

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

Contents

1. Congratulations!
2. Investors in People
3. Lochaber economy today and tomorrow.
4. Reduce Hazardous waste with Hazred.
5. Start up awards 2006
6. Don't miss the Party in the Fort!
7. Stay Healthy and save money!
8. 'S i gaidhlig a ni an gnothach ~ *Gaelic does the business!*
9. Local Business Focus
10. Website of the month
11. Business Information
12. What's on?
13. About the E-newsletter

1. CONGRATULATIONS!

Glencoe was voted the fourth wonder of Scotland in a recent ballot of Scotsman readers. Scott McCombie an NTS ranger at Glencoe collected the award at a ceremony at The Scotsman last month. The overall winner was the Forth Bridge.

Inverlochry Castle won luxury hotel of the year and Glenfinnan House won the Sensationally Scottish award at the recent 2006 Scottish Hotels of the Year awards.

At the same awards the following businesses were all award winners or highly commended in a range of categories - Glenfinnan Hotel, Swallow Isles of Glencoe, Ballachulish House & Golf Course, Stronlossit Inn and Tomdoun Lodge.

This sends a very strong message about the quality of the hospitality industry in Lochaber. A very big well done to all involved!

[See the full list of winners here.](#)

2. INVESTORS IN PEOPLE (IIP)

The IIP standard is an excellent way to ensure that your business is communicating well, has the right training in place for the right staff and ensures that what you are concentrating on links to your planned developments over the coming year - it keeps your focus in the right place. The standard helps you as the owner / manager of your business to see a clear direction towards:

- What 4-6 main points of development you wish to make in your business over the next 12 months
- How to communicate that effectively to your staff
- How to train your staff to be able to meet those development needs
- How to evaluate whether the training investment and improvements you've made over the year have all been worth it

FREE advice is available to you to develop this standard within your business through Lochaber Enterprise. Contact [Tina Davenport](#) for further information. [Find out more about IIP here.](#)

3. LOCHABER ECONOMY TODAY & TOMORROW

Lochaber Enterprise has commissioned consultants to undertake a review of the Lochaber economy and identify priorities for the future. As part of the process, consultations with local businesses will take place either in the form of telephone interviews or workshops. The purpose of this review is to provide an overview of the economy of Lochaber in 2006, identify future opportunities for, or constraints on, the further development of the economy and provide a framework for the sustainability of the Lochaber economy. The consultation will take place during May & June 2006, with results presented to Lochaber Enterprise and the Local Economic Forum, later in the year. For further details contact [David Oxley](#).

4. REDUCE HAZARDOUS WASTES WITH HAZRED!

HAZRED is a three-year European project that aims to develop a sector-led approach to help small businesses save money by preventing and reducing hazardous wastes and will be delivered by SEPA, one of the eight partners involved.

The project plans to work with 120 small businesses across six priority sectors in the UK and Ireland, as well as key trade associations in each sector, to develop hazardous waste reduction plans, set targets and monitor and evaluate outcomes. The six key sectors are General construction and building, Treatment and coating of metals, Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles, Photographic processing, Manufacture of speciality organic chemicals and Manufacture of machinery and equipment.

HAZRED is looking to recruit businesses in these sectors to take part in the project from April - June 2006 and company involvement in the project will be about 1 year. The benefits to your business will include a tailored hazardous waste reduction plan, on-site training from a specialist advisor, guidance on monitoring and evaluating waste outputs and cost savings and advice through the HAZRED hotline, website and dedicated email address.

Interested in taking part? Contact [Julie McKinney](#) at SEPA on 01786 452554.

5. START UP AWARDS 2006

Now in its third year, the Startups Awards 2006 continues in its quest to recognise, celebrate and reward the UK's best business start-ups.

To be eligible to enter the Startups Awards 2006, businesses must have been trading for less than three years, be privately owned, and employ fewer than 60 people.

Categories include Business Plan of the Year (open to businesses that haven't started yet, but have completed a business plan), International Business of the Year, Retailer of the Year, Manufacturing Business of the Year and a Silver Fox Award for the more mature entrepreneur.

Winners of each category will then compete to be named NatWest Business Startup of the Year and collect a grand prize of £5000.

For more information about this year's awards and how to enter visit www.startupsawards.co.uk

The closing date for entries is 9 June and finalists will be announced on 14 August.

