

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



A' toirt ar dualchais do ar n-òigridh

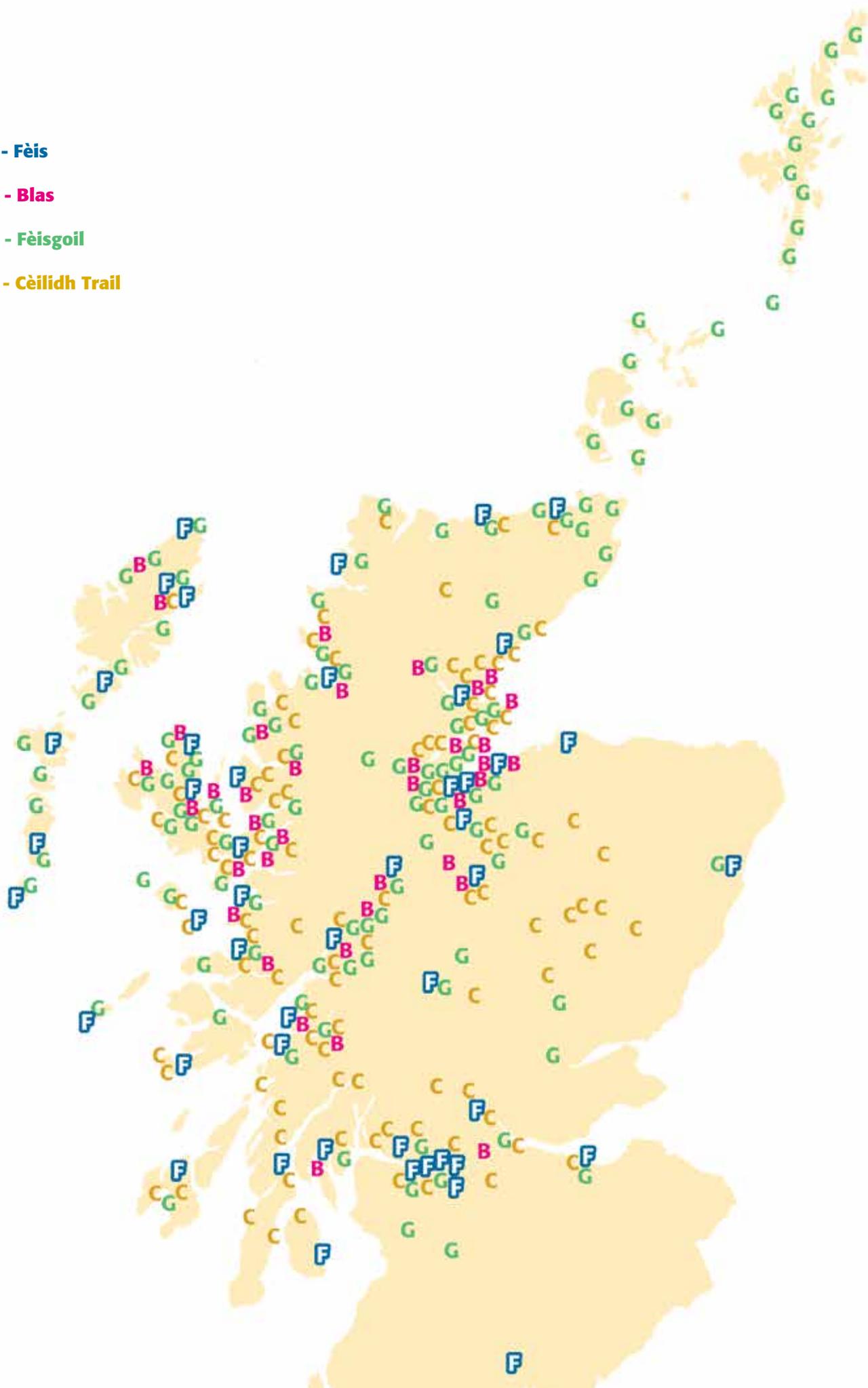


F - Fèis

B - Blas

G - Fèisgoil

C - Cèilidh Trail



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Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a company limited by guarantee, registration number SC130071, registered with OSCR as a Scottish Charity, number SC002040, and gratefully acknowledges the support of its main funders

CHAIR'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

It is once again my pleasure to present Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Annual Report for 2021-22, a year in which we sought to sustain and begin to rebuild the Fèis movement during the ongoing Covid pandemic. While the removal of lockdown restrictions and the introduction of the vaccination programme meant we all had more freedom, many people remained uncomfortable about mixing with crowds of others and some venues remained unavailable to local Fèisean.

The Annual Report gives a detailed review of our work agreed with Creative Scotland, HIE and Bòrd na Gàidhlig and I thank our principal funders for their flexibility and support throughout the past two years. Likewise, all the bodies with which we worked as we continued to deliver a range of activities for The Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council, High Life Highland, other local authorities and public bodies.

