



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

A' toirt ar dualchais do ar n-òigridh

Meeting of the Board of Directors

**Palace Hotel
Inverness**

Thursday 7 December 2006

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

Meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in the Palace Hotel, Inverness from 4pm on Thursday 7 December 2006

This will be preceded at 2.30pm by a presentation for new Board members on the work of the organisation, and their roles and responsibilities as directors of Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Any existing members who wish to take part in this may do so also.

Agenda

4.2006.01 PRELIMINARIES

- (a) **Present**
- (b) **Apologies**
- (c) **Welcome to new Board members and election of Office Bearers for 2006-07**
Since this is the first meeting following the election of new Board members, the Board requires to elect, from amongst themselves, or by co-option, a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- (d) **Minutes of the last meeting of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board**
Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2006 are circulated. Board members are asked to approve them as a true record of the meeting.
- (e) **Matters arising**
Board members are invited to raise any issues not included elsewhere on the agenda.
- (f) **Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group**
Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group, held on 15 November 2006, are circulated for information. Board members are invited to raise any points they wish from those minutes.

4.2006.02 DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- (a) **Progress in implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Plan 2005-10**
A summary of progress to date against the measures in our Development Plan is circulated. Board members may discuss any issues arising from this summary.
- (a) **Training Programme Update**
The Training Development Officer, Iona MacDonald, will give Board members an update on the Training Programme, and in particular proposals for a weekend Training Fèis to be held in Inverness in February 2007.

4.2006.03 FINANCIAL ISSUES

- (a) **Financial Report**
A report prepared by the Finance & Administration Officer, Anne Willoughby, is circulated showing income and expenditure to and from Fèisean nan Gàidheal to 31 October 2006. Also included is a list of grants pledged to Fèisean for 2006-07. Board members are invited discuss any points relating to the information.
- (b) **Bank balances and up-to-date information**
This information will be tabled at the meeting.

(c) Quarterly Accounts to 30 September 2006

Management Accounts from 1 July to 30 September 2006, provided by Nicolson & Co are circulated for information. Board members are invited note the information contained in the accounts.

(d) Funding from the Scottish Arts Council from 2007 onwards

A meeting was held with the Scottish Arts Council in October, attended by the Director with Ken Houston representing the Board. Minutes from that meeting are circulated along with a further submission by Arthur Cormack, the Director, put to SAC following the formal meeting.

(e) Funding from Highlands & Islands Enterprise for 2006-09

Highlands & Islands Enterprise have agreed a substantial funding package for the years 2006 to 2009, and a short report from the Director is circulated for information outlining the funding available, and the conditions attached thereto.

(f) Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Fund from 2007 onwards

Because of a condition on HIE funding restricting the fèisean from applying to their Local Enterprise Company (LEC) for grant-aid, it is proposed to make changes to our Development Fund, to enable us to replace LEC funds in certain fèis projects. David Boag, our Development Manager, has prepared a report that is circulated for discussion and agreement by Board members.

4.2006.04 POLICY ISSUES

(a) Wages review

A report by Anne Barke supplemented by the Director, was circulated and discussed at the previous Board meeting, and has now been considered by the Executive Group. The paper will be tabled for Board members, and the recommendation is to implement it in full. Board members are invited to further discuss any matters relating to this, and to agree to recommended pay scales and related conditions.

(b) Fèisean nan Gàidheal Corporate Image

As part of the process of re-developing our website, Pelican Design have come up with some ideas for a new Fèisean nan Gàidheal logo which will be presented to the Board for consideration.

4.2006.05 OPERATIONAL ISSUES

(a) 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) 2007 Annual Conference and AGM

Fèis Spè have invited us to take our Annual Conference and AGM to their area, Badenoch & Strathspey, in 2007. Board members are invited to discuss this, and make any alternative suggestion that can then be investigated further.

(d) Election of Directors

A short report from the Director is circulated with the results of the process to elect new Board members, as well as the subsequent attempt to get nominations from Highland and Western Isles fèisean.

4.2006.06 OTHER

(a) A O C B

(b) Meeting of the Executive Group

The papers from the Executive Group meeting held on 15 November have been circulated in their entirety by e-mail only. Board members are welcome to raise any points they wish from those papers.

