

Scottish Tourism Forum Spring Newsletter: **May 2008**

Dear STF,

Welcome to your latest newsletter from Scottish Tourism Forum, the independent forum for tourism in Scotland.

This newsletter details information on STF activities and events, including our forthcoming **STF Open Meeting** which will take place on the 4th June 2008 in Perth.

STF Activities

Lobbying

The Forum has been lobbying on a variety of key tourism issues and has had meetings including, Kenny MacAskill MSP (Cabinet Secretary for Justice), Jim Mather MSP (Minister for Energy, Enterprise & Tourism), Tavish Scott MPs (Chair of EET Committee) and Stewart Stevenson MSP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change). STF was also invited to give evidence on a second occasion at the EET enquiry into Tourism. We are as always particularly keen to get your feedback on 'anti-business' regulations. Have you come across any outdated red tape? Do you have any particular matters that are affecting your business or local area. We are keen to hear about any factors that inhibit growth that we can push on your behalf. - email victoria.bonnar@stforum.co.uk

Strategic Activities

Bed Levy - Bed Tax!

STF has been concerned about the resurrection of discussions about a bed levy in Edinburgh. This idea was discussed some time ago and for good reasons it was not progressed. STF is supportive of anything that brings added value to tourism as long as it is fair and transparent and does not add costs. It is clear that the idea of a bed tax for Edinburgh is fraught with difficulties, it has been used in other countries with mixed success and more importantly none have succeeded in such a high taxed country as our own. We feel a clear and industry endorsed system is achievable but this must be set into a context of what it is this funding is to be used for. Tourism and its businesses contribute a huge amount to the Edinburgh and Scottish economy and there is potentially more to come given investment development of a quality offer that will fully engage people not alienate them through an

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STF Open Meeting



The STF Open Meeting will take place at Perth Racecourse on Wednesday 4 June 2008.

The main speaker will be Tavish Scott MSP.

Registration is a 9:30, lunch included.

NEW STF MEMBERS

East Coast Enterprises Ltd

Roger Brown, Former Sales Director at Promotional Print Distributors LTD, is in the process of developing his own business, East Coast Enterprises LTD. If you would like to contact Roger email eastcoastent@btinternet.com or telephone 01333 310039

additional tax that requires a layer of administration and legislation. We would appreciate your views as we move forward in partnership discussions around this issue, please contact Victoria

Licencing

Our Chief Executive, Iain Herbert, met with Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr Kenny MacAskill, to discuss concerns on behalf of the industry relating to the implementation of the new Licensing Act and other practical issues. A summary of the points raised and outcomes of this meeting will be available to members. He was keen to encourage each of the Boards to adopt a common sense and pragmatic approach to applications and encourage open discussions between Boards and applicants. He was equally keen to discuss assist STF with any issues it members had around Licencing. Please give us your feedback as you apply and we will bring these to Government's attention.

Enquiry

STF also gave second round evidence to the EET Committee's Inquiry into the feasibility of achieving 50% growth in tourist revenue by 2015. The final sessions of evidence culminate on 28th May with Jim Mather MSP Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism. The report is due to be finalized and published in early June. Tavish Scott Convener is our keynote speaker at our Open Meeting in Perth on 4th June -book now to hear the latest on from him and get engaged in the Q&A session with him.

Forthcoming Strategic Work:

STF has been asked to carry out an independent review of the TFFC as it moves forward to the 2015 date. The review will make recommendations on the focus of activity and program of work leading up to 2015 to maximise the opportunities in meeting the growth agenda. STF will be engaging with all partners over the next two months before making recommendations. STF is also looking to provide a conduit for communications to the TFFC group through an on line resource linked to their new website. STF will also be combining research for the TFFC with providing feedback to Government, SE, HIE and other public bodies on the industry viewpoints to give clear leadership framework. We need your opinions so please let us know what you think are the key issues

Real concerns followed the fuel issues around the Grangemouth strike and the perception this had on Scotland being closed for business. A marked increase in prices was also felt and these show no signs of a decrease. What is the impact to your business both in terms of lost trade, increased service costs, higher heating oil costs and rising food costs. The Government revenue raised through the fuel taxes are substantial and these have been one of the clear benefactors from the higher costs. Let us know the impact on your business to assist us in building our direct lobbying.

