

Christmas

A festive Christmas scene featuring a decorated tree with lights and ornaments, a fireplace with a fire, and several wrapped gifts in the foreground.

Your essential guide to festive shopping,
dining and entertainment

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



Something Special

CHRISTMAS is a time of celebration, for people to get together, to rekindle friendships, to take time out of the hurly burly of life.

Giving a gift is an act of generosity between one person and another.

To find a gift that represents what one person feels about another can often be difficult - so this year, encourage friends and family to use this fabulous gift guide to make sure they have all the possibilities of getting it right.

While some people like socks, others might be offended. In some cultures it is believed that a gift should be something that delights, inspires and can be enjoyed.

That is why giving something that can be eaten, drunk, read or pampers can be delightful for the recipient of the gift.

But remember, at the end of the day, it's the thought that counts.



“Hogmanay in Oban is a definite highlight of the festive season, a great occasion for locals and visitors alike and a fitting way to bid farewell to the year just passed and celebrate the promise of the year ahead. Plus, there’s always the chance the fireworks will misfire and beat the Obang 60-second record!”

Gregor King, Black and King Property, Oban



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"I think the markets, fairs and festivals help to bring life into our town and villages. I know town centre businesses struggle to compete with internet shopping and retail parks etc as well as the effects of the recession, and the arrival of a Christmas craft fair or festival creates a buzz and draws people in. I love shopping in that kind of atmosphere."

Ellen Morton, deputy leader Argyll and Bute council



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*Cosy for
Christmas*

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
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In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

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CHRISTMAS and New Year conjure up the idea of having a toasty log fire and hot mulled wine on the stove.

Perhaps this year it is time to make those dreams come true.

With advisors locally able to give the most up-to-date information about making homes more cosy, there is no better time than to think about making a house warmer.

While people are thinking of reducing heating bills, sometimes the best way is by making sure a house is as efficient as possible.

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“I love the Christmas lights switch-on and the fairs and festivals that take place. There is a great atmosphere created and people generally seem to be in good spirits. Some of our towns look magical when the lights are on for instance, Inveraray always looks great as you approach it from the bridge and the lights are reflecting in the water, and last year McCaig’s Tower in Oban looked incredible with the new illumination scheme.”

Ellen Morton, deputy leader Argyll and Bute council



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Ten tips for a cosy home



1. Use tin foil. One way to prevent unnecessary heat loss from radiators, particularly on those attached to external walls, is to use heat reflective aluminium foil behind the radiator.

2. Thick curtains are one of the main ways to protect a house from losing heat through the windows. Close curtains as soon as dusk falls will maximise a

house's potential to retain heat.

3. It's important to try to use as much natural - and free - heat as possible, so let in the sunlight.

4. Stop heat being lost up the chimney. It's now fairly common to have fireplaces that are merely decorative. If a fireplace is not being used consider a chimney balloon.

5. Draught excluders are one lesson people can learn from previous generations. The stuffing can be almost anything from rice and lentils to gravel.

6. Clear radiators. Try and avoid placing large pieces of furniture in front of them.

7. Putting a shelf above the radiator, especially for high ceilings, this can also help channel the warmth.

8. Cover bare floorboards. Floors account for as much as 10 per cent of heat loss if they're not insulated.

9. Insulating the whole house professionally. People on certain benefits or those who privately rent a home, may be eligible for help with energy-saving home improvements under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) - a government energy efficiency programme.

10. Setting timers on heating is important. If it's very cold, the timer should be set to switch the heating on earlier, rather than turning the thermostat up to warm the house rapidly.

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Local Services

EVEN IN the midst of holiday cheer, it's time to look ahead to a clean and organized New Year-past the clutter of Christmas Past.

Ready to swing into the coming year from a clutter-free home and a clean car? Try these year-end tips to cut clutter and start the New Year on an organized note.

Observe Oosouji

In Japan, clearing dirt, clutter and the disorganization from the old year is an integral part of Japanese New Year tradition. Because each year is seen as separate and distinct, the final week of the old year is devoted to cleaning, decluttering and organizing.

To observe oosouji, Japanese homes receive a top-to-bottom cleaning. Business offices are sorted and organized and children clean out school desks. Removing the dirt from the old year creates a clean state of mind to welcome the New Year, and invite prosperity in the year to come.

Sort Before You Stow

Once the New Year arrives, most families take down holiday decorations and store them for the following year- but too often, there's a sense of slinging it in there and worry about it later when it comes to putting away Christmas ornaments, holiday linens and outdoor lighting.

This year, pay it forward: sort and declutter holiday decorations, linens and specialty cooking items as you store them.

Cut the non-working, the tattered, and the tired from the herd as you put away holiday decorations. Has-been decor items can be recycled or donated; stained linens can be repurposed as cleaning cloths.

Streamline holiday decorating next year: sort before you stow

Car Valet

This is the opportunity to get the car zipped up or cleaned out to match all the other wonderful and beautiful areas of homes.

Travelling in a tidy car over the festive season allows for offering a lift to a friend or relative without the stress.

Freshly painted

Is it time to give a sitting room, or bathroom a quick over haul and a lick of paint - it needn't be as stressful as imagined with all the gadgets in the market to make the job slick and simple.

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Dining out in Oban

THERE is the possibility of travelling the world and not being able to find the delicious, fresh and divine food, and drink that can be found right here in Oban,

In fact from reviews and word-of-mouth recommendations it can often be the case that people from all over the globe make their way to Oban to taste the best fish, shellfish and meats as close to the sea and field as possible.

On a recent trip to Hong Kong it was amazing to see some 'Scottish lobster' with a wee Saltire on the label.

The discerning diners were given so much information about the product that it could be identified that the beast was from The Rambling Rose, of the MacLaughlan family of Luing.

In this country, in fact in Oban - it would have cost maybe £20 or £30. For the people in China - that cost was £200 and lobsters were rushing off the shelf.

The same can be said of the reputation that is building for other produce such as lamb, or mutton from this area.

