

# faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 60 • An t-Sultain 2016 • September 2016

## BLAS FESTIVAL 2016 HITS THE HIGH NOTES



Thàinig Blas 2016 gu crìoch le consairt sònraichte ann an Talla-chluich Cùirt Eden ann an Inbhir Nis le sàr neach-ciùil na h-Èireann Sharon Shannon a' nochdadh cuide ri Nuallan à Ceap Breitainn agus an còmhlan ùr Albannach Tidelines.

Chaidh fèis na bliadhnasa a chumail eadar 2-10 Sultain le prògram loma-làn de chèilidhean, cuirmean, tachartasan sgoile, ceòl ann an ospadalan is dachaighean-cùraim, dràma, tachartasan teaghlaich, cuairtean is eile.

Thòisich an fhèis le oidhche shònraichte a' comharrachadh an 80mh ceann-bliadhna aig tè de shàr luchd-ciùil is lasairean cultarail Uibhist, Rona Lightfoot. Nas fhaide air adhart air an fhèis bha cuirm ann a chomharraich na rinneadh do cheòl Gàidhlig le sàr Sgitheanach, Eòin Dòmhnallach.

Airson an 11mh uair ann an 12 bliadhna, chaidh pios ciùil ùr fhoillseachadh le Blas agus an coimisean ùr le Mairi Anna NicUalraig agus Nick Turner – *Beul na h-Oidhche gu Camhanaich*. Bha 4 taisbeanaidhean ann den choimisean a bha stèidhichte air òrain, sgeulachdan is ceòl co-cheangailte ris na speuran – na rionnagan, a' ghrian, a' ghealach agus na Fir Chlis.

Mar phàirt de phrògram nan sgoiltean bha taisbeanaidhean ciùil, bùithtean-obrach sgìlean siorcais le Ariel Killick, aithris sgeulachdan, taisbeanaidhean dràma le Meanbh-chuileag agus taisbeanaidhean le Hùb-Hàb airson clann ro-sgoile.

B' i fèis air leth a bh' innte le àireamhan fallain aig na cuirmean - cuid dhiubh gun tiogaidean idir air fhàgail. Bidh sinn a' tarraing ar n-anail airson greiseag mus tòisich planaichean airson Blas 2017!

The 2016 Blas Festival came to a close with a fantastic concert featuring Irish superstar Sharon Shannon, Cape Breton piping outfit Nuallan and rising stars Tide Lines.

This year's festival was held between 2 and 10 September featuring an exciting programme of cèilidhs, concerts, school visits, music in hospitals, performances in care homes, drama performances and a series of family events.

A special concert took place at the start of the festival to celebrate Rona Lightfoot's 80th Birthday and a cèilidh was held in Kilmuir to celebrate the contribution of Jonathan MacDonald to Gaelic Music. The 11th Blas commission *Beul na h-oidhche gu Camhanaich* (Mouth of the Night to First Light) by Mary Ann Kennedy and Nick Turner took audiences on a journey through the skies with songs, stories and music related to the sun, moon, stars and the northern lights.

Over the 9 days of the festival a host of leading traditional musicians and Gaelic singers appeared at venues throughout the Highlands and Argyll. Among them were The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Trail West, Fergie MacDonald, Margaret Stewart, Paul MacCallum and Linda Macleod. Young people were again at the heart of the festival with the Cèilidh Trails, Guth na nGael (an Irish exchange project), Graham MacKenzie, Brighde Campbell and *O Chruinneag E Chruinneag* – a new group featuring Ellen MacDonald, Ceitlin Smith, Eilidh Cormack and Innes White, all taking part in concerts throughout Blas.

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## DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER TO SPEAK AT CONFERENCE



Fèisean nan Gàidheal's AGM and Conference will be held at the MacDonald Hotel in Aviemore on 23 and 24 September when we will welcome as our main Guest Speaker John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister of Scotland. Mr Swinney has responsibility for Gaelic within his education portfolio.

Shona MacLennan, Ceannard of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, will also speak about Bòrd na Gàidhlig's work. The conference is an opportunity for Fèis organisers to gather and share information that will be of help in running their events but there's a cèilidh too! This year we will hear from Fèis musicians and Sileas Sinclair's Dance Band.

## BIG INCREASE IN NUMBERS AT FÈIS EILEAN NA HEARADH



Bho 27 An t-Ògmhios gu 1 An t-luchar bha clann na Hearadh air an cumail trang. Chunnac Fèis Eilean na Hearadh sior àrdachadh anns na h-àireamhan bhon uiridh le 123 pàiste a' taomadh a-steach gu Sgoil Sir E Scott. Bha seachdain shoirbheachail aca, le sàr-oideachadh ann an iomadh ionnsramaid ga thabhanh a bharrachd air seinn agus obair a' Chlò Hearaich. Chaidh clas sònraichte a ruith do na deugairean aig an Fhèis, agus ràinig iad taobh a-muigh crìochan na sgoile a' sreap nam beann, a' dèanamh air an loch ann an kayak agus a' falbh air baidhseagal tron Ghearradh Chruaidh ann an Steòrnabhagh. Fhuair iad cothrom film a chlàradh, fo stiùir Dhòl Eoin MhicFhionghain, airson Film G.

