

Welcome to our February Enewsletter! READ ON.....

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### 1. TRAINING YOUR STAFF? WE CAN HELP!

Are you an organisation who has considered carrying out some training for either yourself or your staff? If yes, then why not contact Lochaber Enterprise and ask for someone to come out to discuss your plans with you, help you to source the training you want and find out what financial assistance you can get towards your costs. We can advise you on what training might help you and your staff in your daily work and help you compile the training plan for the next few months ahead. If you'd be interested in talking this through, why not contact [Tina Davenport](#) or [Ruth Sime](#) at Lochaber Enterprise today.

### 2. CATCH THE BROADBAND BUS IN ARDNAMURCHAN

The Broadband Bus is planning a tour to Ardnamurchan on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. The bus – which incidentally is branded “Building Smarter Communities”, will be able to provide home users, small businesses and community groups with information on how to get broadband and what to do with it. It's also got broadband enabled computers so you can try it out for yourself. For details of times and dates please contact [heather.negus@hient.co.uk](mailto:heather.negus@hient.co.uk) or call 01397 704326.

### 3. ARE YOU MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR HIGH SPEED INTERNET?

With faster Internet connections, business is becoming a reality for more and more businesses – are you making the most of your technology available? There are 2 workshops specially designed for those businesses who are thinking about using technology in a more sophisticated way. Typically, you may have a website that is not working for you, or you may offer some transactions online, with a large proportion of transactions being manual. Or, do you only have basic online security facilities which may not be adequate? The workshops will be held in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Tue 21st February, and in the Glenuig Hall on Wed 22nd February 2006. For more details please contact [Heather Negus](#) on 01397 704326, or [book online](#).

#### **4. ENTREPRENEURS CLUB**

Tuesday 7 March 12-2pm (soup and sandwich lunch provided)  
Fort William venue TBA

How good are you at thinking innovatively and creatively to solve business problems? Come and practise at the next meeting of the Entrepreneurs Club, which will present real-life challenges faced by a Lochaber-based business and then give you the chance to work in groups to come up with suggestions for innovative yet practical solutions. This is sure to be a very stimulating, lively and fun event, which may well trigger ideas for dealing with your own business challenges too. This meeting will be run by Fusion, whose role is to promote entrepreneurship and innovation across the Highlands and Islands. All welcome, and there is no charge.

Contact [Paula at Fusion](#) to book your place.

#### **5. GRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMME IN LOCHABER 2006**

Following the success of the first scheme, Lochaber Enterprise is again running the Graduate Placement Programme aimed at attracting graduates to work with local businesses. This is an excellent opportunity to bring high calibre skills into your business at a fraction of the cost.

As a local business you'd need to have a specific project which the graduate could undertake, this could be extremely varied, both in its scope and timescale. So, it could be related to, for example, marketing, engineering, IT, environmental issues, or be a specific piece of work in its own right. Ideally it would be a project that would help to grow your business, In terms of timescale the placement would last for a minimum of 3months, but would need to finish by the end of December 2006.

Lochaber Enterprise is able to assist financially by contributing 50% of the graduate's salary up to a maximum of £7,000. The package also includes a range of training options for the graduate.

If you have a suitable project for a graduate, or would like more information on the programme contact [Roddy MacPhee](#) on 01397 874402 or [Lesley Benfield](#) on 01397 708888.

#### **6. CONGRATULATIONS TO.....**

West Word who has won the Community Newspaper of the Year in the Highlands & Islands Media Awards.

Also, The UCI have today announced that Fort William has once again taken the award for the best DH and 4X - for the 4th year running. This once again confirms the quality of the downhill mountain bike track on Aonach Mor.

#### **7. MIGRANT WORKERS UPDATE**

The Migrant Workers Forum comprises Lochaber Enterprise, Lochaber CAB, Highland Council Culture Leisure & Sport, Highland Council Housing Department, Careers Scotland, Marine Harvest, NHS and Northern Constabulary. The aim of the forum is to address concerns of workers in the area and look at ways in which the area can benefit from better inclusion and integration of workers. Two key initial action points have been identified and addressed:

**Welcome Packs** in English, Polish and Latvian have been produced and are available from [Lochaber CAB](#) on 01397 709098 or [Lochaber Enterprise](#) on 01397 70 4326. This gives comprehensive information on living and working in Lochaber.

**English Classes** have also been arranged by Highland Council and are available free of charge to all students. Contact [Ann Marie Donoghue](#) on 01397 707371.

## **8. STRUGGLING TO FIND STAFF?**

Then why not visit the Fort William Job Centre on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February for an employer workshop from 2pm to 3pm. Recruitments issues, financial incentives for benefit customers to return to work and information on the Lochaber Employer Coalition will be the themes.

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 3pm employers and customers on benefits are invited to a Closer Working Event at the Jobcentre Plus office. This is a recruitment event and also an opportunity for employers to encourage and influence people about their choice of future employment.

For more information and to book your place on both events, contact [Val Bremner](#) on 01397 902005.

## **9. WEBSITE OF THE MONTH!**

### **BACK SCOTLAND'S BID**

Support the bid to bring the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014 by logging on to [www.glasgow2014.com](http://www.glasgow2014.com) and show your support for Scotland's bid for the Games. Over 16,000 people have already done just that.

You can also subscribe to The Inside Track which is a newsletter sent to you on email and gives you up to date information on the progress of the bid. This could bring great benefits to Scotland and indeed Lochaber as the Outdoor Capital of the UK.