The seaweed around our shores is often shipped to Japan as a delicacy, and the people of Russia have a penchant for our wild garlic.

Our hazelnut forests on the west coast are also renowned. The list is endless.

Coffee Corner

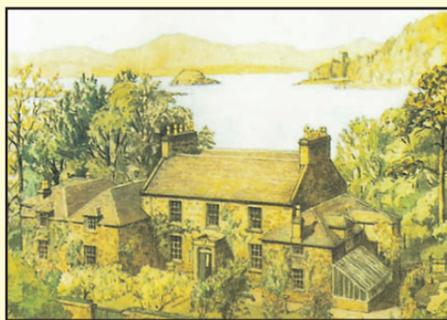
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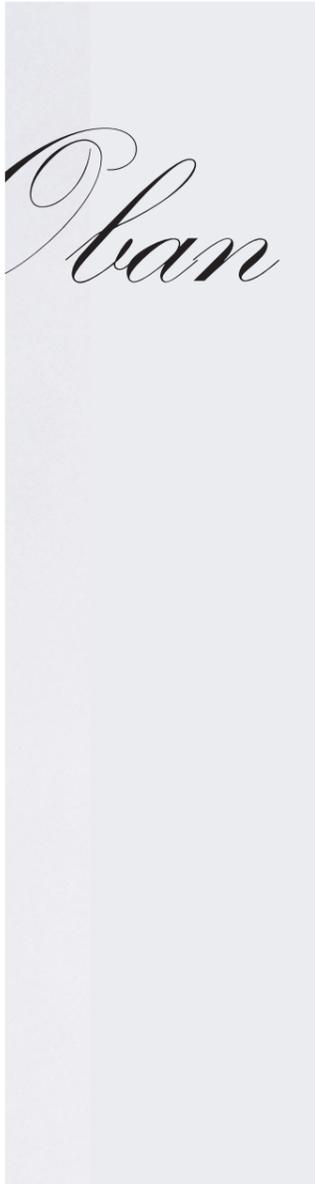
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Michael Russell, MSP Argyll and Bute



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- Rod Stewart**
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Dining in ? Get ahead and plan Christmas dinner

It might seem a bit military but the more that is planned and prepped ahead, the more the family can relax and actually spend Christmas enjoying it.

Try to remember it's just a glorified Sunday roast with a few extra trimmings.

Guests: Figure out how many people are being catered for, if there are any special dietary requirements and plan the menu.

Will it be turkey again this year or something new? How much meat? Allow approximately 500g of turkey on the bone per person.

Order the bird: Have a chat with the butcher and get that order in.

Table presentation: What crockery, cutlery and glasses will they use? Are there enough that matches? How about tablecloths and napkins? Serving dishes? Share the load: If there are lots of people having relatives or friends over, why not ask them to bring things like canapés, desserts and cheeses, to take the pressure off having to do absolutely everything.

Make and freeze ahead: Cranberry sauce - definitely worth making as it's super easy and very tasty with some zested orange and a splash of Cointreau.

Bread sauce - delicious made from scratch.

Vegetarian option - make from scratch or buy it in before the shops sell out.

Clear out the fridge to make way for the festive chilled food supplies. Get rid of out of date jars and make soup with any vegetables past their best.

Gravy - get some chicken wings from the butchers and roast as the basis for a really special gravy.

Braised red cabbage - delicious side dish that freezes well.

Pigs in blankets - get those sausages wrapped in streaky bacon, then freeze ready for roasting on the day.

If using frozen meat - make sure to get it out of the freezer and pop it into the fridge so it can defrost in time for cooking. It takes a long time too - approx 8-12 hours per kilo of frozen turkey.

Make ahead and chill - stuffing - try a special festive one like cranberry and chestnut.

Brandy butter - home made is easy and especially delicious.

Defrost - take everything prepped ahead out of the freezer to defrost safely in the fridge.

Starters - opt for something cold that can be made in advance and served straight from the fridge. Little

canapés are a great alternative to a formal starter.

Desserts - if frozen make sure they're in the fridge defrosting or if they are being made from scratch, get them ready the day before. Again, something served straight from the fridge makes life much easier.

Assign family members with tasks - laying the table, washing up duty, making drinks, handing around canapés etc.

Prep the turkey according to the recipe being used - rubbing butter onto the breast under the skin, wrapping the bird with streaky bacon, and so on.

For birds 4kg or less - 20 minutes per kilo, plus 70 minutes.

For birds over 4kg - 20 minutes per kilo, plus 90 minutes.

Chill the drinks and free up fridge space by putting white wine/prosecco/champagne overnight in a box or bucket outside or in a cold garage/shed. It'll be lovely and chilly by the morning, especially after a frosty night.

Prep the vegetables and pop into saucepans with water for boiling/steaming/roasting the next day - carrots, sprouts, potatoes, parsnips.

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Friday 12th December
Saturday 13th December
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Saturday 20th December

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NORIES

Nories Fish & Chips is a local favourite. Its a third generation, family run business, offering traditional locally caught fish. It is wrapped in old fashioned paper. Also serving delicious Haggis, black and white puddings and much more, to suite all tastes. Come and try all of the delicious options in Nories Oban. Located in Oban centre and open seven days a week, all day. We also have a seating area to eat in.

Nories Fish & Chips
Oban
88 George Street Oban
Argyll
PA34 5NN

Tel: 01631-563736



“Most of all, however, a cold, frosty winter morning with snow on surrounding hills makes a holiday walk or ferry trip a magical west coast experience and Oban is a great starting and finishing point for such a trip.”

Michael Russell,
MSP Argyll and Bute





LOVE OBAN VOUCHERS

A perfect Christmas Gift



Not sure of what to give your friends and family this Christmas? BID4Oban has the perfect solution – Love Oban Gift Vouchers.

Where can I buy Love Oban Gift Vouchers?

Love Oban Gift Vouchers are sold at **THE SPORTS SHOP**, Argyll Square, and **WEBSTER OF OBAN PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTRE**, 122–124 George Street.