Chaidh cèilidh luchd-teagaisg a chumail ann an Tigh mo Sheanair far an d' fhuair muinntir na coimhearsnachd cothrom dannsa no dhà a dhèanamh, agus chaidh sgilean an luchd-teagaisg a thaisbeanadh don t-sluagh. Chaidh cuirm na cloinne air adhart Dihaoine agus nochd an t-uabhas airson an fheadhainn bheaga fhaicinn air an àrd-ùrlar. Thàinig cùisean gu ceann leis a h-uile duine a' seinn *Chì mi 'n Tìr*. Dè eile?

Fèis Eilean na Hearadh in Tarbert attracted a large increase in numbers with 123 participants this summer. With a multitude of talented and enthusiastic tutors on hand, tuition in several instruments was offered alongside shinty, singing and Harris Tweed craft.

Teenagers were given the chance to go outwith the boundaries of the school and climb hills, go kayaking and ride a bike through the castle grounds in Stornoway. They also filmed and directed an entry for Film G with help from Dòl Eoin MacKinnon.

A Tutors' Cèilidh was held mid-week and the children's concert on Friday allowed the participants to showcase their new-found skills in front of their parents and the community. The week came to an end with a powerful rendition of the Fèis song, *Chì Mi 'n Tìr*.

## CEÒL NA PÌOBA A' CUR FÈIS AN RUBHA FO SHEÒL

Aig toiseach Fèis an Rubha, chaidh 53 pàiste timcheall na sgoile, a' caismeachd air cùl a' phìobaire airson toiseach na seachdain a chomharrachadh. Fhuair a' chlann as òige blas de gach ionnsramaid gus am biodh fios aca dè bhiodh romhpa anns na bliadhnaichean a tha ri thighinn.

Le seinn, dràma, giotàr, màileidean, clàrsach agus fidheall ri fhaotainn aig an Fhèis, bha roghainn gu leòr aca agus thàinig piseach air an cuid sgilean mar a chaidh an t-seachdain air adhart.

Fèis an Rubha was held in Sgoil an Rubha this year from 18th to 22nd July, affording opportunities to children of all ages to take part between the cròileagan class, the 5-7s, and the Main Fèis. The week kicked off with a march around the school led by the piping tutor. Music was to be heard in the corridors all week and the children were very keen to learn. The younger ones were able to visit the musical classes for taster sessions so they could see what they would be on offer to them in the years to come.

With tuition available in many different instruments, Gaelic singing and drama, there was plenty going on for the children. Their progress throughout the week was evident as they became more confident in what they were playing. The children's concert on Friday night brought the Fèis to an end with their new skills showcased for their parents to see. Everyone joined in the singing of *Ceann Loch an Dùin* and *Eilean Fraoich*.



## FÈIS TÌR AN EÒRNA BIDS FAREWELL TO BAYHEAD SCHOOL

Chaidh Fèis Tìr an Eòrna a chumail ann an Sgoil Phaibil ann an Uibhist a Tuath, san t-seann sgoil, airson an turas mu dheireadh. Bha 59 an làthair gus sgilean ciùil ùr ionnsachadh air iomadh diofar ionnsramaid cho math ri dràma, seinn agus iomain.

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna took place between 27th June and 1st July for the very last time in the old Bayhead Primary School, North Uist before its demolition. 59 participants turned up to learn new musical skills, drama, singing and shinty. Under very enthusiastic tuition, the music was soon to be heard throughout the school. Art classes were also offered, the results of which were displayed at the final concert.

Everyone is looking forward to the new school and a new home for Fèis Tìr an Eòrna!

## FÈIS TÌR A' MHURAIN

Chaidh Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain a chumail ann an Sgoil Dhalabroig an Uibhist a Deas bho 11 gu 15 An t-luchar le 127 an làthair. Bha iomadh diofar ionnsramaid ri ionnsachadh aig an Fhèis agus chaidh seinn Gàidhlig, ealain, dràma, iomain, dannsa Gàidhealach agus sgilean meadhanan a thabhanh do chuid, leis an teagasg uile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

## FÈIS LOCHABAIR MOVES TO A NEW VENUE AND A NEW TIME OF YEAR

Fèis Lochabair was held in Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar in Caol from 1 to 5 August - a new home for the Fèis and a new time of year. With around 120 young people participating in the extensive programme of classes and workshops, it was an extremely busy Fèis.