We were pleased that a number of Fèisean continued with online classes, took part in *Summer of Hope* activities, held in the open air, during the summer of 2021 and were able to start offering face to face activities again towards the end of the financial year.

The #cleachdi initiative continued, in which Fèisean nan Gàidheal partnered with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig and other bodies. However, demand for online activities diminished once people had freedom of movement following lockdown periods.

Although we continued with online Fèisean and hybrid delivery of other activities during the year, numbers participating were smaller than had been the case during those times.

While challenges continued to be evident, there were some notable opportunities.

Additional funds were secured from Creative Scotland to support residencies for 17 musicians in 9 Fèisean through the *Treòir* programme. Over the ensuing 6 months regular music classes were offered to nursery groups as well as hard to reach young people in some of the most socio-economically challenged communities in Scotland.

During the year, the Scottish Government's Islands Team invited Fèisean nan Gàidheal to offer a programme of work across all of Scotland's islands during the 2021-22 school year. Organised through Fèisgoil, Treòir | Voar | Virr was developed to employ artists on a regular basis, offer training to boost resilience and engage pupils with cultural activities following a year of disruption in schools.

Our regular Fèisgoil services were in demand too. In addition to Blasad Gàidhlig sessions in schools, Fèisgoil delivered Gaelic Awareness training and continued to offer drama work in schools. Most of the drama content had to be filmed but was accompanied by live online workshop sessions with schools. Work was offered to Gaelic medium schools and departments as well as schools where Gaelic is taught as



an additional language and nursery groups. The regular, online Café Bheairteis continued, organised each Friday afternoon by a group of young people to strengthen their use of Gaelic.

Residential events were still not possible in 2021, but elements of the Sgoil Shamhraidh Dràma and Fèis Alba were offered online. The normal programme of Cèilidh Trails was also curtailed but some Fèisean offered a programme of summer music performed, for the most part, outdoors.

Gaelic song-writing was supported through new compositions for our panto in December and a series of 22 new Gaelic songs were recorded for a project delivered in collaboration with e-Sgoil.

The Blas Festival went ahead in November 2021, with particular thanks to The Highland Council for its ongoing partnership in running the festival. It took place just prior to further disruption from the Omicron variant of Covid and we were able to offer 31 live concerts, 8 of which were livestreamed plus 37 online events. The festival attracted an audience of 12,991. Kim Carnie was offered the 2021 Blas commission and her piece, *Buaidh nam Ban*, explored women Gaelic poets, including Màiri Mhòr nan Òran marking 200 years since the bard's birth.

FèisTV's output continued with a number of activities and events offered online and we commissioned a further 11 series of lessons to expand the *Oide* tuition service.

Towards the end of the financial year, we received good news about additional funds available from Creative Scotland to enable recovery from Covid and the output generated from this will be evident in our next Annual Report.

In terms of governance the Board met regularly to review the work of the organisation, agree forward plans and receive reports on risk and the implementation of EDI and carbon reduction plans. During the year, the Board approved a suite of updated policies and introduced a new Safe Place policy as well as clarifying its existing safeguarding policies. Fèisean nan Gàidheal committed itself to adhering to the Scottish Government's Fair Work initiative and was recognised as a Living Wage employer.

A report was commissioned into the Cultural, Social, Economic, Linguistic and Wellbeing Impacts of Fèisean nan Gàidheal which will be published at our 2022 AGM and Conference.

We received confirmation from Creative Scotland of an increase in funds for Tasgadh. Along with Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig funding, those devolved funds enabled us to support many artists and groups outwith the Fèisean.

In May 2021 we welcomed Peigi Ann Shields to the post of Development Officer based in the Western Isles. Earlier this year, Peigi Ann and her husband, Màrtainn, had a baby girl and we send them our warmest wishes. Eilidh Cormack was

welcomed to the team as Fèisgoil Administrator. Laura Nicolson, following maternity leave, returned to work but has since left Fèisean nan Gàidheal to take up a new post. Our Development Officer, Abi Lightbody, married Barry Reid and we offer our congratulations to them both.

Sadly, we lost Jessie Newton, who died earlier this year. Jessie made an extremely significant contribution to Fèis Dhùn Èideann and the wider Fèis movement and was a former member of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Board. She was inducted to the Traditional Music Hall of Fame for her long-term voluntary service supporting the Fèis. Our condolences to her husband, Ian, and their daughter, Rachel.

We were pleased that some of our longer-term funding agreements were extended, leaving us free from bidding processes and to focus on recovery from Covid. Our long-term funding arrangement with HIE came to an end in March 2022 and we are extremely grateful to all the HIE officers who have supported us over the years most notably, in recent years, Mairi Buchanan.

I am grateful for the ongoing resilience of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's staff who, with the support from Board members and funders, supported the considerable efforts of volunteers to continue their Fèis work. This ensured we, collectively, delivered as much as possible of our agreed programme.