STF Events

STF Open Meeting

The Forum's first open meeting of 2008 will be held at Perth Racecourse. We

Scottish Tourism Golf

Golf Tourism Scotland (GTS) was established in 2005 with the principal aim of representing the diverse golf tourism industry and to influence specific public and private partnership activities relating to the development and marketing of golf tourism. GTS works with VisitScotland and other agencies to develop a clear vision and strategy for Scottish golf tourism, and how this should be implemented. GTS consults with the membership and other external organisations to identify policies and practices which will benefit the golf tourism industry in Scotland.

The Board is made up of a cross section of the industry, including, Gary Wilkinson of Fife based golf tour operators Wilkinson Golf and Leisure Chairs the Board and Jamie Gardner of Adventures in Golf in St. Andrews is Company Secretary. Since 2005, the company has managed to attract over 160 members from resorts, travel providers, golf courses, tour operators, hotels and more.

If you would like to contact or join GTS please email [Ian McCaig](mailto:Ian.McCaig@stf.co.uk), Administrator or telephone 01292 521404

Inveraray Castle

Inveraray Estate is run by the Campbell family. They have painstakingly tried to maintain the history of the ancient building and its contents. The castle gives us a glimpse of our Scottish ancestry. The castle itself is a unique piece of architecture incorporating Baroque, Palladian and Gothic. It was originally sketched by Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard, for the 2nd Duke of Argyll.

The castle and grounds has much to offer including; field sports,

are happy to announce that **The Caravan Club** will be sponsoring this event which will run from 9.30am until 2.30pm with lunch provided.

Find out how tourism businesses can develop alongside the industry's ambition for sector growth. During these challenging times it has never been more important to look at how to maximize potential yield from your business and develop the offer to secure growth for the future. **Raising the Bar and Jumping Higher: Profit and Potential**

The agenda provides a real balance of strategic level information and practical sessions for your business.

- The day will commence with Tavish Scott MSP, Convener of the Energy, Enterprise and Tourism Committee as our key note speaker. As the enquiry into tourism draws to a close we look forward to hearing his views on the potential for tourism in Scotland.
- We will also hear from the Tourism Framework for Change (TFFC) as it moves into its next phase and how it will focus on business needs, unlocking tourism potential through joint partnerships and how you get involved.
- Gordon Bell, The Retailer, will be demonstrating ways to increase profit potential within your business with selling techniques and recognition of opportunities.

- Shirley Spears, The Three Chimneys, will give a case study on how she has built a successful business in Skye inspiring visitors both to her business and the local area.

The
within
meeting
your

complete agenda will be available on our website the next few days.
Following the highly successful Glasgow open we would advise booking in good time to secure place.

Email events@stforum.co.uk to secure your place or call 0131 220 6321. Tickets for non-members are £40 (plus VAT) each. Cost includes refreshments, lunch and all delegate materials. STF members are entitled to one free place per member organisation and can bring up to 3 guests at a discounted price of £20 (plus VAT) per individual.

For more information call Elaine Townsend at the STF office on 0131 220 6321.

Exhibition space is available for the open meeting. Prices are as follows:

Members: Insert £50 + VAT
 Exhibit £150 + VAT
 Exhibit + insert £175 + VAT

Non-members Insert £75 + VAT
 Exhibit £250 + VAT
 Exhibit + insert £275 + VAT

shooting, salmon, trout and course fishing. The Estate also offers stunning scenic walks and provides holiday homes and caravan parks.

Join Our Mailing List!

Keep in touch with the STF team about your news and events.

Email your news, events and suggestions to Victoria.

Please advise [Elaine](#) of any changes in your contact details.

Kind Regards

STF Team

Awards

Thistle Awards 2008

Scotland's tourism businesses have just over a week to go to get their entries in for the biggest tourism awards of the year. Entries for the Scottish Thistle Awards close at midnight on Thursday, 5 June.

The awards, which are organised by national tourism organisation [VisitScotland](#), honour tourism businesses that excel through quality and innovation and are widely recognised as one of the top accolades in the industry.

