




*V* is for volunteer  
*O* is for **Oxfam**



*Oxfam Oban manager Patrick Tinney, second from right, with volunteers, from left, Eric Giles, Gordon MacIntyre and Marina MacDonald.*

Patrick Tinney marks off the 27 names on the list of volunteers at Oxfam in Oban but the store's new manager is looking for more to make sure the shop secures its own future.

Patrick took up the reins of the shop when previous manager Morven MacDougall went on maternity leave. She now has a baby son, Craig.

Oban man Patrick said volunteers are crucial to the survival of the Oxfam store.

'We're always looking for people to help out,' he said.

'A lot of other Oxfam shops have had to reduce their opening times to half a day through a lack of volunteers and we don't want to do that.

'We need to stay open for the full day to maximise donations.

'Volunteers are the key to this organisation, if there are no volunteers there will be no shops.'

Patrick said that in his short time at the helm of

the George Street charity shop he has already noticed the generosity of people in Oban.

The regular visits from locals bringing in bags of clothes and bric-a-brac are a welcome interruption to his daily chores.

He said: 'People from in-and-around Oban come in with donations all the time and are very generous.

'Tesco also donate a lot of stock and when one of our neighbouring clothes shop, Marion's on George Street, closed we got a huge amount of stock from that too.

'The community is very supportive.'

As well as the usual donations, the Oban branch has a special basket of strong, durable workmen's boots and, at the other end of the spectrum, also sells several china dinner sets.

'We would really like to increase our stock of DVDs, CDs and computer games because we had some in before and they just flew off the shelves,' said Patrick.