Lastly, I would like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers who continue to support the local Fèisean. It was encouraging to see Fèis committees restarting activities and continuing to offer online activities from which thousands of young people benefitted. Volunteers, along with artists, are the Fèis movement's most precious assets and I wish them, along with our staff and board, all the very best for the forthcoming year.

We are very alert to the impending increase in energy costs and the impact this could have on the ability of parents to afford Fèis activities for their children. We take very seriously our requirement to provide access to cultural activities for as many young people as possible and will strive to ensure they, and their parents, are supported.

We are also aware of the ongoing task to ensure Fèisean are supported to re-establish their tremendous work and we will continue to make that our priority.

Anna Murray
Chair

STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2021-22

Fèisean

Total number of individual participants in Fèis activities	3,875
Audience for Fèis concerts	8,281
Grants pledged by Fèisean nan Gàidheal for Fèis activities and Covid recovery	£214,015
Total expenditure by Fèisean	£1,057,739

Cèilidh Trails and Treòir Musicians in Residence Programme

Total grants paid by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£11,325
Artists Supported	1,124

Fèisgoil

Participants in Fèisgoil activities	10,514
Audience for Fèisgoil activities	11,454

Blas Festival and showcases

Audience for Blas and showcases	24,442
Artists Supported	164

Tasgadh and Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig

Grants pledged through Tasgadh and Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig	£127,048
Total value of Tasgadh and Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig projects	£311,055
Number of participants in Tasgadh and Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig projects	1,078
Audience for projects funded through Tasgadh and Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig	28,684

TOTALS

TOTAL GRANTS PLEDGED IN 2020-21	£352,388
TOTAL VALUE OF FUNDED ACTIVITIES	£2,564,832
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED IN FUNDED ACTIVITIES	271
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERFORMERS INVOLVED IN FUNDED ACTIVITIES	1,208
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES FUNDED	208
TOTAL NUMBER OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS	103,615
TOTAL NUMBER OF TUTORS INVOLVED IN FUNDED ACTIVITIES	444
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	16,239
TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS FUNDED	7,992
TOTAL FTEs SUPPORTED THROUGH FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL'S PROGRAMME	74.4

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2021-22

The global pandemic continued to have an impact on Fèisean nan Gàidheal's programme and the activities of our member Fèisean. The vaccination programme and easing of restrictions allowed for more events to take place than had been possible the previous year, but Fèisean were nevertheless forced to postpone or cancel some of their planned activity. As a result of this there was a significant online offering delivered by both Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Fèisean.

We remained focused on providing opportunities for young people to participate in Gaelic arts, language and cultural activities across the entire country. This was achieved by engaging with a large number of volunteers and employing professional artists who delivered those experiences.

Although many challenges remained, we continued to adapt to offer face-to-face activities within the guidelines and made use of technology, allowing us to deliver a substantial programme once again.

Our programme of work is delivered across four key areas:

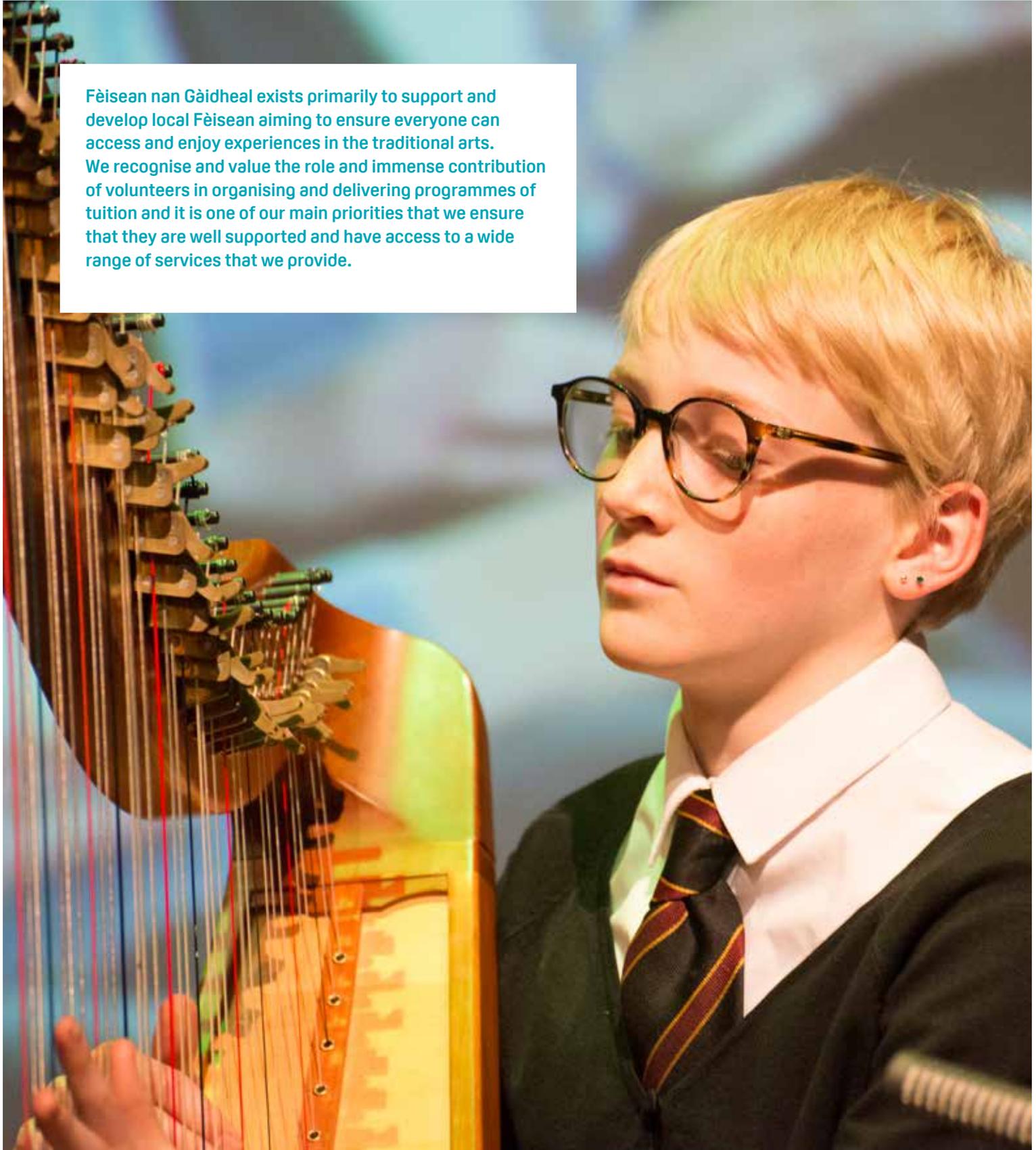
1. Support and Development of Fèisean
2. Enhancement of Skills & Creative Talent
3. Enhancement of Gaelic Arts & Culture in Creative Learning
4. Audience Development and Engagement