As well as the usual classes, there was a range of workshops and drop-in events for younger children, with sessions for ages 0-3, 3-5 and 5-7 year olds. It was the first year that Fèis Lochabair had decided to pilot their Pàrant is Pàiste ("Parent and Child") group for ages 0-3 and it was clear from parents' feedback that it had been a resounding success.

Fèis Lochabair are now looking forward to continuing their support of community music-making with term-time weekly lessons.

For more information see the Fèis Lochabair Facebook page.

## FÈIS THRÒNDAIRNIS BRIGHTENS UP THE NORTH OF SKYE



Ann an Stafainn, an ceann a tuath an Eilein Sgitheanaich, chaidh Fèis Thròndairnis a chumail airson seachdain làn ciùil agus fealla-dhà. Fo stiùir a leithid John Carmichael agus Addie Harper, fhuair a' chlann eòlas air obair còmhlain, le dreach eadar-dhealaichte agus ùr air gach fonn, agus bha aig a h-uile neach ri òran na Fèise ionnsachadh a ghabhadh iad uile còmhla aig deireadh chùisean.

Bha ceòl agus dannsa gu leòr a' dol tron t-seachdain, chan ann a-mhàin am measg na cloinne ach air na h-oidhcheannan cuideachd, le cèilidh air a chumail ann an Tàlla Coimhearsnachd Stafainn oidhche Mhàirt. Ann an suidheachadh gu math mì-fhoirmeil fhuair an luchd-teagaisg cothrom fois a ghabhail mus tàinig Dihaoine nuair a bha a h-uile duine còmhla gus na sgilean ùr a thaisbeanadh air beulaibh na coimhearsnachd.

## FÈIS BHARRAIGH

Fèis Bharraigh was held in Castlebay Community School this year between 4th and 8th July. 100 children attended and were able to choose four subjects which consisted of different instruments, step dancing, singing, shinty and drama, in which they received a high level of tuition all week from accomplished tutors.

A children's cèilidh was held on Tuesday night and a group of youngsters from Fèis Thiriodh came over on the ferry to a warm welcome.

Wednesday hosted a midweek Tutors' Cèilidh with a change of venue this year due to the weather which prevented it from being held in Kisimul Castle. A piping night was held in Northbay on Thursday where the young pipers and drummers and their tutors were on hand to provide the entertainment. They were all highly successful thanks to the support of the Barra community.

A final concert rounded off Fèis Bharraigh on the Friday afternoon.

## FÀILTE BHLÀTH AIR FÈIS AN TAIRBEIRT

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was delighted to welcome Fèis an Tairbeirt – a brand new Fèis that was held for the first time on 17th September at various venues in Tarbert, Argyll.

With tuition from members of MÀNran, Ceòl an Aire, as well as other fantastic musicians, the Fèis was a great success enjoyed by all who participated.

Fèis an Tairbeirt is now looking to develop its programme of tuition, with a series of music workshops that will be held during term time. Fèisean nan Gàidheal would like to wish them every success with their work in the years to come and look forward to assisting the Fèis to grow.

## LARGE NUMBERS ATTEND FÈIS EILEAN AN FHRAOICH IN STORNOWAY



Nochd 137 com-pàirtiche airson Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich am-bliadhna. Bha a' chlann deiseil agus deònach am bogadh fhèin ann an oideachadh bho luchd-teagaisg a bha air a bhith an sàs aig an Fhèis fad iomadh bliadhna leithid Andy Yearley, Lynn Nicilleathain, Noel Eadie agus Iain 'Costello' MacIomhair. Bha ceòl gu leòr ri chluinntinn bhon chiad mhadainn.

This year, Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich welcomed back a group of Irish youngsters from Club Óige Luraigh in County Derry, who were in Lewis on an exchange programme with Comunn na Gàidhlig. They readily took part in the classes for singing, drama and music, and started preparing their own play in Scottish Gaelic!

At the end of the week the final concert displayed the talent of the participants, and the play by the Irish youngsters brought the hall to its feet. Everyone who had been involved in the Fèis took to the stage at the end to sing *Eilean Fhraoich*.

## FÈIS A' BHAILE A' COMHARRACHADH 25 BLIADHNA

Bidh Fèis a' Bhaile a' comharrachadh còig bliadhna fichead aig consairt sònraichte far am bi com-pàirtichean na Fèise, sean is òg, an sàs. Am measg na bhios a' cluich aig a' chonsairt, bidh am fìdhleair ainmeil Adam Sutherland - a bha fhèin a' frithealadh na Fèise na òige - agus an seinneadair Hamish Napier a tha le chèile sa chòmhlan 'Nae Plans'. Bidh na ceòladairean cuideachd a' stiùireadh clas obair-còmhlain air seachdain na Fèise a bhios a' ruith eadar 10mh agus 14mh An Dàmhair.