6. DON'T MISS THE PARTY IN THE FORT!

As part of the Mountain Bike World Cup event, Fort William High Street will be transformed into the ultimate party zone for all the family on Saturday 27th May! From 6.30pm to midnight, the High Street will be buzzing with music and fun – street entertainers, music of all kinds, and activities for everyone to try. Test your skills on the bucking bronco, try out the climbing wall, or throw your weight around as an inflatable sumo wrestler! Indulge yourself with delicious local food at the Lochaber Larder marquee, and enjoy a spot of late-night shopping 'til 10pm.

With buskers galore, old-time swing band, traditional pipe band, Gaelic singers and more, music is going to fill the street and you won't be able to stop your toes tapping! PLUS the fantastic Peatbog Faeries head the line-up on the main stage at Cameron Square – be prepared to join in one huge ceilidh!

More details will be available on the [Outdoor Capital of the UK website](#) soon.

7. STAY HEALTHY AND SAVE MONEY

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has said that financial savings can be made as a result of a good health and safety policy, and is urging small businesses to consider the financial benefits of health and safety as the new financial year dawns. The HSE's Better Business Campaign has also pointed out the potential dangers associated with failing to look after workers' safety; one in five small businesses had at least one worker who suffered an injury in 2005.

For further information and to read about the business benefits of better health, visit the [HSE website](#) or contact HSE's Infoline on 0845 345 0055.

8. 'S I GAIDHLIG A NI AN GNOTHACH! *Gaelic does the business!*

Bilingual signs create an atmosphere which offers the visitor to the area an experience with a difference and are a positive way of promoting business and services through the Gaelic language. Comunn na Gaidhlig have produced an introductory pack of bi-lingual signs which can be used in your business and they offer advice and financial support to companies that would like to incorporate Gaelic in their business. [Contact Comunn na Gaidhlig](#) on 01463 234 138.

9. LOCAL BUSINESS FOCUS

Lochaber Enterprise is planning to hold a workshop on window dressing and stock presentation at the end of May in Fort William. If you are interested in taking part please contact [Robert Linton](#).

10. WEBSITE OF THE MONTH!

Thursday 6 April will see a number of new regulations coming into force as part of the Government's common commencement dates system. The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 replaces the Noise at Work Regulations 1989, tightening restrictions on acceptable decibel levels for noise in the workplace. Meanwhile, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) replace a 1981 law, and changes also come into force for weights and measures rules, insolvency law and copyright regulations.

[Find out more about the new noise regulations here.](#)

11. BUSINESS INFORMATION

An example of the business information fact sheets available from our library:

BIF008 A Guide to Understanding Profit and Loss Accounts
BIF013 Choosing and Using a Graphic Designer
BIF029 A Guide to ISO9000 Quality Standards
BIF044 A Guide to Developing a Marketing Plan
BIF152 A Guide to Local Authority Business Regulations
BIF252 A Guide to Corporation Tax
BIF317 How to Enable Customers to Pay Online
BIF342 An Introduction to Setting up an Online Store
BIF371 Choosing and Using a Recruitment Agency
BIF414 A Guide to Using the Manufacturing Advisory Service

Contact [Molly Martin](#) for copies and for full details of all other fact sheets available.

12. WHAT'S ON?

HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL WORKSHOP FORT WILLIAM 16TH MAY 2006 10AM-4PM

We hope that you can take part in a workshop on hydrogen and fuel cells on 16th May. Hydrogen and fuel cells are a set of technologies that offer potential benefits for the Highlands & Islands in view of their potential link to renewable energy and opportunities relating to innovative technology. The workshop intends to inform interested parties and set out how these technologies could be relevant with a view to development of project ideas.

If you wish to attend, please contact [Scott Dingwall](#) by Friday 12th May.

LOCHABER ENTREPRENEURS CLUB – 15TH JUNE 2006

The next Entrepreneurs Club will be held on Thursday 15th June at Ben Nevis Distillery. Paula Kirby from FUSION will be leading this event and the theme will be 'Help the Entrepreneur'.

Gordon Ross, Genuine Games Ltd will be setting two challenges which are facing his business for discussion amongst the group with a view to finding solutions.

Entrepreneurs Club is open to all and if you would like to be contacted about future events or attend this one please contact [Sarah Donaldson](#) for more information.

13. 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](#).

Lochaber Enterprise
St Mary's House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6DY
Tel: 01397 704326 Fax: 01397 705309
Email: lochaber@hient.co.uk
Website: www.hie.co.uk/lochaber
www.lochaberjobs.co.uk ~ work in the perfect location!

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.