(c) Date of next meeting

Board members are invited to set dates for meetings for 2007.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held in The Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula, on Friday 15 September 2006 from 2.00pm

Agenda Item: 4.2006.01(d)

3.2006.01 PRELIMINARIES

(a) Present

Katie Adam (Chair), Peggy Nicolson (Vice Chair), Ken MacKenzie, Alasdair MacDonald, Jessie Newton, Jane MacNeil, Joan MacDonald, Arthur Cormack (Attending), David Boag (Attending), Anne Willoughby (Attending), Calum Alex MacMillan (Attending), Douglas Beck (Attending)

(b) Apologies

George Stoddart, Ken Houston (Secretary), Kate Kerr, Alasdair Macleod (HIE), Morag Anna MacLeod (The Highland Council), Ian Smith (SAC)

Although the meeting was conducted in Gaelic, Katie Adam confirmed that points could still be raised in English by members if they so wished.

The Chair welcomed Calum Alex Macmillan to the Board meeting.

(c) Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Board meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 22 May 2006 had been circulated. These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

(d) Matters arising

Board members were invited to raise any issues not included elsewhere on the agenda.

There had been difficulties enforcing the Child Protection Policy, but Fèisean had now been made aware of the implications with regard to their funding if they failed to comply with the procedures.

(e) Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group

Minutes of the Executive Group held at Cluanie Inn on Wednesday 23 August were circulated.

Arthur Cormack confirmed that the Social Impact Study on Blas was not going to happen. We had received £5,000 from Millennium Commission Funds and Steve Westbrook was approached to proceed with this study, but required £10,000 to carry out the work. It was anticipated that this would happen next year instead. The £5,000 in the budget was to be set against Blas costs.

Peggy Nicolson requested that the number of YMI sessions in Highland be corrected from 16 weeks to 12 weeks.

3.2006.02 FINANCIAL ISSUES

(a) Financial Report

A report was circulated showing income and expenditure to and from Fèisean nan Gàidheal up to 18 August 2006. Also included was a list of grants pledged to Fèisean for 2006-07. Board members were asked to note the contents of the report, and discuss any points they wish to raise.

The Director reported that £219,511 had come in from Highland Council for YMI.

We were still waiting to hear the outcome of the HIE funding application but Steve Westbrook was working on our application. It was to be submitted on Monday to the Management Group and we should be informed of the result the week after.

(b) Bank Balances and up to date information

The current balances were:

- Current account: £16,148.70
- Hi-Interest account: £102,070.14
- Deposit account 1: £120,000.00
- Deposit account 2: £75,920.00

(c) Annual Audited Accounts to 31 March 2006

Nicolson and Co have prepared audited account to 31 March 2006, which were approved by the Executive Group at its last meeting by Katie Adam and Peggy Nicolson. Board members were asked to recommend their approval at the Annual General Meeting.

Joan MacDonald proposed their approval, and this was seconded by Peggy Nicolson.

It was noted that the reserve fund was £51,322 and that this was regarded as a step in the right direction. An appropriate level of reserves would be three months of costs, and this would be allowable by funders.

(d) Quarterly Accounts

Accounts from 1 April to 30 June 2006 were tabled. There were no issues raised.

(e) Auditors

Nicolson & Co have been our auditors for the past two years, and were prepared to continue to act as such. Anne Willoughby gave an update on quotes from other accountants to ensure that we were getting value for money.

Jessie Newton proposed that we continue with Nicolson & Co and this was seconded by Alasdair MacDonald.

(f) Funding from the Scottish Arts Council from 2007 onwards

The Scottish Arts Council have asked us for further information in relation to our funding application from 2007 onwards, and for a meeting.

The information they had asked for was included in the papers for information, and Board members were welcome to comment on this. It must also to be decided who should represent the Board at the meeting.

Ken Houston was willing to attend the meeting scheduled for 10 October 2006. Katie was willing to be on stand by in case Ken was unable to attend. The Director reported that this was an opportunity to make the case for increased funding. He 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.