The awards are;

- Business Tourism
- Collaboration
- Customer Care
- Events and Festivals
- Innovation
- Marketing Initiative
- Operator Programme of the Year
- PR Excellence
- Sustainable Tourism

Strategic Evaluation:

STF has been asked to develop a new strategic tourism model for both Scottish Enterprise and Highland and Islands Enterprise.

Member to Member Deals

New Projects:

Membership Badges

Your Scottish Tourism Forum badge is now available on our members-only pages. The badge is in pdf form and can be downloaded to your website.

Board Meeting Minutes

STF board meeting minutes are now available to view in the members-only-area of our website. If members are unable to access this site please contact Victoria.

Red Tape News

ROOM RATES AND MENU PRICES- Change in Law

Next Monday 26th, two regulations affecting the industry cease to apply when the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive takes effect. The Tourism (Sleeping Accommodation Price Display) Order 1977, requiring hotels where not all guests book in advance to display in reception prices of overnight accommodation, and the Price Marking (Food and Drink Services) Order 2003, requiring restaurants to display at or near the entrance prices of specific menu items, fixed price meals, soft drinks and wines, are revoked. Also, the UK Code of Practice on Price Indications ceases to have statutory effect, but its requirements, for example to quote VAT inclusive prices to consumers, are likely to be covered by the Directive's general obligation not to mislead consumers. A basic guide to the new law is available at www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46035.pdf

Government Activities

The Scottish National Party, with the support of the Scottish Conservatives, the Green Party and independent MSP Margo MacDonald; Finance Minister, John Swinney, has received the Scottish Parliament's approval for his first budget, effective for the financial year from 1st April 2008.

With certain concessions on business rates, demanded by the Scottish Conservative MSPs, the new administration has adopted an independent line from the rest of the United Kingdom on both business rates and Council Tax, while maintaining parity with England on rate poundages.

- Young Tourism Entrepreneur

For further information on the awards and sponsors, or to enter the awards, go to www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk or call the awards hotline on 0131 472 2228

Chamber Awards 2008 - 5 weeks left

Help give your business the competitive edge, receive free publicity and media opportunities and the chance to win £50,000!

Categories are

- Business of the Year
- Award for Innovation Through Technology
- Most Promising New Business
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Achievement in International Business
- Award for Excellence in People Development
- The Green Award
- Excellence in Customer Service
- The Stelios Award for Disabled Entrepreneurs

Closing date for entries is 27th June but any entries received before the 30th of May 2008 will be entered into a free prize draw to win up to £200 worth of gift vouchers!

For information and to enter visit www.chamberawards.co.uk/2008/

BII have just had their 10th annual BII Bar Personality of the Year Award for Scotland. Six finalists were invited to the prestigious Radisson Hotel in Edinburgh for the BII dinner dance. Debora Hamilton from Millfield Pub, Falkirk was announced as the winner. Morris Lorimer of BII said: "This is the tenth year I have judged this award. This year has been the biggest with over fifty entrants - and

Business Rates

Rateable Values	Rate Poundages	
	2007/08	2008/09
Up to £29,000	44.1p	45.8p
Over £29,000	44.4p	46.2p

Small Business Bonus Scheme

The Small Business Rate Relief Scheme has now been replaced by a new scheme to further help small businesses and support the growing economy of Scotland.

Combined rateable value of all business properties in Scotland	Percentage relief available subject to eligibility		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Up to £8,000	80%	100%	100%
£8,001 to £10,000	40%	50%	50%
£10,001 to £15,000	20%	25%	

Transitional Relief

This system of phasing in, over 3 years, increases in rateable value and rate payments resulting from the 2005 revaluation has now ended. Consequently, all rate payments in the current year will be based on the actual rateable value of the specific property.

Council Tax

For the current financial year all Council Tax payments are frozen at the 2007/08 level.

Empty Properties

In order not to deter continuing industrial development, no plans have been announced to charge business rates on empty industrial properties in Scotland.

Fuel Increase

the best, as the quality of candidate improves year after year..."



VisitScotland

have been awarded Brand Company of the Year at the Marketing Excellence Award 2008 held in Edinburgh earlier this month.

