



# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

A' toirt ar dualchas do ar n-òigridh

## Coinneamh a' Bhùird-Stiùiridh

Meeting of the Board of Directors

## Taigh-Òsda Holiday Inn

Holiday Inn

## Port-Adhair Ghlaschu

Glasgow Airport

## Diluain 22 Cèitean 2006

Monday 22 May 2006

Fèisean nan Gàidheal  
Taigh a' Mhill  
Port-Rìgh  
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach  
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# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Coinneamh a' Bhùird-Stiùiridh

Meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in

The Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport, on Monday 22 May 2006 from 1.00pm

## Clàr Gnothaich ~ Agenda

### 2.2006.01 GNATHAICHEAN TÒISEACHAIL ~ PRELIMINARIES

- (a) **An Làthair ~ Present**
- (b) **Leisgeulan ~ Apologies**
- (c) **Geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh mu dheireadh ~ Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Board meeting**  
Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 March 2006 are circulated. Board members are asked to approve these as a true record of the meeting.
- (d) **Gnothaichean ag èirigh ~ Matters arising**  
Board members are invited to raise any issues from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
- (e) **Geàrr-chunntas de choinneamh nam Buidhne-Ghniomh ~ Minutes of Executive Group Meeting**  
Minutes of the Executive Group held at Cluanie Inn on Wednesday 10 May 2006 are circulated. Board members are asked to note these and raise any points they wish from the minutes.

### 2.2006.02 GNATHAICHEAN IONMHAIS ~ FINANCIAL ISSUES

- (a) **Aithisg Ionmhais ~ Financial Report**  
Fèisean nan Gàidheal's income and expenditure transactions to 31 March 2006 are circulated. Also circulated is a note of the grants pledged by Fèisean nan Gàidheal for 2005-06 and 2006-07, plus a budget for 2006-07. Board members are asked to note the contents of the report, and discuss any points they wish to raise.
- (b) **Suimean airgid anns a' bhanca agus fiosrachadh as ùire ~ Bank Balances and up to date information**  
These will be tabled at the meeting.
- (c) **Ionmhas bho Chomhairle Ealain na h-Alba bho 2007 air adhart ~ Update on funding from the Scottish Arts Council 2007 onwards**  
Following a formal meeting with the Scottish Arts Council, a letter to them is circulated for information.
- (d) **Ionmhas bho Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean 2006 agus air adhart ~ Funding from Highlands & Islands Enterprise from 2006 onwards**  
A copy of the full application to HIE has been sent to all Board members by e-mail only, as part of the Executive Group papers. The Director will give a verbal update at the meeting.

## **2.2006.03 GNOTHAICHEAN POILEASaidH ~ POLICY ISSUES**

### **(a) A' cur ar Poileasaidh Gàidhlig an gnìomh ~ Implementing our Gaelic Policy**

A report from the Director on implementation to date is circulated.

David Boag will give a verbal update on the Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding, and how this will be utilised.

### **(b) Poileasaidh Cùram Chloinne ~ Child Protection Policy**

Board members are asked to ratify a decision by the Executive Group that Fèisean not complying fully with our Child Protection Policy should have their grant payments withheld.

## **2.2006.04 GNOTHAICHEAN LEASACHAIDH ~ DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

### **(a) Adhartas a-rèir Phlana-Leasachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal 2005-10 ~ Progress against Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan 2005-10**

A report by the Director is circulated, outlining progress with the implementation of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan. Board members are asked to note the progress to date, and are invited to discuss any relevant items.

### **(b) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebratory Book**

Board members will be aware that we will be publishing a book celebrating 25 years of the Fèis movement later this summer. The Director will make a short presentation to Board members on progress and show them examples of how the book is shaping up.

### **(c) Blas 2006**

The Development Manager will update Board members on Blas 2006, and outline this year's programme.

## **2.2006.05 GNOTHAICHEAN OBRACHAIDH ~ OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

### **(a) Aithisgean Luchd-Obrach ~ Staff Progress Reports**

Progress Reports from staff are circulated. Board members are asked to note the content of these, and are invited to discuss relevant points.

### **(b) Co-labhairt 2007 ~ 2007 Conference**

Our 2007 Conference and AGM will be held in Benbecula on 15 and 16 September. An outline programme is circulated and Board members are asked to give consideration as to the content of the programme.

## **2.2006.06 EILE ~ OTHER**

### **(a) G I S B E ~ A O C B**

### **(b) Coinneamh nam buidhne-ghnìomh ~ Executive Group meeting**

All the papers prepared for the Executive Group meeting, which was held on 10 May, have been circulated to all Board members as a PDF. Board members are invited to raise any issues they feel appropriate, or on which they would like clarification.

### **(c) Ceann-latha na h-ath choinneimh ~ Date of next meeting**

Board members are asked to note that the next meeting is set for Thursday 15 September, in The Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula.

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

**Geàrr-Chunntas na coinneimh a chaidh a chumail ann an Taigh-Òsta na Lùchairt, Inbhir Nis, Dimàirt 7 Am Màrt 2006 bho 4.00f**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held in The Palace Hotel, Inverness on Tuesday 7 March 2006 from 4.00pm

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.01(c)

## **1.2006.01 GNETHAICHEAN TÒISEACHAIL ~ PRELIMINARIES**

### **(a) An Làthair ~ Present**

Katie Adam (Chair), Peggy Nicolson (Vice Chair), Ken Houston (Secretary), Joan Robertson, Alasdair MacDonald, George Stoddart, Jessie Newton, Donald John MacSween (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar), Arthur Cormack (Attending), David Boag (Attending), Anne Willoughby (Attending)

### **(b) Leisgeulan ~ Apologies**

Alasdair Macleod (HIE), Morag Anna MacLeod (The Highland Council), Ken MacKenzie, Kate Kerr, Jane MacNeil

### **(c) Geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh mu dheireadh ~ Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Board meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 6 December 2005 had been circulated. These were approved as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Alasdair MacDonald, and seconded by Ken Houston.

### **(d) Gnothaichean ag èirigh ~ Matters arising**

George Stoddart asked when the guidelines for raffle tickets were going to be available. The Director stated that these would be sent out very shortly.

### **(e) Geàrr-chunntas de choinneamh nam Buidhne-Ghniomh ~ Minutes of Executive Group Meeting**

Minutes of the Executive Group held at Cluanie Inn on Wednesday 22 February had been circulated. Board members were asked to note these and raise any points they wish to discuss from the minutes.

It was agreed that information on Highland 2007 be sent out to Fèisean to encourage them to apply. Funding had been extended to cover the area served by Highlands & Islands Enterprise, which included the Western Isles, some areas in Argyll & Bute, Morayshire and the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

Fèis Chataibh had received 80% of £8,000 for an arts and crafts project. David/Arthur were preparing an application for a touring Ceòl nam Fèis concert covering the Highlands and Central Belt. This was to be a good opportunity to raise the profile of the Cèilidh Trails. It was envisaged that local Fèisean could participate in their own cities.

A new fund known as The Cross Community Fund was available in April. Cllr D J MacSween asked that Fèisean be informed about this fund and encouraged to apply. David was asked to prepare a spreadsheet of all funding available.

## **1.2006.02 GNETHAICHEAN IONMHAIS ~ FINANCIAL ISSUES**

### **(a) Aithisg Ionmhais ~ Financial Report**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's budget for 2005-06, with performance against budget had been circulated. Also circulated was a note of the grants pledged by Fèisean nan Gàidheal to that date. Board members were asked to note the contents of the report, and discuss any points they wished to raise.

The Director reported that the budget had been adjusted to show a more realistic picture close to the year-end.

It was recommended that Angus Nicolson CA be approached to produce quarterly management accounts, and this was agreed. It was also agreed that what we have been calling the budget be termed 'Receipts In/Out' as that would be more appropriate.

**(b) Suimean airgid anns a' bhanca agus fiosrachadh as ùire ~ Bank Balances and up to date information**

The current balances were:

- Current account: £4,956.12
- Hi-Interest account: £48,093.47
- On Deposit: £132,391.07

**(c) Tabhartasan airson nam Fèisean 2006-07 ~ Grants to Fèisean 2006-07**

Grant recommendations for the Fèisean for 2006-07 were tabled at the Board meeting, and Board members were asked to approve the grants for 2006-07.

The grants were approved as a block apart from the five awaiting approval from development/support staff which were to be left to the discretion of the Director.

**(d) Ionmhas bho Chomhairle Ealain na h-Alba bho 2007 ~ Update on funding from the Scottish Arts Council 2007 onwards**

A letter from the Scottish Arts Council was circulated for information.

Katie Adam, David Boag and Arthur Cormack were set to meet with Ian Smith from SAC to discuss Fèisean nan Gàidheal's funding from 2007 onwards. Board members were asked to note the changes in funding. Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Fèis Rois were now foundation organisations and the Chair felt that this was a positive step, and a mark of the quality of work within the organisation and the Fèis movement as a whole.

**1.2006.03 GNOTHAICHEAN POILEASaidh ~ POLICY ISSUES**

**(a) Disclosure Scotland**

A letter from the Scottish Executive, outlining changes to Disclosure checking, had been circulated. Board members noted the contents.

Disclosure checks for the first round of tutors were due after three years and starting from July, Sandy Gray would be processing these at the increased cost. It was, however, agreed that Sandy should process as many as possible before the cost increase came into force.

**(b) Tionndadh Gàidhlig den Phlana-leasachaidh 2005-10 ~ Gaelic Version of Plana-leasachaidh 2005-10**

As agreed at previous Board meetings, the Development Plan had now been translated, and the Gaelic version has been circulated as a PDF. Board members were asked to suggest any changes so that it could be finalised as soon as possible.

The Board suggested it should be printed as two separate documents and in keeping with Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Gaelic policy, the Gaelic version should be the norm, and would be circulated as appropriate. Anyone could request the English version if they wished.

## **1.2006.04 GNOTHAICHEAN LEASACHAIDH ~ DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

### **(a) Adhartas a-rèir Phlana-Leasachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal 2005-10 ~ Progress against Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan 2005-10**

A report by the Director had been circulated, outlining progress with the implementation of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan. Board members noted the progress to date, and were invited to discuss any relevant items.

The Fiddle Tutor book by Alpha Munro had been printed and was now available from the office in Portree.

The application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for Gaelic Developments had been approved. A new member of staff was required to replace Mairi Kidd but there was limited funding available this year to support Meanbh-Chuileag. Jessie Newton felt that it was well worth keeping the service going if at all possible.

Arthur Cormack reported that the website required updating, and as we were relying on a third party to update our site, it was agreed that we should move towards managing the content in-house.

Sitekit would have one-off cost implications, and an annual licence fee thereafter, but we would be able to manage our own content. There was an allowance for this in the optimum budget from 2007 onwards, but it was agreed that we should move forward with it before then, the Board expressing a preference for this to happen as soon as possible.

George Stoddart mentioned that relying on volunteers to update content doesn't work, and that the only way the site would remain fresh is if we took the management of the content in-house.

### **(b) Scottish Musicians at Scotland House 2006**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal had been approached by the Scottish Executive to send some young musicians to perform at Scotland House in Brussels. A project outline was included in the papers and the Director updated the Board members verbally on progress.

There was a meeting scheduled for 20 March to discuss this in more detail but they were looking for small groups, with participants of 18 or over with an hour-long performance at each concert. It was delegated to the Director to make a choice as to who would be invited to participate.

## **1.2006.05 GNOTHAICHEAN OBRACHAIDH ~ OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

### **(a) Aithisgean Luchd-Obrach ~ Staff Progress Reports**

Progress Reports from staff had been circulated. Board members noted the content of these, and were invited to discuss relevant points.

The Board members gave a very brief update on their own Fèisean. Fèis Lochaber Cèilidh Trail were making their own CD to raise money for the Cèilidh Trails. Fèis Dhùn Èideann had produced their own CD with participants from the follow-on classes and Fèis Band. Joan Robertson reported that Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain were experiencing funding problems due to unsuccessful applications to Awards for All and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

### **(b) Co-labhairt 2007 ~ 2007 Conference**

Staff were asked to investigate the possibility of holding our 2007 Conference and AGM in the Western Isles. The date has been set as 15 and 16 September, and Anne Willoughby circulated an update on progress to Board members.

They agreed to proceed with booking The Dark Island Hotel in Benbecula and agreed that we should organise a minibus to cut down on costs.

Cllr Donald John MacSween mentioned that we could apply to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to sponsor transport. Caledonian MacBrayne also provided discounts for parties over 12. It was also suggested that we could have a tour of Taigh Chearsabhagh and Kildonan Museum. Guest speakers could cover local history from Comuinn Eachdraidh or Dr Cathlin MacAulay of School of Scottish Studies.

Katie Adam thanked Anne for the quick response to her request at the executive meeting for costs etc.

## **1.2006.06 EILE ~ GENERAL**

### **(a) G I S B E ~ A O C B**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal had applied to GASD for funding for a trainee marketing officer and details were included in the papers. The Board members noted these.

