

BID4Oban June Newsletter

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BID4Oban Ltd**June 2015****Issue 26**

Recent Events

Queen Mary 2

The first ever visit to Oban took place of the Cunard Line Queen Mary 2 on Friday 22nd of May. The weather was reasonably kind to us and all the photos in the National press with the Queen berthed just outside the bay looked great. The town was buzzing with not only the many passengers and crew from the ship but also the many visitors who travelled to Oban to see her. The Esplanade and Ganavan Road were popular viewpoints. Overall the town the visit was a great boost and also a good start to the 'Festival of the Sea'.

It was also quite pleasing that the good work of our Cruise Welcome Group were acknowledged by so many local businesses and more especially the Master of the Queen Mary 2 (his email to Vicki our Harbourmaster is below)so hopefully we will reap benefits for our efforts.

On departing from Oban she went to Liverpool where she met up with her two sister ships the Queen Elizabeth 2 and the Queen Victoria. Seeing the 'Three Queens' together was fairly amazing-my own preference was seeing the QM2 anchored just outside Oban bay.

NM

From: Master QMCAPT **Sent:** 28 May 2015 18:28

To: McKenzie, Vicki

Subject: Re: Visit to Oban [OFFICIAL]

Hello Vicki

Many thanks - we had a very successful visit to your beautiful city.

Feedback from the guests was positive - the boat ride was in protected waters, so smooth for them, and access onto the slipway was easy - many thanks for ensuring it was clean and not slippery for them.

I think the best bit was the report that more people had come into Oban to look at the ship, than we landed to look at Oban! The shopkeepers of Oban were well pleased.

Thank you for your welcome. We have recommended to our planning department (which looks after Cunard and P & O), that Oban should be considered for future visits.

Kind Regards

Chris Wells

Master

Queen Mary 2

Skerryvore Decade 30th May

We believe it safe to say the event has proved a big success for the town. We are especially pleased that our influence and support helped Skerryvore to choose Oban as the location for their tenth birthday party. From amongst their ranks was heard "it was bit of a no brainer". The overwhelming response when tickets went on sale meant that serious consideration had to be given to increasing the size of the event. The support of the OLI Events Safety Team consisting of the various ABC departments and all the emergency services proved invaluable therefore that contingency was put into place. One of the big costs for Skerryvore was that increasing the size of the event meant that the audience would have to use the pitch so an appropriate cover had to be hired by the band to protect the turf. This proved to be the same as used

at Hampden with a £25k cost for the hire however the boys went ahead with this and absorbed it into the cost of the event. When the covering was lifted the protected grass looked better than the half of the park that wasn't used.

The sometimes old Oban adage of "you won't be able to do that" was a challenge we all took up and with detailed and thorough planning saw it delivered.

The weekend proved to an immense lift for the town, accommodation providers from camping sites to self-caterers and everybody in between were busy for the weekend, food operations stayed open late and some establishments claimed they had not seen the like since the last Royal National Mod!

Skerryvore and their tremendous array of support bands, not forgetting the eye filling display from 'Eilidh's Dancers', did us all proud not forgetting their 'TMF Team' working behind the scenes. Everyone worked hard to make sure that any inconveniences to the community were kept to a minimum and thanks to all those who put up with any of the minor disruptions.

The big questions on everyone's lips is – are you having it next year?

Will it be bigger next year?

Who will be appearing next year?

Skerryvore who funded the over £200k event with minimum assistance will be having discussions with ourselves and the local authority when they are back in the country.

I think it safe to say that with such an all-round positive reaction to the Skerryvore Decade and not just from our locals but from those who travelled from near and far and even farther that if we can we will.

Neil Mackay

Upcoming Events

This Sunday (28th June) once again sees Mossfield as the place to be, this time for – The Lorne Highland Games. Each year sees this event growing in stature and in popularity for both locals and visitors and is especially a fantastic day out for families definitely not to be missed. NM

The Big Strip - WE NEED YOU

We are continuing with our very successful event programme. Saturday 4th July will see Bid4 Oban lead another attempt at the Guinness Book of World Records for a Scottish Country Dance namely 'Strip the Willow or better Known as Oban's' Big Strip' and even better news we are back to the best venue for the

job namely George Street.

Support from the local Police Scotland & ABC has helped persuade Transport Scotland to give the road closure for the duration of the dance

To comply with the rules all our dancers have to wear a 'Touch of Tartan' and given the date coincidentally the American Day of Independence, we are hoping that we will see the odd Stars & Stripes showing face as well.

Indeed a perfect link for 2015 with the recent successful visit to New York of our own Oban High School Pipe Band who were proudly displaying their 'Love Oban' banner on the streets of New York, (we will need to ask if we can borrow the Big Apple Banner for the 'Big Strip).

Currently the World record stands at 1914 and we have made our target 2015 (wonder why) which would smash the world record. Some may ask how can you have an odd number for a Strip the Willow? - we are hoping that S.A.M.S. will help us with that one by providing an Octopus with an unusual amount of legs! – Well we are the Seafood Capital of Scotland!

It's easy to register for the event just log on to www.thebigstrip.com or www.obanwhatson.com or just pop in to the Love Oban shop on Stevenson Street for a registration form.

We are especially pleased that local Insurance broker Clark Thomson are sponsoring the 'Big Strip' and it is hoped that they will be fielding an especially colourful team. In fact we are keeping our fingers crossed that most businesses and organisations will get behind another great 'Love Oban' event that sees 2015 as a bumper year for quality events in town. – NM

'Oban Whats On' Poster Boards and Leaflets

Once again our fortnightly What's On Leaflets are being printed and distributed around the town. If you have any events or happenings taking place in and around Oban please submit the details to <http://obanwhatson.co.uk/submit-event/> and the event will then be transferred to both the What's on Boards and Leaflets.

Digital Ambassador News

An exciting new benefit for levy payers is the introduction of the Showcase Business on the Mi-Love Oban facebook and twitter platforms. Each week one business will be 'showcased' with photos, videos and an interview with the owner and a chance to do a competition and/or a special offer. This business will then

feature heavily on the facebook page and twitter and be boosted to reach as many people as possible. Our showcases so far have proved to be very successful with the businesses reaching over 5,000 people. If you would like to take part or find out more about being a Showcase Business then please contact Kay or Yvonne on 569915 to make an appointment.

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