How much are the vouchers?

£5, £10 and £20 vouchers are available, and you can buy as many as you want. All vouchers are supplied with a card as a complete gift solution.

How can I pay for my vouchers?

Currently we can only accept cash sales.

Do Love Oban Vouchers have to be spent by a particular date?

The vouchers must be spent within one year of the date of purchase.

Can Love Oban Vouchers be used in part payment?

Yes, simply pay the difference in the usual way.

Where can the vouchers be spent?

There is a wide range of businesses that accept the vouchers. Every participating business will display a sticker in the window. Look out for →



The ideal gift... 2015 Calendars



Oban Times
West Highland
£7.75 (inc. UK P&P)



The current list of where to use your vouchers can be found at:

www.mi-loveoban.co.uk



AVAILABLE
from
The Sports Shop
and
Webster of Oban
Photographic
Centre

You Save this Christmas

£25.00*

SAVE £38.00
UOMO EDT 100ML
RRP £63.00



£16.00*

SAVE £23.00
BE DELICIOUS SKIN
HYDRATING EDT 50ML
RRP £39.00



£3.99
YOU SAVE £2.51
LYNX 2 PIECE AFRICA SET
RRP £6.50



£19.99
YOU SAVE £10.00
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SET RRP £29.99

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YOU SAVE £5.01
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2000W DRYER 5571
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£9.99
YOU SAVE £10.01
TECHNIC COSMETIC CASE
RRP £20.00

1/2
PRICE



£4.99
YOU SAVE
£1.51
GILLETTE MACH
3 MANUAL SET
RRP £6.50

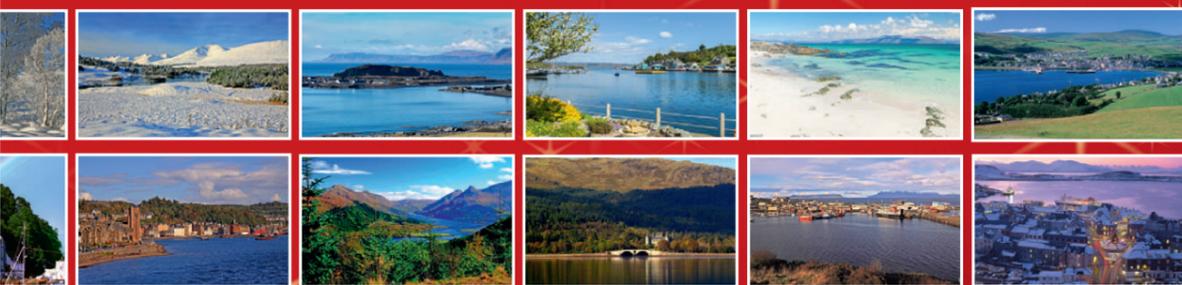


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DKNY MYNY 50ML SET
VALUE £49.99

* Offer Available
17th-23rd Nov only

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CHEMISTS

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16 GEORGE STREET, OBAN



to order visit
www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
or call

01371 851 868



OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL
 WWW.OBANWINTERFESTIVAL.COM
 @OBANWINTERFEST
21 - 30 NOVEMBER 2014
 MARKETS, PIPE BANDS, FAIRGROUNDS, REINDEER PARADE, WORKSHOPS, SNOW!
ST ANDREW'S DAY EVENTS -
 OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL HAGGISFEST
 Oban Distillery Visitor Centre
 To celebrate The Year of the Haggis, seven Argyll haggis makers go head to head to win the 'Coveted Golden Haggis Award'.
 Judging at 11am
 Public tasting and voting from 12 noon
 Admission £2
 (includes complimentary nip provided by Oban Distillery)
 Proceeds to Oban High School Pipe Band
 TARTAN DASH, HAGGIS HURLING, CEILIDH, LIGHTSHOW.
 SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, JOIN US FOR THE BIGGEST PARTY IN THE WEST
 Festival programme now available from VisitScotland Oban Office & shops

OBAN DISTILLERY OPEN THROUGHOUT THE WINTER FESTIVAL.
 PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS
 WWW.DISCOVERING-DISTILLERIES.COM/OBAN
OBAN DISTILLERY
 Stafford St, Oban, Argyll PA34 5NH

OUTSIDE EDGE
 THERE IS SO MUCH!
 6 MacGregor Court, OBAN. Tel: 566617
 www.outsideedgeoban.com
 Email: outside.edge@btconnect.com

CHRISTMAS GALA
 THURS 20TH - SAT 29TH NOV
 CHRISTMAS GALA THURSDAY 20TH to SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
 FREE GIFT WRAPPING
 20% OFF SELECTED SHOPPING
 TOMBOLA UP TO £5,000 OF GIFT VOUCHERS TO BE WON

McEwens, George Street, Oban • Open Sunday November 23RD 12 - 4pm



THERE IS a great range of shops and services in Oban and the surrounding areas, from wool shops to kilt shops, photography, golf shops, fine china, jewellery and pottery and much more ... take your time to have a look at some of the best Oban has to offer.

Oban boasts a wide variety of shops selling everything from gifts and local crafts for visitors, to household goods, clothes, shoes and everyday items.

The town is also home to a wide variety of businesses servicing both locals and visitors and is the first area in Scotland to have achieved the Scottish government's Business Improvement District status for the entire town centre.

Enjoy a nice mix of high street retail shops along with a traditional Scottish mix of Highland crafts and wares.

Shops and services in Oban are all within easy walking distance of each other, and cater for all outdoor pursuits as well as the visitor looking to buy some unusual gifts.

Oban shops and services include, butchers, supermarkets, sweetie shops and ice cream shops, as well as the usual high street shops such as a shoe repair shop and a camera shop, they are all within walking distance, making your stay here in Oban a more enjoyable one.

Strolling along George Street, the main shopping area of the town and past the bay with beautiful views across to the

Island of Kerrera and beyond, leads you down to Argyll Square with its attractive floral display and lined with even more shops and cafes.