### **(b) Coinneamh nam buidhne-ghnìomh ~ Executive Group meeting**

All the papers prepared for the Executive Group meeting, which was held on 22 February, were included for information, except where the item had been carried forward to the full Board, in which case the relevant papers were included in the body of the main Board papers, under the appropriate agenda item. Board members were invited to raise any issues they felt appropriate, or on which they wanted clarification, but none were raised.

### **(c) Ceann-latha na h-ath choinneimh ~ Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was 22 May 2006 from 2pm. The meeting was scheduled for Glasgow but the venue was to be confirmed at a later date.

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Coinneamh nam Buidhne-ghnìomh

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Group held in Cluanie Inn, Cluanie

Wednesday 10 May 2006 from 1.30pm

Agenda Item EX2.2006.01(e)

### **EX2.2006.01          PRELIMINARIES**

#### **(a) Present**

Katie Adam (Fèis a' Bhaile, Chair), Peggy Nicolson (Fèis an Earraich, Vice-Chair), Ken Houston (Fèis Chataibh, Secretary), Arthur Cormack (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director), David Boag (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Manager), Anne Willoughby (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Finance & Administration Officer, Alasdair MacLeod (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)

#### **(b) Apologies**

Morag Anna MacLeod (The Highland Council); Ian Smith (Scottish Arts Council)

#### **(c) Minutes of previous Executive Group meeting for approval**

Peggy Nicolson proposed approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Ken Houston.

#### **(d) Matters arising**

The Director expressed concern regarding the failure of some Fèisean to comply with Disclosure checking. Ken Houston stated that this was a condition of grant therefore Fèisean that did not comply would not be eligible for grant payments. Katie Adam thought that possibly highlighting the ones that did not comply might be effective.

It was agreed that grant payments should be withheld from those Fèisean found to not to be complying with the Child Protection Policy, subject to agreement of the full Board.

Arthur Cormack also reported that we had cancelled our Investors in People assessment.

### **EX2.2006.02          FINANCIAL ISSUES**

#### **(a) Financial Report**

A report from the Finance Officer had been circulated. A brief funding update was given for all projects but some of the items were covered elsewhere in the agenda under project updates. The main budget for 05/06 showed a deficit for the year-end, at 31 March, but there was a large amount of funding outstanding, a large portion of which had come in since then.

Angus Nicolson CA had been in the Portree office working on the end of year accounts. He had agreed to produce quarterly accounts and balance sheet as from 01 April 2006.

Arthur Cormack stated our intention to continue with submitting our normal budget (income and expenditure) report and quarterly accounts were to be sent out to Board members as they came available.

Ken Houston questioned the deficit in the Fèis Bharrach 25 Celebrations budget but there was still funding outstanding from SAC and WIE. There had been some very late claims received from tutors under the YMI scheme. It was agreed that claims should be submitted within two weeks of the block finishing.

#### **(b) Bank Balances and up to date information**

The current bank balances were given as follows: £6,174.00 in the Current account and £97,497.44 in the High Interest account. There was an additional £100,064.55 on deposit for a further month.



### **(c) Draft Budget 2006-07**

The draft budget for 06/07 was tabled. Arthur Cormack and Anne Willoughby had spent some time trying to get it as accurate as possible, and to ensure it matched individual project budgets. It was difficult to predict figures at this stage as the amount of grant to be received from HIE was still unknown. The budget would have to be changed accordingly when this becomes known.

There was an allowance in the budget to build up reserves to cover at least one months running costs.

### **(d) Funding update: HIE (application circulated) and SAC (letter circulated)**

The SAC were splitting core-funded organisations into different categories and Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Fèis Rois were in the foundation category where they were to receive some kind of optimum budget from 07/08 for up to 5 years.

Arthur, David and Katie had met up recently with Ian Smith from SAC. Arthur stated that the £250k proposed was a huge increase from the £95k present core funding but as we had been in receipt of £212k for the past four years, the increase was not so great. He was hoping that the increase in funding would be more significant as our optimum budget requirement was nearly £500k.

Alasdair MacLeod gave a brief report on our funding situation with HIE. He stated that the funding application was of a very good quality, but as there was a significant increase in the amount requested, it would take some work to get the amounts required. The proposal would then have to go through HIE's management group. He had to write up an application over the next few weeks as they had only now finalising their own budgets. The foundation funding from SAC was a positive step and generally HIE was supportive.

## **EX2.2006.03 STAFFING ISSUES**

### **(a) Posts to be advertised**

David Boag reported on the two job descriptions tabled.

The Gaelic Officer was to be responsible for Gaelic Language within the Fèisean and as a result Douglas Beck would have responsibility for Gaelic Drama activity. He was moving to the Inverness office on 11 May 2006.

Arthur commented that the ability to speak Gaelic was essential to the post but training could be made available in literacy skills. It was decided that the post be advertised in Gaelic and the job description be available in Gaelic and English. It was also agreed that the interview be conducted in Gaelic. The duration of the posts should not be advertised as 12 months.

It was agreed that the trainee post may be advertised, if required, at a later date, but that it might be possible to fill it without incurring advertising costs. It was felt that this would be appropriate since this was a traineeship, and not a permanent post. David was to check GASD conditions of grant for the trainee's post to ensure there was no requirement to advertise posts.

It was agreed to proceed with advertising the Gaelic Officer's post from Monday 15 May.

### **(b) Inverness office arrangements**

The staff had all moved to a bigger room within the CnaG building in Inverness. David reported that there was plenty of room in their new office and although there was a slight increase in rental of £800 we were saving £6,000 per annum on renting office space in Edinburgh. As reported previously, Douglas Beck was joining David and Nicola in the Inverness office.

### **(c) Staff Appraisals Programme**

The annual appraisals for all staff were due and Arthur asked if any of the Board members in the group wanted to take part in them. Katie, Ken and Peggy confirmed that they were happy for David and Arthur to continue with them.

Arthur and David's appraisal would be carried out before the end of June. Dates were to be confirmed later.

## **EX2.2006.04 POLICY ISSUES**

### **(a) Implementation of our Gaelic Policy (verbal)**

Arthur requested that David find someone able to provide translation services for the next Board Meeting. It was suggested that once the Gaelic Officer was in post that they might take on this task.

It was also suggested that all board papers should be bilingual. Staff could write their progress reports in Gaelic and English. These would not require to be grammatically perfect and everyone would eventually become more competent at writing Gaelic. Training in literacy could be arranged.

Anne expressed concern at the time factor involved in translating minutes and reports. Executive group meetings would have to take place at least three weeks prior the board meeting to allow time for translations. It was agreed that all papers for the next Board Meeting/AGM would be in Gaelic.

## **EX2.2006.05 PROJECT UPDATES**

### **(a) Gaelic Developments (verbal)**

This had already been covered under discussions about the budget.

### **(b) Meanbh-Chuileag/Gaelic Drama**

David gave an update on all the funding that had been secured for the next year. There was only enough money for Meanbh Chuileag to carry out a reduced programme of school visits and Douglas Beck was to be responsible for organising this.

Alasdair MacLeod suggested approaching local authorities and David mentioned the Management Review Group had been approached to no avail. Much of the funding available is allocated to Stòrlann but there may be an opportunity to work with Màiri Kidd to produce and support materials.

There was scope to assist organisations implement their Gaelic Language policies. Bòrd na Gàidhlig was to target 30 or 40 public bodies in the first 3-4 years of the implementation of the National Plan for Gaelic.

### **(c) Training Programme**

The training programme was ongoing with a special needs seminar due to take place on 20 May 2006. Five or six events had already taken place.

The tutors' February weekend at SMO had been a success and incorporated training for YMI tutors as well. David suggested that the February weekend could expand to include other training events.

Iona was also working on GASD guidelines and conditions for a Gaelic Arts Personal Development Award. Fèisean nan Gàidheal are to receive £10,000 from GASD, £5,000 due from last year and £5,000 for this year, as a management fee.

### **(d) Highland Council Schools YMI Contract (memo circulated)**

The Director and all YMI providers had met with Norman Bolton, Music Development Officer with the Highland Council.

It had been agreed that there was to be no cut in funding but school visits were to be limited to 12 weeks, which might allow us to increase tutors' fees. The memo circulated requested that if the

child is being taught a certain instrument by an instrumental tutor that they should not take part in groupwork sessions using that instrument.

Peggy Nicolson reported that Rae, Chris and Judith had met recently. Ingrid and Fiona could not attend the meeting. They had started timetabling for next year.

### **(e) Blas Festival**

David Boag reported that the programme for 2006 had been confirmed and that the information was now up on the website. The link to The Booth was not complete yet.

Blas was within budget but was dependent on income from Box Office. There were a range of different ticket price combinations on offer including Saver tickets and family ticket options. Fèis Spè were co-promoting two events and Shona Arthur was helping with the Nairn events.

Highland Council had agreed funding for 2007 and 2008. In 2008 we would have to find £50,000 to replace the amount granted by Highland 2007.

The Cèilidh Trails were to be funded by HIE/SAC hopefully and Alasdair MacLeod agreed this might be a possibility. Potential sponsors for the event were Scottish Co-op and possibly BT.

### **(f) Lochaber Fèisean**

The Lochaber Fèisean project ends in August 2006 and funding was required to continue this project for a few months, with the hope that it would continue to be core funded from 2007 onwards.

Lochaber Enterprise had agreed to consider assisting to bridge the gap in funding but would not fund the post indefinitely. Arthur was going to meet with them on 22 May to discuss this further.

### **(g) 25 years celebratory book**

The budget for the book had been circulated. It was discussed in detail and the first chapter, which had been received from the designers, was also circulated.

Kate Martin had not yet taken a fee for the book but might agree instead to a royalty based on sales. The budget was also relying on sales and David suggested that Fèisean should be asked to sell as many of the books as possible, generating profit for them, and negating the need for storage space, which could pose problems.

£15/£20 was suggested as the selling price dependant on printing costs and there was a possibility the launch may have to be delayed until the AGM.

## **EX2.2006.06 DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

### **Highland 2007**

Details had been sent out to all Fèisean. David mentioned that some Fèisean had applied to The Cross Community Fund. He had started preparing an application for a touring Ceòl nam Fèis concert as previously discussed.

## **EX2.2006.07 BOARD MEETINGS**

### **(a) Agenda items to be included**

It was agreed that the budget for 06/07 and also last year's be included in the Board papers. The Executive papers were to be sent out by e-mail only and not included in the Board papers.

David Boag was to make a presentation on Blas. Child Protection issues had to be raised at the Board meeting, as failure to comply was a serious issue. AGM content had to be discussed and the Director also agreed to do a presentation on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary book.

**(a) AOCB**

Insurance premiums had increased significantly over the past year, as we had additional premiums for the inclusion of our Stornoway and Fort William offices. The limit on instruments at any one location had been increased to £100,000.

Katie Adam and Ken Houston signed the authorisation for Arthur Cormack and Anne Willoughby to make use of Internet/Telephone banking.

Ken Houston suggested that a limit of £750 be authorised to enable Anne to make payments in Arthur's absence.

It was not clear whether any transactions needed both or one person to authorise to process payments but Anne was going to check this with the bank.

**(b) Date and venue of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 23 August 2006 – Cluanie Inn, Cluanie. This was three weeks prior to the Board Meeting, to allow more time to produce bilingual papers.