3.2006.03 POLICY ISSUES

(a) Wages review

Anne Barke was employed to look at the rates of pay offered to Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff. Recommendations had been made by her and the Director tabled a report at the meeting for Board members only. All staff left the meeting for discussion to take place.

Board members decided that the report should be considered by the Executive Group at its next meeting, with recommendations made to the Board in December.

(b) Staff Handbook

Anne Barke had made changes to our Staff Handbook and a copy had been sent to Board members in e-mail form only. Staff contracts were to be tied into the new regulations from now on.

These developments were welcomed by the Board.

3.2006.04 DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

(a) Progress in implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Plan 2005-10

A summary of progress to date against the measures in our Development Plan was circulated. Board members noted the information.

(b) Fèis: celebrating 25 years of the Fèisean

We had expected that the book would be launched at the AGM, but unfortunately this could not be for various reasons, outlined by Arthur Cormack.

A new launch date would be set as soon as the book was available, which was likely to be late October.

3.2006.05 OPERATIONAL ISSUES

(a) Staff Progress Reports

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

Alasdair MacDonald mentioned that progress reports were informative and showed what a lot was going on.

(b) Up-to-date information from staff

Some of the staff gave Board members a short verbal report on some of the projects in which they were involved:

Iona MacDonald, Training Officer was in the process of applying to ESF to run the training programme next year. A questionnaire had been circulated to Fèisean to find out what they wanted.

Chris Deplano, Communications Officer gave a brief update on his post and his involvement with the book to date. He was currently involved in progressing the website and once this was in place he will be responsible for updating it on a daily basis. Joan MacDonald and Alasdair MacDonald agreed that phoning round on a regular basis was preferable for Fèisean.

Calum Alex MacMillan, Gaelic Officer had been in post for 6 weeks. He was going to be supporting Fèisean with Gaelic development and also working with Sgioba-G. He was also going to be assisting Chris with the website.

Ingrid Henderson, Lochaber Development Officer had been in post for three years and funding for the post was extended until 31 March 2007. She was assisting four Fèisean and involved with the Cèilidh Trail, supporting Toni Russell, and also Fiona Ironside running YMIS in the Lochaber area.

Douglas Beck, Drama Officer gave a brief update on Gaelic drama developments. He was giving a presentation along with Calum Alex the following morning at Kildonan Museum.

(c) 2006 Conference

The programme for the two days in Benbecula was included in the papers for information.

(d) Election of Directors

Three Board members were leaving the Board this year, and an election process was to be put in place to fill those places.

A report from the Director had been circulated with recommendations as to how this should be implemented.

Joan MacDonald informed the meeting that she too would be standing down as she was to undertake a teacher training course.

This meant that four directors would require to be elected, and it was agreed that the election procedure should be put in motion as soon as possible.

(e) Membership Fees

Membership fees have been at the same level (£100) for two years.

Board members decided this should be increased to £120 and would recommend such to the AGM.

3.2006.06 OTHER

(a) A O C B

There was no other business that had not been already covered on the agenda.

(b) Meeting of the Executive Group

The papers from the Executive Group have been circulated in their entirety by e-mail only. There were no other points raised.

(c) Date of next meeting

The next meeting has been set for Thursday 7 December in Inverness.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Group held in Cluanie Inn, Cluanie Wednesday 15 November from 1.30pm

Agenda Item 4.2006.01(f)

EX4.2006.01 PRELIMINARIES

(a) Present

Katie Adam (Fèis a' Bhaile, 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)

(b) Apologies

Peggy Nicolson (Fèis an Earraich, Vice-Chair), Morag Anna MacLeod (The Highland Council), Ian Smith (Scottish Arts Council), Alasdair MacLeod (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)

(c) Minutes of previous Executive Group meeting for approval

The minutes were approved as a true record.

(d) Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not dealt with elsewhere.

EX4.2006.02 FINANCIAL ISSUES

(a) Financial Report (circulated)

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.

(b) Bank Balances and up to date information

The current bank balances were given as follows: £6,692.06 in the Current account and £70,690.13 in the High Interest account. There was £75,315.62 on deposit for a further month and an additional £26,285.26 on deposit.