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR THE TOP TOURISM PLAYERS IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

The annual Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) are encouraging nominations from top performers around the area for a wide range of categories. This year's 12 awards are;

- Best Visitor Experience
- Community Tourism
- Customer Care
- Highland Dining Out Experience
- Innovation
- The Green Award
- Marketing Initiative
- New Tourism Business
- Tourism People Development
- Highland Young Ambassador of the Year
- Ambassador of the Year

Nominations for the 2008 Highlands and Islands Tourism awards can be filed on-line at www.highland-tourism-awards.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 29th August

The 2008 Scottish Borders

STF would very much like to hear your views on the increases and how the fuel situation is affecting your business. Please visit our very quick [survey](#) to register your opinion, your views will be fed back to the Government.

New Qualifications

The Scottish Qualifications Authority launched the second Skills for Work Course in Hospitality on the 22nd April 2008. The first Skills for Work Course, Hospitality (Intermediate 1), was introduced in Scottish schools and colleges in August 2007 and both Courses have been designed by practitioners from further education, schools, industry and the Sector Skills Council.

Hospitality (Intermediate 2) is aimed at school pupils from 3rd year and above. It will provide opportunities for candidates to develop general and practical skills as well as knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of the hospitality industry through providing a broad experiential introduction to the hospitality sector.

Skills for Work Courses spanning a variety of vocations have been piloted over the last three years and the feedback from employers, students, colleges and schools has been hugely positive. Further information on Skills for Work Courses is available at www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork or Contact Sheila.howorth@sqa.org.uk
Tel: 01383 624651

STF also gave second round evidence to the EET Committee's Inquiry into the feasibility of achieving 50% growth in tourist revenue by 2015. Complete inquiry report is due to be released on the 28th May.

Members News

[The Adam Smith College](#), Fife, have launched a new degree, [Interactive Media: television](#). The course is the first of its kind in Scotland, it will adapt to the ever changing media environment and ensure that its students and graduates are ahead of the game.

[Glasgow Caladonian University](#) is offering a part and full time postgraduate in MSc Cultural Heritage Studies beginning September 2008. Covering the spectrum from conservation to business, museums to landscapes, study can be focused on aspects of cultural heritage related to tourism development or other themes. For more information visit www.heritagefutures.net/study

[Scottish Tourist Guides Association](#) First ever Regional Tourist Guides graduate this month. They will guide in Russian, Hungarian and Mandarin, these 12 pioneering ambassadors for our Capital city will don the Scottish Tourist Guides Association "Green or Regional Badge". Trained

Awards

The Scottish Borders Awards are a celebration of the achievements of businesses, individuals and community groups and an opportunity to showcase how each of these has contributed to the success of the Scottish Borders as a whole.

- The Scottish Borders Awards are now open for applications across 7 categories:
- Young Ambassador, sponsored by Tesco
- Business Excellence, sponsored by New Ways
- Best Community Project, sponsored by Sykes
- Innovation in Environmental Improvement, sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Forestry Commission
- Best Use of IT in a Tourism-related Business, sponsored by THUS
- Excellence in Skills and Learning, sponsored by Heriot Watt, learndirect Scotland and Borders College
- Promoting Health and Well-Being- sponsored by Borders Sport and Leisure Trust.

The closing date for submission of completed entry forms is Friday 6th June 2008.

[Click here to apply](#)

For more information contact Victoria Miller 01224 578177

Victoria.Miller@bigpartnership.co.uk

Feature Issue

[Climate Change Scotland](#)

over six months at the University of Edinburgh, accredited by the Scottish Tourist Guides Association, sponsored and part funded by VisitScotland, they represent an initial attempt to meet increasing market demands from China, Russia and Hungary.

STGA are also in the process of launching a new website. This will include information about our guides, the tours they can assist with, and a new secure area for our corporate clients to log into to retrieve their bookings and to find out news about what is happening with the association and further afield. For more information contact.

Tartan Silk appointed Pointsizewolffe and Co. with their recent re-branding. The result was hugely successful and as a result Tartan Silk have recommended Glasgow based Pointsizewolffe to one of their newest clients, Torosay Castle & Gardens. Visit www.tartansilk.co.uk to check out their brilliant new rebranding.