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Financial Report

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.02(a)

The financial report consists of the following:

- 1 Income and Expenditure transactions to 31 March 2006. In addition, the following claims have been made for funding due, and were outstanding as at 31 March:

### FUNDING OUTSTANDING 2005-06 at 31.03.2006

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	PAID	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING
SAC	Grants	£ 67,500.00	£ 7,500.00
SAC	MC	£ 18,000.00	£ 2,000.00
SAC	Training	£ 13,500.00	£ 1,500.00
HIGHLAND COUNCIL	Blas	£ 137,200.00	£ 16,800.00
CnaG	Argyll & South SW	£ 2,736.00	£ 3,606.84
WIE	25 Anniversary		£ 7,500.00
Historic Scotland	Meanbh-Chuileag	£ 0.00	£ 2,500.00
ESF (01/01 - 31/12)	Training	£ 0.00	£ 13,167.00
Lochaber Enterprise	Lochaber Development		£ 6,139.00
CnaG	Graduate Placement	£ 2,500.00	£ 5,000.00
SLTMP	Fee O/S		£ 10,547.19
GASD	Fee O/S	£ 0.00	£ 10,000.00

### FUNDING 04/05

ESF	DUE		£ 10,349.00
Instrument Bank	Amount Owed 31 March		£ 494.00
Book Sales	Amount Owed 31March		£ 1,496.10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 241,436.00</b>	<b>£ 98,599.13</b>

### Breakdown of Management FEES

BLAS	£ 7,500.00
YMIS	£ 38,000.00
MC	£ 12,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 58,000.00</b>

- 2 A list of funding outstanding to the Fèisean from Fèisean nan Gàidheal for 2005-06
- 3 A list of grant awards to Fèisean for 2006-07 as approved by Board members
- 4 A budget for 2006-07, as approved by the Executive Group

Agenda item 2.2006.02(b)

- 1 Current bank balances will be tabled at the meeting

**Anne Willoughby**  
Oifigear Ionmhais agus Rianachd  
An Cèitean 2006

## Income and Expenditure to 31 March 2006, with performance to that date

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.02(a)1

### FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL - 2005-06 TRANSACTIONS

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Budget for Year</b>	<b>Budget for Period</b>	<b>Actual to 31.03.06</b>
Core Grants	£137,012.00	£137,012.00	£ 141,199.00
Fèis Support Workers	£21,500.00	£21,500.00	£20,368.02
Grants Scheme	£109,000.00	£109,000.00	£100,500.00
Training Programme	£72,000.00	£72,000.00	£52,922.29
Meanbh-Chuileag	£138,014.00	£138,014.00	£99,164.44
Highland Youth Music Initiative	£164,633.00	£164,633.00	£181,511.00
Highland Youth Music Initiative c/f	£32,305.00	£32,305.00	£32,305.00
Annualised Hours	£25,000.00	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Lochaber Development Officer	£29,500.00	£29,500.00	£24,135.31
Fèis Development Fund	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00
Earned Income	£29,030.96	£29,030.96	£25,387.27
Tracking Exercise	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Blas Music Festival	£229,697.00	£229,697.00	£182,576.27
Feis Bharraigh 25 Years Celebration	£27,772.50	£27,772.50	£13,622.50
25 Anniversary Book	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£7,000.00
Management Fees	£58,000.00	£58,000.00	£58,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£1,108,464.46</b>	<b>£1,108,464.46</b>	<b>£983,691.10</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Running Costs</b>			
Core Staff Salaries	£144,234.00	£144,234.00	£149,062.11
NIC Contributions	£9,850.00	£9,850.00	£9,786.44
Pension Contributions	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,323.96
Core Staff Travel	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£15,375.45
Office Rent & Rates	£13,000.00	£13,000.00	£12,773.61
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	£7,929.89
Telephone, Fax, Email, Heat & Light	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	£7,362.54
Board Expenses	£4,500.00	£4,500.00	£3,861.94
Implementation of Child Protection policy	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	£7,487.38
Insurance	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£4,785.12
Sundry Expenses	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£3,505.40
Accountancy & Bank Charges	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,409.55
Instrument Bank Repairs	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£2,530.15
Additional Support Needs	£500.00	£500.00	£134.00
Capital Expenses	£750.00	£750.00	£626.45
<b>Programme Costs</b>			
Grants Paid Out	£169,185.00	£169,185.00	£108,159.60
Annualised Hours	£30,720.00	£30,720.00	£18,713.00
Feis Development Expenditure	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£9,724.74
Lochabair Fèisean Development	£29,000.00	£29,000.00	£33,081.26
Training Programme	£63,000.00	£63,000.00	£60,787.31
Meanbh Chuileag	£125,514.00	£125,514.00	£91,963.33
Highland Council Youth Music Initiative	£181,000.00	£181,000.00	£247,939.75
National Raffle Expenditure	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,492.86
25 Anniversary/Book	£7,000.00	£7,000.00	£6,379.77
Directory of Fèis Tutors/Newsletter	£500.00	£500.00	£167.00
Publications	£7,000.00	£7,000.00	£8,998.63
Annual Conference	£7,000.00	£7,000.00	£6,840.54
Inter Fèis activities	£500.00	£500.00	£416.00
Tracking Exercise	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Blas Festival Development	£197,197.00	£197,197.00	£188,774.56
Archiving Project	£500.00	£500.00	£307.57
Feis Bharraigh 25 Years Celebration	£24,150.00	£24,150.00	£24,191.04
Contingency	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£307.57
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£1,088,100.00</b>	<b>£1,088,100.00</b>	<b>£1,042,198.52</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>£10,364.46</b>	<b>£10,364.46</b>	<b>-£58,507.42</b>

## Funding to the Fèisean from Fèisean nan Gàidheal for 2005-06

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.02(a)2

Name	Main Fèis Grant	Local Authority	Follow-on Grants	Annualised Hours	Dev.Fund	Total Grant Offered	Balance Paid	Outstanding Balance
<b>The Highland Council</b>								
Fèis an Earraich	£ 5,553.34	£ 2,776.66	£ 3,232.00	£ 1,440.00	£ 545.00	£ 13,547.00	£ 10,945.00	£ 2,602.00
Fèis Lochabair	£ 1,833.33	£ 916.67	£ 3,500.00	£ 1,440.00	£ 1,610.00	£ 7,690.00	£ 5,220.00	£ 2,470.00
Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan	£ 3,955.33	£ 1,977.67	£ 3,800.00	£ 1,440.00	£ 836.00	£ 11,173.00	£ 7,738.00	£ 3,435.00
Fèis Chataibh	£ 2,598.00	£ 1,299.00	£ 1,764.00	£ 1,440.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,101.00	£ 4,850.00	£ 2,251.00
Fèis na Comraich	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,560.00	£ 360.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,920.00	£ 210.00	£ 1,710.00
Fèis Thròdairnis	£ 968.00	£ 484.00	£ 1,175.00	£ 1,020.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,647.00	£ 1,677.00	£ 1,970.00
Fèis Rois nan Deugairean	£ 6,733.33	£ 3,366.67	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 10,100.00	£ 10,100.00	£ 0.00
Fèis Chille Mhòraig	£ 1,224.67	£ 612.33	£ 726.00	£ 1,440.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,003.00	£ 3,274.00	£ 729.00
Fèis Eige	£ 427.33	£ 213.67	£ 0.00	£ 120.00	£ 0.00	£ 761.00	£ 541.00	£ 220.00
Fèis Rois Òigridh	£ 8,472.67	£ 4,236.33	£ 4,880.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 19,089.00	£ 19,089.00	£ 0.00
Fèis Srath Fharragaig	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 644.00	£ 120.00	£ 0.00	£ 764.00	£ 0.00	£ 764.00
Fèis na h-Òige	£ 1,887.33	£ 943.67	£ 2,558.00	£ 900.00	£ 500.00	£ 6,789.00	£ 2,123.00	£ 4,666.00
Fèis Air an Oir	£ 498.67	£ 249.33	£ 2,776.00	£ 396.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,920.00	£ 2,776.00	£ 1,144.00
Feis Ghlinn Albainn	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,380.00	£ 120.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 750.00	£ 750.00
Fèis Ratharsaidh	£ 1,947.33	£ 973.67	£ 0.00	£ 480.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,401.00	£ 2,431.00	£ 970.00
Fèis a' Bhaile	£ 1,962.67	£ 981.33	£ 420.00	£ 720.00	£ 600.00	£ 4,084.00	£ 3,284.00	£ 800.00
Fèis Spè	£ 2,312.00	£ 1,156.00	£ 1,650.00	£ 0.00	£ 814.00	£ 5,118.00	£ 1,898.00	£ 3,220.00
Fèis Oigridh na Mara	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 400.00	£ 100.00
<b>Other Area/City Councils</b>	£ 2,100.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,768.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 873.00	£ 10,741.00	£ 10,566.40	£ 174.60
Fèis Dhun Eideann	£ 898.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,405.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,303.00	£ 898.00	£ 2,405.00
Fèis Chille Conbhal	£ 2,471.00	£ 0.00	£ 560.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,031.00	£ 2,751.00	£ 280.00
Fèis Arainn	£ 2,238.00	£ 0.00	£ 460.00	£ 1,200.00	£ 500.00	£ 3,898.00	£ 3,109.00	£ 789.00
Fèis Obair Dheathain	£ 369.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,277.00	£ 600.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 3,246.00	£ 1,416.00	£ 1,830.00
Feis Dhun Bhreatainn	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 840.00	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,140.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,140.00
Fèis Oigridh Ghlaschu	£ 271.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 271.00	£ 0.00	£ 271.00
Fèis Lannraig a'Tuath	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 442.00	£ 360.00	£ 775.00	£ 802.00	£ 800.00	£ 2.00

Fèis Innis an Uillt	£ 1,097.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,770.00	£ 600.00	£ 800.00	£ 3,467.00	£ 3,097.00	£ 370.00
Fèis 'sa Mheadhan								
<b>Western Isles Council</b>	£ 2,703.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,184.00	£ 1,368.00	£ 467.00	£ 6,755.00	£ 5,814.00	£ 941.00
Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain	£ 1,760.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 450.00	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,810.00	£ 4,360.00	£ 450.00
Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich	£ 2,897.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 528.00	£ 900.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,825.00	£ 3,673.00	£ 2,152.00
Fèis Tìr an Eòrna	£ 5,770.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 446.00	£ 1,800.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 9,516.00	£ 7,628.00	£ 1,888.00
Fèis Bharraigh	£ 1,175.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,975.00	£ 2,381.00	£ 594.00
Fèis Eilean na Hearadh	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 720.00	£ 500.00	£ 2,220.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,220.00
Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh								
<b>Argyll &amp; Bute Council</b>	£ 1,833.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,440.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,773.00	£ 3,741.00	£ 1,032.00
Fèis Latharna	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 300.00	£ 600.00	£ 2,400.00	£ 2,130.00	£ 270.00
Fèis Mhuile	£ 1,725.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,225.00	£ 3,225.00	£ 0.00
Fèis Thiriodh	£ 445.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 400.00	£ 2,445.00	£ 2,467.00	£ 22.00
Fèis Ile	£ 2,367.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 600.00	£ 926.00	£ 3,893.00	£ 1,775.00	£ 2,118.00
Feis Glaschu	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 460.00	£ 460.00	£ 368.00	£ 92.00
<b>Total Main Fèis</b>	<b>£ 70,493.00</b>	<b>£ 34,187.00</b>	<b>£ 48,695.00</b>	<b>£ 25,524.00</b>	<b>£ 15,706.00</b>	<b>£ 185,303.00</b>	<b>£ 137,505.40</b>	<b>£ 46,797.60</b>
<b>Total LA Grants</b>								
<b>Total Follow-on</b>								
<b>Total Ann. Hours</b>								
<b>Total Dev.</b>								
<b>Total pledged</b>								
<b>Total paid out</b>								
<b>Total still to pay out</b>								



## Funding to the Fèisean from Fèisean nan Gàidheal for 2006-07

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.02(a)3

Name	Main Fèis Grant	Local Authority	Follow-on Grants	Ann Hours	Ann Hours Grant	Dev. Fund	Total Grant Offered	Balance Paid	Outstanding Balance
<b>The Highland Council</b>									
Fèis an Earraich	£ 6,612.00	£ 3,306.00	£ 3,735.00	320	£ 2,400.00	£ 0.00	£ 16,053.00	£ 6,248.00	£ 9,805.00
Fèis Lochabair	£ 2,750.00	£ 1,375.00	£ 3,480.00	260	£ 1,950.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,555.00	£ 2,063.00	£ 7,492.00
Fèis Innis an Uillt	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 891.00	60	£ 450.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,341.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,341.00
Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan	£ 3,820.00	£ 1,910.00	£ 4,500.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,730.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,730.00
Fèis Chataibh	£ 2,697.00	£ 1,349.00	£ 1,640.00	220	£ 1,650.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,336.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,336.00
Fèis na Comraich	£ 263.00	£ 131.00	£ 344.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,038.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,038.00
Fèis Thròdairnis	£ 1,080.00	£ 540.00	£ 1,224.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,444.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,444.00
Fèis Rois nan Deugairean	£ 7,733.00	£ 3,867.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,600.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,600.00
Fèis Chille Mhòraig	£ 1,450.00	£ 725.00	£ 112.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,787.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,787.00
Fèis Eige	£ 492.00	£ 246.00	£ 480.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,368.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,368.00
Fèis Rois Òigridh	£ 6,513.00	£ 3,257.00	£ 5,188.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 14,958.00	£ 9,532.00	£ 5,426.00
Fèis Srath Fharragaig	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 660.00	30	£ 225.00	£ 0.00	£ 885.00	£ 0.00	£ 885.00
Fèis na h-Òige	£ 1,964.67	£ 982.33	£ 2,138.00	180	£ 1,350.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,435.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,435.00
Fèis Air an Oir*	£ 163.00	£ 82.00	£ 3,500.00	50	£ 375.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,120.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,120.00
Feis Ghlinn Albainn*	£ 1,150.00	£ 575.00	£ 2,500.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,375.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,375.00
Fèis Ratharsaidh	£ 850.00	£ 425.00	£ 0.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,575.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,575.00
Fèis a' Bhaile	£ 1,924.66	£ 962.34	£ 486.00	180	£ 1,350.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,723.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,723.00
Fèis Òigridh na Mara	£ 1,116.67	£ 558.33	£ 4,000.00	160	£ 1,200.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,875.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,875.00
Fèis Inbhir Narann	£ 585.00	£ 293.00	£ 1,000.00		£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,878.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,878.00
Fèis Spè	£ 2,400.00	£ 1,200.00	£ 3,729.00	70	£ 525.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,854.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,854.00
<b>Other Area/City Councils</b>									
Fèis Dhùn Eideann	£ 2,480.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,106.00	600	£ 4,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 12,086.00	£ 0.00	£ 12,086.00
Fèis Chille Conbhal	£ 941.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,132.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,073.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,073.00
Fèis Arainn	£ 2,900.00	£ 0.00	£ 808.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,708.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,708.00
Fèis Obair Dheathain	£ 2,275.00	£ 0.00	£ 384.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,159.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,159.00
Feis Dhùn Bhreatainn	£ 206.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,500.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,306.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,306.00
Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00