The following section in the Annual Report provides an overview of the work delivered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and our member Fèisean.



SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF FÈISEAN

Fèisean nan Gàidheal exists primarily to support and develop local Fèisean aiming to ensure everyone can access and enjoy experiences in the traditional arts. We recognise and value the role and immense contribution of volunteers in organising and delivering programmes of tuition and it is one of our main priorities that we ensure that they are well supported and have access to a wide range of services that we provide.



In 2021-22 we supported 46 Fèisean across Scotland in a year where programmes of tuition continued to be affected by the Covid pandemic. As part of their membership of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, member Fèisean receive grant funding, access to an instrument bank, a centrally-run disclosure service, Gaelic language support, a development fund for new and innovative projects, comprehensive insurance and training to support volunteers in delivering their annual programmes.

Our team of Development Officers continued to work closely with their Fèisean to ensure they had necessary support and information to allow them to continue or restart their work during the year. We were pleased that some Fèisean were able to adapt their programmes and offer in-person tuition, while a number continued to offer online classes.

The following is a selection of highlights from Fèisean during the year. We provide regular event information from across the Fèis movement through our online newsletter, Faileas, our website and social media channels.

- Fèis Thiriodh held an afternoon of music, dance and games in partnership with Tìree Music Festival (TMF)
- Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh delivered an online Fèis at Easter time and were able to host in-person workshops during the Cèol Nis festival in July
- Fèis Eige held a mini-Fèis in July and ran a series of Gaelic song, Gaelic language and drama workshops throughout the year
- A number of Fèisean took part in the Summer of Hope programme led by The Highland Council
- Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich and Fèis Thròndairnis worked together to offer an online Fèis in July on the week they were due to take place
- Fèis an Rubha offered a programme of face-to-face workshops in August. During the week they were presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for their considerable efforts in supporting Gaelic language, music and culture in the Point district of Lewis
- Fèis a' Bhaile was able to hold its normal October week of tuition
- Fèis na h-Òige's 'Còisir na h-Òige' performed at the opening of the Royal National Mod
- Fèis Spè's Junior Cèilidh Band performed a series of summer concerts and at the Royal National Mod in Inverness in October
- Fèis na Linne held a day of Gaelic-medium workshops at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in March

SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF FÈISEAN

#CLEACHDIAIGANTAIGH

The Bòrd na Gàidhlig initiative #cleachdiaigantaigh continued and although numbers were much reduced on the previous year, participants from around the world were able to take part in online Fèisean, song sessions, cultural talks and various training opportunities. In total, 1,390 individuals participated in 73 events.

TREÒIR

With support from Creative Scotland's Youth Arts Fund and other funders we developed Treòir, a programme which gave 9 Fèisean the opportunity to employ a musician in residence as a tutor over a 6-month period.

The Fèisean involved were Fèis Fhoirt, Fèis Phàislig, Fèis an Tairbeirt, Fèis Spè, Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan, Fèis an Earraich, Fèis Bharraigh as well as Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh and Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich who worked jointly on their residency.