## **10. DO YOU LIVE IN THE MOST ENTERPRISING PLACE IN BRITAIN? - ENTERPRISING BRITAIN 2006 COMPETITION (UK)**

The Department for Trade and Industry has launched a competition to find the UK city, town, place or area that best exemplifies the enterprise spirit. The competition, a key part of the Government's drive to increase entrepreneurship in the UK, identifies areas of enterprise excellence: those places that have created jobs, brought communities together, and made a real difference to local businesses and local people. Twelve regional winners will be selected in competitions run by Regional Development Agencies and Devolved Administrations around the country over the next 4 months. In September a panel of expert judges will select a national winner from the regional finalists. The overall UK winner will then represent the UK in the European Enterprise Awards at the end of the year. Further information can be found on the [DTI's Small Business Service website](#).

## **11. LOCHABER LARDER**

## Butchery Workshop

A 2 day practical hands-on workshop for anyone with an interest in adding value to meat, through preparing and presenting cuts for retail sale, making sausages and curing techniques. There are limited places available and the course cost is £70, if you are interested please contact [Robert](#) at Lochaber Enterprise.

## 12. WHAT'S ON?

### **The Women @ Work Project – Lochaber Network meeting**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 12:00-2:00pm at the West End Hotel, Fort William

Cost: Event is free and lunch is available for £3

Exploring employment tribunals and how they work with Ledingham Chalmers. This will be an introduction to some areas of employment law, including discipline and grievance procedures and unfair dismissal. Pre Booking is essential – [contact](#) 01463 710 577.

### **Supporting the Tourism Industry in Scotland**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 5:00 – 8:00pm at Lochaber College, Fort William

Hosted by the Scottish Centre of Tourism, the aim of this roadshow is to inform, engage and motivate those attending to be (even) more enterprising - all in a friendly environment. Attendees can expect some insights from a keynote speaker, the opportunity to view real life case studies. Following this, there will be time over the buffet to talk on an informal basis with experts in the area. To attend please contact [Lynne Paterson](#) on 01224 263075. Visit the [Enterprising Tourism](#) website for more info.

### **HITS Emerging Talent Conference, EICC - Edinburgh**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Have you got the Talent? Developing the New Generation in Hospitality.

Hospitality Industry Trust (HIT) Scotland in association with key industry partners is delighted to announce their second annual one day conference on Friday 10th February 2006, at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC), Scotland.

Hosted by Fred McAuley, the conference boasts key speakers from all areas of the industry; from Nick Nairn to Adam Balon from Innocent Drinks. The day will incorporate best practice seminars for Entrepreneurship, Training and Service as well as an interactive Chef's Seminar - all of which are hosted by leaders from various areas of the industry. After a delicious lunch and question time style debate, the day will culminate in the HIT Scotland Scholarship Award Ceremony.

This is your opportunity to voice your views on key issues facing the tourism industry in Scotland and provides you with an excellent opportunity to network with some of the leading experts in the industry.

Tickets for industry professionals are £50 and there is no charge for students - all tickets are running out fast! [Book online](#) or alternatively please [contact Elle Events](#) on 0870 870 2778.

### **Motivation & positive attitude presentation by Mike Dixon M.B.E., B.E.M.**

1 March 2006, 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Lochaber College, Fort William

Cost £30 + VAT

Lochaber College is delighted to announce Mike Dixon MBE, BEM will be delivering a lecture presentation to an audience of Business leaders, Managers, and Individuals. Mike will work with the audience in visualising how to cope under pressure and see the incredible effects of a positive and individual team attitude.

For further information or to book a place please contact [Jessie or Maureen](#) on 01397 874874.

**Inspiring Leadership ‘Short Breaks’  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Fort William  
Cost £35 + VAT**

‘Short Breaks’ have been developed specially for Tourism businesses and are brought to you by Highlands & Islands Enterprise. They are a series of short, lively and practical events, designed to be particularly useful if your business is taking the ‘journey to excellence’ with the help of the Hospitality Assured scheme. By taking a short break, you will be traveling to somewhere new and exciting and what’s more it’s going to be a worthwhile experience.

But, even if your business is not working with the Hospitality Assured model, you can still benefit from attending this event. An interest and commitment to achieving service & business excellence is the only pre-requisite necessary.

Cost is £35 plus VAT per delegate (inclusive of lunch and refreshments). To reserve your place please call 01381 621 064 or [e-mail](#) for a booking form.

### **13. TRAINING IN LOCHABER**

#### **5 Step Management Development Programme**

If you’re considering how to develop your management and coaching skills, then contact Lochaber College. Through its 5 Step Management Development Programme, Lochaber College can help you to achieve an appropriate management qualification, from a NQ in Tourism and Hospitality, right through to an Executive Diploma in Management. To discuss your experience, and find the most appropriate qualification, then please contact [Rosemary Llewellyn](#) at Lochaber College on 07789 942238.

#### **Lochaber College courses being held during February and March**

Venues in Fort William, Kilchoan, Kinlochleven, Mallaig and Strontian.

Management team & leadership, communications in management, elementary food hygiene, managing change, ACAS employment workshop, Servewise, first aid one day, fresh cooking fresh ideas.

For further details or to book a place contact [Maureen or Jessie at LBDS](#) on 01397 874874.

### **14. 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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DISCLAIMER

Our newsletters are produced to keep our customers and contacts informed on issues affecting the HIE Network and the Lochaber area. Whilst Lochaber Enterprise has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, the articles are of a general descriptive nature, and are not therefore intended to be exhaustive treatments of the relevant topics and should not be relied upon as such. Please contact Lochaber Enterprise if you require further assistance or information.