Fèis Lannraig a Tuath	£ 856.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,456.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,456.00
Fèis 'sa Mheadhan	£ 2,518.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,284.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,552.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,552.00
<b>Western Isles Council</b>									
Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain	£ 2,865.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,564.00	210	£ 1,575.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,504.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,504.00
Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich	£ 2,650.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 3,856.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,106.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,106.00
Fèis Tìr an Eòrna	£ 1,483.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,352.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,085.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,085.00
Fèis Bharraigh	£ 3,060.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 3,334.00	240	£ 1,800.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,694.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,694.00
Fèis Eilean na Hearadh	£ 875.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,375.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,375.00
Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,100.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,100.00
<b>Argyll &amp; Bute Council</b>									
Fèis Latharna	£ 1,621.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,340.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,961.00	£ 2,875.00	£ 3,086.00
Fèis Mhuile	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,300.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,400.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,400.00
Fèis Thiriodh	£ 1,025.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 260.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,785.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,785.00
Fèis Ile	£ 190.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 332.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,022.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,022.00
Feis Glaschu	£ 3,412.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,412.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,412.00
Fèis Ceann Loch Goibhle	£ 415.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,415.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,415.00
	<b>Total Main Fèis</b>	<b>Total LA Grants</b>	<b>Total Follow-on</b>	<b>Total Ann Hours</b>	<b>Total Other Grants</b>	<b>Total Dev.</b>	<b>Total pledged</b>	<b>Total paid out</b>	<b>Total still to pay out</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£ 73,336.00</b>	<b>£ 35,784.00</b>	<b>£ 68,659.00</b>	<b>4180</b>	<b>£ 31,350.00</b>	<b>£ 0.00</b>	<b>£ 209,129.00</b>	<b>£ 20,718.00</b>	<b>£ 188,411.00</b>

\*Awaiting Dev Officer Report

**FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL - BUDGET 2006-07**

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.02(a)4

**INCOME****Budget for Year**

Core Grants	£138,112.00
Fèis Support Workers	£30,500.00
Grants Scheme	£150,500.00
Training Programme	£89,578.00
Meanbh-Chuileag	£93,702.09
Highland Youth Music Initiative	£181,511.00
Annualised Hours	£31,500.00
Lochaber Development Officer	£28,803.00
Fèis Development Fund	£15,000.00
Earned Income	£21,900.00
Fèis Alba	£6,664.35
Support 2 New Fèisean	£12,000.00
Blas Music Festival	£252,191.00
Archiving	£20,000.00
Pr/Website	£5,000.00
Website Development	£10,000.00
25 Anniversary Book	£58,625.00
Support Other Publications	£10,000.00
City Fèisean Dev Officer	£40,000.00
Still to be raised	£18,000.00
Management Fees	£78,683.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£1,292,269.44</b>

## **EXPENDITURE**

### **Running Costs**

Core Staff Salaries	£143,750.00
NIC Contributions	£9,888.00
Pension Contributions	£3,000.00
Core Staff Travel	£17,000.00
Office Rent & Rates	£14,000.00
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£8,000.00
Telephone, Fax,Email,Heat & Light	£8,000.00
Board Expenses	£4,500.00
Implementation of Child Protection policy	£8,000.00
Insurance	£7,000.00
Sundry Expenses	£3,500.00
Accountancy & Bank Charges	£2,500.00
Instrument Bank Repairs	£2,000.00
Additional Support Needs	£2,000.00
Capital Expenses	£3,000.00

### **Programme Costs**

Grants Paid Out	£178,000.00
Annualised Hours	£31,500.00
Feis Development Expenditure	£15,000.00
Lochabair Fèisean Development	£28,500.00
Training Programme/Expenditure on Lottery Training	£89,578.00
Fèis Alba	£6,664.35
Meanbh Chuileag/Expenditure on Lottery Project	£93,702.00
Highland Council Youth Music Initiative	£181,511.00
National Raffle Expenditure	£2,500.00
25 Anniversary/Book	£58,300.00
Directory of Fèis Tutors/Newsletter	£1,000.00
Publications	£3,000.00
Annual Conference	£8,500.00
Inter Fèis activities	£1,000.00
Blas Festival Development	£242,750.00
Archiving Project	£20,000.00
PR & Marketing	£5,000.00
Website Development	£8,500.00

### **New Projects**

Support 2 New Fèisean	£12,000.00
Support Other Publications	£10,000.00
City Fèisean Development Officer	£40,000.00
Contingency	£5,000.00

### **SUB-TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**£1,278,143.35**

Transfer to Reserves (0.175% on Management Fees)

£13,769.53

### **TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**£1,291,912.88**

### **SURPLUS/DEFICIT**

**£356.56**

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

**Ionmhas bho Chomhairle Ealain na h-Alba bho 2007**

**Update on funding from the Scottish Arts Council 2007 onwards**

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.02(c)

## Background

Following our formal meeting with the Scottish Arts Council, attended by Katie Adam, David Boag and myself, on 29 March, we were asked to write to them formally with any feedback or corrections we had on the Officer's Report, plus any points we wanted to make about the funding process.

The following is a copy of the letter I sent in, which outlines our reasons for needing more than the £250k currently being offered by SAC.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Stiùiriche  
An Cèitean 2006

3 April 2006

Ian Smith  
Head of Music  
Scottish Arts Council  
12 Manor Place  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7DD

Dear Ian

## Fèisean nan Gàidheal Foundation Funding Proposals

I am sorry to have taken so long to get back to you following our meeting last Wednesday in Inverness. It was good to see both you and Clare, and good to catch up over dinner also.

We are extremely grateful for the positive officers' assessments of our work, and are also very pleased to have been offered Foundation funding by the Scottish Arts Council, and look forward to working with you over the next few months to achieve this.

I think we talked about any small inaccuracies in the assessment, but just to summarise as follows:

- Under aim 3, PC6 on page 7, there are 6 Gaelic-medium Fèisean now throughout Scotland.
- In the same section, YMI delivers between 12 and 16 weeks in all Highland schools
- There is an unfinished sentence on page 12, under Governance, PC8, when referring to our annual conference.

Other than that, the report is fine and we welcome its content that is, on the whole, very positive, while accepting the weaknesses identified.

Moving now to the level of funding proposed for us in your indicative budget. At present, our core funding is £95,101 (2006-07), but we have been in receipt of regular lottery and managed funds to take our funding up to what we would hope will be around £212k this year.

If the £250k proposed is based on an increase from £95k, then clearly that is a huge increase, and would be welcomed. Perhaps someone, somewhere has looked at the figures of £95k and thought that an increase to £250k would be more than ample for what we propose to do. However, since we have regularly been in receipt of between £207k and £212k for the past 4 years, the increase to £250k is not quite as great, and further detailed scrutiny of our budget will reveal that it would not be anything like what we would need in an 'optimum' budget scenario.

My figures show that we would need at least £367k per annum to consolidate what we do now, and to ensure that officers currently paid through project budgets can be mainstreamed.

Among the recommendations made by Carolyn Paterson in her report, are that the major impacts of our planned programme, potentially, will be the development of the Meanbh-Chuileag Gaelic drama work and the continued funding of Cèilidh Trails. Those 2 areas of work would require an extra £90k per annum, and this would make our overall minimum requirement somewhere nearer £457k per annum. If we didn't have Meanbh-Chuileag, for instance, we would lose around 3,500 people from our work, making it very difficult for us, and consequently the Scottish Arts Council, to meet its target of increasing participation in the arts.

I mentioned also the differential between Fèis Rois (supporting 3 Fèisean and year-round activity) recommended for £100k per annum, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal (supporting up to 43 Fèisean and their year-round activities). It should be clear that we require far greater resources than the £250k proposed to be able to do this properly. I would add, too, that Fèis Rois is in receipt of funds from our grants scheme, and because of the nature of their residential Fèisean, that sum is up to £25k of what we get per annum. The budget, as proposed, would not allow us to support any new Fèisean, and there is a pressure there, with several communities wishing to establish Fèisean.

Since most of our current Development Plan, from 2005-10, is about consolidating what we do, and making it more secure, there is very little within that plan which is 'one off' although there are some small elements. We believe, therefore, that we were as careful and as thorough as possible in our submission to the Scottish Arts Council, and that the sum we requested is what we actually need. We believed this was what the whole review was about, and that without something approaching the figures quoted, our ability to lever funds from other sources would be less than easy. This seems to be backed up by Carolyn's assessment, and although she has recommended that we should not get the full amount we asked for, she has recommended that there should be an 'increase to allow the progression of key projects such as the drama project, and the continuation of key posts'. I am bound to say that this is not achievable on the £250k proposed.

The Fèis movement is a small industry now, responsible for the employment of at least 30 FTEs throughout Scotland, and which brings access to the arts to over 14,000 individuals. Our achievements have been acknowledged as excellent, both in the delivery of our core work and numerous projects. Our ability to lever funding has also been highlighted, as has the high quality of our governance, and we believe the Fèisean to be extremely good value for money.

I hope this does not come across as ungrateful. It is certainly not meant to be. But with all the changes afoot within the next few years, I am keen to ensure that Fèisean nan Gàidheal secures the best deal possible at this stage, so that when Creative Scotland comes into being, we are not left having to go back to the drawing board with a new body, and justify our work all over again. I know that SAC values our work as highly as we value SAC's support, and I feel that our case needs to be looked at again, in detail, before we can move ahead. I am also keen to avoid a settlement whereby we secure a certain amount through Foundation funding, and then have to make additional multiple applications on an annual basis for project funds to add to what we do. I believe it would be best to sort this now into some kind of financial package acceptable to both parties, although I accept that may be difficult.

As ever, I am happy to discuss any of this with you at any time.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

**Arthur Cormack**  
Director

cc Katie Adam, Chair, Fèisean nan Gàidheal  
David Boag, Development Manager  
Clare Hewitt, Music Administrator

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## A' cur ar Poileasaidh Gàidhlig an gnìomh

Agenda Item 2.2006.03(a)

### Background

Board members will recall that Fèisean nan Gàidheal adopted a Gaelic Language Policy last year, and that we need to monitor its implementation.

One of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's main aims is the promotion of Gaelic culture and, as such, every individual involved in the work of the organisation must recognise the central place of Gaelic, and the use of Gaelic, in the work of the Fèisean and Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

### Progress to Date

The implementation of the policy, over a large, spread-out number of individual Fèisean will have to take place over the medium to long term. It cannot happen overnight, and we have to handle it with a great deal of care and in a supportive nature.

The policy regulates the way Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Fèisean should deal with Gaelic, and has the same status as any other Fèisean nan Gàidheal policy, such as Equal Opportunities, Child Protection etc.

All Fèisean have now been given the policy document, along with the guidance. It will be a condition of funding from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, from 1 April 2006 onwards, that all Fèisean comply with this policy and, with assistance from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, that they implement it, and act within its spirit at all times. The following are some examples of how the policy is being implemented.

### Availability

- The policy has been made available to all the Fèisean on paper and is also available as a download on our website.
- The policy will be issued formally to all staff, and training will be offered to them, at our next staff meeting in June.

### Implementation

- The policy will be adopted by member Fèisean, in the same way as other Fèisean nan Gàidheal policies form a part of conditions of membership of the Organisation.
- Updated contracts for staff will refer to the implementation of the policy as a condition of employment.
- Staff will have particular responsibility to identify support needs of themselves, and the member Fèisean they support, in implementing the policy, and the Training Officer will make provision, where appropriate for training to take place.

### Non-compliance

- It is too early in the day to decide what specifically can be done in cases of non-compliance, but the policy provides for compliance with the policy to be a condition of membership of the organisation, and individual members failing to comply may invalidate membership.
- Any contravention of the policy which arises through the actions of employees shall be dealt with according to the disciplinary procedures of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

### Written Gaelic

- Written material to appear in Gaelic shall be written in Gaelic first where possible. This will be applicable for the Board meeting papers, for example, which from the next meeting will be available bilingually.

### English and other languages

- Gaelic is the particular focus of the work of the organisation, but all other languages will be held in parity of esteem and every effort will be made to include speakers of English and

other languages in activities. Meetings held in Gaelic will have simultaneous translation facilities available.

### **Reception and phone**

- Phones in Portree and Inverness are currently answered with the greeting 'Fèisean nan Gàidheal'.
- However, I am proposing that, following training, the phones will be answered either 'madainn mhath ... Fèisean nan Gàidheal', or 'feasgar math ... Fèisean nan Gàidheal', and that this will extend to all phones, except perhaps Christine MacIntyre's, since she works from home.
- The language of communication will subsequently be informed by the person's answer and chosen language, as at present. If someone speaks to us in Gaelic, we will always reply in Gaelic, and carry on the conversation in Gaelic for as long as the other person wants to.