(c) Funding update: HIE and SAC (verbal with report circulated)

HIE's funding has now been agreed at £632K which is broken down as follows:

- £144,000 06/07
- £251,500 07/08
- £236,500 08/09

There was a condition in the funding agreement that the LEC's would not fund Fèisean projects. There were a few Fèisean that this would affect but it was decided that the Development Fund would be increased to £30 K subject to Board approval. David Boag was to prepare a paper outlining how this would work and it was going to be less of a burden for Fèisean applying for bigger projects. From 07/08 this was to be incorporated in the main grant application form. Anne Willoughby had already circulated these but an additional page could be added. Katie Adam mentioned it was useful for Fèisean to know what projects had been successful for other Fèisean and a flowchart on funding could be helpful.

Arthur and Ken had met up recently with Ian Smith from SAC. The meeting was fairly positive and a decision on funding was expected before the next Board meeting on 07/12/06.

(d) Quarterly Accounts (circulated)

Quarterly accounts had been circulated. Ken suggested that the year to date figures would be more useful than quarterly comparisons and Anne was to arrange this with Angus Nicolson CA

EX4.2006.03 STAFFING ISSUES

(a) Staff contracts and salary review (report to be tabled)

Anne Barke's report as presented at the last Board meeting, was tabled for discussion with a view to making a recommendation to the full Board Meeting. David and Anne left the meeting.

The report was discussed by the Chair and Secretary and the recommendation from the meeting is for the report to be implemented in full.

It was also decided that Anne Barke be retained to update the handbook and offer HR advice for one 1/2 day per month at a cost £195 + VAT.

EX4.2006.04 PROJECT UPDATES

(a) 25 years celebratory book (verbal)

The book was to be launched at the Traditional Music Awards at a reception at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William. Copies were being sent out to all the funders and contributors.

(b) Gaelic Developments/Meanbh-Chuileag/Gaelic Drama (verbal)

David Boag gave a report on all the Gaelic Developments. Katie Adam reported that the G-team at Fèis à' Bhaile were under-employed and need to use their initiative a bit more. David reported they could be employed in lots of activities such as registration, press releases, group-work, concert programmes and that Calum Alex had organised a training session in Perth for Sgioba-G. Calum Alex will liaise well in advance with Fèisean next year to see what their requirements are. Douglas Beck was involved with Drama festival projects in Lewis and Oban and preparation for Meanbh-Chuileag to go into schools in January/February.

(c) Training Programme (verbal)

The Director reported that Iona was organising a training fair on 03/04 February. There were to be one-hour sessions on specific items. It was decided that Iona could give a presentation at the Board meeting on what was available.

(d) YMI contracts (verbal)

The Director reported that YMI resources were sent out to all the schools and the programme was on going.

(e) Blas Festival (verbal)

David reported that the programme was nearly complete for next year. It was hoped that the programme could be launched in January and start marketing the event. Arthur reported that Box Office targets and Audience targets were broken for this year. Angus Nicolson CA had already set up a separate company.

(f) Lochabair Fèisean (verbal)

The Director reported that Ingrid Henderson was pregnant and that she would have to be replaced temporarily. Formal notification was still to be received.

(g) National Raffle (verbal)

Anne Willoughby gave a short update on this year's raffle. The numbers of ticket sales were 6358 and were down compared to 10,454 and 11,868 the previous years. After deduction of 2166 tickets sold by Feis Eilean an Fhraoich who won the £500 prize the reality was that most Feisean sold 50 tickets. The Portree office sold 2293 tickets, which was not included in the 6358 tickets sold this year. It was decided that we would not carry on with the raffle next year as every year tickets sales were not increasing.

(h) Website Development

Chris Deplano was liaising with the designers and hoping to have something before December. Pelican were going to re-arrange the logo and build website around new colours. Chris would be phoning Fèisean for updates. The newsletter was being updated and being printed.

(f) Traditional Music Awards (verbal)

The Director reported that the Blas Festival had been nominated event of the year and Fèisean nan Gàidheal for Community project of the year as part of the Traditional Music Awards. He asked if any members wanted to

attend the awards. Ken and Anne expressed an interest but Katie was unable to attend due to other commitments.

EX4.2006.05 DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

(a) Development Fund (verbal)

This had already been covered elsewhere.

