

faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 28 • An t-Sultain 08 • September 08

Linda Fabiani with the Summer School



SGOIL SHAMHRAIDH DRÀMA

Chaidh an Sgoil Shamhraidh Dràma a chumail ann am Port Rìgh aig toiseach an luchair agus abair gun robh i math. Bha na 18 compàirtichean trang fad na ceala-deug agus iad ag obair le sgioba teagaisg air leth gus caochladh de dhiofar sgilean dràma ionnsachadh, nam measg gluasad, sgilean cleasachd san fharsaingeachd, sgilean cainnte agus gutha, sgilean teicnigeach agus cuideachd ocàideachd. Bha na compàirtichean, a bha eadar 14 agus 18 bliadhna dh'aois, às a h-uile ceàrnaidh den dùthaich, agus thug iad leotha taghadh farsaing de sgilean diofraichte a chaidh a chur gu deagh fheum rè na Sgoile.

Thàinig an Sgoil gu crìoch le oidhche mhòr de dhràma ann an Àros, far an deach trì dealbhan-cluiche goirid a chur air an àrd-ùrlar. A bharrachd air

dealbhan-cluiche nan compàirtichean, chaidh pìos ocàideachd bheò a dhèanamh leis an luchd-aire, a bha cuideachd air a bhith a' toirt taic don luchd-teagaisg anns na clasaichean aca. Chòrd a' cheala-deug ris a h-uile duine a bha an sàs.

DRAMA SUMMER SCHOOL

A successful Drama Summer School was held in Portree at the beginning of July. The 18 participants were busy right through the fortnight working with a fantastic tutor team to learn a wide range of drama skills, including movement, acting skills, language and voice skills, technical skills and also improvisation. The participants, who were aged between 14 and 18, were from all areas of Scotland, and they each brought with them a wide range of talents which were put to good use during the Sgoil.

The Sgoil finished up with a great night of drama in Àros with three short plays being performed on the stage. The fortnight was enjoyed by all that were involved.

During her visit to the Summer School in Portree, Linda Fabiani, Minister for Europe External Affairs and Culture announced that Fèisean nan Gàidheal is to benefit from an additional £25,000 from the Scottish Government to take its drama group, Meanbh-chuileag, to schools around the country.



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COINNEAMH BHLIADHNAIL 2008

Bha Coinneamh Bhlìadhnaile agus Co-labhairt Fèisean nan Gàidheal air a cumail anns a' Ghearasdan ann an Taigh-Òsta Cheann an Iar, Dihaoine 19 agus Disathairne 20 An t-Sultain 2008. Bha slugh mòr an làthair bho 20 Fèis air feadh na dùthcha, eadar Barraigh agus Dùn Eideann. Thàinig muinntir nam Fèisean còmhla airson aithris fhaighinn air a' bhliadhna shoirbheachail a dh'fhalbh. Bha ceòl agus òrain ann bho òigridh Fèisean Loch Abar agus dìnnear le dannsa às a dhèidh. Disathairne, bhathar ag èisdeachd ri sgeulachdan, fiosrachadh is ceòl bho Sgìre Loch Abar an cuideachd Aonghais Grannd.

BOARD VACANCIES

Directors retiring this year leave five vacancies on the Board, four in Highland area and one in the Western Isles.

Fèisean are invited to put forward nominees to stand for election to the Board of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Please make sure that your Fèis puts forward a representative.

We thank all the retiring directors for their commitment over their time with us.

FÈISEAN EARRA-GHÀIDHEIL

Bha ceithir fèisean ann an Earra-Ghàidheal as t-samhradh.

An toiseach, bha Fèis Thiriodh ann. Bha na h-àireamhan suas beagan le cuspairean mar bhideo, bocsa, piob, giotàr, dannsa ceum agus grunnan rudan eile. Bha co-fharpais ann "a' sireadh an ionmhais" timcheall an eilein agus chòrd sin gu mòr ris an luchd-teagaisg.

