers 'UK for Free'** - [Market Watch](#)

23 September 2008 - **Worst summer for Welsh tourism in 10 years'** - [WalesOnline](#)

26 September 2008 - **CAA backs BAA airport sell-off**

Tickets £70 per person or £650 for a table of 10. For more information [www.slta.info](#) T: 0131 225 5169

2 October 2008

STF AGM & Open Meeting
Best Western Park Hotel Falkirk
'Taking the Lead'. To book your place please contact events@stforum.co.uk T: 0131 220 6321

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

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

- [Travelmole](#)

International Tourism News

19 September 2008 - **Alitalia airline cancels flights** - [BBC](#).

20 September 2008 - **Sean Connery helps promote Scotland at Ryder Cup in Kentucky** - [7th Space](#)

20 September 2008 - **Number of visits from the US falls by 6%** - [The Herald](#)

22 September 2008 - **Over 46,000 XL passengers flown home** - [TravelMole](#)

22 September 2008 - **British Airways cancels Pakistan flights** - [International Herald Tribune](#)

STF Open Meeting

Sign up for the Scottish Tourism Forum Open Meeting: **Taking the Lead** on 2 October 08 11am - 15.45pm.

Speakers include: Tavish Scott MSP, Catherine Maxwell Stuart, Chair Tweeddale DMO, Dr Craig Thompson, MD Centre of Applied Tourism and Hospitality Management, Kenneth Clark, Manager Tourism, Trade and Investment, Scottish development International. For a full agenda please visit our website [www.stforum.co.uk](#)

Members are entitled to one free delegate place, and up to three guests at a rate of £20 + VAT per delegate.

Members can buy exhibition space for £150 + VAT which includes one free delegate place. For inserts in the delegate pack members are charged £50 + VAT.

For both exhibiting and an insert the fee is £175 + VAT, the members logo will be placed on the web.

For more information about exhibiting, attending the meeting or inserts into the delegate pack please contact Elaine Townsend events@stforum.co.uk

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

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

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

2 October 2008 HR Training Course Does your business have enough knowledge about HR issues?

STF member, Perth College, has a course running for those wishing to acquire a wide range of relevant, practical human resource skills which can be practically implemented back in the workplace.

Topics covered include; employment law, recruitment and selection, health and safety, grievance and discipline, performance management, training, stress management, industrial relations and negotiating.

For more information email jean.donaghy@perth.uhi.ac.uk or T:01738 877553

Technology

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 Experience and Manager of the year.

For more information visit www.visitscotland.org

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 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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Scottish Tourism Forum | 29 Drumsheugh Gardens | Edinburgh | EH3 7RN | United Kingdom