Leading off George Street are small lanes hiding many more independent shops well worth exploring.

Fresh produce is always readily available, as are all the daily essentials.

For self caterers, meat can be vacuum packed and fresh fish is landed on the pier.

Come and enjoy a taste of all Oban shops and services has to offer.

"I actually quite enjoy working the period between Christmas and New Year. It's relatively quiet, which allows the time to catch up on various administrative issues.

It's very much a family time and it's a time of year when my extended family like to visit Oban – there's always something special about New Year in this part of the world.

Whether it's spent indoors or out, at home or at events, there's a real sense of community and welcome.

And it's a time for reflection and looking ahead – what's been achieved and what still needs to be done. Be proud of the former; be ambitious for the latter."

Graeme Bass, chairman BID4OBAN



Button Nose
— BOUTIQUE —
Stevenson Street Oban
We sell a range of gifts, candles, gorgeous baby clothing, handbags, jewellery and much more!
We also offer a free gift wrapping service

The GRAB Trust
GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE
GRAB yourself an early Christmas gift at our Christmas/Winter Sale
Toys, books, small electrical items and numerous furniture items at bargain Prices
LORI would like you to have a very happy 'reuse' Christmas"
Opening times Mill Lane 10-16:00
(Tuesday-Saturday), Moleigh (Mon-Sat) 0900-16:00
Julie Fairbrass - Manager C/o Argyll & Bute Council, Lorn House Albany St, Oban PA34 4AR
Tel: 01631 569174 / 01546 600165 Email: julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk
Lorn & Oban Reuse Initiative Enquiries
Moleigh Recycling Site Ariogan, Oban PA34 4SD Tel: 01631 569819
Scottish Charity number SC029154

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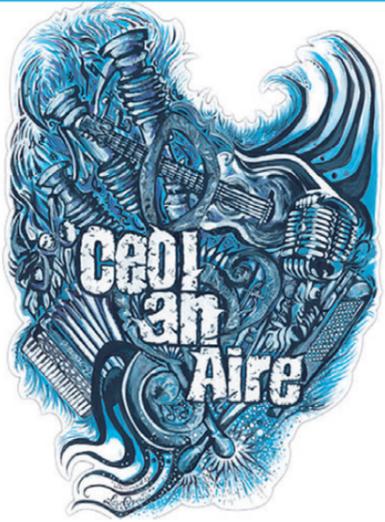
Real Christmas Trees
available from November 29th - Pre order now!
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Winter Fuels & Supplies: Flogas, Logs, Kindling & Peat

DEMO DAY
13th of December from 10am – 3pm
• Demonstrations of forestry equipment.
• On the day special prices. • Christmas gift ideas.
• Refreshments and Mince pies.
Bring your Chainsaw along for a FREE SAFETY CHECK

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Oban to Braehead - £150 return
Shopping Day Inverness
Oban to Eastgate - £200 return
Shopping Day Stirling
Oban to Stirling Thistles - £150 return
24 HOUR SERVICE
Glasgow Airport, Single journey Oban to Glasgow - £150
ALL LOCAL TOWN HIRE
Max. 4 people. All local town hire £4.
For any other booking phone with requirements 07549 611114
NIGHTS OUT
Would you like to have fun and enjoy your night and not worry about getting home safely? Enjoy your night and when its over you'll be driven straight to your door.
Max. 4 people. Distance no object.
Examples - Wedding day/night, Glasgow Pubs, Romantic dinner, Parties, or tailor make your own package
Nights out £25.00 per hour

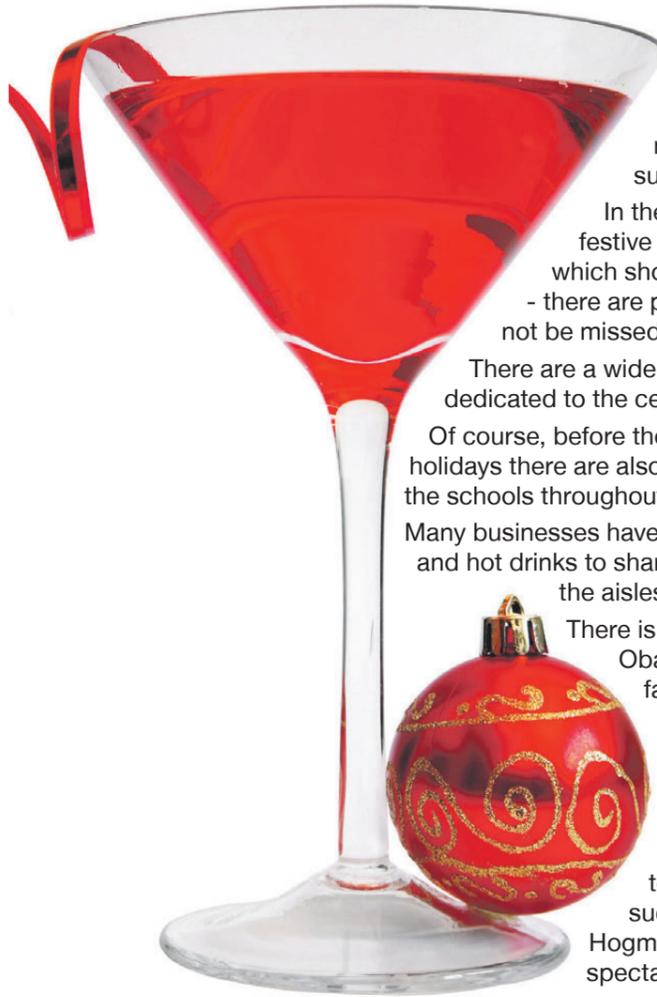


WISHING ALL A MERRY XMAS AND A FANTASTIC NEW YEAR



CONTACT: EWAN MACDONALD
 EMAIL: INFO@CEOLANAIRE.COM
 TEL: 07729474717

Events in Oban



THERE is always something special to do in Oban. For a relatively small town on the edge of the ocean, a night does not have to go by without finding a superb thing to do.

