

Welcome to the July enewsletter! Are you looking for funding for your community project? Is your website one of the best in the UK? Check out the latest news on Broadband for your area! READ ON.....

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1. NEW COMMUNITY FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE!

Lochaber Community Economic Development Partnership (CED) are pleased to announce that Phase II of CED is now available!

If you have a community project in mind please contact [Lochaber Enterprise](#).

2. BROADBAND UPDATE

Basic ADSL Broadband for Onich and North Ballachulish on 12 July 2004

Internet users in Onich and North Ballachulish will soon be able to get basic broadband. Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Lochaber Enterprise, in partnership with ZETNET, a Scottish based ISP, are bringing basic ADSL to the Onich BT telephone exchange. This will let business and home users in Onich and North Ballachulish get Zetnet broadband with download speeds of 'up to' 512k. More details can be found on www.zetnet.com or telephone Zetnet direct on 0870 743 0565. Any problems, please contact [Heather](#) by email or telephone 01855 821569.

ADSL for Ballachulish, Glencoe and Corpach this month!

Two of Lochaber's exchanges are due to be upgraded to Broadband this month: Ballachulish – includes Glencoe – on 14/7/04 and Corpach on 28/7/04! A business or home user can order broadband from any ISP providing ADSL broadband. Don't forget, if you're getting broadband, you should ensure that you have appropriate security

measures in place – including anti virus and firewall - and you should install all updates for these and your operating system, immediately!

ADSL broadband gets nearer for Mallaig and Salen

We've been watching BT's dates for upgrading the telephone exchanges in Lochaber, and dates for both Mallaig and Salen have been brought forward - Mallaig is now 4/5/05 and Salen now 27/7/05!

Fort William broadband goes further

Some Fort William businesses were too far away from the telephone exchange to be able to get ADSL broadband. However, BT is now running a 'long reach' trial in Fort William. So if you're on the Fort William exchange and previously couldn't get broadband as you were too far away, then go to www.hie.co.uk/broadband/extendedreach.htm

3. IS YOUR WEBSITE ONE OF THE BEST IN THE UK?

Why not enter your new website in the 2004 national E-Commerce Awards? These awards recognise and reward organisations that have demonstrated excellence through the use of the Internet and other ICT. Categories include: E-Business Start-up, E-Business, E-Trading, Best use of Broadband, Best and use of Teleworking. Winners of each category will win £2,000 in cash, free publicity, and a place in the national finals. The 11 regional winners in each category go forward to be judged at a national level. Winners in each category are awarded £8,000 and a trophy at the Awards Gala Dinner held in October. There are also National Innovation Awards, which recognise organisations that can demonstrate innovative and sustained use of technology to improve their business through: Mobile & Wireless Technology, Advanced Supply Chain Integration; or Best Rural E-Business & Community. For full details see www.ecommerce-awards.co.uk.

4. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RENEWAL SCHEME

Forward Scotland is pleased to announce the launch of a new round of the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme (CERS). The Scottish Executive's Development Directorate has allocated £4.1 million from the proceeds of the Aggregate Levy to the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme (CERS) grant fund to assist projects in areas of Scotland which have been affected by aggregate extraction. The maximum grant will be £100,000 per applicant spread over three years, with the maximum amount drawn down in one year of £50,000. The scheme has a broad remit including mitigating the effects of transport from quarries on the local communities, increase access to the local environment and improve local habitats and amenities

If you are involved in or are aware of any groups who may benefit from CERS then check out <http://www.forward-scotland.org.uk> for further details.

5. DOES YOUR BUSINESS HAVE EXPORT POTENTIAL?

Are you interested in doing business in new overseas markets? Here is your chance to meet partners through pre-arranged company visits, co-operation events and trade fairs.

Poznan, Poland, 20th – 21st Sep. 2004: Sectors: Machine industry and metal processing, automotive sub-suppliers, food + drink industry, packaging and printing. Cost: £235

Budapest, Hungary, 27– 29th October 2004: Sectors: ICT, environmental protection, municipal technologies, medical technology and healthcare. Cost: £200

Brno, Czech Republic, 24 – 26th Nov. 2004: Sectors: Machine industry and metal processing, automotive. Cost: £165

Piestany, Slovak Republic, 26-28th January 2005: Sectors: Automotive supply, transport/logistic, tourism/ecology, wood/furniture, electronics industry. Cost: £135

Houston, Texas, 30th Oct - 5th Nov 2004: Sectors: Energy and engineering companies. 50% grant available.

If you are interested in one of these Trade Missions or would like more information please contact: [Mairi Adam](#) Tel: 01397 708265

6. LOCHABER GRADUATE PLACEMENT SCHEME

A selection of graduates currently available through the Graduate Placement Scheme:

Candidate Ref: 0601 - BA Hons Retail Management.

Originally from Fort William and has interest in retail, management, marketing and HR.

Candidate Ref: 0603 International Hospitality Management (Hons expected).
From Fort William with an interest in hospitality management. Keen to join a high quality Lochaber hospitality business.

Candidate Ref: 0606 - Masters Mechanical Engineering.
Inverness graduate with a strong interest in engineering design & analysis, machine testing and computer modelling.

Candidate Ref: 0607 - BSc Information Systems, Paisley University.
Recently graduated mature student with an excellent work record prior to degree. Interested in IT project management, systems analyst and database work.

For information on the above, or any of the other graduates registered with the Graduate Placement Programme, please contact [Jessie Gourlay](#), Lochaber Business Development Services on 01397 874402.

7. WEBSITE OF THE MONTH!

The Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Directorate launched its revamped website on 30 June, which should provide a useful resource for businesses considering employing workers from abroad.

To access the current Immigration and Nationality site, go to:
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>

8. BUSINESS INFORMATION

There are 9 new or updated business information fact sheets to the library this month:

- 8 A guide to profit & loss accounting
- 150 A guide to selling your business
- 152 A guide to local authority business regulations
- 188 Complying with the telephone & fax preference service
- 192 A guide to dissolving a partnership
- 224 A guide to dealing with customer complaints
- 263 A guide to the provision and use of work equipment regulations 1998
- 266 A guide to creating a business logo
- 305 A guide to staff incentives and perks

Please e-mail [Donna](#) or telephone 708255 for copies of any of the above fact sheets and for any other business information.

9. WHAT'S ON?

Food & Drink sector

“Getting more from exhibitions” – 17th August, Inverness

This new one-day course is designed for businesses or individuals with a track record of exhibiting and will assist delegates to get more from their attendance and investment in exhibitions. The course will be led by Russell Ferguson of RFM, Scotland’s leading expert in exhibition training.

£50 + VAT. To register interest and/or discuss the even further, please contact [Alison Carmichael](#) on 0141 550 7575.

10. About this eNewsletter

Please, please send us your comments about our eNewsletter. Our aim is to keep you up-to-date with the support and assistance that we provide, and to inform you about any forthcoming events. Is it interesting? Is it boring? Is it too long? Is it too short? How could it be better? Do you bin it immediately? Did you not receive it??? Or is it absolutely perfect? We don’t think so, and are patiently waiting for your feedback.... Please e-mail [Donna](#).

Please feel free to forward our eNEWSLETTER to anyone else who may be interested. If you wish to be added to, or removed from this distribution list, please e-mail [Donna](#).

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