Fèis a' Bhaile will be celebrating 25 years with a concert featuring participants old and new. Local fiddler Adam Sutherland alongside singer-songwriter Hamish Napier - who together make up 'Nae Plans' - will be performing pieces with Fèis participants having worked on them during the Fèis week.

Booking forms for this year's Fèis, which takes place between 10th and 14th October, can be found on the Fèis a' Bhaile website.

Tickets for the 25th anniversary event can be purchased on the Eden Court website: [eden-court.co.uk/whats-on/shows/feis-a-bhaile-s-25th-anniversary-concert](http://eden-court.co.uk/whats-on/shows/feis-a-bhaile-s-25th-anniversary-concert)

## FÈIS NAN GARBH CHRÌOCHAN FILLS THE EVENINGS IN ACHARACLE

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan in Acharacle was once again a success this year, with great numbers of participants and a full programme of musical events. It was a busy week, with lots happening in the evenings as well.

The Tutors' Concert was held on the Wednesday night, a family cèilidh the next night and a musical extravaganza to bring the Fèis to a close on the final night, with music from special guests Fèis Lochabair Cèilidh Trail, Cast Ewe Cèilidh Band and Doc Livingstone. A Fèis participants' concert was also held giving the youngsters an opportunity to show off the skills they had learned. The week was enjoyed by all and it is hoped the next Fèis will be as successful.



## FÈIS ARAINN ATTRACTS PARTICIPANTS FROM FAR AFIELD



Chaidh Fèis Arainn air adhart eadar 25 agus 29 An t-Iuchar ann an Eilean MòLaise, le com-pàirtichean a' tighinn à sgìrean cho fada air falbh ri Glaschu airson seachdain a bha làn ciùil is spòrs. Bha àireamhan àrd am bliadhna, le cò-dhiù 55 com-pàirtichean an làthair.

Chaidh cèilidh teaghlaich a chumail air oidhche Chiadain ann an Talla a' Bhàigh le ceòl bhon luchd-oideachaidh air leth a bh' aca. Bha an talla loma-làn agus bha an t-ùrlar trang fad na h-oidhche le muinntir na coimhearsnachd a' dannsa.

Thàinig cùisean gu ceann feasgar Dihaoine le taisbeanadh nan com-pàirtichean, nuair a fhuair a' chlann cothrom a chluich agus a sheinn air an àrd-ùrlar air beulaibh an cuid theaghlaichean. Chluich com-pàirtichean òrain a bha co-ceangailte ri cuspair na Fèise: Faidhir an t-Seasgainn - an aon ainm a bh' air òran na Fèise, a sheinn a h-uile duine aig deireadh an taisbeanaidh le stiùireadh bhon t-seinneadair Màiri NicAonghais a bha a' teagasg seinn tron t-seachdain.

Fèis Arainn took place this year at Arran High School in Lamrash, Arran, with participants coming from as far away as Glasgow for the week-long celebration of Gaelic and music. Numbers were high this year, with at least 55 children participating in the week's workshops.

The Fèis came to a close on Friday afternoon with the participants' concert. Participants performed songs that were connected to the Fèis theme, "Faidhir an t-Seasgainn" or Shiskine Fair. This was also the name of the Fèis song, performed by all of the participants at the end of the concert, conducted by singer Mairi MacInnes, who taught singing throughout the week.

## FÈIS EIGE @ 20

Fèis Eige was delighted to celebrate its 20th anniversary this July. With three days of fun activities, Fèis Eige once again provided children with the opportunity to participate in music and Gaelic classes.

Fèis Eige is particularly special to those who were children living on the island when it was first established. Today, these very children are now teaching at the Fèis or are committee members themselves, such as Tasha McVarish, the Fèis secretary.

Through participating at the Fèis, children are becoming more knowledgeable about important traditions that can still be found on the Isle of Eigg. It increases young people's awareness of Gaelic and provides them with opportunities to hear traditional music at sessions and at the end-of-week cèilidh.

The Fèis has been paramount in strengthening the island's community, and following its success, it is hoped that Fèis Eige shall run for many more years to come.



## FÈIS THIRIODH TAKES TO THE SEA



Fèis Thiriodh was held once again this year in Tìree High School where there were plenty of exciting activities for youngsters of all ages.

There was a break mid-week as participants, parents and committee members departed on a ferry to Barra for the annual Muse Cruise: a musical voyage where people are encouraged to bring along their instruments for a six-hour session. Poor weather was unable to dampen spirits and the day was a success.

An evening of film was held on the Thursday night, with two short films by Jack Lockhart which depicted a "now and then" insight of life on Tìree and history of the island. The week came to a close with the participants' concert and Fèis dance on the Friday evening. With music provided by some of the Fèis tutors, there was plenty of music and craic.

## FÈIS SPÈ AIR CHUAIRT

Fhuair buidheann de dh'òigridh à Fèis Spè an cothrom eòlas fhaighinn air cànan agus dualchais ar caraidean air taobh thall Sruth na Maoile 's iad an sàs ann an iomlaid le buidheann à sgìre Dùn nan Gall.