In the weeks and days before the festive season - apart from shopping, which should be done as locally as possible - there are plenty of other activities that should not be missed.

There are a wide range of church services - dedicated to the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Of course, before the schools break up for Christmas holidays there are also a number of Nativity plays in all the schools throughout the area.

Many businesses have special evenings with mince pies and hot drinks to share with customers as they browse the aisles for present ideas.

There is no need to go anywhere else but Oban to celebrate with friends and families this Christmas season.

There is also the Hogmanay party, run by volunteers who want to rock residents and visitors into the next year.

If last year's party is anything to go by - it will likely be hugely successful as this year the Hogmanay organisers are planning a spectacular event.

Meet Santa and his Reindeer at SEA LIFE!

on 14th December

Real live Reindeer Parade and Enclosure



REINDEER PARADE 11.00am

VISIT SANTA IN SANTA'S GROTTO* 11.30am-3.00pm

*Extra charge applies



SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY

Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll PA37 ISE. Tel: 01631 720 386

£8 entry - discounts available online
www.visitsealife.com/oban

Ballet West Presents **Winter Wonderland**

21st November 7pm
 Corran Halls
 01631 567 333
 Tickets: £12 / £10



BID 4 OBAN **OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL**

BID 4 Oban proudly presents
Saturday 22nd November 2014

REINDEER PARADE

Parade leaves The Corran Halls at 5pm
 Christmas Lights SWITCH ON at 6pm

OBAN PIPE BAND **ceol an Aire** **SPOTLIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP**

A Tribute to **EILIDH MACINNES** From her dancers **OUR STAR ATTRACTION** **SANTA!**

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Oban Lions Club, Oban Rotary Club, MacQueen Bros. Oban Express, Oban Electrics and everyone helping!

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OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2014

VISIT WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS

AT WWW.OBANWINTERFESTIVAL.COM/EVENTS



FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

BALLET WEST WINTER WONDERLAND
Corran Halls, Oban 7.00pm.
Doors open 6.30pm

WHISKY TASTING

Oban Whisky and Fine Wines Shop,
Stafford Street, Oban 7pm.

TAKE A TOUR

Unique camper van tour. 4 persons per tour
10am and 2pm

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

DRY SKI SLOPE/MOUNTAIN BIKING

Kilbowie Outdoor Centre,
Gallanach Road, Oban
9.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm

FUN CHRISTMAS SCIENCE EVENT

Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunbeg, by Oban
11am - 4pm

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID CRAFT FAYRE

Corran Halls, Oban 11am - 3pm

TAKE A TOUR

Unique camper van tour. 4 persons per tour
10am and 2pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL SCOTTISH FOOD MARKET

Oban Distillery Cask Room
10am - 4pm

A TRIBUTE TO NAOMI MITCHISON

Corran Halls Studio Theatre, Oban 7.30pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL VICTORIAN MARKET

Caledonian Hotel, Station Square, Oban
12 noon - 7.30pm

**Santa's Post Box will be in the
Caledonian Hotel (door next to the Iona
Shop) for the duration of the Festival**

KINECTIC SEASONS MUSEUM CABINET

Mini moving museum around Oban

COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

'COOKING WITH GAS'
Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban.
2pm with Ross Stovold

DISNEY FROZEN SINGALONG

Oban Phoenix Cinema
Doors open 12 noon Film begins 12.30pm

REINDEER PARADE

Leaves Corran Halls 5pm for Station Square
Christmas lights switch on 6pm Station Square

SEQUENCE CHOIR IN CONCERT

Glencruitten Church Centre, Glencruitten
Road, Oban
7.30pm

A CURIOS CHRISTMAS

Curios, Railway Pier
Jewellery, art, crafts and gifts.

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER

VICTORIAN AFTERNOON TEAS
Corran Halls, Studio Theatre, Oban
12 noon - 4pm

KINECTIC SEASONS MUSEUM CABINET

Mini moving museum around Oban

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL

ENCHANTED TRAIL
Grounds of Dunollie House, Ganavan Road,
Oban
2pm - 4pm last entry 3.45pm

TAKE A TOUR

Unique camper van tour. 4 persons per tour
10am and 2pm

**Look out for Marek's Music on the Move
with his piano on board, performing for
shoppers at various locations around Oban.**

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER

**BLASAD GAIDHLIG/
TASTE OF SCOTTISH GAELIC**
FURAN (Oban Gaelic Centre),
Corran Halls, Oban
7pm - 8.30pm

CHRISTMAS AT KITCHEN GARDEN

Kitchen Garden, George Street, Oban
7pm

Look out for Coolio around town

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

FURAN GAELIC QUIZ
Studio Theatre Bar, Corran Halls, Oban
7.30 pm

CHRISTMAS AT KITCHEN GARDEN

Kitchen Garden, George Street, Oban
7pm

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

FURAN
Blasad Seinn Gaidhlig
(Gaelic singing workshop)
FURAN Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban
7pm - 8pm

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS MUSIC AND DANCE FESTIVAL CHOIRS BY CANDLELIGHT

St John's Cathedral, George Street, Oban
7pm

MAREK'S CONCERT IN THE CAFE

Local Pianist Marek Kochmanski entertains
Corran Halls, Studio Theatre, Oban
7.30pm

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING IN TOWN

FURAN
Blasad Seinn Gaidhlig (Gaelic singing
workshop)
FURAN Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban
7pm - 8pm

LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP

Corran Halls, Oban
4pm - 6pm

PURDIES OF OBAN CHARITY EVENING

George Street, Oban
Demo's/samples/entertainment/drinks and
nibbles
7.00pm - 9.00pm

ALBA CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING DEMO

Alba, Albany Street, Oban
6pm - 9pm

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

TAKE A TOUR

Unique camper van tour. 4 persons per tour
10am and 2pm

OBAN CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Esplanade, Oban -
See Facebook for entry details
Winter festival bake off
2.30pm pre schoolers
3.30pm primary schoolers
4.30pm high schoolers
5.30pm grown ups