### **Written communication**

- This is perhaps the most problematic area of the policy's implementation. Written communications on behalf of the company should be in Gaelic only in the case of groups who answer Gaelic communications as a matter of policy, of groups considered to be Gaelic groups and to individuals whose last communication to the Organisation was in Gaelic; in other situations the language of communication should be selected as judged appropriate.
- Quite a lot of internal e-mails are in Gaelic at present, and some communications go out with both Gaelic and English covering letters. However, to get to a point where all communications are in both languages, or Gaelic only, will require staff to build up their language skills, as some of them are unsure of writing in Gaelic at present. This can be addressed, in part, by training, but use of the language is also a major factor in improving the skills of individuals.
- I would propose that, as much as possible, we write to each other internally in Gaelic, and that all external documents are checked and cleared before going out. This will involve us in engaging a translator, or translation agency such as Fosglann, but is the only way forward to ensure that we are seen to use correct Gaelic in the short term.
- Alongside that, training should be offered to staff, in current spellings and grammar.

### **Website**

- Entry to the website is through a page offering the visitor the option of reading the Gaelic or English version of the site. The materials will be identical on both sides of the site. The website will be overhauled during the course of this year, and the site will be fully bilingual, and maintained as such.
- The Blas website is bilingual, but with Gaelic and English side by side rather than as mirrored sites. This also works well.

### **Forms**

- All grants forms and claim forms will become available with Gaelic versions during the course of the year.
- Current grant forms are bilingual, but the policy would dictate that there should be Gaelic and English language formats with both made available.
- All evaluation forms are currently bilingual, but Gaelic only versions will be made available over this year. This will include Fèis participants' forms, and YMI pupil and teacher feedback forms.
- Forms and questionnaires completed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff will be completed according to the language of the questions. However, if there is a choice of languages, Gaelic will be used if included amongst these.

### **Addresses**

- Scottish addresses with known post-code should be given in Gaelic
- Scottish addresses without known post-code may include Gaelic in names and house names, but the town and district should appear in English only.
- For addresses outside Scotland, Gaelic shall not be used.



### **Personal names**

- In official communication or other situations in any language, the personal and family names of each person shall be used in the format preferred by that person. If the person uses different forms in different language situations, these shall be observed in these different situations.

### **Orthography**

- In writings on behalf of the Organisation, Gaelic will be written according to the GOC2 guidelines (Gaelic Orthographic Conventions, 2005), where this has been studied by the individual.
- Training should be made available to staff in GOC2.

### **Signage**

- All company signage in company offices is at present Gaelic only, or bilingual. The policy suggests that Gaelic only should be the norm, so as signs are replaced, this will become so.

### **Form of names within the Organisation**

- The policy states that Gaelic form of the names of the members and the company will be used. When a new member joins the Organisation, the advice of the company must be taken regarding the new member's name; the company must take academic advice on this name.
- This is especially important, as we want to encourage the Fèisean to use their proper Gaelic names. We want 'Fèis Bharraigh' instead of 'Barra Fèis' and 'Fèis Lochabair' instead of 'the Lochaber Fèis'.
- This will require all committee members to be told what the correct Fèis names is, and its use explained.

### **Proof Reading**

- Members may request proof-reading services from the company before any publicly-available Gaelic text is released.
- However, this may need to be contracted out until staff feel able to offer this service with confidence.

### **Press Releases**

- Releases are currently sent out to all media in both languages.

### **Sanasachd**

- Adverts and other publicity are published bilingually (Gaelic first)

### **Distribution**

- Every effort will be made to ensure that Gaelic and bilingual publications are accessible to users and the public.

### **Organisation language-use**

- Gaelic should be the working language of the organisation in so far as possible.
- We are a bit away from this, as staff have differing abilities in Gaelic. All are comfortable enough about communicating internally in Gaelic. Some are less comfortable about conducting conversations in Gaelic, and especially whole meetings in Gaelic. Others have been used to conversing in English with each other for many years, so it is difficult to switch to Gaelic as an everyday language.
- However, at the forthcoming staff meeting, we will ascertain what needs people have in order to move all of the everyday business of the organisation to being in Gaelic so that the working language of the company is Gaelic as far as possible.
- It will be expected that Gaelic be used at every possible opportunity in the offices of the company and in other locations, and during travel to and from these locations on behalf of the company.

### **Board Meeting language use**

- According to the policy, the working language of the Board shall be decided by the Board members.
- The Executive Group is minded that all Board papers from the September meeting onwards will be available in both Gaelic and English, and that Board meetings will be held in Gaelic.

### **Members' language use**

- The working language of members shall be decided by the members themselves, but members will aim wherever possible to engage Gaelic-speaking tutors. Fluent-speaking tutors must be engaged for 'Gaelic' subjects (drama, singing, Gaelic, storytelling).
- Every effort will be made by members to offer Gaelic-medium tuition to children who are fluent in Gaelic and children's language ability will be recorded as soon as possible during the registration process. If the number of fluent speakers is too small to make a Gaelic-medium class viable, participants will be taught bilingually.
- Non-Gaelic speaking participants will learn the language for at least one session per day.
- Where a lack of fluent-speaking tutors exists, the company will make every effort to provide training.
- These points will require support from Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff, and the G-Team, and such support will be offered to as large a number of our member Fèisean as possible.

### **Tutors' language-use**

- Tutors who are fluent in Gaelic should use Gaelic as far as possible to establish a Gaelic environment.
- Tutors with different levels of fluency should use Gaelic as much as possible. Tutors will be offered support in cash or in kind to expand their language-abilities through our training programme.
- Tutors with no Gaelic should learn basic phrases for use in tuition to acknowledge the Gaelic environment of Fèisean. Tutors will be offered support in cash or in kind to expand their language-abilities.
- Again, these measures need to be passed on to tutors, so that they are aware of how the policy relates to them.
- We will suggest that the relevant points are included in letters of engagement to be sent to all Fèis tutors.

### **Public meetings, special events etc**

- Public meetings, special events etc will be held in Gaelic or bilingually according to community needs.
- Use should be made of Comunn na Gàidhlig's simultaneous translation equipment wherever possible, to enable meetings to take place in Gaelic.

### **Staffing**

- In most instances the ability to read, write, speak and understand Gaelic will be essential skills in all new or renewed job descriptions with the company. These same skills will be advantageous for the employees of the members, and essential for employees of members offering Gaelic-medium tuition exclusively.
- However, recent discussion with Gaelic organisation have revealed that there is a perception that people with good skills are out off applying for jobs where Gaelic is essential believing that their language skills are not good enough. So while we need these skills, the way in which adverts are presented should be looked at very carefully.

### **Personal Development**

- It is expected that company staff and members' staff will be continually developing their Gaelic reading, writing, comprehension and speech skills, and this development will be supported practically by the organisation.
- Gaelic language teaching has always featured as part of our training programme, but we need to ensure that staff, at least, and members if possible, access the courses available, or that we offer bespoke courses for them

- It is recognised that the company staff and members' staff will require daily support with reading, writing, speech and comprehension skills in Gaelic and facilities still need to be put in place to meet these.

### **Training**

- Development and training in reading, writing, speech and comprehension skills will be regarded as essential to the work of each staff member (salaried or otherwise) of the organisation.
- This is already incorporated into the Fèisean nan Gàidheal training programme, but we need to be proactive in ensuring people take up what is on offer.

### **Conclusion**

The Gaelic Policy is new to us, and while we are taking steps to begin implementation, it must be remembered that we are dealing with a large number of volunteers, and tutors, spread out across the country. The progress, therefore, will be gradual, but as long as we do see progress from year to year, I believe that the Fèis movement can continue to have a hugely positive effect on the attitudes of people towards Gaelic, and through time, can contribute significantly to people's use of the language also.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Stiùiriche  
An Cèitean 2006

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Adhartas a-rèir Phlana Leasachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal 2005-10

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.04(a)

Enclosed is a summary of the main developments recommended in the Development Plan, along with progress to date, which should aid Board members in monitoring progress.

<b>1</b>	<b>Provide support for the development of individual Fèisean, promoting excellent working practices, and developing their range of activities</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
4.1.1	Grants Scheme for Fèisean	Ongoing, and grants paid out as per agreements. Grants for 2006-07 now agreed.	*	*	*
4.1.2	Reducing the burden on volunteers	Support workers and a range of support services in place. Policies are made as easy as possible for volunteers to deliver. Continuation of Annualised Hours scheme, with increase in hourly rate.	*	*	*
4.1.3	Annual Conference	To be held in Western Isles 15 and 16 September 2006.	*	*	*
4.1.4	Insurance	Renewed and enhanced in 2006, but premium has increased by over £1k, albeit with amendments.	*	*	*
4.1.5	Musical instrument Bank	Ongoing and well used. Demand outstrips supply and quite a number of repairs/replacements carried out.	*	*	*
4.1.6	Disclosure checking	Ongoing – all tutors and volunteers now checked. Cost increased to £20 per check from April 2006. About to begin re-checking those first checked 3 years ago.	*	*	*
4.1.7	Maintenance of a Fèis Tutors database	Ongoing. New template and online database being worked on at present.	*	*	*
4.1.8	Developing, distributing and selling publications	Ongoing. New bilingual Fèis Fiddle Tutor Book published and being distributed. Book celebrating 25 years of the Fèisean also about to be published.	*	*	*
4.1.9	Production and distribution of regular news and other information	<i>Faileas</i> still distributed as well as a wide range of other information.	*	*	*
4.1.10	Support for new Fèisean	New Fèisean given assistance with set-up and funding, if appropriate, from the New Developments Fund.	*	*	*
4.1.11	Supporting the development of Fèisean, or collectives of Fèisean, wishing to become more independent	Supporting Lochaber Fèisean and Fèis Spè.	*	*	*
4.1.12	Extending support for the Fèisean outwith the 'traditional' Fèis local authority areas	Looking at viability of an officer to cover these areas as part of submission to SAC. Likely from 2007 onwards.		*	*

<b>2</b>	<b>Develop the use of the Gaelic language within the Fèis movement. Developing the spoken word as a means of communication and medium for tuition, according to the needs of the community each Fèis serves</b>				
4.2.1	Prepare a Gaelic Language Policy for Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which will be adopted by members of the organisation	Policy issued formally to Fèisean with letters of offer, along with guidance. Close monitoring, and maximum support, needed to implement effectively.	*		
4.2.2	Develop a Gaelic Language Development Team	Sgioba-G project running, and Bòrd na Gàidhlig funds increased by £5k for 2006-07.	*		
4.2.3	Develop mechanisms for the delivery of our Gaelic Language Policy within Fèisean nan Gàidheal	Sgioba-G, Gaelic policy implementation and Fèis Gaelic plans.		*	*
4.2.4	Develop wholly Gaelic-medium Fèisean and Gaelic-medium tuition at existing and new Fèisean	6 Fèisean now GM, and GM tuition being developed. No new Fèisean admitted for membership without Gaelic commitment.		*	*
4.2.5	Development of Gaelic Drama	Drama Fèis being developed for Argyll, and Sgoil Shamhraidh idea being mooted. Bòrd na Gàidhlig and SAC holding joint drama seminar on 23 May.		*	*
<b>3</b>	<b>Develop the work of the Fèisean within the formal education sector</b>				
4.3.1	Youth Music Initiative contract in Highland	Ongoing, and running successfully. We have new guidelines for next year's provision, but funding remains the same.	*	*	*
4.3.2	Potential for Youth Music Initiative contract work in other areas	Work ongoing in East Lothian also, with Fèis Dhùn Eideann.	*	*	*
4.3.3	Gaelic Language work in schools	Various small-scale projects have been carried out but scope for more.	*	*	*
4.3.4	Other formal educational work	Gaelic Radio Project involving school pupils and local radio could be extended.		*	*
<b>4</b>	<b>Strategic projects and contract work, with partners, carried out by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and individual Fèisean</b>				
4.4.2	Development of Blas – Celebrating Highland Music	Plans well advanced for 2006 and beyond, with funding partly resolved. Development Plan for 2007-09 to be prepared for the Highland Council.	*	*	*
4.4.3	Continuing support for Fèis Cèilidh Trails	Some funding available within Blas budget, so dependent on this running, but also approaching HIE and SAC.	*	*	*
4.4.4	Encourage local Fèisean to archive material which could be utilised in teaching situations in their area	Archiving project to be carried forward, and outline application has been made to HLF.		*	*
4.4.5	Gaelic Arts Strategic Development – GASD	Ongoing work and FnG involved as a partner and as a deliverer of certain elements. Second round of applications approved.	*	*	

4.4.6	Inter-Fèis activities	Visits to other Fèisean by Lochaber Fèisean last year, plus Fèis Bharrachigh celebrations drew on other Fèisean.	*	*	*
4.4.7	Traditional Music Tutor Training Network – TMTTN	Ongoing work, and now looking at promotion of PDA and development of an advanced certificate.	*		
<b>5</b>	<b>Develop training to enhance the skills of those involved in Fèisean and promote excellence within the Fèis movement</b>				
4.5.1	Retain a Training Development Officer	Retained for now and pulling funding together, with success.	*	*	*
4.5.2	Annual Training Programme	Programme published mid-March and widely circulated.	*	*	*
4.5.3	Teenage provision within the Fèis movement	Will continue to support Fèis Rois nan Deugairean, and will support other Fèisean wanting to make specific provision.	*	*	*
<b>6</b>	<b>Continue to foster closer links between Fèisean, other organisations and other countries, and raise the profile of the Fèis movement through enhanced PR and showcase opportunities</b>				
4.6.1	Networking	Ongoing – various presentations at events and presence at open days/PR –based events.	*	*	*
4.6.2	Advocacy	Always ongoing.	*	*	*
4.6.3	International Links	Lochaber Fèisean visited Celtic Colours last year. Links through Blas to Cape Breton and Ireland.		*	*
4.6.4	Promotion and Marketing	Will be part of Chris Deplano’s remit to raise profile and issue press releases more regularly than in the past, once he has completed work on 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary book.		*	*
4.6.5	Information	Information of all kinds disseminated.	*	*	*
4.6.6	Website and ICT	Have had discussions with Sitekit about moving website to their content management system. Part of SAC submission as a one-off cost.	*	*	*
4.6.7	Showcasing opportunities	Fèis Bharrachigh Ceòl nam Fèis concert a great success, and we will use Blas to showcase Fèis participants.		*	*

**Arthur Cormack**  
Stiùiriche  
An Cèitean 2006

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Aithisgean Luchd-obrach ~ Staff Reports

Àireamh air a' Chlàr Gnothaich: 2.2006.05(a)

### Arthur Cormack, Director - Progress Report

#### Introduction

Although busy over the past few months, I seem to have been in the office a bit more often, and with having devolved Blas to David Boag, I feel as if I am more on top of things than at any time over the past year.