Às dèidh samhradh trang air chuairt air feadh Srath Spè, thadhail ochdnar bho Cèilidh air Chuairt a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh air Inis Eoghain, mar phàirt de phròiseact a tha ag amas air òigridh a' rannsachadh nan ceanglaichean cultarail eadar Alba agus Eirinn.

'S e seo an ceathramh turas a tha an iomlaid - a bhios a' faighinn taibh bhon mhaoin Cholm Cille aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig - air a bhith ga ruith.

Ghabh iad pàirt ann am bùithtean-obrach air an stiùireadh le Charlie McKerron, Roisin McGrory agus Úna Ní Bhriain agus Grace Toland bho Tasglann Ceòl Dùthchasach na h-Èirinn. Fhuair iad an cothrom cuideachd a bhith ag ionnsachadh puirt ùra agus a bhith a' cluich an iomadach àite leithid Fèis Lughnasa.

Following a busy summer performing around Badenoch and Strathspey, a group of young people from Fèis Spè got the opportunity to learn about the cultural links between Scotland and Ireland in an exchange with young musicians from Donegal.

Eight Fèis Spè musicians took part in the project, now in its fourth year, which receives funding from Colmille through Bord na Gàidhlig.

The week included workshops from Charlie McKerron, Roisin McGrory and Úna Ní Bhriain as well as a talk by Grace Toland from the Irish Traditional Music Archive. All had the chance to learn and perform tunes together.



## CEÒL IS ÒRAIN THALL 'S A BHOS ANN AN SAMHRADH TRANG, SOIRBHEACHAIL DO NA CÈILIDHEAN AIR CHUAIRT



Bha samhradh soirbheachail eile aig na Cèilidhean air Chuairt am-bliadhna, a' tòiseachadh le trèanadh aig Fèis Alba anns a' Phloc eadar 4-8 agus 11-15 Iuchar. Bha 8 buidhnean an làthair bho air feadh nan Eilean Siar, na Gàidhealtachd, Earra-Ghàidheal agus sgìre Shruighlea. Chùm Fhèis Rois làithean trèanaidh ann an Cromba dhaibhsan a bha an sàs sna trì còmhlain aca.

Tha na cèilidhean air chuairt air a bhith a' dol bho chionn seachd bliadhna deug, agus tha na ceudan de dh'òigridh eadar 16 agus 25 air an cuid sgìlean a leasachadh le cothrom a bhith mar phàirt de thuras pàighte tron t-samhradh. Tha seo a' toirt toiseach tòiseachaidh math dhaibhsan a tha airson am beòshlàint a dhèanamh ann an ceòl anns na bliadhnaichean a tha ri thighinn.

This year's Cèilidh Trails kicked off once again with a fortnight of training at Fèis Alba which took place in Plockton from 4th – 8th and 11th – 15th July. The training was attended by eight Cèilidh Trail groups from across the Highlands and Islands while members of the Fèis Rois local Cèilidh Trail teamed up with participants of the National Cèilidh Trail in Cromarty for their training days.

The Cèilidh Trails have now been running for seventeen years and in that time have offered hundreds of young musicians aged 16-25 the opportunity to develop their skills and get a taster of life as touring musicians for a few weeks during the summer. The Cèilidh Trails offer a unique experience and the skills participants learn can stand them in good stead for a future musical, or non-musical, career.

2015 saw the launch of the Western Isles Cèilidh Trail, which was a great success, and this year they were working in partnership with An Lanntair through funding support from the Bealach project and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. The Cèilidh Trail performed on the Island Stage at the Hebridean Celtic Festival as well as at the brand new Eilean Dorcha Festival in Uist.

The most recent Fèis to undertake a Cèilidh Trail was Fèis Inbhir Narainn who launched the newly reformed Caledonian Cèilidh Trail. Formerly run by The Highland Council, then local musician Rachel Campbell, a special gig with guest musician Mike Vass in Nairn Community Centre on 30 July marked its re-establishment. This, and the Trail, met with great success.

Between the 8th of July and the 14th of August, locals and visitors were able to catch local Cèilidh Trail performances in a variety of locations from boats to castles, village halls to festival tents in the following areas: Sutherland & Caithness, Ross-shire, Nairn & Inverness-shire, Skye & Lochalsh, the Western Isles, Lochaber, Argyll & the Isles, Stirling & the Trossachs and the Cairngorms National Park. In addition, the Fèis Rois National Cèilidh Trail was on tour across the country from Dumfries and Galloway to Orkney.

Some of the Cèilidh Trails also supported well-known musicians at Blas Festival concerts.



## CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON GAELIC EDUCATION

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' foillseachadh Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 agus a' leudachadh air na cumhachan Gàidhlig ann an Achd an Fhoghlaim (Alba) 2016. Tha an Stiùireadh seo airson a h-uile neach a tha an sàs ann am foghlam Gàidhlig ann an Alba, agus gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh mu na diofar dhòighean freagairt a chur air làrach-lìn a' Bhùird.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is issuing Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and expanding on the Gaelic provisions of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016. This Guidance is for everyone involved in Gaelic education in Scotland, providing information on how to request Gaelic-medium education (GME), as well as recommendations and best practice in the delivery of all forms of Gaelic education.

Further information on the context of Gaelic education in Scotland can be found in the introduction to the document available on the Bòrd's website [gaidhlig.org.uk](http://gaidhlig.org.uk). A consultation on the Guidance will run until 1st November and we would encourage you to respond.

## TAC AN TEINE ON THE GO AGAIN

Tha teirm ùr na sgoile air tòiseachadh agus le sin tha seiseanan seinn Tac an Teine air tòiseachadh às ùr. Air a' chiad Disathairne de gach mìos tha Tac an Teine ga chumail ann an Taigh-òsta a' Ghlinne Mhoir eadar 2f agus 4f. 'S e seisean neo-fhoirmeil a th' ann a chuireas fàilte air daoine de gach aois a thighinn a sheinn, neo èisteachd ma 's fheàrr leotha. 'S e cothrom a th' ann cuideachd còmhradh fhaighinn le caraidean.

Chaidh a' chiad seisean a chumail air 6 Sultain 's bidh cruinneachaidhean ann air 1 An Dàmhair, 5 An t-Samhain agus 3 An Dùbhlachd.

The schools are back and the Gaelic song session Tac an Teine has returned. Held between 2pm and 4pm on the first Saturday of each month, Fèisean nan Gàidheal warmly invites those who wish to sing a song, join in a chorus or just want to listen, to come along to the Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness.

Future sessions will be held on 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December. For more information visit [www.feisean.org/tacanteine](http://www.feisean.org/tacanteine)

## GUTH NAN GAEL AIR CHUAIRT ANN AN ALBA



Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal air iomlaid chultarach air leth inntinneach eadar òigridh le Gàidhlig ann an Alba agus Èirinn a thoirt gu ceann le sreath de thaisbeanaidhean sònraichte anns an dà dhùthaich.

Chaidh 'Guth nan Gael' a stèidheachadh ann an co-bhonn ris an Ionad Oirghialla ann an Dùn Dealgan, Èirinn, le taic bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus Foras na Gaeilge tron sgeama Colmcille. Bho thoiseach na bliadhna tha am pròiseact air còrr is 15 òganach eadar 16 is 22 bliadhna a dh'aois a thoirt còmhla airson bùithtean-obrach cànan, ciùil, seinn, dràma is dannsa. Bha Gàidhlig no Gaeilge aig a h-uile compàirtiche is neach-oide is iad ag ionnsachadh còmhla mu chànan agus cultar Gàidhealach san dà dhùthaich.

A bharrachd air bùithtean-obrach agus tachartasan foghlaim bha an sgioba cuideachd ri obair-còmhlain is iad ag ullachadh taisbeanadh sònraichte de chiùil, òrain is dannsa a' tarraing air na dh'ionnsaich iad bho chèile. Am measg seann phuirt agus òrain an t-seann nòis dh'ullaich a' bhuidheann pios ciùil sònraichte air a bheil 'Colmcille' a rinn an clàrsair Èireannach Micheal Rooney a' moladh Naomh Chaluim Chille, naomh Èireannach a thàinig a dh'Alba san t-siathamh linn agus a stèidhich a' mhanachainn air Eilean I.

Fhuair a' bhuidheann cothrom an taisbeanadh seo a thoirt gu Fleadh Cheoil na hÈirann san Lùnastal far an do nochd iad aig cuirm-ciùil eadar-nàiseanta na buidhne ealan.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is celebrating the success of a six-month cultural exchange between young Scottish and Irish musicians.

'Guth nan Gael' was established earlier this year in partnership with the Oriel Centre in Dundalk Ireland and with support from the Colmcille scheme administered by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Foras na Gaeilge. Since Spring 2016 this project has brought over 15 young people aged 16 to 22 together from Ireland and Scotland to explore and share their Gaelic languages and culture through a series of Gaelic and Irish medium workshops and events.

As well as workshops and educational activities the group also prepared a showcase performance of traditional Irish and Scottish music, teaching each other tunes, songs and a dance step or two. The group also learnt and prepared a suite of music composed by Irish harpist Micheal Rooney, appropriately named 'Colmcille' and composed in honour of St Columba, the sixth century Irish saint who came to Scotland and established the now famous monastery in Iona.