A-null gu Fèis Àrainn. Seo a' chiad fhèis anns an sgoil ùir agus bha i math fhèin. Chòrd an dannsa ceum ris an fheadhainn bheaga air sgàth gun robh stiùidio dannsa aca. Bha "blast" de luchd-teagaisg ùra aca agus bha cèilidh na cloinne dìreach math fhèin.

Bha Fèis Lannraig a Tuath ann an Comar nan Allt math cuideachd. Bha suas ri 40 a' gabhail pàirt. A bharrachd air na cuspairean àbhaisteach bha na deugairean a' gabhail pàirt ann an còmhlan pop agus tha triùir dhe na gillean aca a' dol a bhith air an t.bh. ann am prògram Gàidhlig ùr.

Bha fèis bheag ann an Cille Conbhal cuideachd. Ged nach robh mòran an làthair bha tòrr spòrs aig a' chloinn.



NEW FÈIS FOR TEENAGERS IN LEWIS

Over 200 youngsters marched through the streets of Stornoway to celebrate the beginning of Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich. This year also saw the launch of a new Fèis designed for teenagers. A healthy number of aspiring musicians enrolled this year taking part in groupwork sessions, stage presentation workshops and trying new skills such as stage management and sound engineering. The Fèis Committee are delighted that they were able to offer more advanced musicians, who have attended the Fèis for many years, the opportunity to adopt new techniques and skills as group performers at the Teenage Fèis.

LOCHABER FÈISEAN

The Fèis Oigrìdh na Mara team were busy as usual running several classes in the area. Fèis Lochabair was a great success and they are keeping busy running their community classes. Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan 08 took place in Acharacle in July and was well attended. Fèis Eige was attended by 26 eager participants and went very smoothly indeed. This event was well enjoyed by all and we should extend special congratulations to Grace for handling her first Fèis in charge with ease.

The Cèilidh Trail hit the road between Friday 4th & Sat 26th July calling all around Lochabair. The events were well attended and went down very well with audiences.



ARGYLL FÈISEAN

Four Fèisean took place in Argyll this Summer.

The first fèis was in Tìree. The numbers were up a little on last year with video, accordion, pipes, guitar and step-dance among a variety of other subjects.

Over to Arran. This was their first fèis in the new school and it was indeed an excellent venue. The younger ones loved the step-dance because they had a brand new dance studio with huge mirrors! There were a number of new tutors this year and the children's cèilidh was a resounding success.

Up to 40 participants took part in Fèis Lannraig a Tuath in Cumbernauld. Besides the normal subjects, the teenagers were taking part in a Gaelic pop group class. Three of the boys are also due to appear on a new Gaelic programme.

FÈIS ÙR DO DHEUGAIREAN AN LEÒDHAS

Choisich còrr is 200 òigear tro shràidean bhaile Steòrnabhaigh airson toiseach Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich a chomharrachadh. A thuilleadh air an Fhèis bhliadhnail aca, chaidh Fèis ùr a chur air bhonn am-bliadhna airson clasaichean a thabhann do dheugairean na sgìre aig ìre a fhreagras air na feumalachdan aca fhèin mar luchd-ciùil adhartach. B' e obair buidhne a bha aig crìdhe na Fèise seo airson sgilean ùra ionnsachadh mar chluicheadairean-chòmhlan. Ghabh 19 pàirt anns an leasachadh ùr seo a bha a' tairgse bhùthan-obrach ann am modhan-stèidse agus innleadaireachd-fuaim a thuilleadh air obair còmhlan. Tha Comataidh Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich toilichte gun robh e comasach dhaibh cothroman ùra a chruthachadh agus a thairgse don fheadhainn a tha air a bhith a' frithealadh na Fèise gu dìcheallach a h-uile bliadhna. Bidh leasachaidhean den t-seòrsa seo gam brosnachadh gu bhith a' fàs mar luchd-ciùil traidiseanta agus a bhith ag obair còmhla ri daoine eile den aon aois gu piseach a thoirt air na sgilean aca.

FÈIS TRAINING

The date for Fèis Trèanaidh 2009 has been fixed for 14 and 15 March 2009 at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer. Keep an eye on the website for further information, and let us know if you have any requests for workshops during the weekend. The usual workshops will be there, such as Gaelic, IT/Computing and First Aid. Remember that there is a contractual obligation on the Fèis Administrator/Annualised Hours person to attend.