Association of Scotland's Self Caterers (ASSC)

has just launched a new consumer marketing website to welcome visitors to Scotland and promote the freedom, independence and authenticity of self-catering holidays - www.EmbraceScotland.co.uk - with a new look brand for the start of the 2008 season

The St Andrew's Links Golf Trust is very excited about the opening of their new course on 28 June 2008. The Castle Course is the most eagerly awaited golf course in the world. The course was designed by Scottish course architect David McLay Kidd, it sits on a 220 acre cliff-top location and has spectacular views overlooking the ancient town of St Andrews and St Andrews Bay. Ranging in length from 5460 to 7188 yards, the par 71 layout offers a challenging yet enjoyable experience with five tees to suit most levels of ability.

City Inn Glasgow, set a new industry benchmark for in-room entertainment with the introduction of a groundbreaking iMac in every guest room. The world first for in-room technology, made its UK debut at City Inn Manchester last year. Offering guests access to 38 television channels, 23 radio stations, office software, high speed broadband, DVD and CD facilities, the iMac also has the ability to play music via iPod or MP3 player. In addition, guests can have access to iTunes, iChat, iPhoto, iMovie and iSight, an in-built video camera for conferencing. Consistent with City Inn's philosophy of providing a transparent offering, no charge is made for use of the iMac, internet access or DVD/CD library, which can be found at guest services.

City Inn has already been recognised at the European Hotel Design Awards 2007 and the Business Travel Show Awards 2008.

Congratulations to...

Climate change is widely recognised as the most serious environmental threat facing our planet. Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), from the burning of fossil fuels (e.g. oil, coal, gas), are already making an impact on the world's climate. Scotland is not immune to these effects as we will continue to experience warmer and wetter winters with less snowfall and increased risks of floods.

The Tourism industry has acknowledged this serious issue and have developed an initiative called, **Climate Change Scotland.**

Climate Change Scotland (CCS)

is an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation set up by Scotland's tourism industry to encourage companies to reduce their carbon use. When they cannot reduce their usage any further, they donate money, which is used for environmental projects in Scotland.

Rabbie's Trail Burners is one of a growing number of companies that have joined the CCS Initiative.

Robin Worsnop, Owner of Rabbie's, was featured recently in [The Scotsman](#), which discussed not only the obvious environmental benefits but also economic benefits of this initiative on his business, with savings of £1,150 on energy bills annually due to energy reduction in their offices.

The Government has also made Climate Change one of their key objectives with last year's announcement of a mandatory target of cutting emissions by 80% by 2050. The Climate Change Bill was under consultation earlier this year and now are asking for feedback on new consultations surrounding the proposals for Scotland's Climate Change

Congratulation to the team at **Lightersshadow** who have become part of ambergreen, one of the leading search marketing agencies in the UK. It will now align them with one of the leading players in digital marketing with clients across the UK, Europe and globally....

....to **Hospitality Industry Trust** who raised over £80 000 at the annual Industry Dinner and also to Neil Thomson, Chief Executive of the Federations of Chefs Scotland, who was awarded with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award....

..... The **National Skills Academy** for Hospitality has been given the green light after the bid, co-ordinated by the **industry's Sector Skills Council, People 1st, with the support of the BHA** and leading hospitality employers, was approved on Wednesday 7th by the Skills Minister for England, David Lammy MP. Total public and private funding of over £100 million has been promised over the next ten years, covering hotel and restaurant schools to be set up in major cities with the involvement of the country's leading colleges.

For further details, go to

www.people1st.co.uk/national-skills-academy

Other Industry News

British Tourism Framework Review

At the request of the Secretary of State last year, an industry-wide review is currently being conducted to determine how VisitBritain should work with other agencies to deliver the following key outcomes:

- The current structure of tourism
- VisitBritain's international role
- VisitBritain's funding
- England's Tourism
- The legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and other major events

For more information about this review visit www.tourism-review.co.uk

ExtraMilesScotland have just launched a new service on our website called Ask Dougal

Got a Scottish travel query? Need a quick recommendation?

