

## STF members' newsletter July 2006

- Scottish Tourism Week 2007
- STF Meeting
- STF activities
- *Red Tape* news
- News Shorts
- Events
- New STF members
- TKS Research Bytes (attachment)



**STF AGM 5th October.** We are delighted to announce the sponsorship by **Swallow Hotels** of the 2006 STF AGM and Open Meeting. We are required by our constitution to rotate 1/3 of our board. Details will be coming out to members regarding vacancies and procedures should you wish to put yourself forward.

**STF signs up first Patron Member:** We are pleased to announce the Swallow Hotels Group as our first Patron Member of the Scottish Tourism Forum. Swallow has an unrivalled selection of hotels across the UK. We look forward to working with the Swallow Hotels team.

**Scottish Tourism Week 2007 will take place during the week of March, 12<sup>th</sup> – 16th March. Mark the week in your diary!** We are proud that the success of the 2006 Scottish event has prompted colleagues in England and Wales to launch British Tourism Week to coincide with the second Scottish Tourism Week. STF is working hard to bring you an exciting programme of events, meetings and speakers to celebrate the importance of tourism to Scotland and the importance of good people in tourism.

### STF MEETINGS

**5th October 2006** - AGM, followed by Open Meeting Swallow Hotel Dundee

**6th December 2006** - STF Members' meeting

**15th March 2007** - STF Members Open Meeting and Parliamentary Reception

**Edinburgh Tattoo**- still looking for tickets? Hotels Beds still have some tickets available for sale. Tel 0131 225 3426 for availability.

### STF ACTIVITIES

**Tourism Framework for Change.** STF attended the first meeting of the monitoring Group on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Early days yet for the group who will be charged to take forward the framework for growing our industry by 50% over the coming ten years.

**Information and Sales Review.** STF attended the last meeting of the advisory group that Visitscotland pulled together to assist with this vital review of how sales and visitor information will be handled in the future through virtual channels right through to local TICs and new developments in technology.

**Tourism Tax/Tourism Levy.** STF appeared in the press commenting on the fact that huge amounts of taxes remain uncollected or unspent yet there are thoughts of introducing a tourism tax.

**National Transport Consultation.** Over the past weeks STF have been preparing a submission to the NTS. A full consultation on the strategic development of transport in Scotland. In our

response to the 65 question document we highlighted the needs of transport and tourism and also made comment that only one question linked to tourism out the 65 was not good enough. Full text available at <http://www.stforum.co.uk/>

**Tourism Levy Tax.** We have continued to gather feedback and meet with various parties regarding a Tourism Levy. The Deloitte report commissioned in Edinburgh is available on the STF website.

**Christmas and New Year Trading Bill.** STF have been asked to give evidence to the Holyrood Justice 2 Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The bill if introduced could see shops over 3,000 square feet being forced to close on both days. STF are consulting with the Scottish Retail Consortium and the Federation of Small Businesses and ETAG on the implications of the bill. **Details of the bill are on.....**

## RED TAPE NEWS

---

**Fire Risk Assessments.** The government has published guidance on compliance with the regulations which will replace the Fire Precautions Act on 1 October.  
[www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162101](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162101)

**Working and Families Act – increased paid holidays** The DTI is consulting on increasing minimum paid holiday entitlement above the 4 weeks in the Working Time Directive (i.e. 20 days for a 5 day a week worker pro-rata, so, e.g., 12 days for a 3 day worker). It proposes an increase to 5.6 weeks, i.e. 28 days for a 5 day worker, again pro-rata for fewer days, so 16.8 days for a 3 day worker- BUT a 6 day a week worker will be capped at 28 days (not 33.6). The eight extra days reflect the current number of Bank Holidays in Great Britain- BUT the new law will not introduce a right for the extra days to be taken on bank and public holidays. When the 28 days are taken will be a contractual matter. If you're giving 5 day workers 20 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (or days in lieu) now, you meet the new requirements already.