**Look out for Marek's Music on the Move
with his piano on board, performing for
shoppers at various locations around Oban.**

POLSKI FLING - POLISH COUNTRY FARE

St Columba's Cathedral, Oban
8pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL THE THREE WEE CROWS THEATRE COMPANY GHOST WALK

Grounds of Dunollie House,
Ganavan Road, Oban
6.30pm & 8.30pm

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

**TARTAN DAY IN TOWN JOIN IN THE FUN
BE SEEN WEARING SOMETHING
TARTAN TODAY**

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Oban Congregational Church,
Argyll Street, Oban
10.30am - 2pm

THE BARN @ COLOGIN

St Andrews Night Menu from 6pm - 9pm,
Live Scottish Music

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL SCOTTISH FOOD & CRAFT MARKET

Oban Distillery Cask Room
10am - 4pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL HAGGISFEST

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre
From 11am
DRY SKI SLOPE/MOUNTAIN BIKING
Kilbowie Outdoor Centre,
Gallanach Road, Oban
9.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm

STRAMASH WINTER WONDERLAND

Ganavan Woodland Stramash Nursery Site
12 noon - 3pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL TARTAN DASH

Charity 5k
Register At Atlantis At 10.30am
Starting at Atlantis at 11am

TAKE A TOUR

Unique camper van tour. 4 persons per tour
10am and 2pm

HAGGIS HURLING

Atlantis grass pitch
12noon 2pm

SCIENCE AND CIRCUS SHOWCASE

Suitable for all the family
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban
2pm

OBAN SENIORS TEA DANCE

The Royal Hotel, Oban
Swing Sensation Big Band
3pm - 5pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL & OBAN PIPE BAND

ST. ANDREW'S CEILIDH DANCE
Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Breadalbane
Street, Oban
8pm doors open 7.30pm

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER

TAKE A TOUR

Unique camper van tour. 4 persons per tour
10am and 2pm

CRAFT/CHARITY/CHILDRENS MARKET

Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban
Primary school choir at 2pm
11am - 3pm

CIRCUS SKILLS ON THE GRASS

Demo by Circus Alba
4.30pm
Grass adjacent to Corran Halls

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL LANTERN PARADE

Gather at the Corran Halls from 5pm
Bring your lantern or torch (no naked flames)
Parade leaves Corran Halls, led by Oban
Pipe Band and joined by Festival Samba
Group at 5pm.

OBAN DISTILLERY

Food Court, Live Music & Snow
from 5pm
Children's Samba Band Performance
Auld Land Syne at 6.45pm

GRAND FINALE FIREWORKS ON ESPLANADE 7PM



Christmas on the islands



THERE is something remarkably refreshing about spending time on the islands during the festive period.

Beating someone at musical chairs during a family fun evening or working out whether to be up and having breakfast before the first glimpse of sunlight hits the water - because the raison d'être of life suddenly becomes the simple things.

Although stress is a much over-used word, the truth

of the matter is the hustle and bustle of life often gets in the way of enjoying the ordinary and simple things.

On the islands some of the distractions of the mainland will disappear - lack of mobile phone reception (a blessing to the visitor less so to the islander), no wifi, no high street shops or supermarkets.

Returning to the islands, even for a few hours or a few days, can make all the difference in recharging

the batteries, relaxing, letting the weight of the world slide off the shoulders and learning to breathe again.

The islands also have a great tradition of producing the finest of goods and the most delightful of ideas for that unique and special gift for Christmas.

Why not take a short break and see what the islands have to offer?



“Most years I go back to Lismore for a bit of peace and quiet and to visit my parents, although I have been known to go out carol singing and first footing too!”

Kieron Green, Labour candidate in the recent Oban North and Lorn council election



Skye Farm Shop



stocks some of the finest produce from the Highlands & Islands. Located in Armadale, Sleat

www.skyefarmshop.co.uk



info@skyefarmshop.co.uk



Tiree Lodge Hotel

'Christmas on the Islands'

Come join us in the Tiree Lodge Hotel this festive period where we have live music, a delicious festive menu, comfortable rooms, excellent service and the most beautiful views on the west coast.

- 6th Dec - Live music with 'Crackin' Craic'
- 19th Dec - Christmas party night and disco
- 24th Dec - Live music with Tiree's own 'Dun Mor Ceilidh Band'

Plus festive dinner menu available and Hogmanay entertainment, please contact us for more details.

Tiree Lodge Hotel, Gott Bay, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6TW
Please call us on: 01879 220329