A lot of my time has been taken up with funding bids, and following up on bids, but these seem to be going the right way, and we will hopefully end up with a good financial settlement from 2007 onwards.

#### Funding

Funding remains stable and as you will see from the main budget provided by Anne in her report, we have a number of outstanding claims due to us, which have left us financially sound at the end of the financial year. It is difficult to say as yet what the outturn will be for 2005-06, but we are confident that the year has been quite a good one, financially, for the company.

We are still in discussion with the Scottish Arts Council as to what level our funding will be at from 2007 onwards, but I am hopeful it will be at a level appropriate to the outputs generated by our work.

I submitted an application to HIE in April which is currently being considered, and although it will take some time for them to work through, our lead officer, Alasdair Macleod, has indicated that it is a quality application, and is optimistic about the outcome.

As agreed at the last meeting, our accountant will be preparing quarterly management accounts, with the first quarter to the end of June. He has already been to the office to prepare draft accounts to 31 March, and we hope to have these to table at the Board meeting.

We will continue to present the income and expenditure as before, but Board members will receive the management accounts, probably by e-mail, as soon as they become available to us, as additional information.

#### Grants to Fèisean

Grants for 2005-06 continue to be paid on the basis of need to the Fèisean, in line with our grants scheme guidelines. Grants for 2006-07 are now agreed, and all Fèisean have been sent their letters of offer.

#### Staffing

- There will be a formal staff meeting on 20 June in Inverness.
- The post of Gaelic Officer will be advertised in the week beginning 15 May.
- Met with Ingrid Henderson to help her complete a new Development Plan for the Lochaber Fèisean, in Fort William on 20 April
- Due to meet with Lochaber Enterprise on 22 May to discuss additional funding to keep her in post between August 2006 and March 2007
- We are about to embark on our annual appraisals of all staff

#### Youth Music Initiative

School visits have gone extremely well this session and meetings of the Youth Music Initiative providers in Highland have been held on 30 March, with Highland Council and on 2 May.

We have now agreed with the Highland Council that there will be no cut in funding, and have also agreed that visits in the next session will be limited to 12 weeks in all areas. This leaves us an opportunity to look at increasing tutors' fees, which have not risen since YMI started.

## **Blas Festival**

As indicated above, David has now taken on the chairing of meetings and servicing of the Action Group, and has reported on it separately.

I remain closely involved, and the main point of contact with The Highland Council. I have been asked to create a Development Plan for Blas 2007-09 by the time of the next Blas Steering Group meeting.

## **Website**

I met with Campbell Grant of Sitekit Solutions, to discuss moving our site over to their content management system. I hope to have some costs in time for the Board meeting.

## **Scotland House Concerts in Brussels**

I attended a meeting with representatives of the Scottish Executive in Edinburgh on 20 March, to discuss the series of concerts at Scotland House in Brussels, reported on at the last Board meeting.

Having asked the Fèisean involved in Cèilidh Trails for advice, we are sending Julie Fowles (Fèis tutor and former Fèis Rois participant and employee) to perform along with Rachel Newton (Fèis Dhùn Èideann) and Lillias Kinsman-Blake (who although not a Fèis participant performs regularly with Rachel) to perform at the July concert. The November concert will feature Deirdre Graham and Fiona MacAskill (Fèis an Earraich) along with Lauren MacColl (Fèis Rois).

## **Gaelic Arts Strategic Development - GASD**

I attended a meeting of GASD in Stornoway on 6 April. There has been a further meeting in Inverness on 4 May, and although I was not able to attend, Iona MacDonald represented us.

## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book**

The book is now well underway, and has been with the designers for the past 2 weeks. I will be able to show Board members examples of how it is beginning to shape up at the Board meeting.

## **Fèis visits and direct contact with Fèisean**

- As usual, have been in touch with all Fèisean through correspondence from the office, and have spoken to several on the phone
- Met with Rona MacDonald and Donald Iain Brown from Fèis Ghlaschu on 22 March
- Attended a meeting in Point, Lewis on 5 April, along with Fiona MacInnes, at the invitation of Cllr Donald John MacSween, to discuss setting up a Fèis in the Point area – Fèis an Rudha
- Attended the final concert of Fèis an Earraich in Portree on 7 April
- Met with the Lochaber Fèisean Steering Group in Fort William on 25 April
- Due to meet with Rita Hunter, Fèis Rois, on 17 May

## **General representation and meetings attended**

- Attended Blas Steering Group meeting with the Highland Council in Inverness on 9 March
- Took part in Pròiseact nan Ealan's Iùl Ciùil conference in Glasgow on 22 March
- Took part by phone in Blas Action Group meeting on 27 March
- Met with Ian Smith of the Scottish Arts Council in Inverness on 29 March
- Met with Highland Council Music Development Officer on 30 March
- Met with Bryan Beattie on 30 March to discuss RSAMD developments
- Took part in a Songlines interview on 3 April, and arranged Fèis an Earraich participation in same
- Met with Judi Menabney in Portree on 18 April, to discuss Blas Development Plan
- Attended FnG Executive Group meeting in Cluanie on 10 May
- Met with Kirstie Anderson, GASD's Audience Development Officer, in Portree, on 12 May
- I have been absent from work, unpaid, for the equivalent of four days in the period covered by this report, for Bòrd na Gàidhlig business



## David Boag, Development Manager - Progress Report

### Introduction

Since the last board meeting, Nicola Marshall and I have moved offices within the Comunn na Gàidhlig building in Inverness. This is to a bigger space, which suits our needs much better and generally provides a better working environment. Also, Douglas Beck is currently in the process of moving to Inverness, with the majority of his stuff either in situ or in the store in Portree. Some bits and pieces are still in Edinburgh, but these are mainly personal items belonging to Douglas, Mairi Kidd and D W Stewart.

### Management of Development and Support Staff

Once again, I have continued to act as line manager for the support and development staff, through face to face meetings, regular emails and phone calls.

### Bòrd na Gàidhlig Approved Contractor Bid

As reported at the last meeting in March, Bòrd na Gàidhlig granted £65,000 towards the implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Gaelic language initiatives. The specific targets for 2006/7 have been agreed and are as follows:-

£36,000	A' leasachadh poileasaidh Gàidhlig an lùib còrr air 20 Fèis. 2 Oifigear an lùib na h-ìomairt.
£7,500	A' cruthachadh stuthan taic ùr agus Leabhran/CD stèidhichte air beul-aithris.
£6,500	A' frithealadh air na Fèisean Samhraidh le sgiobaidhean taice.
£5,000	A' trèanadh luchd-teagaisg nam Fèisean anns a' Ghàidhlig
£10,000	A' stèidheachadh 2 Fhèis Dràma Òigridh air a' Ghàidhealtachd

The entire budget for this project is £106,323.09 and we have applied to HIE as part of our bid, for £25,000 to support this initiative in 2006/7.

Over and above this, I am pleased to report that Bòrd na Gàidhlig have granted a further £24,000, matched with £10,000 of Scottish Arts Council money to deliver a £43,796.03 programme of Theatre in Education work in 2006 / 7. The proposed project involves the commissioning of a writer to develop a new piece of theatre in education, which will be suitable for delivery primarily to children in Gaelic medium education, and adaptable for Gaelic learners. Once this has been completed, a director and three actors will be recruited to develop and deliver this new piece to Gaelic medium schools in Scotland. It is envisaged that this will all take place within an 8 week period, including rehearsals, with at least 40 one hour performances within this period.

The project will be managed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and led by one of our Gaelic officers, Douglas Beck, who will lead on all administrative aspects of the project, including recruitment, tour dates, travel, accommodation and so on. Douglas will also have responsibility for Fèisean nan Gàidheal's commitment to delivering 2 Gaelic drama festivals in the Highlands and Islands in 2006 / 7.

The second Gaelic officer post will be advertised shortly, and the successful candidate will work in partnership within the FnG team, and with colleagues from other agencies with the aim of developing the usage of Gaelic at Fèisean. Specific duties would include:-

- Assist member Fèisean with the implementation of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Gaelic Policy locally.
- Lead on the development of Gaelic language support teams and associated materials to assist Fèisean with the delivery of their Gaelic policies.
- Assist with the production of support materials to help Gaelic language delivery at Fèisean.
- Assist Fèis committees and tutors access training in Gaelic language, at a variety of levels.
- Assist Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff in a programme of improvement in Gaelic oral and written competency.

### **Gaelic Drama Festival (s)**

As outlined above, Douglas Beck will shortly be leading on drama developments within Fèisean nan Gàidheal, but until that happens I have been actively pursuing a number of drama initiatives. These include:-

- Attended Fèis Oigridh Drama, Ullapool, 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- Met with Christine MacIntyre and Artair Donald, TOSG, in Glasgow, 14<sup>th</sup> March. To discuss preparations and plans for the Argyll Gaelic Drama festival, which will take place in Oban, 7<sup>th</sup> June.
- Met with Judith Aitken, Ruairaidh Nicolson, Catriona Lexy Campbell all of Eden Court Outreach, Sìm MacCoinnich of TOSG and Laura Green, Fèis Rois to discuss a joint approach to the delivery of Gaelic drama workshops across the country and the continuance / expansion of the Gaelic drama festivals.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig have arranged a one day Gaelic drama seminar on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Inverness, where I have been asked to make a presentation on Gaelic drama in the formal sector.

### **Blas Festival**

The programme for Blas 2006 has now been finalised and full details are on the website [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com). I chaired meetings of the action group in Inverness on 9<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> April.

### **Fèis Bharraigh**

I am pleased to report that two applications I made to the YMI informal sector and Children in Need on behalf of Fèis Bharraigh have been successful. This will allow the committee to undertake a programme of new follow-on classes and masterclasses in accordion, clàrsach and a series of groupwork classes. This will be a significant boost for the provision on the island. I will meet with some of the committee on 15<sup>th</sup> May, in Barra.

Fiona MacInnes also prepared and submitted applications for the purchase of instruments for Barra, and I provided some assistance with these, including a meeting with her in Inverness on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Western Isles Cèilidh Trail**

Over the last couple of years I have been working on plans for a Western Isles Cèilidh Trail, in conjunction with Fiona MacInnes. I made an application for the Western Isles Highland 2007 community fund, for a pilot project in 2006 and a full scale programme in 2007.

### **Grant Claims**

This is an on going process and the majority of large scale claims have now been submitted.

### **Attendance at meetings and collaboration with other organisations**

- Attended the Iùil Ciùil conference in Glasgow, 22 – 23 March.
- Met with Donald Iain Brown and Rona MacDonald of An Lochran to discuss a possible new song project, Glasgow, 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- Attended a meeting of the "G15" (Bòrd na Gàidhlig approved contractors), 4<sup>th</sup> May at their offices in Inverness.

### **Fèis Visits etc**

- Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board meeting, Inverness, 7<sup>th</sup> March.
- Met with Patricia Hamilton, Development Officer, Cairngorms National Park Authority, to discuss funding for Fèis Spè, Inverness, 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- Met with Elspeth Buxton and Judith Bullivant, Fèis Spè, Newtonmore, 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- Attended Fèis Lochabair, Fort William, 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
- Attended Fèis Rois Oigridh, Ullapool, 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- Attended a committee meeting of Fèis Inbhir Narainn, Nairn, 19<sup>th</sup> April.
- Fèisean nan Gàidheal Executive Meeting, Cluaine Inn, 10<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Iona MacDonald, Training Development Officer - Progress Report**

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Calendar for 2006 has been distributed widely, and a number of bookings for events have been received. Also, there have been a number of enquiries from fèisean for local events.