(b) Grant application 2007-8 (verbal)

Application forms had been sent out to Fèisean.

EX4.2006.06 BOARD MEETINGS

(a) Agenda items to be included

Items to be included were Development Fund Report, Iona's presentation and Quarterly accounts. The new Board members would attend earlier than the rest for a presentation on the organisation. Douglas Beck was going to cover translations and Either Calum Alex or Nicola could take minutes, as Anne was unable to attend the December meeting.

(b) Board Election (verbal)

It was decided to re-run the elections for Western isles and Highland representatives.

(c) Election of Office Bearers (verbal)

Katie was happy to continue as Chair. There was a vacancy on the Board for Secretary.

EX4.2006.08 GENERAL

(a) AOCB

There was no other business.

(b) Date and venue of next meeting

There was no date agreed as Board Members still had to decide the date of the meetings for next year.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Progress on implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Plan 2005-10

Agenda Item: 4.2006.02(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.

1	Provide support for the development of individual Fèisean, promoting excellent working practices, and developing their range of activities	Progress	2006-07	2007-08
4.1.1	Grants Scheme for Fèisean	Ongoing, and grants paid out as per agreements. Grants for 2006-07 now agreed, and grant forms for 2007-08 now issued. Development Fund guidelines issued and applications invited.	*	*
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	2006 conference held in Western Isles 15 and 16 September 2006. Invitation from Badenoch & Strathspey for 2007.	*	*
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 a number of repairs/replacements carried out.	*	*
4.1.6	Disclosure checking	Ongoing – over 1,000 Disclosure Checks carried out.	*	*
4.1.7	Maintenance of a Fèis Tutors database	Ongoing and nearly completed. 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 now published.	*	*
4.1.9	Production and distribution of regular news and other information	Faileas has been professionally produced for the first time, and issue 23 has been distributed. Will be produced regularly from now on.	*	*
4.1.10	Support for new Fèisean	New Fèisean given assistance with set-up and funding, if appropriate, from the New Developments Fund. Possibility of additional funding for new fèisean as part of HIE/SAC packages.	*	*
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. Still likely from 2007 onwards.	*	*
2	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			
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 training took place in Perth for team members recently.		

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. Gaelic Officer now in place.	*	*
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 developed in Argyll, and work going on in Lewis also. Sgoil Shamhraidh idea being mooted, and some HIE funding secured for this.	*	*
3	Develop the work of the Fèisean within the formal education sector			
4.3.1	Youth Music Initiative contract in Highland	Ongoing, and running successfully in its 4 th year. We have new guidelines for next year's provision, but funding remains the same. Tuition resources have been issued to all schools and tutors, and a part-time Co-ordinator now looks after organisational issues.	*	*
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	Nothing new at this stage.	*	*
4	Strategic projects and contract work, with partners, carried out by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and individual Fèisean			
4.4.2	Development of Blas – Celebrating Highland Music	Blas 2006 was very successful and 2007 events expected to be larger. Clydesdale Bank has come onboard as sponsor. Blas was nominated as Event of the Year in the Scots Traditional Music Awards.	*	*
4.4.3	Continuing support for Fèis Cèilidh Trails	Funding available within Blas budget, and HIE funds secured.	*	*
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 this will be a priority for the Development Manager.	*	*
4.4.5	Gaelic Arts Strategic Development – GASD	Ongoing work and FnG involved as a partner and as a deliverer of certain elements. New research on Gaelic Arts in the Western Isles and Skye & Lochalsh just published.	*	
4.4.6	Inter-Fèis activities	Fèisean are encouraged to visit each other, but few take up the chance. We are looking at integrating this budget into our Development Fund from 2007.	*	*
4.4.7	Traditional Music Tutor Training Network – TMTTN	Ongoing work, and now looking at promotion of PDA and development of an advanced certificate. GASD also investigating ways of making training available for Gaelic Arts professionals.		
5	Develop training to enhance the skills of those involved in Fèisean and promote excellence within the Fèis movement			
4.5.1	Retain a Training Development Officer	Retained for now and pulling funding together, with success.	*	*
4.5.2	Annual Training Programme	Programme running but with smallish number attending. Looking at a different delivery model.	*	*
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.	*	*
6	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			
4.6.1	Networking	Ongoing – various presentations at events	*	*