The group then performed this showcase at a number of high profile festivals, including an international concert at Fleadh Cheoil na hÈireann in Ireland in August and a support slot for Sharon Shannon, Margaret Stewart and Nuallan at the Blas Festival at the beginning of September. Finally, and very fittingly, the group made for Iona where they performed a very special concert in the beautiful surroundings of Iona Abbey.



## MAGGIE MACDONALD

Gaelic music lost one of its gems with the passing in July of Maggie Macdonald.

A teacher and Mòd Gold Medallist, Maggie travelled the world performing and teaching Gaelic songs with Clìar and Na Caimbeulaich as well as her beloved Inverness Gaelic Choir.

She took part in Pròiseact nan Ealan's innovative 2007 opera 'Hiort – Mac-talla nan Eun' which involved her in a complex, multi-media production singing live via satellite from Hirta, the largest island of the St Kilda archipelago. In 2009, she was the female soloist in Blair Douglas' 'Aifreann Ghàidhlig – Gaelic Mass' performed at Blas and other events for the Year of Homecoming.

The Fèis movement benefited greatly from Maggie's talents too. With her teaching abilities and fun attitude to learning, she made a wonderful Fèis tutor. She worked for the past few years teaching song in primary schools through the Youth Music Initiative delivered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, via local Fèisean, for The Highland Council. She served on the board of Fèis Rois for the past 6 years.

Our sincere condolences to Maggie's husband, John; their children, Shona and Fraser, and their families.

**Bidh sinn ag ionndrainn boireannach coibhneil, mùirneach, gasta - agus ga caoidh - ach a' cuimhneachadh oirre le spèis, gaol, gàire agus lachanaich.**



## SSD2016 REACHES OUT TO NEW AUDIENCES



Fèisean nan Gàidheal's annual Gaelic Drama Summer School culminated with a mini tour of Skye and Lochalsh.

For the eleven participants, the Friday evening performance in Kilmuir was the result of a fortnight of drama skills' workshops led by artistic director David Walker and tutors Artair Donald and Dougie Beck.

The residential school, held in Portree, is organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Drama Officer, Angus Macleod, who commented: "In previous years, participants have only had one opportunity to showcase their work. It was felt that having an extra performance would give them a greater appreciation for what they'd achieved, and the opportunity to hone and develop their performances, in addition to exposure to a wider audience. Having the performance in a different venue each night also gave the participants a taste of what touring a play can be like and how certain elements have to be adapted to suit the space."

The School's first performance at Plockton High School Hall, on Thursday 14th July, was part of Fèis Alba's Family Cèilidh. Their final performance the following evening in a packed Kilmuir Hall, featured alongside performances from Clann Thròndairnis, Dannsairean an Eilein Sgitheanaich and a dance from the local Fèis an Earraich Cèilidh Trail group, Ceilear.

'Cò thu?' (Who are you?) was the title given to the showcase exploring the theme of identity which had fed into much of the work the participants had undertaken. In addition to individual performances, monologues and smaller group performances, the main focus was a devised ensemble piece based on Aonghas MacNeacail's poem 'Tha Gàidhlig Beò' (Gaelic is Alive).

During the fortnight, participants also benefited from creative writing workshops delivered by Gaelic playwright and novelist Catriona Lexy Campbell, made a short film for FilmG 2017, with support from local film-maker Magnus Graham, and took part in Let's Circus circus-skills workshops in Kyleakin.

For more information about an Sgoil Shamhraidh Dhràma, visit [www.feisean.org/ssd](http://www.feisean.org/ssd)



## CEÒL IS FEALLA-DHÀ AIG A' MHEANBH-FHÈIS



Aig deireadh teirm an t-samhraidh ghabh a h-uile sgoilear air an dara bliadhna ann an Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh, pàirt ann am Meanbh-fhèis airson latha. Seo an t-siathamh bliadhna a tha Roinn na Gàidhlig air Meanbh-fhèis a chuir air dòigh an co-bhonn ri Fèisean nan Gàidheal le taic-airgid bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Bha latha air leth soirbheachail làn fealla-dhà aca a-rithist am-bliadhna agus chòrd gothaichean glan ris na sgoilearan.



At the end of the summer term, the new S2 Gaelic learners and fluent speakers in Portree High School took part in an all-day Mini-Fèis - the sixth year the Gaelic Department has run the event in conjunction with Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils who, all morning, took part in workshops in rhythm, singing, drama, step-dancing and a treasure hunt delivered by experienced Fèis tutors. In the afternoon, a special concert took place in Àrainn Fhìnn, with entertainment provided by the all-singing, all-dancing Fèis tutors and talented school pupils. The music, lively atmosphere and fun raffle with truly 'breath-taking' prizes ensured the concert was a hit with the audience. This was a great opportunity for all pupils to experience taster sessions in a range of cultural activities. No experience was necessary - the pupils just had to be prepared for something a little different and a lot of fun and they proved themselves more than up to the challenge.