Email - info@tireelodge.co.uk www.tireelodge.co.uk

Hebridean Air Services



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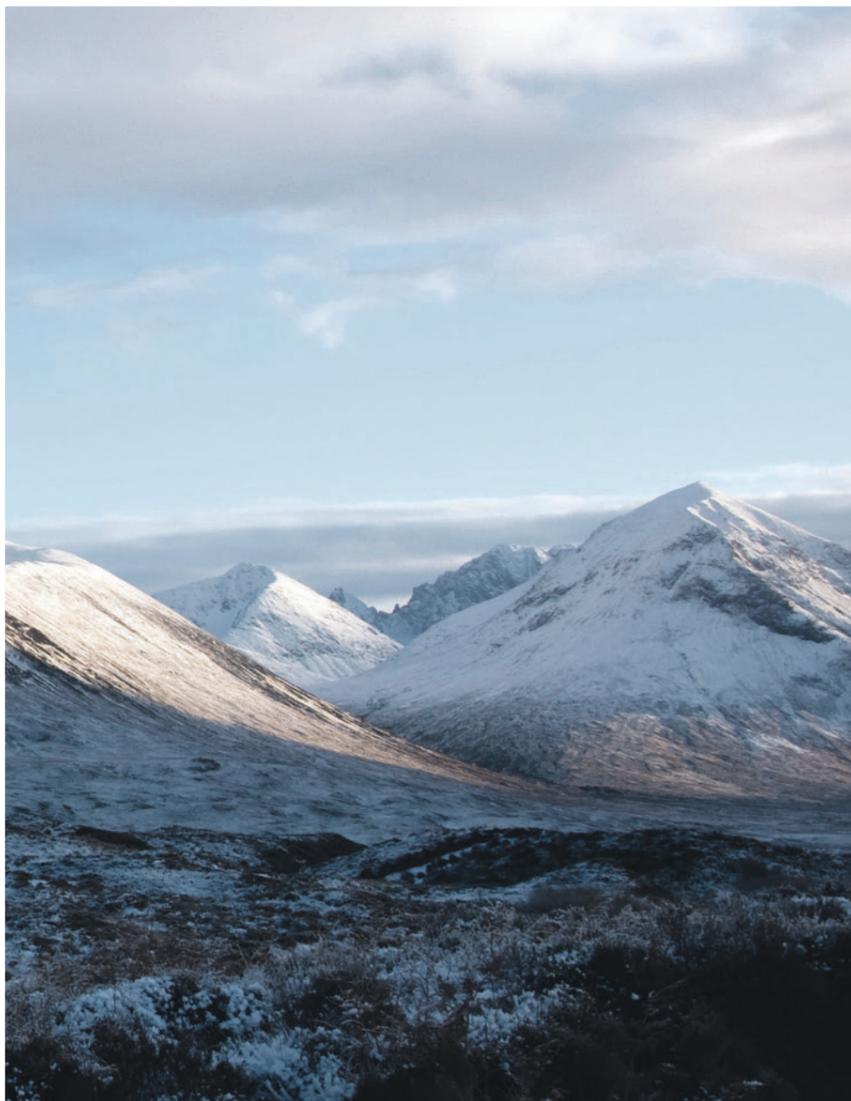
- OBAN - COLL OBAN - TIREE
- OBAN - COLONSAY OBAN - ISLAY
- COLL - TIREE COLONSAY - ISLAY

SIGHTSEEING FLIGHTS AVAILABLE ON SCHEDULED SERVICES

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“Many parts of our network are best appreciated in the winter when they are quiet and still and the clear air gives a freshness and crispness that can literally take your breath away.

Anyone who has experienced a bright, sunny and frosty morning along the west coast of Scotland will know just how magical it can be, and very often the best place to view it is from the deck of a CalMac ferry.”

Martin Dorchester, managing director Caledonian MacBrayne, Hebridean and Clyde Ferries





The Great Mishnish

★ BAKE OFF 2014 ★



22nd November
Under 8's
Entries brought into Mishdish by 1pm.
Winners announced at 2pm



Under 16's
Entries brought into Mishdish by 2pm.
Winners being announced at 3 pm



Adults
Entries submitted via the main entrance no later than 7 pm.
Winners announced at 9pm in the bar followed by a feast of fun and music till 2am

All entries will be scored on taste, skill and presentation. Come along and join in, enjoy the baked fayre of Mull's finest Bakers!
All proceeds to the Tobermory Playground Fund

Who will be the Mishnish Bake off Champion 2014?

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE MISH DISCO - Sat 15th November, Sat 13th December, Boxing Day, Friday 26th December
MISHNISH LIVE MUSIC - Sat 29th November, Sat 6th December, Sat 20th December
ITALIAN NIGHT AND MISH DISCO - 10th January 2015
THE MISHNISH MINCE AND TATTIES COMPETITION - 24th January 2015

ROOMS OFFER: STAY 2 NIGHTS GET 1 FREE!!!



Christmas Lunch with much cheer and atmosphere...
Let us do the cooking and the dishes!
Join us for a fabulous 4 course feast
£35 p/p (children over 10 years £18)
various times available

Hogmanay - End 2014 Mishnish Style
with a 3 course sumptuous meal in Mishdish - £26 p/p followed by traditional Scottish Music in the Mish Bar

Our New Winter menu will also be available as normal

T. 01688 302500 • www.themishnish.co.uk • info@themishnish.co.uk

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SPECIAL ROOM TARIFF
from 1 November to 28 February
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Silver £95.00 Gold £115.00 Platinum £125.00

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- All rooms individually furnished with traditional and cosy décor
- Platinum rooms have beautiful sea views
- Delicious food in the restaurant and fully stocked Whisky Bar



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Islay Ales produce hand crafted, high quality cask and bottle conditioned beers (also known as real ale) to be enjoyed either in a local pub on Islay or at home. Look us up on facebook and twitter or visit us at www.islayales.co.uk

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Tel/Fax: 01496 810014
Email: info@islayales.com





ISLE OF MULL SCALLOPS

We wish a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2015 to all of our customers.

Thank you for all your support.

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MOT TEST CENTRE

Wishing all our customers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Corrie Glen, Fionnphort Tel: 01681 700294





CHRISTMAS is the most wonderful time of year in Lochaber, when the already tight-knit communities come together in the spirit of all things festive.

With just over a month until the big day, hotels and restaurants across the region already have a number of deals for meals and accommodation, although many are booking up fast.

Fort William plays host to a number of events during the festive period and the town's Christmas Gathering will kick start the fun on November 28. Last year, the High Street came alive with music, entertainment, competitions and the obligatory mince pies and mulled wine and organiser's Lochaber Chamber of Commerce expect this year's to be even bigger and better than before.

The very next day, the Rotary Club of Lochaber will take over the reigns for their Christmas festival in the town. Almost 70 craft and food stalls will spring up, along with a raffle, bouncy castle, reindeers and

even Santa Claus himself.

Village communities are holding their own in the Christmas cheer stakes and Invergarry kicks off the rural events with a fair in Glengarry Community Hall on November 22. Cakes, jewellery, candles and ceramics will all be on offer for anyone stuck for present ideas and a children's craft corner will keep the little ones amused while parents browse the stalls.

Lochaber will be bright on even the darkest nights thanks to community councils across the region who fundraise all year to pay for Christmas lights in their areas.

