

Oban *through the* lens

DAVID Webster might not have been born in Oban but he is about as native as anyone can get without actually having Oban on their birth certificate.

Now 82 years old, he has done much to enhance the reputation of Oban as a tourist destination and been involved in the town at a civic and business level for more years than many a native could claim to have done.

Born in Tunbridge Wells and educated at St George's Primary and Skinner's College, he was set to go off to university when the Second World War intervened.

He had been encouraged by his father, editor of the Kent and Sussex Courier to take up photography and worked for a time with the newsagency Hamlin of Brighton, taking photos of such illustrious people as comedian Max Miller and even the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

He volunteered for the Royal Air Force and was trained as a pilot during the war.

After a stint in Guernsey following the war as a photographer, he returned to Tunbridge Wells.

In 1950 he picked up a copy of the British Journal of Photography and spotted an advert for a job in Dunoon and that is how he first came to Argyll.

After a period he started photographing weddings and functions all over the Highlands and during this time met a young solicitor in Oban called Robin Banks (Councillor Robin Banks until May and chairman of the Royal National Mod Committee).

The young Mr Banks helped David acquire a studio in Craigard Road from where he began his own studio.

'Then by chance I got into the retail business,' David recalled.