The pupils enjoyed the day so much, some suggested that the school should open the Fèis to all pupils in S1-6 next year! Whatever happens next, the Meanbh-Fhèis has proved to be a great way to end the school year and Fèisean nan Gàidheal was very happy to work with the school, which received funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to offer the event.

## DEALBH-CHLUICH CEÒLMHOSR DO CHLANN BHEAGA AIR FEADH NA GÀIDHEALTACHD



Shoirbhich le turas tron Ghàidhealtachd de *Hùb Hàb air Ghleus*, dealbh-chluich Gàidhlig airson buidhnean tràth-bhliadhnachan, a chaidh a chumail eadar Diluain 29 Lùnastal agus Dihaoine 9 Sultain. Mar phàirt den turas fhuair clann òga bho air feadh sgìre Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus Obar Dheathain, cothrom an dealbh-chluich fhaicinn, a nochd mar phàirt den chlàr-ama de thachartasan sgoile aig Blas.

A successful Highland tour of *Hùb Hàb air Ghleus* (Hùb Hàb in Tune), a Gaelic play devised for early years groups, took place between Monday 29th August and Friday 9th September. Young children throughout the Highland Council area, with a wee detour to Aberdeen, had the opportunity to see the play that featured as part of the Blas Festival's Schools Programme.

## LE MEAS AIR CHUAIRT

A national tour of *Le Meas* (Yours sincerely), a Gaelic play aimed at Gaelic-speaking children in upper primary, began at the end of August.

The play, produced through Meanbh-chuileag, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Theatre in Education project, will be toured over a six week period.

*Le Meas* tells the story of an online friendship between two teenagers - a Scottish girl, Eilidh, played by Catriona Nicolson and a Syrian girl, Maram, played by Beth Frieden.

The Highland leg of the tour featured as part of the Blas Festival's Schools programme and is now touring other areas.



## TASGADH FUND FOR TRADITIONAL ARTS PROJECTS

Make sure you consider Tasgadh if you have a traditional arts project in mind.

The application form is simple to complete and grants of between £250 and £1,000 can be secured within a month of the deadline date, the next of which is Friday 30 September.

Tasgadh is funded by Creative Scotland and administered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

We received 24 applications in round one earlier this year and we have offered grants of £9,175 to 15 projects.

Guidelines and application form from [www.feisean.org/tasgadh](http://www.feisean.org/tasgadh).

## MEALA-NAIDHEACHD AGUS FÀILTE AIR KEIR BEAG

Congratulations to our Senior Development Officer, Nicola Simpson, and her husband Duncan following the recent birth of their son Keir Fraser Simpson - a wee baby brother for Isobel.

## SEIRBHEIS FÈISGOIL

Tha Fèisgoil a' toirt cothrom do sgoilearan ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a bhith an sàs ann an thaisbeanaidhean is bùithtean-obrach air feadh na dùthcha. Gach bliadhna, bidh sinn a' libhrigeadh dràma spòrsail le Hùb Hàb do na tràth bhliadhnachan, dealbh-chluich chuspaireil le Meanbh-chuileag don fheadhainn nas sine ann am bun-sgoiltean is fealla-dhà gu leòr le dealbh-chluich na Nollaige don a h-uile duine. A bharrachd air sin, tha Fèisgoil a' toirt taic do sgoilearan agus tidsearan ann an sgoiltean far nach eil a' Ghàidhlig ga teagasg.

Tha Blasad Gàidhlig le Fèisgoil - clasaichean Gàidhlig, meanbh-fhèisean, làithean coimhearsnachd, trèanadh CPD agus tuigse air a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt cothrom do chomhairlichean agus buidhnean poblach cuid de gheallaidhean sna Planaichean Gàidhlig aca a choileanadh.

Fèisgoil gives opportunities to children in Gaelic-medium education through an extensive programme of performances and workshops. Every year we deliver a good dose of fun with our early years group, Hùb Hàb (just finishing a fourth week of touring), a topical performance for older primary age children through Meanbh-chuileag who are touring right now, and plenty nonsense for the whole family through our annual panto. In addition Fèisgoil also offers support to children and their teachers in schools where Gaelic is not taught.

We deliver a Taste of Gaelic through Fèisgoil - delivered as Gaelic classes, mini-Fèisean, community days and CPD training for instrumental instructors and music teachers. We offer Gaelic Awareness Training for Local Authorities and Public Bodies with Gaelic Language Plans.

The new Fèisgoil promotional video explains things in a bit more depth [youtube.com/watch?v=BvlwXID\\_56M](https://youtube.com/watch?v=BvlwXID_56M)

Fèisean nan Gàidheal  
Taigh a' Mhìl  
Port-Rìgh  
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach  
IV51 9BZ  
Fòn 01478 613355  
Facs 01478 613399  
Post-d [brath@feisean.org](mailto:brath@feisean.org)  
[www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org)