These will be switched on at various times through the festive period so be sure to find out when your local area will be lit up for the first time.

In the run up to Christmas most primary schools in Lochaber perform a nativity play, many involving the youngest pupils through to teachers. From

traditional shows to those with a modern twist, there are many to choose from an all fun for the whole family!

After the big day, people from all over the country flock to Arisaig for the annual ceillidh in Astley Hall, traditionally held on the first weekend after Christmas.

This year the village welcomes five-piece Gaelic folk band DàimhMòr on Sunday December 28.

Even in the cold winter months, Lochaber hosts some of the country's most tranquil and scenic surroundings.

Why not take a break from the bustle of Christmas shopping, wrap up warm and escape on one of the many trail walks, from Fort William to Mallaig, Glencoe to Leanachan Forest, the mountains will be snow-topped and the scenery will take your breath away.

However you choose to spend the festive period, Christmas in Lochaber has something for everyone.

The Rotary Club of Lochaber, supported by Ferguson Transport & Shipping, invite you to our

Christmas Festival

and
**CRAFT AND FOOD
PRODUCERS FAIR**



at the Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William
Saturday 29 November 2014
9.30am to 4.30pm

Santa's Reindeer and Sleigh leave from Cameron Square at 11am led by the Lochaber Pipe Band; the Ben Nevis Allstars and the Tulloch Bellringers will also perform in the Square



Willow baskets, Wind Band; buskers' corner; artwork, cards; candles; woodturning, paintings; floral arrangements, furniture, glass etching; candles, gift tags, photography, slate products, knitwear, table accessories, silver, gemstone and bead jewellery, range of textile goods, author's books, Pipe Band; Ben Nevis Allstars; Tulloch Bellringers; skincare products, quilts, toys; wine glasses; hats; handmade preserves, origami goods; confectionery, home-baked prepacked Xmas foods, fruit baskets, honey, wild venison charcuterie, bakery products; horticulture, floral arrangements; oatcakes; batik; bricabrac; dressings & marinades, cupcakes, garden produce and homebaking, smoked foods; chutneys, hand painted gifts; bags and scarves; home made pies; and for children - make your own Xmas baubles, bouncy castle and costumes, wine glasses; bodyzorb, glitter tattoos, face painting, candy floss; Santa's Grotto; reindeer and sleigh; Live Music, museums' stalls and displays, and lots lots more



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Don't miss more festive features coming soon in the Oban Times

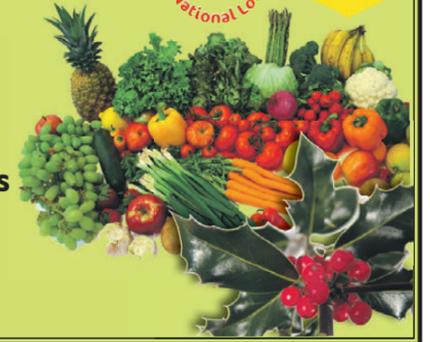


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A presentation on the benefits of bilingualism from **Bilingualism Matters**, University of Edinburgh plus play session for toddlers.

All welcome ! Fàilte !
Kilmallie Church, Caol.

Further information from Margaret Mulholland, Gaelic Team, Highland Council. Tel. 01463 703690 or margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk

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... a little bit further

THE WEST Highlands and islands are full of beautiful, picturesque and desirable locations - but you may have to leave the beaten track to find them.

Our Christmas guide to those businesses a little bit further will help you discover a destination that you may not have even considered, but could soon become your favourite.

Businesses operating in the further reaches of the area, away from the main roads and out of sight can't rely on passing trade, so they survive on the consistency of quality.

Often, these places are overlooked on brochures and visitor guides but ask a local for a recommendation and it's the first place mentioned.

This local endorsement could be seen as the most reassuring, as it suggests the business provides excellent service on a regular basis.

These destinations often create niche markets in which to flourish and you can therefore find items that are not sold anywhere else.

So, when you are considering where to shop, eat or visit this Christmas, try somewhere new, think creatively and discover a hidden gem that will guarantee quality, care and a unique experience.



“Christmas is all about entertaining family and going for long country walks. We also look forward to bringing in the New Year somewhere local like The George Hotel.”

Jane Young, Inveraray Castle manager



Come out to Crinan THE CRINAN HOTEL BY LOCHGILPHEAD, ARGYLL



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Roasted Potatoes, Home Made Cranberry Sauce
Whole Grilled Seabass Sauteed Samphire & Green
Beans, Parsley New Potatoes, Hollandaise Sauce
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Pepper & Sugar Snap Peas

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INSPIRED BY ARGYLL
Painter Jolomo on his love affair with the West Coast

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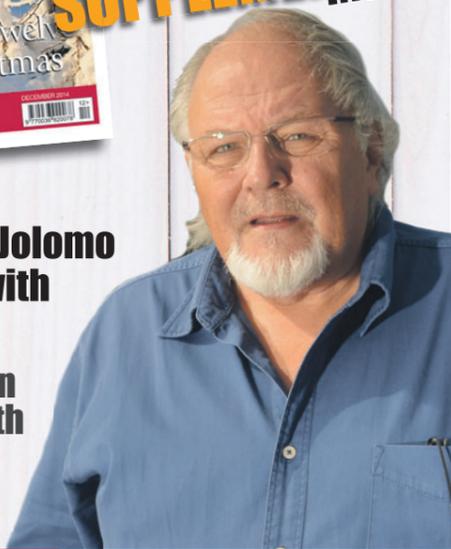
Plus WEASELS & STOATS SLEEKIT BEASTIES THE LEGEND OF BURKE AND HARE IN ARISAIG CYCLISTS - RUINING OUR MOUNTAINS?

20 Nick Nairn's Twelve Days of Christmas

PAGES OF RECIPES

IT'S BEHIND YOU! We go backstage at the pantos at Edinburgh's King's Theatre

FREE FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK SUPPLEMENT INSIDE



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Saturday 27th December
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Sunday 28th December
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12 noon till late

HOGMANAY
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