



BID4Oban Newsletter

BID4Oban Ltd

November 2015

Issue 29

BID4Oban Christmas Promotion

Love Oban Festive Headliners

BID4Oban are hoping that as many local businesses as possible will look to being part of our Christmas Campaign and promote their goods utilising the various marketing tools available to our organisation. Within this initiative we are incorporating a 'Festive Headliner' this will mean that you can select one item from your Christmas Promotion which will be your really special featured item for the festive period. Should things go well and you shift your headliner then you can change it for your next in line. All you have to do is let us know, alternatively you might only wish to have a Festive Headliner so we can easily accommodate that. Whatever you would like to promote for Christmas we can help.

Various members of the team will be getting in touch to find out if you would like to come aboard the BID's Christmas Special or if you would prefer just get in touch with the office.

Upcoming Events

Reindeer Parade with special guest Santa 21st November

Saturday 21st November heralds the start of Oban's Winter Festival with the Love Oban Reindeer Parade and Christmas Light Switch On. BID4 Oban is delighted that the commencement of the second phase of Public Realm works in the town centre has been postponed until after all the town centre events including the winter festival, festive shopping & celebrations have taken place.

As in previous years the Reindeer Parade starts at the Corran Hall with Oban Pipe Band at 5.00pm please see our poster or Oban What's On for full details. In advance of the event we would like to thank Oban Lions, Rotary and the Winter Festival for working with us for the parade and we hope that Santa, Rudolph and the other guests will have another enjoyable visit – we know that they all 'Love Oban'.

Recent Events

Royal National Mod

We are sure that you have heard all the great comments about the 2015 Mod in Oban. It was indeed a pleasure to work with the Local Organising Committee and of course the 'parent' An Comunn Gàidhealach and be part of such a tremendous event especially with Oban Gaelic Choir lifting the Mod's premier choral trophy- well done.

One of our main tasks was organising the Torchlight Parade signifying the start of the Mod. A big thanks to the Oban High School Pipe Band for leading the parade and a slight tongue-in-cheek apology for the delay around the advertised 6.45pm start from Station Square which just happened to coincide with BBC Alba who were filming their 7.00pm news live from Stafford Street with the parade and the town looking tremendous on National TV.

The town rose to the occasion with a fantastic fringe, and well deservedly heard from many sources - "one of the best yet". NM

Love Oban Halloween Party

This was the second annual party for primary and pre-school children. This comes under our 'Community Event' section which gives Bid4Oban representing the businesses of the town not only an opportunity to integrate, more so leading on an event for the whole community. Over 150 youngsters were 'guising' at the party held in Atlantis, accompanied by around 75 adults comprising parents & grandparents, quite a number which were also our levy

payers. A big thanks to Atlantis, once again our Halloween partners for the event, as previously and as always the staff were more than helpful. The MacDonald family and their team at J M Breckenridge deserve a big thanks for donating the fresh fruit for the 'apple dookin' and goodie bags. Our DJ Steve-Dot O was great and thanks to Lindsay at Markie Dan's who provided his services. Kay & Yvonne from BIDs were suitably dressed up unfortunately due to the time factor I wasn't able to don an outfit (honest). NM

Love Oban Fireworks Spectacular

Yes indeed it sure was a spectacular! We have received many favourable comments for this year's event which saw us using a new fireworks company, Fireworx. Listening to many of your requests last year to move the event to the town centre Harbour was seen to be a major success which we have repeated and further developed.

A major thanks to the main sponsors namely Scottish Sea-farms through their 'Heart of the Community Trust' who came on board with a special thanks to one of their managers Mr David MacMillan whose three sons, Innes, Calum and Fraser manned the plunger to start what proved to be the longest fireworks display to date (no extra comments please) it was around sixteen and a half minutes! – 2015 was more an O-bang – A- bang –A Bang- A-bang. There was an estimated crowd of well over 4,000 between the seafront, McCaigs tower, Pulpit Hill and the many vantage points in the town. Thanks again to the main sponsors, Scottish Sea-farms also Northern Lighthouse Board who let us use their secure facilities as the let-off point, HM Auxiliary Coastguard and the Och Aye sound team. NM

Digital Ambassador News

November can be a difficult month with lots of people thinking about Christmas without actually starting to shop so to give them that little nudge we're going to be using Facebook to promote any special offers that you think will inspire people to brave the weather. The better the offer the more likely it is to make things happen so get your thinking caps on and give me a wee call (01631 569915) or email kay@bid4oban.co.uk and let me know what you're thinking. Only 45 more sleeps till Christmas, time to make things happen.

Information for Businesses

Non Domestic Rates Revaluation 2017

As you may be aware there is currently a rates revaluation taking place. The new rateable value of properties will be notified in January 2016. In order to appeal the decision if you do not approve, the appeal must be lodged before the end of April 2016. The new rateable values will come into force in 2017. It is our intention to organise a seminar for businesses in early 2016, once the new values are known. We hope to bring to the seminar a surveyor to advise on grounds for appeal and the processes involved. It would be helpful to have some sort of indication as to levels of interest in order to secure a suitable venue.

Below is a communication from Zero Waste Scotland regarding changes to the food waste regulations effective from 1 January 2016

Waste Regulations Communications

We are writing to you in order to share an update about the forthcoming change to the regulations on 1 January 2016. All Scottish organisations should already be separating key recyclates as the Waste (Scotland) Regulations came into effect on 1 January 2014.

Two years from the initial regulations being introduced, two changes take place on 1 January 2016. Organisations should be aware that;

a) Food businesses producing over 5kg of food waste week will need to present it for recycling.

How much is 5kg of food waste? It is usually equivalent to a 10 litre food caddy or a full carrier bag.

b) Food waste macerators cannot be used to discharge food waste to a drain or sewer unless the rural exemption applies

Resource Efficient Scotland

Zero Waste Scotland have sent through a list of free webinars in order to help you make your business more efficient and to help you comply with the ever changing legislation regarding waste, help you recycle more and most importantly potentially save some money.

<http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com/events-list>

Inverness Exchange

It was decided to organise an exchange visit with the BID project in Inverness. The Inverness BID is currently in its second term and it was generally felt that a meeting and general exchange of views would be useful certainly for BID4Oban and hopefully in some part for the Inverness team.

Whilst all BID projects are the same, equally they are all slightly different. The synergy between Inverness and Oban was in the retail district where both BIDs have a mix of conventional High Street and shops geared towards the tourist. The main difference is the sheer variety of businesses in the BID4Oban area, this served to highlight the importance of delivering for all levy payers, and as a result we will look to provide more business seminars and services in the future. Another area that requires to be re-visited is that of helping levy payers to reduce their utility bills and we are actively seeking a new partner company for this purpose. This was the fifth priority to emerge from the original questionnaire prior to the successful ballot. Another area that BID4Oban can work better for all levy payers is in the form of advocacy with the council, particularly now with the potential cuts on the horizon.

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