The aim of Treòir was to employ musicians at a time when they were struggling to find work and Fèisean were less active, due to the pandemic. The programme gave us the opportunity to address both those issues keeping young people engaged in music-making working, in most cases, with groups not previously reached or who may not have experienced traditional music before. Treòir also offered mentoring and employment to emergent tutors.

The project was hugely successful with 1,079 classes & workshops delivered during the project and over 3,600 young people under the age of 25 taking part.

FUARAN

In June the third cohort of Fuaran participants was able to record the songs they had collected during the pandemic. In total, 9 singers recorded 22 songs which are now available on the Fuaran website. Some of the songs were featured during the Blàs Festival providing video content during the interval of the livestreamed concerts.

AGM, CONFERENCE & GATHERING

Our AGM and Conference was held in Strathpeffer at the end of September 2021.

There was a video address from Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture. The main focus of the conference was on re-starting Fèis work with volunteers sharing their experiences and ideas in a number of sessions.

We welcomed Danny KilBride, Director of Trac Cymru, and Maedhbh Nì Dhòrail (online), Director of Ògra who gave presentations on how similar groups in Ireland and Wales use the arts to strengthen minority languages among young people.

Music was provided by former Fèis Rois participants and singers from the Fuaran project.

ENHANCEMENT OF SKILLS & CREATIVE TALENT

The Fèis movement has excelled in encouraging participation in the arts and in nurturing talent. Our work has, and continues to have, an influence on the creative, linguistic and social skills of the young people who participate in Fèisean. We recognise the need to continue investing in developing the skills of those delivering our programme so that we can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Our training programme provided both online and in-person opportunities for staff, volunteers, tutors and participants.



STAFF TRAINING

Staff members took part in 13 training sessions throughout the year. Topics covered included: Gaelic, equality & diversity, web design, graphic design and online form design.

FÈIS COMMITTEE TRAINING

Fèis volunteers took part in various training opportunities including: governance, first-aid, child protection, online booking systems, and Gaelic language skills. Over the year we offered 58 sessions with 139 participating.

TUTOR TRAINING AND CLPL

We held online training days in March for tutors with 35 taking part. Topics covered included Gaelic games, making podcasts, drama and outdoor learning.

We organised Gaelic conversation classes for 10 tutors to use and develop their language skills ahead of Fèisean and we supported a further tutor who was undertaking An Cùrsa Adhartais through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

On behalf of a consortium of local authorities we delivered an online Fèis in August for 5 teachers who deliver GLPS session in schools. We also took part in 2 sessions for 15 student teachers at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and presented at an online international conference hosted by UHI.

YOUTH TRAINING

Our Fèis Alba programme provided young people with a range of training opportunities to develop their music skills and learn about the music industry. Fuaran participants had the opportunity to learn about audio and video recording and production.

ENHANCEMENT OF GAELIC ARTS & CULTURE IN CREATIVE LEARNING

Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and member Fèisean, are fortunate to work with a cohort of very skilled tutors across a wide range of projects and events. We realise the potential for tutors' skills to be utilised in the formal education sector, using their knowledge and teaching abilities to deliver work in the arts and Gaelic language to achieve the outcomes required of the Curriculum for Excellence, the Creative Learning Plan, the National Gaelic Language Plan and wider Scottish Government initiatives

While the pandemic continued to affect our Fèisgoil services, we saw an increase in delivery through our work with local authorities, public bodies and arts organisations as well as a new programme, Treòir | Voar | Virr, which was funded by the Scottish Government.

BLASAD GÀIDHLIG – GAELIC TASTER SESSIONS

Fèisgoil delivered 2,297 Blasad Gàidhlig Gaelic language lessons for 1,914 learners, employing 19 tutors in 23 schools within Falkirk, Glasgow, Argyll & Bute, Dundee, West Dunbartonshire and South Ayrshire.

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE (YMI)

YMI tuition continued in all Highland Council primary schools as part of a funding agreement with High Life Highland. The tuition was delivered as a blended model, split evenly between face-to-face learning and online provision. In total 2,104 sessions were delivered in 169 schools to 4,188 pupils.

The programme is organised by a number of Fèisean in order to cover each area and ensure local coordination, as follows:

- Fèis Chataibh: Sutherland
- Fèis an Earraich: Skye & Lochalsh
- Fèis Inbhir Narainn: Nairn
- Fèis Lochabair: Lochaber
- Fèis Rois: Ross-shire, Inverness & Caithness
- Fèis Spè: Badenoch & Strathspey

TREÒIR | VOAR | VIRR

With funding from the Scottish Government, we developed and co-ordinated Treòir | Voar | Virr (meaning “guide” or “energy, spring, vigour”) an ambitious multi-artform programme offered to primary schools in all of Scotland’s inhabited islands. Over 50 creative practitioners worked with 76 schools in 6 local authority areas with over 1,300 pupils learning about their local community history and heritage through the arts. The programme gave those artists regular employment and various training opportunities. We were pleased to work with West Highland College UHI to offer accredited training to assistant tutors.