		and presence at open days/PR –based events. Presence at Traditional Music Awards.		
4.6.2	Advocacy	Always ongoing.	*	*
4.6.3	International Links	Joella Foulds and Cape Breton and Irish musicians were present at Blas this year.	*	*
4.6.4	Promotion and Marketing	Will be part of Chris Deplano’s remit to raise profile and issue press releases regularly. This has begun, and several press releases have already been issued. Promotion of new book a priority.	*	*
4.6.5	Information	Information of all kinds disseminated to members.	*	*
4.6.6	Website and ICT	Have had discussions with Sitekit about moving website to their content management system. We now have a quote from the designers and we hope to have a new website up and running in January 2007.	*	*
4.6.7	Showcasing opportunities	Blas is used to showcase Fèis participants, but more of this is needed. Possible opportunities through Highland 2007, especially with Harvest.	*	*

Arthur Cormack
Director
December 2006

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Financial Report

Agenda Item: 4.2006.03(a)

This report includes:

- 1 Income and Expenditure from 1 April to 31 October 2006
- 2 List of the grants pledged to Fèisean for 2006-07

Agenda item 4.2006.03(b)

- 1 Current bank balances will be tabled at the meeting

Agenda item 4.2006.03(c)

- 1 Management accounts for the quarter to 30 September 2006 prepared by Nicolson & Co are circulated

Anne Willoughby
Finance and Administrative Officer
December 2006

Income and expenditure to 31 March 2007, with actual transactions to 31 October 2006

Agenda Item: 4.2006.03(a)1

FÈISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL - BUDGET 2006-07

INCOME	Budget for Year	Budget for Period	Actual
Core Grants	£138,112.00	£80,565.33	£ 91,658.00
Fèis Support Workers	£30,500.00	£17,791.67	£ 14,750.00
Grants Scheme	£150,500.00	£87,791.67	£ 73,500.00
Training Programme	£96,242.35	£56,141.37	£ 26,019.79
Meanbh-Chuileag	£93,702.09	£54,659.55	£ 82,445.06
Highland Youth Music Initiative	£181,511.00	£105,881.42	£ 181,511.00
Annualised Hours	£31,500.00	£18,375.00	£ 0.00
Lochaber Development Officer	£28,803.00	£16,801.75	£ 16,537.00
Fèis Development Fund	£15,000.00	£8,750.00	£ 0.00
Earned Income	£21,900.00	£12,775.00	£ 17,904.09
Fèis Bharraigh w/shops	£25,146.00	£14,668.50	£ 11,848.00
Support 2 New Fèisean	£12,000.00	£7,000.00	£ 1,500.00
Blas Music Festival	£252,191.00	£147,111.42	£ 207,171.57
Archiving	£20,000.00	£11,666.67	£ 0.00
Pr/Website	£5,000.00	£2,916.67	£ 0.00
Website Development	£10,000.00	£5,833.33	£ 0.00
25 Anniversary Book	£58,625.00	£34,197.92	£ 17,500.00
Support Other Publications	£10,000.00	£5,833.33	£ 0.00
City Fèisean Development Officer	£40,000.00	£23,333.33	£ 0.00
Still to be raised	£18,000.00	£10,500.00	£ 0.00
Management Fees	£78,683.00	£45,898.42	£ 58,411.00
TOTAL INCOME	£1,317,415.44	£768,492.34	£800,755.51
EXPENDITURE			
Running Costs			
Core Staff Salaries	£143,750.00	£83,854.17	£86,105.32
NIC Contributions	£9,888.00	£5,768.00	£5,835.83
Pension Contributions	£3,000.00	£1,750.00	£1,788.75
Core Staff Travel	£17,000.00	£9,916.67	£12,267.18
Office Rent & Rates	£14,000.00	£8,166.67	£6,489.36
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£8,000.00	£4,666.67	£4,919.07
Telephone, Fax, E-mail, Heat & Light	£8,000.00	£4,666.67	£3,592.18
Board Expenses	£4,500.00	£2,625.00	£1,747.00
Implementation of Child Protection policy	£8,000.00	£4,666.67	£5,983.85
Insurance	£7,000.00	£4,083.33	£7,621.07
Sundry Expenses (Professional Fees)	£3,500.00	£2,041.67	£3,657.38
Accountancy & Bank Charges	£2,500.00	£1,458.33	£1,491.03
Instrument Bank Repairs/Purchases	£2,000.00	£1,166.67	£2,375.52
Additional Support Needs	£2,000.00	£1,166.67	£0.00
Capital Expenses	£3,000.00	£1,750.00	£2,037.46
Programme Costs			
Grants Paid Out	£178,000.00	£103,833.33	£90,193.00
Annualised Hours	£31,500.00	£18,375.00	£5,953.00
Fèis Development Expenditure	£15,000.00	£8,750.00	£1,751.60
Lochabair Fèisean Development	£28,500.00	£16,625.00	£20,894.87
Training Programme/Expenditure on Lottery Training	£96,242.35	£56,141.37	£31,397.30
Fèis Bharraigh w/shops	£25,146.00	£14,668.50	£4,228.21

