

## STF members' newsletter August 2006

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**Scottish Tourism Week March, 12<sup>th</sup> – 16th March.**  
**Mark the week in your diary; details of events will be announced soon**

### STF MEETINGS

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

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

### STF ACTIVITIES

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**STF will hold its AGM at 10.00 on 5<sup>th</sup> October at the Swallow Hotel Dundee. Following immediately after that meeting an Open Meeting will take place where we will be looking to debate the future of funding for Scottish tourism.**

The day will focus on where public spending cuts planned for the future could impact on tourism growth. We will hear from the Scottish Executive and a local authority perspective from COSLA. There will also be a debate on Bed Tax and the new Business Improvement Schemes that are set to create an opportunity for areas to determine of how elements of business rates can be re-directed to local schemes. We will also here about funding models for tourism from Europe and around the world. To round off the day delegates will be given an introduction to Homecoming Scotland 2009 and the opportunities for businesses to make the most of a major year of internationally marketed events. A debate not to be missed!

Free to members (second member delegate £15) £30 to non members. To register please contact [elainet@stforum.co.uk](mailto:elainet@stforum.co.uk)

**21012 Olympics** DCMS has launched its consultation document on the development of a tourism strategy for the 2012 Olympic Games. As they estimate that between 50% and 75% of the potential benefit of the Games (£1.4bn - £2.0bn) will accrue to the tourism industry. STF will be responding to the consultation.

**STF** will be giving evidence to the Justice 2 Committee on the Christmas and New Year Retail (Scotland) Bill on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Details of our initial written response is available on our home page news at <http://www.stforum.co.uk> If you have any comments please send them to [alan.rankin@stforum.co.uk](mailto:alan.rankin@stforum.co.uk)

**Scotland United;** STF has been attending meetings with BHA regarding the potential of the Scotland United Conference moving to a bi-annual event. STF see a deal of sense in this move and support a large bi-annual event. BHA and STF are working together to hold a meeting in November to look at how the new Tourism Framework for Change strategy is being taken forward and what needs to be done to achieve the 50% growth targets. More news on this to follow.

### RED TAPE NEWS

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**Smoking Ban – your chance to make comment**

**STF served on an advisory committee leading up to the ban. We have been asked to feed back views from the industry to a meeting in September. If you have any comments or observations on the legislation and its implementation to date or issues you can foresee in the future please send them to [alan.rankin@stforum.co.uk](mailto:alan.rankin@stforum.co.uk) by 6<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Bed tax** Shadow Secretary of State, Hugo Swire has launched the Conservative Party's campaign to oppose the introduction of the tax claiming, if based on similar taxes in other countries, such a tax could potentially add £100 a week to the cost of a family holiday to Britain's tourist destinations. [Click Here](#) to link through to the Conservatives "Save the Great British Holiday" website

The subject of bed tax/ tourism tax/ tourism levy call it what you may will be a key agenda item at our Industry Open meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**New fire safety law for business premises** Booklets designed to spark awareness of a new law are being sent to more than 156,000 organisations this week. The booklet provides guidance to the owners and users of non-domestic premises on their new fire safety responsibilities, before Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act comes into force from October 1. Part 3 of that Act requires those with responsibilities - such as owners, employers, employees, managers and other occupiers - to take steps to prevent and reduce the impact of fire even if they have never previously held such responsibilities.

The new legal duties imposed by the legislation seek to achieve safety through seven general requirements, each of which is covered by the booklet:

- Carrying out a fire safety risk assessment of the premises
- Identifying the fire safety measures necessary as a result of the fire safety risk assessment outcome
- Implementing these fire safety measures using risk reduction principles
- Putting in place fire safety arrangements for the ongoing control and review of the fire safety measures
- Complying additionally with the specific requirements of the fire safety regulations
- Keeping the fire safety risk assessment and outcome under review
- Record keeping

Previous fire safety legislation in Scotland has been replaced by the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. That Act generally relates to non-domestic premises and Part 3 imposes a range of responsibilities on the owners and occupiers of such properties.

## **NEWS SHORTS**

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**Flyglobespan** has announced a new route between Scotland and Boston. The route between Glasgow and Boston will start in May 2007 with daily flights during the summer and three flights a week during the winter. It will operate alongside Globespan's other services between Glasgow and Orlando.

**Festival Inns** are looking to develop their up-market Hudson brand. Following on from the £7m Hudson in Hope Street Edinburgh they are looking at a potential Glasgow site and a further site in Edinburgh.