DRAMA IN SCHOOLS

Much of our drama work remained online, although it was pleasing that some school visits were permitted. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, which included three Gaelic plays newly written by our drama officer, Angus MacLeod.

- **Meanbh-Chuileag** A new film, Mo Bheannachd Ort, was recorded to celebrate Colmcille 1500 and this was shown in 50 schools between September and November, aligned with 55 workshops, 33 of which were school-based and 22 delivered online. 2,038 pupils viewed the performance with a public screening watched by 561 people.
- **Pantomime** The 2021 pantomime Ùisdean agus am Fidhlear Seunta, was distributed to schools across Scotland with 4,955 viewing it during December. 1,100 watched the online public screening.
- **Hùb-Hàb** A new film, Ri Fuine ‘s Fealla-dhà, was shown to 2,800 pupils in 66 schools and early years groups. Following the film 1,550 pupils from 30 schools took part in workshops based on the film’s story.
- **Drama workshops** 427 schoolchildren took part in 91 drama skills workshops throughout the year, 70 of which were delivered in partnership with e-Sgoil.

MEANBH-FHÈIS

A mini-Fèis was held in June at Portree High School, celebrating Colmcille 1500 with a hybrid event which featured some face-to-face delivery and recorded contributions from Scottish and Irish practitioners.

CAFÉ BHEAIRTEIS

Our weekly conversation group, Café Bheairteis, continued throughout the year led by a steering group of 5 young people. Each week they took it in turns to interview a guest. These interviews have been recorded and will be made into a series of podcasts in the coming year.

ENHANCEMENT OF GAELIC ARTS & CULTURE IN CREATIVE LEARNING



BEAIRTEAS

As part of a collaboration with e-Sgoil we organised 6 Beairteas sessions which featured a conversation between two Gaelic speakers delivered live to schools in the Western Isles. These interactive sessions reached 694 pupils in 39 schools.

Gaelic Drama Summer School

The Gaelic Drama Summer School took place online via Zoom in July with David Walker and Angus Macleod delivering sessions. Although participants were small in number, they gained valuable drama skills.

5 LATHA

We held an online 5 Latha with 11 participants receiving music and song tuition as well as learning about crofting, weaving and baking. The week finished with an online cèilidh and family quiz.

ACADAMAIDH A' MHÒID

We supported 37 children as they prepared for competitions at local and national mods. In total 141 sessions were delivered by 6 tutors in 6 schools.

Gaelic Song-Writing

Our latest Hùb-Hàb play featured three new songs by Angus MacLeod and in collaboration with e-Sgoil 22 songs were created as part of the Saoghal na Cloinne Bige project which included new compositions by Eilidh MacKenzie, Eilidh Cormack and Linda Macleod.

ADULT GAELIC CLASSES

We organised a series of Gaelic night classes for employees of Glasgow City Council. 10 tutors were employed to deliver 72 sessions with 161 signing up to develop their Gaelic language abilities.

PUBLIC BODIES

We delivered Gaelic Language Awareness training for Highlands & Islands Airports Limited.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT



Our programme of work enables us to reach out to local communities and visitors offering them the opportunity to attend and participate in a variety of Gaelic arts and cultural events. Each year we strive to reach out to audiences, increase our numbers and support communities to enhance their cultural development. Our events span a wide geographical area, enabling smaller communities to hold and promote events in their own areas without the need to travel to more central areas of population.

CÈILIDH TRAILS

The Cèilidh Trails were unable to go ahead as they would have normally during the summer of 2021 with the restrictions that remained in place. Despite this, Fèis Phàislig were able to work with a group of young musicians who produced a CD and the Fèis Spè Junior Cèilidh Band engaged in a programme of music performances.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

BLAS

A decision was taken in early 2021 to postpone the Blas Festival from its original September dates until 19-27 November. It was hoped the vaccination programme and situation regarding the Covid-19 pandemic would allow us to host events with audiences present, whilst also planning to have some online content to reach a worldwide audience once again. We were pleased that we were able to deliver the festival as intended with live audiences and only two events having to be cancelled due to Covid outbreaks in the community.

The Festival was once again a celebration of our rich Gaelic language, music, culture and heritage with some of the finest traditional musicians, Gaelic singers, storytellers, dancers and poets taking part.

We welcomed musicians from Cape Breton to the Highlands with Irish musicians featuring in our online provision.

Over the 9 days of the festival the following was offered:

- 31 concerts and cèilidhs
- 5 Facebook concerts
- 1 Gaelic song session
- 4 talks, 2 of which were delivered in Gaelic
- 27 workshops for both adults and children
- A music programme for schools (YMI)

One of the main features of the Blas programme is our annual commission which offers an artist the opportunity to create a suite of music/song to be performed at the festival.