Meanbh Chuileag/Expenditure on Lottery Project	£93,702.00	£54,659.50	£45,821.22
Highland Council Youth Music Initiative	£181,511.00	£105,881.42	£121,553.09
National Raffle Expenditure	£2,500.00	£1,458.33	£302.63
25 Anniversary/Book	£58,300.00	£34,008.33	£34,339.65
Directory of Fèis Tutors/Newsletter	£1,000.00	£583.33	£0.00
Publications	£3,000.00	£1,750.00	£2,272.35
Annual Conference	£8,500.00	£4,958.33	£8,414.40
Inter Fèis activities	£1,000.00	£583.33	£0.00
Blas Festival Development	£242,750.00	£141,604.17	£201,463.79
Archiving Project	£20,000.00	£11,666.67	£0.00
PR & Marketing	£5,000.00	£2,916.67	£0.00
Website Development	£8,500.00	£4,958.33	£0.00
New Projects	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Support 2 New Fèisean	£12,000.00	£7,000.00	£0.00
Support Other Publications	£10,000.00	£5,833.33	£0.00
City Fèisean Development Officer	£40,000.00	£23,333.33	£0.00
Contingency	£5,000.00	£2,916.67	£3,127.05
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,303,289.35	£760,252.12	£717,623.16
Transfer to Reserves (0.175%Management Fees)	13,769.53	£8,032.22	£10,221.93
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£14,126.09	£8,240.22	£83,132.35

