

Local Women

Kate McKiver and Andrea Simpson of The Ark Hairdressing Co. Ltd.



THERE are few hairdressers with the skill, experience and business sense of Kate McKiver and Andrea Simpson, the women behind The Ark Hairdressing Co. Ltd.

The two women learned their trade and managerial skills while training in separate salons - Andrea at James Margey, in the West End of Glasgow and Kate at Trevor Sorbie, London. After nine years renting a property on George Street, Oban, they moved into a purpose-built salon to accommodate their ever-increasing range of hair and beauty treatments.

Andrea said: 'Three years ago we moved into our current premises, which we created from a derelict building.

'We had rented for nine years and, although we loved the place, it wasn't perfect.

'We needed the space for our extra services and beauty room.'

The Ark now boasts a busy salon with a team of six stylists and a range of holistic therapies including contour body wraps and a homeopathy clinic, run by Kim Gillies.

But Kate and Andrea haven't forgotten where it all began and make staff training a priority.

The pair put a lot of time and money into training junior stylists, like Kirsty MacDonald, who recently qualified as a junior stylist and Heather Craig, receiving her NVQ Level 2.

'We are pleased with the number of people we have turned from a junior to a fully-qualified stylist,' said Kate.

'It's a great achievement for a relatively small company.

'We were probably the first salon to spend so much time training our staff but that's our ethos. Our juniors train every single week in the salon and also attend courses.'

But what makes The Ark different from any other hair salon?

Kate said: 'We're more established than anyone else and have built a great brand, reputation and ethos. Our staff training keeps us at the forefront.'

The **ARK** hairdressing Co Ltd

Opening hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday 9am - 6pm

Thursday & Friday 9am - 9pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm



Jewellery available



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Nails by Lawrie Cameron

Reiki by Paula once a month and many more holistic services

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