Ask Dougal - we offer independent answers to your Scottish questions

www.extramilescotland.co.uk/ask-dougal.asp.

GOOD AS GOLD!

The Scottish Exhibition + Conference Centre (SECC) is as good as gold! The SECC, in-house caterers, Leith's and The Convention Bureau of Glasgow

Adaptation Strategy.

Summer Consultations:

1. Managing our Future Climate Risk: consultation on proposals for Scotlands Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

2. Scottish Climate Change Bill - Proposals for Improving the Energy Performance of Existing Buildings

STF is preparing a response to the Scottish Government on the above consultations. If members would like to contribute to our response please email [Victoria Bonnar](mailto:Victoria.Bonnar@stf.co.uk), Marketing and Communication Assistant.

City Marketing Bureau (GCMB), were all winners recently at the Meetings and Incentive Travel magazine awards, beating off stiff competition to be awarded 'Best UK Conference Centre, 'Best UK Food & Beverage Supplier' and best UK Convention Bureau respectively.

Traveline Scotland

The national public transport information service, is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year long. Call 0871 200 22 33 for up-to-date and accurate public transport information or visit the website www.travelinescotland.com.

Express by Holiday Inn have launched a new website

Hoteldeals.co.uk is our recently launched site designed to offer the best late deals and hotel offers at carefully selected UK hotels. Plus, there are handy destination guides with some interesting facts plus the low down on what to see and do while you are there. For more information visit www.hoteldeals.co.uk.

Cairngorms National Park Authority launch website

With funding support from the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) through its Community Investment Programme the group - which has operated on an informal basis since the early 1990's - has been reconstituted and is now the only area group operating in Scotland, promoting their hostel accommodation on a collective basis. Visit www.cairngormshostels.co.uk

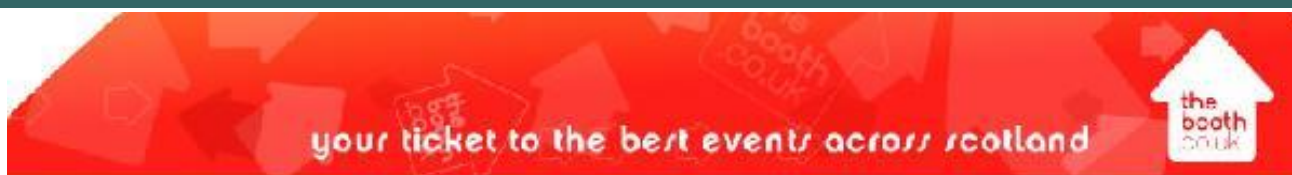
Highland Airways new service to the Inner Hebrides

Flights scheduled from Oban to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree. The expected date for new services to run is June 2008. For more information visit the [Highland Airways](http://Highland Airways website) website

Industry Updates

Government approves a new £5.73 Minimum Wage Rate which will begin from October 2008. This will see the National Minimum Wage rate rise from £5.52 to £5.73. [More Information](#)

Events



Book tickets online, don't que in the rain. For information on Highlands and Islands Events and to book tickets visit thebooth.co.uk

Friday 23rd May and Saturday 24th May

eatBute08

Mount Stuart Trust is pleased to announce that eatBute08 will take place at Mount Stuart on the Island of Bute. eatBute08 will be a two-day food event organised and promoted by Mount Stuart Trust in association with Slow Food UK, Petersham Nurseries and First Milk UK. The inaugural event will be a celebration of local food. It will showcase the best produce from Bute and the surrounding areas while at the same time highlighting to farmers, producers and consumers the importance of producing and consuming food that is good, clean and fair in line with the values of Slow Food.

[More information](#)

Tuesday 27th May 2008, Dundee University

"Innovation in Digital Media: Providing Value Added Competitive Advantage for Tayside Companies"

The Innovation Portal and the University of Dundee will deliver a short workshop intended for firms involved with the Digital Media sector. The event will provide an insight to the specialist academic expertise available in the sector, encourage firms to share experiences and identify barriers to Innovation during the group stages of the event. With speakers from Academia and Industry, delegates will come away with a better understanding of why Innovation is necessary, not only to maintain a competitive advantage, but for the very survival in a crowded sector.