The next opportunity for Fèis tutors to attend training workshops at Level 1 and 2 will be on 21 and 22 February 2009 at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. At the present time, it is not intended to run a summer workshop in 2009 due to lack of demand to date.

LOCHGOILHEAD FIDDLE WORKSHOP

Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop picked up a prestigious award at this year's Third Force News (TFN) Scottish Charity Awards in Glasgow. Shortlisted for the second year running, the Argyll-based charity won the Community Action award, which recognises outstanding achievement for work in the community. Since it started in 2002, LFW has raised the profile of traditional music tuition in rural Argyll. It now works with four primary and one senior secondary schools, teaching 70 children a week and offering weekly adult tuition in local villages. The workshop also operates a number of "come and try" events in the local communities, where hundreds of children get a chance to experiment with a range of instruments. Fèis Ceann Loch Goibhle runs an annual residential week-end for children where the emphasis is on the use of Gaelic in musical instruction, song, dance and games. Elizabeth Bain, Project Leader at LFW said "We are thrilled to have won this award against such strong competition. Thank you very much to all at Third Force News and SCVO for organising this event. In the current climate of uncertainty of funding for voluntary, rural arts groups, it is good to see we are still able to keep our heads above the water"

Meala naidheachd air a h-uile duine agaibh - well done to all of you!

FÈIS CHATAIBH

Bha seachdain shoirbheachail aig Fèis Chataibh anns a' chiad seachdain de làithean-saora na sgoile. Thachair am prìomh fhèis aca ann an Àrd Sgoil Ghoillspidh le ceithir fichead 's a trì deug compàirtichean agus dhà air fhichead luchd-teagaisg. Bha an t-seachdain glè thrang ach chòrd i ris a h-uile duine.

Thuir an cathraiche Iain Moireach "Bha sinn uabhasach fortanach leis an luchd-teagaisg a bha againn am bliadhna le measgachadh math de dh'aoisean agus de dh'eòlas. Bha e math Gillian Frame, Findlay Napier agus Dagger Gordon fhaicinn a' teagasg aig an Fhèis airson a' chiad uair. Bha ìre-teagaisg nan clasaichean fìor mhath agus bha e uamhasach math gun d' fhuair cuid de sheann chompàirtichean na Fèise an cothrom a bhith nan luchd-cuideachaidh.

A bharrachd air a' phrìomh fhèis bha feadhainn de na compàirtichean an sàs anns a' Chuairt Chèilidh, a' tadhal air àitichean air feadh Chataibh. Cluichidh iad an consart mu dheireadh aca aig Fèis Blas. Bidh iad a' toirt taic do luchd-ciùil ionadail agus proifeiseanta a leithid Addie Harper agus Shooglenifty.

First Minister Alex Salmond with Fèis Chataibh participants

This year's summer week was one of the most successful and largest events ever held by Fèis Chataibh. It took place in Golspie High School and was attended by 93 participants and 22 tutors.

Chairperson Ian Murray said "The mix of tutors was a great success with a variety of age and experience providing a sound tuition base. It was great to have some new tutors to our Fèis in Gillian Frame, Findlay Napier and Dagger Gordon. The quality of tuition and the running of the classes were excellent. Another success was the presence of assistant tutors who had come through our own Fèis."

In addition to the main Fèis, older participants were also involved in the Cèilidh Trail which visited various venues throughout Sutherland. They will be playing their final gigs of this year during the Blas festival which will see them sharing the stage with various musicians including the Addie Harper Trio and Shooglenifty.



FÈIS NA H-ÒIGE

A total of 56 Gaelic speaking youngsters, from as far afield as Dunoon, Gairloch and Skye, descended on Inverness's new purpose built Gaelic school to take part in Fèis na h-Òige's week long summer event. Participants enjoyed a wide and varied programme of events with tuition being offered in 7 traditional instruments plus groupwork and percussion, and further choices of drama, shinty, and art. The under 8's had their own Fèis Bheag in the new Gaelic nursery.