2021 marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Màiri Mhòr nan Òran (Mary MacPherson, Màiri Nighean Iain Bhàin). Kim Carnie was awarded the commission and performed *Buaidh nam Ban* (Influence of Women) 4 times during the festival. The commission was a very fitting celebration of Màiri Mhòr and also the work of other great female bards of the Gàidhealtachd, including Sileas na Ceapaich, Maighread Nighean Lachlainn and Màiri Nighean

Alasdair Ruaidh, exploring their lives and challenges they faced fighting against injustice and inequality.

Total attendance figures for the festival reached 12,991 and a survey carried out after the festival showed an overall satisfaction rating of 93%.

In addition to the Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff who worked on delivering Blas, Chrissie Macrae was contracted as Events Co-ordinator while Katie Mackenzie looked after news releases, press coverage and social media.

Gaelic Song Sessions

We continued to offer online Gaelic song sessions through *Tac an Teine* and *Cèilidh mun Chagailt*, a new partnership with An Comunn Gàidhealach which was funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Over the year we held 24 online Gaelic song sessions with over 750 people joining in.

TASGADH

For the seventh year, we managed the Tasgadh grants scheme on behalf of Creative Scotland. The fund supports traditional artists and organisations to create, perform and tour work with a particular focus on music, storytelling and dance. In 2021-22, £45,464 was awarded to 56 projects with a total value of £143,200.

MAOIN NAN EALAIN GÀIDHLIG

We continued to administer *Maoin nan Ealain Gàidhlig* (Gaelic Arts Fund) on behalf of Creative Scotland during 2021-22. This fund assists the delivery of Gaelic arts projects with two funding rounds during the year. Awards totalling £81,854 were made to 19 projects which had a total value of £167,855.



SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continued its sponsorship of the Traditional Music Hall of Fame at the 2021 Scots Trad Music Awards. The performer inductees were Mike Whellans, Paul Anderson, Karen Matheson, Jim MacLean, Charlie Kirkpatrick, Catriona Garbutt, Heather Heywood, Hom Bru and the late Andy Stewart, Christie Leatham and Jane Turriff. The Hamish Henderson Award for Services to Traditional Music was awarded to Allan MacDonald.

NETWORKS AND ADVOCACY

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continued to work closely with organisations to promote the Gaelic language, culture and traditional arts. We regularly engage with our funding bodies and throughout 2021-22 staff attended various conferences, seminars and information sessions organised by them.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff were actively involved in a range of advocacy and promotional work collaborating with a number of networks and organisations across Scotland such as Creative Scotland's Traditional Arts Working Group, the Gaelic Development Officer's Network, the Highland Youth Music Forum, Hands Up for Trad and the Music Education Partnership Group. Online working enabled to collaborate internationally with Amateo, the European Folk Network and Colmcille.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

FÈISTV

Over the year, 17 cèilidhs and concerts were streamed online through FèisTV and Blas and a further 2 drama performances were shown with total audience figures in the region of 20,000.

In March we launched a further 26 courses as part of Oide, our online tuition service. There are now over 270 lessons available with 1,852 having used the service in the past year.

SEACHDAIN NA Gàidhlig (WORLD GAELIC WEEK)

The first official World Gaelic Week was held between 21–27 March 2022. Fèisean nan Gàidheal delivered a programme of Fèis workshops, tutor training and Gaelic song sessions with 355 people taking part.



GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

This table shows the attendance of Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board members at online/in-person meetings held on 21 May 2021, 24 September 2021, 10 December 2021 and 4 March 2022.

Highland		Attendance
Colin Sandilands (Secretary)	Fèis Rois	3 of 4
Sarah-Jayne Shankland	Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan	4 of 4
Angela Mack	Fèis Lochabair	0 of 4
Kirsty MacDougall (Vice-chair)	Youth Representative	2 of 4
Western Isles		
Anna Murray (Chair)	Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich	3 of 4
Anne Macaulay	Fèis an Rubha	4 of 4
Katie Macinnes	Youth Representative	1 of 4
Other Areas		
George Stoddart (Treasurer)	Fèis Fhoirt	4 of 4
Carola MacCallum	Fèis Obar Dheathain	4 of 4
Alistair Paul	Fèis Arainn	4 of 4
Observers		
Mairi Buchanan	HIE	3 of 4
Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell	Highland Council	1 of 4
Siobhan Anderson	Creative Scotland	3 of 4
Caroline Swain/Duncan MacNeil	Argyll & Bute Council	3 of 4
Staff Members		
Arthur Cormack	Chief Executive	4 of 4
Calum Alex Macmillan	Development Manager	3 of 4
Anne Willoughby	Executive Manager	4 of 4
Eilidh Mackenzie	Fèisgoil Manager	4 of 4

GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

The following table details staffing during 2021-22.