This is a free event and spaces are limited. To register for this event please contact Jamie Henderson 01382 226856 or innovationportal@dundee.ac.uk

29th May - 1st June 2008, Taste of Edinburgh, The Meadows, Edinburgh

Following the success of last year's inaugural outing in The Meadows, Taste of Edinburgh is back - and it's even bigger.

Showcasing the best culinary talent in the country, festival goers will sample food and drink from up to 100 speciality suppliers.

The line up includes award-winners Martin Wishart, Roy Brett and Tony Singh, who will be joined by celebrity chefs Andrew Fairlie, Nick Nairn, Tom Kitchin, Antony Worrall Thompson, Lady Claire Macdonald and Sue Lawrence.

For tickets contact: www.channel4.com/taste

Saturday 31 May - Sunday 1 June 2008

Loch Lomond Food and Drink Festival, Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch 10am - 6pm both days

There will be stalls selling fresh local produce from all over Scotland and cookery demonstrations from award winning chefs, including Darren Harrison, Head Chef of Fine Dining at Loch Lomond Golf Club, Monachyle Mhor's Tom Lewis, and Fi Bird of Stirrin' Stuff on hand to teach kids the basics of baking and cooking.

As well as delicious Scottish produce, you will be able to sample fine wine, local ales and Whiskey.

All activities are FREE

For more info: www.lochlomondfoodanddrinkfestival.com

Friday 6 June 2008

**The Southern Perthshire Tourism Association are 'unveiling' of Tourist Information Notice Board, High St, Auchterarder
11:00am**

The Notice Board will be opened by Councillor John Kellas PKC

Friday 13 June

CSPP 5th Annual Edinburgh City Region Conference

Dynamic Earth,

9:00am - 4:00pm

This year's theme is *Leadership & Governance*, chosen to reflect the challenges and opportunities facing the new political administrations in the councils across the city region, as everyone involved gets to grips with the new political realities that resulted from the local and national elections last year.

Speakers include, Chuck Dalldorf, Special Assistant to the Mayor of Sacramento; Russell Imrie, Chair, SEStran; Alan Robertson, Edinburgh Business Assembly; Lesley Sawers, Chief Executive, Scottish Council Development and Industry and Andy Godfrey, Public Policy Manager, Alliance Boots.

This is an ideal opportunity to hear first class speakers; influence policy and socialise with delegates from public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

For more information or to book visit www.cspp.org.uk

Wednesday 25 June 2008

BHA ANNUAL LUNCHEON, Grosvenor House

Nearly eight hundred members and guests have booked already. CBI Director General Richard Lambert is the principal speaker.

You can join them by making your booking now at £95 (£900 for a table of ten), including VAT. Simply access the booking form at www.bha.org.uk

Saturday 15 June - Sunday 15 June 2008

Get Active Loch Lomond, Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch

10am - 6pm both days

There are a huge range of activities on offer over the weekend, including; Abseiling, canoeing, climbing wall, fishing, football, golf, guided walks, mountain biking, powerkiting, wake-boarding, waterskiing and more... Most activities will be tutored by a qualified instructors and many of the activities will be FREE.

Record breaking Round the World Cyclist, Mark Baumont will be attending Get Active on the Saturday, he will be speaking about his amazing adventure.

The Polaroid 10K Run will also be apart of this years festival, it will take place on Vale of Leven on the Sunday.

For more information visit www.getactivelochlomond.com

To pre-book your activities please call 0845 4580 885

Scotlandbybike.com has just launched it summer day trips and short tours for 2008. These ride outs are especially for the novice rider or those who have made a return to biking, male or female riders are welcome to join. These trips are designed to enhance your riding experience and give you more confidence on a wide variety of roads and help improve your bike handling skills with no pressure. You will be riding in a group with similar abilities and experience.

SAT 28 & SUN 29 JUNE

Weekend trip to Inverary

Depart Aberdeen at 9.30am

Ride the stunning roads of Argyll and Bute.

B&B accommodation (single supplements will apply, prices based on two sharing).