**Tourism. – in space** Lossiemouth is in the running to be the UK site for Richard Branson's Virgin Galactica space tourism experience. VG CEO Will Whitehorn said that the long runway, pleasant

climate and uncluttered airspace had all the attributes for launching the type of space flights they hope to operate by 2011.

**Let's Rock**, Edinburgh's answer to T in the park has bitten the dust with the cancellation of September 2006 event due to poor ticket sales and a major backer pulling out. Meanwhile there are plans afoot to create a major rock concert near Balloch Castle Loch Lomond with the first two day event planned for August 2007

**North Link Ferries** have announced that July has been their busiest ever month since taking over the services to Orkney and Shetland nearly four years ago. 45,000 passengers made the trip between the mainland and the islands.

**More people are choosing to fly** to and from airports in the Highlands and Islands than ever before. The number of passengers passing through airports in the region during the first quarter of this financial year rose by 18%. The three-month running total for the 10 airports operated by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) stands at 317,683 compared with 268,666 for the same period in last year. Inverness was the fastest-growing airport in the region, recording 25.6% growth, followed by Islay, Sumburgh and Kirkwall at 23.1%, 13.7% and 12.2% respectively.

**Edinburgh International Conference Centre** is to open a new 3255 sq ft of space in 2009. The development will be in the region of £30m/£45m.

**Hotel Room Rates** are on the up from 2005. The accountancy firm PKF report; Aberdeen beds stock of 1300, +14% to a rate of £67.11 at 80.1% occupancy. Edinburgh; 3600 beds, +3.5% to £90.55 at 88%. Glasgow; 2050 beds -7.9% to £59.47 at 79.4%.

**SURF Awards** Supported by the Scottish Centre for Regeneration, the SURF Awards are truly independent Awards for Best Practice in Scottish community-based regeneration. SURF is looking for as many entries as possible under one or more of the three award categories of People, Place and Partnership. If you are aware of a project or initiative that you believe deserves particular recognition, please consider nominating it for a SURF Award. Email [Andy Milne](mailto:andy.milne@scrc.org.uk) or telephone 0141 585 6848 for a nomination form.

**First Scotrail** have added late services and extra seating to meet high demand during the Edinburgh Festival. The 'Festival' services will run to Glasgow, Fife and Stirling, Dunblane, Perth and Dundee. – Well done First Scotrail by responding to what the customers want.

**500,000 people** have visited Kelvingrove Art Gallery since it re-opened less than one month ago. The highest daily attendance so far has been 25,596.

**Foula-** at the other end of the spectrum Scotland's remotest island of Foula 20 miles to the west of Shetland has seen a 150% increase in visitors with 740 visiting the island so far this year. Visitors are given a warm welcome by the locals and shown around the island in small groups.

**Road side signs** erected by enterprising operators along the A9 are under scrutiny by Highland Council. Councillors are looking to rubber stamp proposals to have signs such as vehicle mounted signs parked in fields removed.

**Scotch Whisky Experience** in Edinburgh is to undergo a £2m refurbishment. Last year 250,000 visitors passed through the centre.

**The North East Whisky Festival** has received a £6,640 boost from the VisitScotland Challenge Fund. A new 28 page brochure will be produced promoting the 3-7 May event in 2007 will be launched at Glasgow's Whisky Live on 8<sup>th</sup> September.



### **The Kintyre Way – Scotland's Newest Long Distance Walking Route**

Scotland's fifth national long distance route, The Kintyre Way, was officially opened on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2006. Instigated by the Kintyre Tourism Management Planning Group, the 87 mile waymarked route will criss-cross from Tarbert at the north end of the peninsula to Southend. For more information on The Kintyre Way visit: <http://www.kintyreway.com>

**The Calyx** took a step closer to the dream of becoming a reality when it received news of a £250k Lottery development funding award. The 61 acre £36m Perth based garden project, when it opens, will be a major attraction to our national tourism offering.

**Rosyth-Zeebrugge** Superfast Ferry owner Attica Holdings S.A. announced that it has contracted to sell to Veolia Transport its ice-class Ro-Pax vessel Superfast X trading between Scotland and Belgium. Attica Group has confirmed they intend to replace Veolia with replacement vessel.