**Possible Entitlement Increase will rise to 4.8 weeks (=24 days pro-rata) on 1 October 2007.** (Bear in mind when budgeting for 2007 that paying staff to cover for those 4 days will add around 1.7 per cent to annual payroll costs.) Then, options are: a rise to 28 days in 2008 or '09, **or** 26 in '08 and 28 in '09. Our colleagues at the BHA are closely monitoring developments. The potential annual cost is in the region of £200 million for our industry!

**Age Equality** Members are reminded that the new Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 come into effect on 1st October 2006. These regulations will:

- ban age discrimination in terms of recruitment, promotion and training.
- ban unjustified retirement ages below 65.
- remove the current age limit for unfair dismissal and redundancy rights.
- a right for employees to request to work beyond retirement age and a duty on employers to consider that request.
- a new requirement for employers to give at least six months notice to employees about their intended retirement date so that individuals can plan better for
- retirement, and be confident that "retirement" is not being used as cover for unfair dismissal.

ACAS has produced a detailed guidance booklet, downloadable at [www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/s/3/Age\\_and\\_the\\_Workplace.pdf](http://www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/s/3/Age_and_the_Workplace.pdf)

**Waste Ban** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is aiming to raise awareness of the long standing ban on feeding catering waste and used cooking oil to livestock. The ban is to prevent outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease and swine fever. DEFRA has produced a range of leaflets, etc, viewable at [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/by-prods/wastefood/caterwaste.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/by-prods/wastefood/caterwaste.htm)

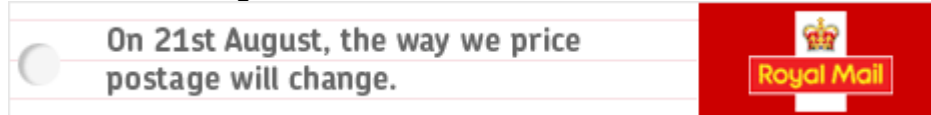
## NEWS SHORTS

---

**Trainers Required** 100k are now recruiting for trainers for the new and exciting tourism development programmes, further details at : <http://www.hie.co.uk/100k-welcomes.html>

**G8 2005 displaces £1m local tourism income.** The Perthshire economy, according to Perth and Kinross Council made £6.3m from the G8 2005 event. P&KC claim £1.2m expenditure by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, £3.8m on planning, staff and police payments with a further £890k by other public agencies. Journalists, protestors and delegates spent £1.59m. The report however has identified £1m of displaced sales from local tourism businesses. *Haste ye back* (visitors)

### Postal Price Changes.



From 31<sup>st</sup> August it will cost 37.5% more to send an A4 envelope under 100g. The new size charging scales come into effect that differentiate between size and weight. For full details of how this will affect your post follow this link and get folding your letters and invoices into smaller envelopes and cut back on your A4 brochures. [www.royalmail.com/change](http://www.royalmail.com/change)

**Dundee windfall.** £120,000 of cash left by the old Dundee and Angus ATB has been made available to fund local tourism initiatives. Transferred to VisitScotland when D&AATB was wound up the cash will be distributed by the Area Tourism Partnership over the coming two years. It's great to see the cash being retained in the area and being put to good use. – see following item.

**Tourists Encouraged to Walk in the Footsteps of their Ancestors in Angus & Dundee.** Local authorities in Angus and the City of Dundee have joined forces in a bid to attract tourists from across the world to come to the area and walk in the footsteps of their ancestors. To register interest in the initiative please contact Gillian Harrower, Tourism and Leisure Solutions, on Tel. 01738 860523, email: [gillian@tals.co.uk](mailto:gillian@tals.co.uk)

**Edinburgh Airport is to invest £300m** in developing facilities to cope with a planned threefold increase in passengers. Response to the news was mixed with VisitScotland welcoming the news but environmentalists questioning the future of air travel and the Royal Highland Show which draws 1.2m visitors facing possible eviction.