Maximum 12 places

£65.00 per person

SAT 26 JULY**Day trip to Perth and Kinross****Depart Aberdeen at 9.30am**

Ride some of Scotland's great bike routes through "big tree country"
Maximum 10 places £20.00 per person

25th June 2008 - £360 per team of four**HIT Golf day at Carrick Course, Loch Lomond**

This year's start to the HIT golf calendar will take place at the fantastic Carrick course on the banks of Loch Lomond. After the usual excellent bacon butties, we will commence with a shotgun start just after midday. Following the after golf drinks and a few prizes in the clubhouse, there will be a high tea then depart for home, which allows those travelling from far away, time to get there and back easily! Team price this year is £360 which includes, teas/coffees, bacon rolls, a round of golf on the fantastic Carrick course, water bottles, and a drink with high tea. What a tremendous day out!

SAT 23 & SUN 24 AUGUST**Weekend trip to Isle of Skye**

Depart Aberdeen at 9.30am

View some of the most dramatic scenery in Europe.

B&B accommodation (single supplements will apply, prices based on two sharing).

Maximum 12 places £65.00 per person

More Information contact: stewart@scotlandbybike.com

25th - 26th July 2009,**The Gathering, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh**

One of the key events of Homecoming Scotland 2009, The Gathering is an international clan gathering and the largest highland games ever held in Scotland.

The organising team, led by Lord Jamie Semple, will be sending out regular newsletters about the event and a website will provide all the up to date information as it develops. To register for updates or for further information go to www.thegathering2009.com

16 August through November 2008**GaelForce 2008**

Think of GaelForce as a storm of vibrant arts and entertainment that sweeps across Dumfries and Galloway from late summer into autumn. This year we are looking forward to the third Lockerbie Jazz Festival, which will feature a range of International and Scottish musicians and late night cabaret. On the shores of the Solway you'll be able to discover the St Ninian Festival, a gathering with a street party atmosphere.

For information about this year's events visit www.gaelforceevents.co.uk www.gaelforceevents.co.uk

Wednesday 24 September to Friday 26 September**World Hickory Open Championship**

Craiglaw Golf Course

This Open Championship is in its fourth year. It aims to take any level golfer back in time to the days when golf was played with hickory golf clubs. It will test your skill and technique. The prize fund is £17,500. For more information and enter visit www.worldhickoryopen.com

Thursday 9th October 2008

Travel & Tourism Fair

in association with Clackmannanshire Tourism Association
Alloa Town Hall
2-8pm
Admission Free

Friday 21 November 2008

Gala Dinner and Awards

Glasgow Hilton Hotel

The SCDI Gala Dinner and Awards is firmly established as the premier business awards and corporate entertainment dinner in Scotland and is attended by around 750 guests drawn from all sectors of industry and commerce. The 19th Gala Dinner will be themed 'Arabian Nights,' recognising the growing business opportunities in the fast paced and dynamic economies of the Middle East.

The event provides a unique profile raising opportunity. We are currently seeking event partners and there are a number of partnership options available.

We are taking advance bookings for the dinner. The cost of a table seating 10 guests is £1600 plus vat. Bookings for one, two or a few tickets are also welcome. Single tickets cost £160 plus vat. Ticket price includes champagne reception with canapés, gourmet dinner, wines, mineral water, liqueurs and all entertainment.

If you would like to discuss partnership opportunities and/or book tickets please contact nicola.seeley@scdi.org.uk, 0141 352 8548

100k Welcomes: 'A Tourism Development Programme'

100k Welcomes is a nationally recognised and supported programme, which features in the Scottish National Tourism Strategy 2006-2015 and is part of the Scottish Executive's Tourism Framework for Change.

Over 100 delegates went through the Operations training programme in New Lanark World Heritage Centre (delivered by Denny MacKean and Aileen MacDonald) and 20 went through the Operations "open" training organised by New Lanarkshire Council (delivered by Fiona Young) bringing together organisations such as:-

Scotkart
CalderGlen Country Park
Alona Hotel - part of the M&D complex
Scottish Wildlife Trust
Low Parks Museum
Chatelherault Country Park
Bruce Hotel

More information please contact:
mandy.soutar@100kwelcomes.co.uk
or visit: www.100kwelcomes.co.uk