Staff Member	Contract	Position	Base
Arthur Cormack	1.0 FTE permanent	Chief Executive	Portree
Anne Willoughby	1.0 FTE permanent	Executive Manager	Portree
Calum A Macmillan	1.0 FTE permanent	Development Manager	Inverness
Eilidh Mackenzie	1.0 FTE permanent	Fèisgoil Manager	Inverness
Eilidh Cormack	0.6 FTE permanent	Fèisgoil Administrator	Glaschu
Nicola Simpson	0.7 FTE permanent	Senior Development Officer	Inverness
Karen Oakley	1.0 FTE permanent	Development Officer	Inverness
Abi Lightbody	1.0 FTE permanent	Development Officer	Inverness
Peigi Ann Shields	1.0 FTE permanent	Development Officer	Western Isles
Angus MacLeod	1.0 FTE permanent	Drama Officer	Inverness
Laura Nicolson	0.5 FTE permanent	Project Officer	Inverness
Luke Slater	1.0 FTE permanent	Administrator	Portree
Sandy Gray	0.2 ILT Cunraidear	Child Protection Officer	Portree



YOUNG PEOPLE AS DECISION MAKERS

We continued to involve young people in decision making across several projects. Katie MacInnes and Kirsty MacDougall continue to make valuable contributions to our Board meetings and Finlay MacLennan and Luke MacLeod joined the Blas Programming group where they put forward a range of ideas as we planned for the festival. Five young people form the Café Bheairteis steering group who organise and deliver the weekly conversation group.

FUNDING

We have annual and project-based agreements with several local authorities, public bodies and the Scottish Government. As well as taking advantage of ad hoc funding available from time-to-time,

Fèisean nan Gàidheal currently has longer-term funding agreements with Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig which have offered continued stability and flexibility over the past year. Our regular funding from HIE came to an end on 31 March 2022. We are grateful to HIE for their financial support over the years and whilst we will no longer have an agreement in place with them, we will be able to access support in various forms, including project funding.

We continue to deliver a wide range of outcomes agreed with the various bodies and they, as well as Fèisean nan Gàidheal's trustees, receive quarterly reports detailing progress.

A report on the cultural, social, economic, linguistic and wellbeing impacts of Fèisean nan Gàidheal was commissioned during the year but not completed by the end of the year. When it becomes available it is hoped this will be a useful tool in continuing to make the argument for supporting the organisation's work

EDI

While considered in our day-to-day operation, we continued to deliver an agreed Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Plan, with an annual report offered to the trustees of Fèisean nan Gàidheal to enable them to monitor implementation. Both the plan and the progress report are available online.

CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

We record and report on carbon use and have a Carbon Reduction Plan on which we report annually to the Board of Trustees and Creative Carbon Scotland. The increase in online working, due to the pandemic, with a corresponding reduction in travel of all kinds as well as attention to other measures agreed for 2021-22, ensured successful delivery of our Carbon Reduction Plan. The progress report is available online.

POLICIES AND RISK

All Fèisean nan Gàidheal's policies were revised and renewed in 2021-22 to ensure we have a suite of suitable policies in place to support the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the local Fèisean. A new Safe Place policy was introduced and our safeguarding policies were clarified.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal maintains a risk register and the Board receives an annual report on ways in which staff mitigate the top risks which could affect the organisation. Risk is a day-to-day consideration and work in this area was especially critical when the Covid pandemic required added precautions to be taken.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021-22

Under regulations introduced by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), the annual accounts of the organisation must be prepared and presented in a particular way and run to many pages. The full audited accounts are available on our website www.feisean.org and only the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022 is included here along with the Balance Sheet at that date.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.03.22 Total funds £	31.03.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and Legacies	93	-	93	2,871
Charitable activities				
Core activities	794,677	88,625	722,673	907,302
Training	4,000	-	4,000	2,000
Blas Festival	168,946	-	168,946	123,850
Fèisgoil	279,680	129,266	408,946	224,584
Gaelic residential events	7,000	-	7,000	24,000
Other trading activities	147,128	-	147,128	109,376
Investment income	106	-	106	193
Total incoming resources	1,241,001	217,891	1,458,892	1,394,176
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	1,238	-	1,238	304
Charitable activities				
Core activities	797,659	156,465	954,124	999,046
Training	3,555	-	3,555	1,950
Blas Festival	167,259	-	167,259	116,262
Fèisgoil	287,384	129,266	416,650	219,423
Gaelic residential events	5,600	-	5,600	7,890
Total	1,262,695	285,731	1,548,426	1,344,875
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(21,694)	(67,840)	(89,534)	49,301
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	322,604	79,318	401,922	352,621
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	300,910	11,478	312,388	401,922

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.03.22 Total funds £	31.03.21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	23,862	-	23,862	31,959
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	250	183,869	184,119	43,875
Cash at bank	351,325	(152,423)	198,902	368,253
	351,575	31,446	383,021	412,128
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(74,527)	(19,968)	(94,495)	(42,165)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	277,048	11,478	288,526	369,963
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	300,910	11,478	312,388	401,922
NET ASSETS	322,604	79,318	401,922	352,621
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			300,910	322,604
Restricted funds			11,478	79,318
TOTAL FUNDS			312,388	401,922