In this period, the following events have taken place

- Local Organiser Training – Lochaber – 14 March 2006 (evening)
- Certificate in Music Tuition Writing weekend with SQA– Glasgow – 17/18 March 2006
- Supervision Techniques – Skye – 25 March 2006
- Dance in the Highlands – Skye – 15 April 2006
- Local Organiser Training – Glasgow – 13 May 2006

The training session on Gaelic for beginners (Gaelic with Ailig – Inverness – 1/2 April 2006) unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of applicants. Both Ailig MacDonald and Maple Court Hotel refused to make any sort of cancellation charge (though this was offered), and we are very grateful to them.

Supervision Techniques with Dougie Beck in March was very poorly attended (2 from Raasay) despite encouragement and the fact that the course was run free of charge to Fèisean. However, the materials prepared by Dougie, together with the materials from Marie MacKay's child protection workshop, will be edited to form a handbook for use by supervisors in the future. This will complement, rather than replace, face-to-face training.

The calendar for the next quarter includes

- Including Special Needs – Inverness – 20 May 2006
- Local Organiser Training – Stirling – 27 May 2006
- Venue Management for Volunteers – Drumnadrochit – 17/18 June 2006
- Introduction to the School of Scottish Studies Archives – 23 June 2006 (full)
- Fèis Alba – Plockton – 3-7 July 2006
- Level 1 Tutor Training Weekend – Inverness- 5/6 August 2006

Meanwhile, staff training days, Access to Gaelic, first aid training continue to take place.

Within the TMTTN, a specialist team are currently working on contextualised materials for the Certificate in Music Tuition, which it is hoped will encourage more local colleges to offer the award.

## **Nicola Marshall, Development Officer – Progress Report**

The last few months have been as busy as ever with a number of committees gearing up for their main Fèis weeks, cèilidh trials, Blas and a few new projects in the lead up to Highland 2007 as well as on-going projects. I managed to squeeze in a few days holiday at the start of April which will hopefully keep me going through the summer! In terms of personal development I am more than half way through the Cùrsa-Inntrigidh and myself and Ingrid attended a project management course back in March.

### **Fèisean**

#### **Fèis a 'Bhaile**

Fèis a' Bhaile held their AGM and Cèilidh on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April and are well on the way to being organised for their annual Fèis in October. A new Gaelic learners drama class has been started with the help of Dolina Grant, Highland Council. This class will run alongside the well-established Gaelic-medium classes.

#### **Fèis nam Bealach**

I have had no contact with the Fèis since January.

### Fèis Chataibh

I have been working closely with the Fèis Chataibh committee over the last few months helping them to take over from Ken Houston who is retiring from Fèis duties. Ken has done a power of work in developing all aspects of the Fèis over the last few years and his input has been very much appreciated. The main Fèis will take place as usual in the first week of July and this will be followed by the Cèilidh Trail. Most recently I assisted Jennifer Port this year's CT co-ordinator with auditions for the Trail and I am working on an application to Awards for All.

### Fèis Chille Mhòraig

Plans are afoot for this year's Fèis which will once again take place in the Craigmonie Centre, Drumnadrochit.

### Fèis an Earraich

Fèis an Earraich held a very successful week in Portree Primary school in April which I attended for a day and they are now gearing up for their Ceilidh Trail which will once again take place in July. I will be involved with auditions and interviews over the next few weeks. Unfortunately, the recent application made to Bòrd na Gàidhlig was unsuccessful and the Seisean Sathairne project has been put on hold for the moment. Hopefully it will be developed at a later date.

### Fèis Ghlinn Albainn

I will attend the AGM this week. The annual fundraising concert will take place in Invermoriston on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July and this will be followed by the main Fèis at the end of the month. Recently, I assisted the committee to host a concert with new traditional band 'Lau' and it turned out to be an evening of great music. Fèis Gleann Albainn now have their own web-site which they will be updating over the coming months – [www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk](http://www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk)

### Fèis Inbhir Narann

Myself and David met with the committee in April to look at the possibilities for development for the Fèis, mainly transferring to a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status. As the Fèis have an employee the committee feel this would be a good option for them. Classes including Gaelic song continue to run on a regular basis and the Fèis will be involved in promoting gigs as part of this year's Blas festival in September.

### Fèis na h-Òige

The new committee has settled in and although workshops have not been running due to janitorial problems at the High School, the main Fèis is set to take place in the first week in July. I am happy to report that two recent funding applications have been successful. Bòrd na Gàidhlig have agreed funding for various teenage activities and Highland 2007 have agreed funding for an art project which will hopefully see 12 large Gaelic banners designed by Fèis participants displayed in Inverness train station throughout the year of Highland culture.

### Fèis Spè

I supervised a teenage groupwork weekend in February with tutors Charlie McKerron, Gordon Gunn and Sandra Mackay. There was not as much interest from older participants as hoped but those who attended had a great time and it is hoped to run another one in the autumn. The application made to Highland 2007 for a trip to Cape Breton was unsuccessful but hopefully other sources of funding can be identified for this project. There are a number of projects on the go which are detailed in Judith's report.

### Fèis Farr

Fèis Farr ran their usual series of workshops over the winter and had a record 80 participants.

### Fèis Thròdairnis

I have had little contact with Fèis Thròdairnis but they will be holding their annual Fèis in July. I hope to attend a committee meeting later this month to catch up with them.

### Fèis Ratharsaidh

I have had no contact with Fèis Ratharsaidh since their Fèis in February. Two committee members attended a supervisors training day held in Skye in March.

### Fèis Rois

I believe a great time was had by all at Junior Fèis Rois held in Ullapool in the Easter holidays and the Adult Feis took place in the first weekend in May also in Ullapool. Fèis Rois will be holding another Ceòlraidh event this year. The concert will take place in Dingwall Town Hall.

### Fèis Air an Oir

Fèis Air an Oir continue to run their fortnightly classes but have cancelled their annual concert in May. Instead, the Fèis will host an event in September as part of Blas.

### Fèis Alba

Plans are well under way for this year's Fèis and we are pleased to have a great team of professional tutors. It is hoped that a group from Stirling will attend along with the Cèilidh Trailers from Skye and Lochaber. I will be in attendance for the week.

## **Meetings & events attended in addition to regular committee meetings**

### March

- 4-5 Cursa-inntrigeadh weekend school, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
- 6 Meeting with Peggy Nicolson
- 7 Project Management Course, Inverness
- 8 Meeting with Patricia Hamilton
- 16 Meeting with Laura Cowie, Dolly Grant & Aonghas MacLeod
- 17 Meeting with Judith Bullivant & Elspeth Buxton, Newtonmore
- 22-23 Iùl Ciùil, Glasgow
- 27 Blas action group meeting

### April

- 5-6 Visit to Fèis an Earraich
- 13 Meeting with Kathleen Nicolson & Penny Paterson + Cèilidh Trail Auditions, Golspie
- 18 Meeting with Fèis Inbhir Narann committee
- 21 Blas action group meeting
- 25 TMC Partnership meeting, Inverness
- 27 Meeting with Laura Cowie

## **Ingrid Henderson, Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer - Progress Report**

### **Development Plan**

Work has been ongoing on the 2006 – 10 development plan with the first draft being circulated to the steering group in early March for comment. I will meet with Arthur this week to do any alterations and work on the budget.

### **Project Applications**

Four applications were made to the Fèisean nan Gàidheal development fund on behalf of the various Lochaber Fèisean. All have come back successful and most of the projects are underway in some form. These include 'Come and Try' days in Acharacle and Arisaig, new group work events in Mallaig and Fort William and a High school music project targeting the teenage age group. An application is being drafted at present to purchase a computer for use by Fèis Òigridh na Mara. Due to the timing of their set up they were too late to benefit from the Fèisean nan Gàidheal IT project but we are hopeful that an application to a Scottish Executive Fund will help us out.

### **Blas**

As part of the Action Group I continue to be the contact for the Lochaber area ideas and the Lochaber Cèilidh Trail input to Blas. I have attended various planning meetings in this period in order to create the programme for the 2006 event and the final programme should be released in May. The festival will run from Sep 1 – 9 this year.

### **YMI School Visits**

Feedback for this year's visits has been very positive so far. We continue to use the first four weeks of every term to send in Gaelic song, whistle and group work tutors to work with P5/6 age group or wider if the school role is small. The third block of this year has been completed using tutors such as Hector Henderson, Andrew MacPherson, Rachel Stevenson, Allan Henderson, Andrew Stevenson, Anne Martin and Julie Fowlis.

Fiona continues to programme the visits on a part-time basis and is managing to include the island schools on a one day a term basis.

A Gaelic Song Resource, to accompany the song tuition is now complete and ready to be copied up. The pack will include a CD and songs words with a basic vocabulary list for English medium and additional work sheets for Gaelic medium. Kathleen Graham, Anne Martin and I have put together the CD and words and Mary Ann Kennedy, Kenna Campbell and Shona Cormack have done the final editing and Gaelic work. Since Rachel Walker has been working in the schools more recently she is also adding songs to the resource which should number about forty in all. A similar resource is being created for tin whistle by our tutors and others working in schools throughout the Highlands.

### **High School Music Project**

All four High Schools in the Lochaber area were visited by musicians in March in an attempt to allow more teenagers access to traditional music and Gaelic. Most schools hosted a bigger performance session with the younger students followed by a more in depth performance and question and answer session with the Standard Grade and Higher pupils. About 450 pupils were involved overall.

Our musicians were Julie Fowlis, Allan Henderson, Gary Innes and Ross Martin with Gavin Ramsay assisting on sound. All performances were done bilingually and where Cèilidh Trail members were in attendance they were asked to join in.

Informal feedback from the schools has been good and the performers were pleased with the reaction from the young people. Fèis and Blas information has been left with the schools should any youngsters wish to find out more. The project was funded by the Lochaber Development Fund, FnG Development Fund and the Youth Music Initiative.

### **Cèilidh Trail**

The administrative work of tying up the Cèilidh Trail finances for the three funders is complete for 2005 and planning for Summer 06 is underway. The Arts Council funding has ended after year 2 but since 'Blas' has a remit for supporting youth it will step in to support the project with the remaining funders, Lochaber Enterprise and Leader+.

So far all but one of the 2005 Cèilidh Trailers wish to be part of this year's scheme which will save time in the audition process. Toni Russell is also happy to be the co-ordinator for another year and she will start preparatory work this week. The dates for this year are July 3- 30 with the first week being used for training. They will also be involved in weekend work during Blas in September. Cèilidh Trail Recording: We are planning to record a CD with the 05 Cèilidh Trail band to mark the great music created by this group but also to create some revenue to fund the scheme in future years. The group have spent an evening recording the initial material to rehearse to and we will return to the studio in May/June to do the proper recording.

The tracks recorded with the 2004 Cèilidh Trail band have just been released as part of the new "Here's Tae Lochaber" DVD. The Lochaber Fèisean supported the recording costs in order to help raise money for the Hydrotherapy Pool in Fort William.

### **Garbh Chrìochan**

Work continues to support the Fèis in Acharacle and support Lesley who is still fairly new in the admin post. Work is ongoing to hand over the Mallaig, Morar and Arisaig classes to Fèis Òigridh na Mara this month and relevant information is being exchanged.

The 'Come and Try' day, run on March 25th and funded by the Lochaber and Fèisean nan Gaidheal development funds, was very successful with nearly 40 youngsters attending. The idea was to try and create new interest in the area to boost the numbers attending Fèis week and ongoing classes.

### **Acharacle Primary School**

Based on initial costings from Dave Martin, and with help from Arthur, an application for hall enhancement equipment was put forward to the Scottish Arts Council last year. However due to the fact that SAC need three detailed quotes, we will have to resubmit once we have the information. Since December various sounds/ lighting companies have been approached for quotes but due to the scale and location of the project responses have been problematic. I have received a nearly complete quote from BlackLight, a seating quote from Audience Systems, a letter stating reasons for not quoting from Herringbone and Northern Lights have only just got back to me (apologetically) in April about finally putting something on paper.

It has been very frustrating but if I can get information from Northern Light soon I will be able to resubmit.

### **Feis Eige – Small Isles Storytelling/Drama project**

Due to weather disruption in the first Meanbh-Chuileag visit to the Small Isles, Dougie and John returned to Eigg and Muck in late March to deliver the remainder of the storytelling and drama project. Feedback from the schools has been good and requests have come to try and incorporate similar work with the YMI tutors. Clyde Puppets also delivered some of the provision visiting Eigg in January.

The project is now complete and all the appropriate paper work has been sent to Awards for All and Fèisean nan Gàidheal to round off the project and payment.

### **Northern Periphery Project**

Input to the Lochaber part of this project has been ongoing. The scheme, as it stands, is coming to an end later this year, so we are looking at ways to expand the links already created with Norway and Sweden and to try and apply the practises of community business to our own music organisations in order to make our work self sustaining. Lochaber Enterprise and Highland Council are keen to support a Lochaber Music Cooperative, if appropriate, which could help support music activities and generate income through bigger events. A feasibility study is being commissioned at present to examine the possibilities and what support there might be from the wider Lochaber music community.