**Ups and downs of flying.** Almost two million passengers used Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen airports in June, a rise of 2.9% on the previous year. Glasgow Airport was the busiest, with 891,093 passengers, compared with Edinburgh's 817,342. Aberdeen remained the fastest growing of the three, with travellers up 11% on the previous year to 286,302.

New routes have just been announced by Ryanair between Prestwick and: Eindhoven and Riga

Meanwhile Ryanair have also announced that it is to cut back on services to Sweden because of a proposed new flight tax. From October 28, the Irish no-frills carrier will scrap its twice-daily service between Stockholm-Vasteras and Luton. It will also cut its Gothenburg City Airport to Prestwick service from five flights a week to three. Ryanair said the Swedish government's proposed tax would increase the average cost of its fares by 30%.

**Hostels to Join Quality Scheme** for the first time ever, all members of Scottish Independent Hostels (SIH) are to be given awards through VisitScotland's Quality and Standards grading scheme. By 2007 all hostel members belonging to Scottish Independent Hostels (SIH) will be

awarded Visitscotland Quality Assurance status. In conjunction with Visitscotland, SIH which is the largest independent hostel association in the UK has developed criteria specific to the hostel accommodation industry.

**Glasgow School of English**, a private English language school based in Glasgow is continuing with its international expansion programme. Glasgow School of English Estonia is teaching English language skills and customer care training to forty employees from two of Estonia's leading hotels; The Radisson and The Meriton. Four other hotels are due to join in the training by the end of June.

**Kelvingrove makes headlines around the world** The newly refurbished Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum reopened on 12<sup>th</sup> July to the delight of thousands of visitors.

**Visitscotland Exhibitions.** Visitscotland have recently been circulating their Exhibitions and Promotions Directory 2006/07. There are 42 trade events on offer. For details and a full listing contact the VS Events team on 0131 472 2431

**Improved rail links north.** For everyone who has been crying out for improvements to the rail services north to Inverness read on: The key works proposed to the Highland Main Line include:

- \* re-doubling the entire four-mile length between Culloden and Daviot;
- \* building a passing loop at Ballinluig;
- \* plain line realignment and recanting along the route;
- \* works to under-bridges where restrictions exist;
- \* works to Kingswood tunnel at Birnam Hill;

Looking even further ahead, more significant infrastructural work in the Fife region could further reduce north journey times to Edinburgh to 2 hours 30 minutes. These improvements would also benefit services to Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen and the North – and not a tilting train in sight!

#### **People in the News.**

- Congratulations to our colleagues in England and Wales; Tourism Alliance Chairman, Brigid Simmonds, and Wales Tourism Alliance Chairman, Julian Burrell, both have been recognised for their services to the industry in the Queen's Birthday honours list and received OBEs. This makes matching set, as STF Chair Peter Taylor received his OBE last year.
- BHA has appointed a new chair with Sir David Michels, formerly CEO at Hilton taking over from Ramon Pajares.
- Visitscotland have appointed Iain Close, former head of sales at the Post Office as the area director of Argyll, Loch Lommond and Forth Valley after the departure of James Fraser after 30 years in the industry, and we wish both Iain and James well.

#### **EVENTS**

---

**greenspace scotland** Bookings are now being taken for the **greenspace scotland** conference on Wednesday 6 September at Edinburgh First. The conference offers delegates the opportunity to be inspired by professionals working in the fields of health, housing, regeneration and planning using greenspace in the mainstream to provide cost-effective and sustainable solutions. Download the full programme from [www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/conference](http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/conference) click through from conference box on home page. To make an online booking go to [www.holyrood.com](http://www.holyrood.com)

**Involving communities in environmental action and decision making: third annual event 13 September 2006 at Battleby** This workshop is aimed at all those seeking to increase participation in environmental action, particularly community groups and people from organisations who work with, or fund them. Info from **Karen Smith, Scottish Natural Heritage**, Tel: 01738 458555 E-Mail: [karen.smith@snh.gov.uk](mailto:karen.smith@snh.gov.uk)