Several "firsts" were achieved at this year's fèis – their first year enjoying the excellent facilities at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, the first time they held a barbecue as part of fèis week (definitely to be repeated next year) and the first time they've been involved at Blas! They are really proud to be taking part in the Blas concert at Eden Court Theatre on Saturday 6th September and have been working hard along with friends from Fèis a' Bhaile, to ensure that they are doing their very best to showcase their talents and fly the flag for the fèis movement.

As always there was a huge amount of planning and effort involved to make the Fèis week such a great success and the Fèis na h-Òige committee would like to thank everyone involved.

FÈIS A' BHEALACH



Compàirtichean Fèis a' Bhealach a' dèanamh agallamh còmhla ri Dòmhnall MacFhearchair aig Bunsgoil na Comraich

Fèis a' Bhealach participants interviewing Donald Ferguson at Applecross Primary School

Ghabh compàirtichean Fhèis a' Bhealach pàirt ann am Pròiseact nan Tasglann far an robh iad a' dèanamh agallamh còmhla ri muinntir sgìre na Comraich aig a bheil Gàidhlig gus barrachd fhaighinn a-mach mu dhualchas an àite.

Tha an Fhèis an dùil leabhnan fhoillseachadh làn fiosrachaidh a fhuair iad a-mach anns na h-agallamhan, a' gabhail a-staigh fiosrachadh air ainmean-àite, beul-aithris, eachdraidh agus sgeulachdan às an sgìre. Thèid an leabhnan a chur air bhog aig Fèis a' Bhealach 3 agus 4 Dàmhair 2008 agus bidh e ri fhaighinn bho Derek MacIlFhinnein aig Fèis a' Bhealach no bho oifis Fèisean nan Gàidheal ann an Inbhir Nis.

SGIOBA-G

Tha Sgioba-G air a bhith a-mach air an rathad a-rithist an samhraidh seo.

Thòisich iad aig Fèis Chataibh far an robh iad a' toirt taic dhan a' chomataidh Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh. Chuir iad chlasaichean de chur-seachadan inntinneach air dòigh do na compàirtichean gus beagan Gàidhlig ionnsachadh.

Bha sinn fortanach gun robh Kayleigh Nicllinein ag obair còmhla rinn fad an t-samhraidh mar phàirt de ghreis gnìomhachas CnaG. Le obair na Sgioba-G thug Kayleigh taic do Fèis na h-Òige agus cuideachd chaidh i gu Barraigh son taic a thoirt dhan Fhèis leis an iomairt BarraFest.

Aig deireadh an Iuchair, bha an Sgioba a' toirt taic aig Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich agus gu h-àraidh le Fèis nan Deugairean. Bha iad ag obair air cur-seachadan a tha co-cheangailte ri bhith nad neach-ciùil proifeiseanta agus abair gun robh spòrs aca a' sealltainn ri ainmean còmhlain, sanasachd agus a' clàradh phìosan airson bhideo ciùil.

Tha sinn a-nis a' sealltainn air na mìosan a tha romhainn agus 's e Fèis a' Bhaile an ath chuairt airson na Sgioba.

A busy summer again for Sgioba-G.

The G-team started off in Golspie at Fèis Chataibh providing activities and support for the Fèis. A great time was had by all and it was great to hear their new Fèis song being sung so enthusiastically at the final concert.

We were fortunate to have Kayleigh MacLennan with us through the CnaG placement scheme this summer, and she was also working with the Sgioba-G at Fèis na h-Òige and supporting Fèis Bharraigh's BarraFest.

It was also great to finish up the summer with Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich and there new teenage Fèis.

Activities here were based on the life of a professional musician and we had great fun looking at band names, publicity and the participants even had the opportunity to create their own music video.

Next up is Fèis a' Bhaile!