**2005 UKTS** figures are now available at the national and the regional level. UKTS is a volume and value survey of domestic tourism across the UK. Due to the change in methodology last year, it is not possible to determine whether domestic tourism grew or declined in 2005, but the 2005 figures will provide a benchmark for future years. [Click Here](#) for the full set of figures

### **People in the News**

Dr. Mike Cantley ex Visitscotland deputy chairman and ex chair of Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley has been appointed chair of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

## **EVENTS**

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**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)

**Personal Branding** You have 15 seconds to make an impression – seminar to help with that 15 second challenge. Thursday 7th September 2006 The Copthorne Hotel, Huntly Street, Aberdeen 6.30 for 7pm start with bookings taken at [booking@aberdeenentrepreneurs.com](mailto:booking@aberdeenentrepreneurs.com)

**Involving communities in environmental action and decision making** Third annual event 13 September 2006 at Battleby. The 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)

**Religion, Pilgrimage and Spirituality – A Scottish Tourism Perspective** In Scotland, according to the Visitor Attraction Monitor, tourist visits to places of worship in 2005 were 680,000; up by 13.8% compared to 2004. Venue: Visitscotland, Ocean Point One; 94 Ocean Drive, Edinburgh EH6 6PL Time: 12-3 Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 Cost: Free. To make a reservation: Please contact [rosalind.butchart@visitscotland.com](mailto:rosalind.butchart@visitscotland.com) as places will be limited to 35 people. This is a joint event organised by VisitScotland and the Tourism Society Scotland.

**Profit form Fresh Air** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 at 10.00am The Gaiety Theatre, Carrick Street, Ayr. This conference will: Explain how your business can make money from readily available natural resources; Reveal how you can take advantage of new opportunities resulting from the increasing demand for activity and nature based breaks. Explore strategies relating to the growing number of independent travellers, particularly those using low cost airlines. This event is a free one-day event. Reservations must be made by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 01292 613062 or book on line at [www.interreg-dart.com](http://www.interreg-dart.com)

**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)



**"Scotland's Larder: Developments and Trends for Business"** Industry leaders discuss inform about Scotland's food industry Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006 6.30 for 7.00pm Merchiston Castle School. Bookings for this popular event must be in advance by returning the form below with payment. The price is per delegate and includes a finger buffet/ wine, a great networking opportunity. Email: [HCIMAEinburgh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:HCIMAEinburgh@hotmail.co.uk) 01506 88 28 53

**Scottish Retail Excellence Awards** Tuesday 31 October, Hilton, Glasgow Make sure you don't miss your chance to enter the awards and return your nomination form before Monday 21st August! Organised by The Daily Record & Insider in association with Scottish Retail Consortium Make sure you don't miss your chance to enter the awards and return your nomination form before Monday 21st August! Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to showcase your organisation and raise the profile of your brand in Scotland. [Click here](#) to download the nomination form.

**State of Scotland's Environment** SEPA is hosting a national conference 'Change Tomorrow Today' on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October at EICC Edinburgh. The conference will look at how Scotland can take a more integrated approach to talking environmental problems. Register at <http://www.sepa.org.uk/changetomorrowtoday> or call 08452 30 20 50

**National Conference of Visitor Attractions** is to be held at the QE2 Centre on 11th October 2006. The conference, organised by ALVA, BALPPA, VisitBritain and the Visitor Attractions Forum is an industry-led event aimed at sharing best practice and knowledge throughout the attractions sector. The main themes of this year's conference are: "Attracting Tomorrow's Customers" and "Improving our Attractions". [Click Here](#) for more details of the event and arrangements for booking your place.

**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).

**And finally** --- do you fancy a walk in the sun? If so the Springboard Fund Raising Trek to the Sahara Desert, Morocco is for you. The walk 9 March – 18 March 2007 is in aid of the Springboard Charitable Trust (Scotland) The 9-day trek will take participants across 100km (62 miles) of stunning Moroccan landscape where you can expect anything from perfect wind blown sand dunes, broken only by the occasional oasis, to endless flat salt plains surrounded by the stunning views of the Jebel Sarho and Jebel Bani Mountain ranges. To find out more about the cost and level of sponsorship required please visit [www.springboarduk.org.uk/trek](http://www.springboarduk.org.uk/trek)

**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)

## PRODUCT NEWS

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### New Products

Bike Scotland Trails Rides. Another addition to the Pocket Mountain range of books offers instant expertise on all the Forestry Commission's specialist centres, epic wilderness riding and other routes in Scotland.

## NEW MEMBERS AT STF

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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.

### Camping and Caravan Club

**Elaine has made a plea to members to let her know of any contact details that change within your organisation. If you have had any changes please let Elaine know by email [elainet@stforum.co.uk](mailto:elainet@stforum.co.uk) or calling the office.**

### ***STF Team***

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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)

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