**Springboard Awards for Excellence** Have you got a passion for the Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism industry? Do you feel that you and your people are leading the field in setting examples of best practice? Is that worthy of recognition? Then the Springboard Awards for Excellence are for you. Now in their fourth year, these awards celebrate and reward outstanding practice in addressing one of the industry's most significant issues attracting and retaining people. Closing date 30<sup>th</sup> September [www.springboarduk.org.uk/awards](http://www.springboarduk.org.uk/awards)

**STF AGM and Open Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> October.** Swallow Hotel Dundee. For details contact Elaine at the STF office on 0131 220 6321 or [elainet@stforum.co.uk](mailto:elainet@stforum.co.uk)

**Highland Tourism Awards 24th November** A new look, fresh categories and a welcome to old and new sponsors ... this year's Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards truly reflects the spirit of hospitality in the Region. Details are available at [www.highlands-tourism-awards.co.uk](http://www.highlands-tourism-awards.co.uk).

## PRODUCT NEWS

---

**Ferado beats the Scottish weather.** Glasgow based Ferdao have launched an easy to erect portable covered heated area ideal to make the most of the outdoors and to beat the smoking ban, Details at [www.feado.co.uk](http://www.feado.co.uk)

**Biodegradable Cutlery** With over two billion items of disposable cutlery used in the UK each year Edinburgh based Vegware has launched a range of biodegradable cutlery made from renewable resources. Further details at [www.vegware.co.uk](http://www.vegware.co.uk)

## NEW MEMBERS AT STF

---

We are delighted to welcome the following new members. We would like to encourage all members to pass on details of the Forum to potential new members or give their contact details to the STF office.

**Swallow Hotels** - the fastest growing hotel group in the country. Swallow has an unrivalled number of hotels across the UK, from beautifully restored Castles and Manor Houses, to modern city centre venues. [www.swallowhotels.com](http://www.swallowhotels.com)

**Scottish Retail Consortium.** SRC is the trade association of the Scottish retail sector and is the authoritative voice of the industry to policy makers and to the media. 0870 609 3631. [www.bec.org.uk](http://www.bec.org.uk)

**British Institute of Innkeeping (BII)** – the award body for the licensed retail industry. <http://www.bii.org>.

**Federation of Small Businesses** – FSB Scotland campaigns for an economic and social environment where small businesses can grow and prosper, and is now the country's largest business group, 18,000 members. <http://www.fsb.org.uk>.

**Radical Travel** - Adventures for Backpackers and Independent Travellers. <http://www.radicaltravel.com>.

**Scottish Equestrian Association** - The S.E.A. is recognised by Sportscotland and the Scottish Executive as being the Governing body for Equestrian Sports in Scotland and the Umbrella Body for Equestrian Activities and Industry in Scotland. Its Mission Statement is to provide Vision for, and give Leadership and Guidance to Equestrian Interests in Scotland. To make Representations as appropriate to Government, other statutory and non statutory bodies. <http://www.s-e-a.org.uk/>.

**Hope you are having a good summer season**

***STF Team***

scottish **tourism** forum, 29 drumsheugh gardens, edinburgh eh3 7rn

t: 0131 220 6321 f: 0131 220 5905 e: mail@stforum.co.uk

[www.stforum.co.uk](http://www.stforum.co.uk)

STF is a membership organisation that unites tourism interests in order to make a meaningful contribution to the improvement of Scotland's international competitiveness and business performance. For more information see [www.stforum.co.uk](http://www.stforum.co.uk)

Attachments are sent in good faith. We virus check our files regularly and recommend that you virus check prior to opening attachments. Opinions and content in this message, or in attachments, will be understood as neither given nor endorsed by the Forum, except in so far as they relate to our official business.