DEALBH DÙTHCHA

Bidh 29 de chom-pàirtichean nam Fèisean a' cluich coimisean ùr a sgrìobh Blàr Dùghlas airson an dàrna thurais aig Eden Court Disathairne 6 Sultain mar phàirt den Fhèis Blas agus a-rithist aig Taigh-tasgaidh Kelvingrove ann an Glaschu air 18 Sultain - a' comharrachadh leth bhillean not a chuireadh Stòras Dualchais a' Chrannchuir Nàiseanta a-steach do dhualchas na h-Alba. Cuideachd, bidh na compàirtichean uile a' dol gu Liverpool anns an Dùbhlachd am-bliadhna a riochdachadh Inbhir Nis agus na Gàidhealtachd anns an tachartas Dealbh Dùthcha, còmhla ri daoine òga bho 16 bailtean eile anns an Rìoghachd Aonaichte.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007

The Scottish Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Act introduces a scheme membership system for people who work with children and protected adults. If a person is considered unsuitable to work with these groups they will be unable to become a scheme member. It will be an offence for an organisation to permit someone who has been barred to undertake such work. It builds upon what has been learnt from the current disclosure system to deliver a strengthened and streamline service for people who work with vulnerable groups.

Scheme membership will end the need for employees (paid/unpaid) to complete multiple written disclosure checks. Scheme records will be updated automatically when members circumstances change, e.g. if they move job or are convicted of a crime.

This will enable the employer to do a simple check to verify that a person is a scheme member.

As well as providing a tool to help employers to make safe and speedier recruitment decisions, scheme membership will save overall costs reduce bureaucracy. Checks for volunteers working in the voluntary sector will continue to be paid for by the Scottish Government.

29 Fèis participants performed a new commission written by Blair Douglas for the second time at Eden Court as part of the Blas festival on 6 September and again at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow on 18 September as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's celebration of half a billion pound input into Scotland's heritage. The participants will also be going to Liverpool in December this year to represent Inverness and the Highlands in the Portrait of a Nation Event along with young people from 16 other cities across the UK.



Calum Alex & Dougie with Eleri Twynog Davies of S4C in Cardiff

WELSH FACT-FINDING TRIP

In February, Dougie, Christine and Calum Alex went to Wales to visit some Welsh organisations to gain an insight into their day to day activities and all the various projects they are involved in.

They visited:

- Urdd, - an organisation for 8-25 year old offering a wide range of fun activities;
- Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (the equivalent to Bòrd na Gàidhlig) who deal with policy, funding and gave valuable information about bi-lingualisation;
- S4C the Welsh TV Channel who advised on their range of programmes and the work they do in the community;
- Menter Iaith an organisation that offers something for all ages. They run drama clubs, computing classes, a welsh shop, a coffee shop and various other projects.

The trip was very valuable, a lot was learnt and good links were made. The communication between the different groups was very effective and they worked together. Fèisean nan Gàidheal will seek to form further co-operative partnerships with groups in Scotland, as it was clear from the Welsh experience that this is an essential part of their success.

SPECIAL NEEDS ACTION PROJECT (SNAP)

Tha Emily Edwards (Oifigear Tasglann agus Pròiseactan Sònraichte) air a bhith ag obair gu saor-thoileach leis a' bhuidheann charthannais 'SNAP' a tha stèidhichte aig Sgoil Drummond ann an Inbhir Nis. Bidh SNAP a' toirt chothroman agus a' cur thachartasan air dòigh do chloinn agus daoine òga aig a bheil duilgheadasan ionnsachaidh agus feumalachdan sònraichte ann an sgìre Inbhir Nis agus mar phàirt den obair seo, bidh Emily a' teagasg fhaclan agus abairtean Gàidhlig do luchd-obrach SNAP a ghabhas cleachdadh leis a' chloinn aig a bheil Gàidhlig.

Emily Edwards (Archiving and Special Projects Officer) has been undertaking some volunteer work with the charitable organisation 'SNAP' based at Drummond School in Inverness. SNAP provide a range of services and activities for children and young people with learning difficulties and special needs in the Inverness area and as part of the project, Emily will be teaching some of the staff at SNAP a number of Gaelic words and phrases which they can use with the Gaelic speaking children who attend the group.

**Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Taigh a' Mhill
Port-Rìgh
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach
IV51 9BZ
Fòn 01478 613355
Facs 01478 613399
Post-d brath@feisean.org
www.feisean.org**