### **Lochaber Music Network – 2007**

Over the last few months I have been involved in meetings with various different music providers in the Lochaber area to discuss our individual music work and how we can better work together. This has been extremely useful for making contact with school music teachers and finding out what provision exists within the area especially within the new YMI schemes. As suggested by Education and Culture Services we have also been discussing possibilities of joint events in 2007 as well as creating a coordinated programme of work spread throughout the year so events don't clash. An application will go forward to the community strand of funding for any joint event(s).

### **GF07**

As part of the 2007 celebrations Glenfinnan Community Council approached me to be involved in meetings to discuss the funding and delivering of Gaelic and music events in Glenfinnan. I was happy to do this from both a personal and work perspective and have helped draft up the application with the Secretary, Eileen O' Rua. From research carried out 32 out of 40 households are supportive of the ideas and nearly twenty people have asked to learn or develop their Gaelic language further. Should the application be successful they have requested that the Lochaber Fèisean deliver some of the provision applied for especially with regard to the youth element.

## Disclosures

I continue to be the point of contact for checking forms for committee members, supervisors and tutors. This last period has been busier as Fèisean start to book their tutors for forthcoming events.

## Attended meetings/events:

January	23rd	Mod07 Liaison meeting, Fort William
	23rd	Glenfinnan 07 meeting, Glenfinnan
	24th	Steering Group meeting, Lochaber Fèisean, Acharacle
	26th	Lochaber Schools' Music Network Meeting, Lochaber High
February	3rd	Meeting with Lesley, Garbh Chrìochan, Acharacle
	6th	Blas meeting, Inverness
	7th	Youth Music Meeting, Fort William
	7th	Fèisean nan Gaidheal staff meeting, Fort William
	14th	Meeting with Julia, Initiative at the Edge
	15th	Acharacle, computer work for Garbh Chrìochan
	15th	Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan AGM, Acharacle
	16th	Lochaber Schools' Music Network Meeting, Lochaber High
	17th	Blas Meeting, Inverness
	20th	Meeting with Fèis Òigridh na Mara committee
	20th	Meeting with Glenfinnan community Council 2007 group
	23rd	Interview for Feis Anniversary Book
	24th	School Of Scottish Studies day, Edinburgh*
27th	Fèis Lochabair meeting, Camaghael	
March	3rd	Cèilidh Trail studio evening, Ardgour
	7th	Project Management Course, Inverness
	9th	Leader+ LAG meeting, VC Fort William
	17th	Meeting with John Hutchison, Lochaber Music Partnership
	20th	Presentation for HIE board, Fort William
	21st	Meeting with Charles Mutter, Loch Shiel Festival*
	22nd	Gaelic Music Conference, Glasgow
	27th	Blas meeting, Inverness
	30th	YMI Meeting, Inverness
	3-7th	Attended Fèis Lochabair
	10th	Northern Periphery Meeting, Fort William
	11th	Working with Niki Robertson, Mallaig
21st	Blas meeting	

## Fiona MacInnes, Fèis Support Worker - Progress Report

Since my last report in February, my work has concentrated on various projects. This has mainly included sourcing funding for the purchase of instruments for Fèis Bharraigh, tutor training days in Uist and Lewis and the assistance in setting up a new Fèis in Point, Fèis an Rubha.

Over the next few months, I will continue to assist the committees with any development projects, fundraising and mainly help in the organisation of their Summer Fèisean. I will also be concentrating on teenage provision and the organisation of the proposed Western Isles Cèilidh Trail in August. Time will also be allocated to checking disclosure forms for new tutors and volunteers and also for all those that require the three-year new check. Regular contact with the committee will continue by telephone, email and the attendance of meetings.



### **Fèis Bharraigh**

- Regular contact with the FB office by telephone and email.
- Quotations and budget done for instrument bank
- Funding application forms completed
- To attend meeting on Barra on 26 May

### **Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich**

- Regular contact with chairperson by email and telephone.
- Attended meetings on 28 March and 20 April.
- Suggested Gàidhlig speaking tutors

### **Fèis Eilean na Hearadh**

- In contact with admin worker by telephone and email.
- Contacted tutors for Fèis

### **Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh**

- In contact with admin worker by telephone and email.

### **Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain**

- Regular contact with secretary and chairperson by email and telephone.
- To assist with video and DVD project
- To meet with committee members on 27 May re Fèis

### **Fèis Tìr an Eòrna**

- Regular contact with chairperson and secretary by email and telephone.
- Contacted tutors
- To meet chairperson on 27 May re Fèis

### **Other**

- Had meeting with David Boag in Sty office on 13 April and in Inv office on 27 April
- Attended Fèis an Rubha inaugural meeting on 5 April with Arthur Cormack
- Met Fèis an Rubha committee members on 9 and 10 May
- Organised photocall on 6 April for FEAF and FTD winners of FNG 2005 raffle
- Attended launch of Plana Cànan nan Eilean Siar on 18 April
- Basic tutor training days to be held in Benbecula on 27 May and in Lewis on 3 June
- To attend joint FTAM and FTAE cèilidh in Benbecula on 27 May

## **Christine MacIntyre, Fèis Support Worker – Progress Report**

### **General Activities:**

- Held regular meetings with all fèisean
- Disclosure forms ongoing
- Fèis training day scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> May in Glasgow.
- Attended staff meeting in Fort William
- Argyll Gàidhlig Drama Fèis performance date Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June 7pm @ Oban High School

### **Fèis Àrainn (Arran)**

- Most of the tutors for this year have been booked
- 2006 Feis 25 – 29 July
- Fiddle classes still ongoing

### **Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar (West Dumbarton)**

- Fèis dates 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – 24 March
- Had a successful fèis this year
- Classes ongoing

### **Fèis Innis a Uillt (Meadowburn)**

- Last one day event planned for Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May
- They were not successful with their application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig which was also tied in with their Lottery Funding
- Whole school chanter classes have began and they have extended this to dancing and shinty classes
- Fèis dates: 18<sup>th</sup> March & 13<sup>th</sup> May

### **Fèis Latharna (Oban & Lorne)**

- All follow on classes continuing.
- Held a very successful Easter Fèis, with record numbers and also produced a short video based on the Cal Mac advert
- The folk group is also progressing well
- Fèis dates 10 – 14 April (5 days instead of 4)

### **Fèis Lannraig a Tuath (Condorant)**

- Have several funding applications pending
- Most of the tutors booked for this year's fèis
- Fèis dates: 31 July – 4<sup>th</sup> August (clashes with Inverclyde fèis)

### **Fèis Mhuile (Mull)**

- Classes ongoing in: fiddle, chanter, guitar and clàrsach
- Applied for Lottery to fund folk group classes, this was denied but the youngsters themselves are holding a fund-raising cèilidh
- New Development in Gaelic singing in conjunction with step-dancing has now began
- Nigel Scott Memorial cèilidh raised almost £2000

### **Mull/Latharna joint project**

- In its final year
- Has been very successful so now looking towards further funding. Need to arrange a meeting between Arthur, Sìleas David and self
- Investigating the possibility of providing tuition in the area's primary schools.

### **Fèis Òigridh Ìle (Islay)**

- Two day fèis went well with lots of interest in forming a proper committee
- Follow on classes in fiddle and chanter/pipes
- It is hoped that next year will see a full one week fèis
- Fèis dates: 23 & 24 February

### **Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu (Glasgow Drama Fèis)**

- Support Worker suggested that an "Expressive GMU **school** Arts Officer" (part time) could be perhaps located in the new Woodside complex and would be responsible for assisting with the organisation of this fèis along side other Gàidhlig school arts projects! No response as yet!
- This fèis is still causing concern. Despite repeated efforts at establishing some sort of communication with the present committee, and several emails to the Gàidhlig School, they managed to have this year's performance without having the courtesy of informing me of the date! (Had similar complaint from other bodies such as CNAG who were not informed either of the performance date)

### **Fèis Chile Chonbhail (Inverclyde)**

- Classes in: clàrsach, fiddle, Gàidhlig song and whistle.
- School "taster" sessions might help things pick up in this area
- Fèis date: 31 July – 4<sup>th</sup> Aug) clashes with Lannraig a Tuath!

### **Fèis Ghlaschu (Glasgow City Fèis)**

- Developing classes in clàrsach and fiddle in the school
- April fèis well attended, but age range still too young (3 -11) Supervision was proving difficult
- Introducing accordion, shinty and guitar into main fèis

- Not all tutors were Disclosed, despite repeated requests and reminders
- Tutors still not paid!
- Fèis dates: 3 – 8 April

### **Fèis Thiriodh (Tiree)**

- Trundling along nicely
- On course for 06 Fèis Most tutors booked and Disclosed
- Heavily involved with drama through the GASD project
- Fèis date: 10 – 14 July

### **Fèis Cheann Loch Goill (Lochgoilhead)**

- Held a one day event in Strachur, was very good and well attended
- Bòrd Na Gàidhlig application rejected, they were not happy with this!

### **New Development**

- Argyll Drama Fèis: Workshops with various schools progressing. Performance date is Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June. There have been some teething problems here, mainly due to the shortage of Gàidhlig Medium teachers. However, six schools participating and to be frank, that is enough for one evening event. Any more and this would have to have been a two day event.
- Gàidhlig Info Day in Argyll: Still to happen. Donald Morris from CNAG has moved to Inverness and the vacancy in Oban has been advertised
- Time for the Council to increase their funding for the Argyll Fèisean especially as there are now five instead of four (Ceann Loch Goill)
- One other area has expressed interest in holding some fèis work – Helensburgh! Support Worker having a meeting on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> (after the training session with the new schools Arts Co-ordinator for Argyll & Bute) There may also be some financial support from Argyll & Bute Council to set this up

### **Christopher de Plano, Communications Officer/Researcher (Graduate Placement) - Progress Report**

Since taking up my post in September 2005, I have spent the majority of time concentrating on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary book project. The work on the project has been challenging but enjoyable and it is hoped that the book will be published this summer.

During this time my work has included; research, transcribing, proof-reading, editing, co-ordinating meetings and workloads between project workers, and generally pushing the project along so that it will be published on time.

I am grateful to Fèisean nan Gaidheal for allowing short term employment of outside individuals to come in on the project at various intervals when the workload, and my stress-levels, began to overflow.

Also during this period, as part of CnaG's graduate placement scheme, I was contractually obliged to attend a week long Outward Bound course at Loch Iall, near Fort William. Amongst the activities endured on the course, our team (comprising of other graduates) built and crossed a rope-bridge over a rather deep gorge, jumped off a very high tower and crossed the middle of nowhere in the rain for two days, all in the name of personal development.

I intend to spend the subsequent time in my post completing the book-project and marketing the book and the fèisean, to the best of my abilities. Also, it is intended that I spend three weeks in Ireland on placement, through CnaG's Graduate placement scheme.

### **Targets**

Completing the book on time  
Marketing the book and the fèisean  
Employment – September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal

## Draft Conference Programme

15 & 16 September, Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula

### Background

It has been agreed that this year's AGM and conference will take place in Benbecula on 15 and 16 September.

The following is an outline programme, and Board members are asked about how to fill the Saturday morning sessions. We did talk about making this a very 'Uist' event, and have sessions on collecting songs, stories etc, which would tie in with our archiving project. We also discussed visits to local places of interest since departure times are going to be afternoon, and the two places suggested are on the way to either Lochboisdale (for Oban) or Lochmaddy (for Skye).

*Tobar an Dualchais* will be appointing people to work in Uist shortly, who will be in post by September, so we could ask someone from there to do a presentation. Alternatively, we could ask someone like Morag MacLeod (formerly of the School of Scottish Studies) Dr Cathlin MacAulay (presently of the School of Scottish Studies) or Cailean Maclean, whose father, Dr Alasdair Maclean, amassed a huge collection of Uist and Barra folklore while he was a GP in South Uist. Cailean's uncle, Calum Maclean, was one of the founders of the School of Scottish Studies and also collected a lot of songs, stories etc from some of the famed Uist tradition bearers.

### Dihaoine 15 An t-Sultain ~ Friday 15 September 2006

14.30 **Meeting of Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board of Directors**

18.00 **Annual General Meeting**

followed by **Guest Speaker:**

**[Suggestions: Angus B MacNeil MP, Alasdair Morrison MSP, or a Minister]**

or

**[Launch of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book]**

19.00 **Drinks Reception and Entertainment** from **Western Isles Fèisean participants**

19.30 **Dinner [perhaps hosted by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar]** followed by **Cèilidh Dance**

### Disathairne 16 An t-Sultain ~ Saturday 16 September 2006

09.30 **Session 1**

**[Subject matter and speaker to be confirmed – 'Collecting Folklore']**

10.30 Tea/Coffee

11.0 **Session 2**

**[Subject matter and speaker to be confirmed – 'Comuinn Eachdraidh']**

12.00 Lunch

Afternoon visits to Taigh-tasgaidh Chill Donain and Taigh Chearsabhaigh prior to departure, depending on departure point.

**Arthur Cormack**  
Stiùiriche  
An Cèitean 2006



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