Grants pledged to Fèisean 2006-07

Agenda Item: 4.2006.03(a)2

Name	Main Fèis Grant	Local Authority	Follow-on Grants	Annualised Hours	Ann Hours Grant	Dev.Fund	Total Grant Offered	Balance Paid	Outstanding Balance
The Highland Council									
Fèis an Earraich	£ 6,612.00	£ 3,306.00	£ 3,735.00	320	£ 2,400.00	£ 0.00	£ 16,053.00	£ 7,439.00	£ 8,614.00
Fèis Lochabair	£ 2,750.00	£ 1,375.00	£ 3,480.00	260	£ 1,950.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,555.00	£ 3,814.00	£ 5,741.00
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	£ 4,298.00	£ 7,432.00
Fèis Chataibh	£ 2,697.00	£ 1,349.00	£ 1,640.00	220	£ 1,650.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,336.00	£ 3,035.00	£ 4,301.00
Fèis a' Bhealaich	£ 263.00	£ 131.00	£ 344.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,038.00	£ 172.00	£ 866.00
Fèis Thròdainis	£ 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	£ 8,700.00	£ 2,900.00
Fèis Chille Mhòraig	£ 1,450.00	£ 725.00	£ 112.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,787.00	£ 1,631.00	£ 2,156.00
Fèis Eige	£ 492.00	£ 246.00	£ 480.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,368.00	£ 554.00	£ 814.00
Fèis Rois Òigridh	£ 6,513.00	£ 3,257.00	£ 5,188.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 14,958.00	£ 7,328.00	£ 7,630.00
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	£ 2,210.00	£ 4,225.00
Fèis Air an Oir	£ 163.00	£ 82.00	£ 2,000.00	50	£ 375.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,620.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,620.00
Fèis Ghlinn Albainn	£ 1,067.00	£ 533.00	£ 2,000.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,750.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,750.00
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	£ 2,165.00	£ 2,558.00
Fèis Òigridh na Mara	£ 1,116.67	£ 558.33	£ 4,000.00	160	£ 1,200.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,875.00	£ 2,600.00	£ 4,275.00
Fèis Inbhir Narann	£ 585.00	£ 293.00	£ 1,000.00		£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,878.00	£ 1,159.00	£ 719.00
Fèis Spè	£ 2,400.00	£ 1,200.00	£ 3,500.00	70	£ 525.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,625.00	£ 2,700.00	£ 4,925.00
Other Area/City Councils									
Fèis Dhùn Eideann	£ 2,480.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,106.00	600	£ 4,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 12,086.00	£ 4,803.00	£ 7,283.00
Fèis Chille Conbhal	£ 941.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,132.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,073.00	£ 706.00	£ 1,367.00
Fèis Arainn	£ 2,900.00	£ 0.00	£ 808.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,708.00	£ 2,579.00	£ 1,129.00
Fèis Obair Dheathain	£ 2,275.00	£ 0.00	£ 384.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,159.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,159.00
Fèis 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	£ 642.00	£ 814.00
Fèis sa Mheadhan	£ 2,518.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,284.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,552.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,552.00
Western Isles Council									
Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain	£ 2,865.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,564.00	210	£ 1,575.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,504.00	£ 3,649.00	£ 3,855.00
Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich	£ 2,650.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 3,856.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,106.00	£ 3,988.00	£ 5,118.00
Fèis Tìr an Eòrna	£ 1,483.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,352.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,085.00	£ 2,612.00	£ 2,473.00
Fèis Bharraigh	£ 3,060.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 3,334.00	240	£ 1,800.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,694.00	£ 4,845.00	£ 4,849.00
Fèis Eilean na Hearadh	£ 875.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,375.00	£ 2,156.00	£ 219.00
Fèis an Rubha	£ 1,000.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 750.00	£ 250.00
Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,100.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,100.00
Argyll & Bute Council									
Fèis Latharna	£ 1,621.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,340.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,961.00	£ 2,716.00	£ 3,245.00
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	£ 2,269.00	£ 516.00
Fèis Ìle	£ 190.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 332.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,022.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,022.00
Fèis Glaschu	£ 3,412.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,412.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,412.00
Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle	£ 415.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,000.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,415.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,415.00
	Total Main Fèis	Total LA Grants	Total Follow-on	Total Ann. Hours	Total Other Grants	Total Dev.	Total pledged.	Total paid out	Total still to pay out
Totals	£ 74,253.00	£ 35,742.00	£ 66,430.00	4180	£ 31,350.00	£ 0.00	£ 207,775.00	£ 79,520.00	£ 128,255.00

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Management accounts to 30 September 2006

Agenda Item: 4.2006.02(c)

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2006 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

CONTENTS OF THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS
for the Period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006

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Company Information	1
Profit and Loss Account	2
Balance Sheet	3
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FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
for the Period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006

TRUSTEES: Mr Ken Houston
Mr Ken Mackenzie
Mrs Kate Kerr
Katie Adam
Peggy Nicolson
Joan Robertson
Mrs Jane MacNeil
Mr George Stoddart
Mrs Jessie Newton
Mr Alasdair MacDonald

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Ken Houston

CHARITY NUMBER: SC015053

REGISTERED OFFICE: Meall House
Portree
Isle of Skye
IV51 9BZ

ACCOUNTANTS: Nicolson
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors
49/50 Bayhead
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2DZ

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
for the Period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006

	1.4.06 to 30.9.06		1.4.06 to 30.6.06	
	£	% of sales	£	% of sales
Turnover				
Grant income	177,765	59.34	260,264	78.04
Membership fees	425	0.14	-	0.00
Bank interest	688	0.23	269	0.08
Management fees & other income	62,193	20.76	17,839	5.35
Sale of books	1,230	0.41	822	0.25
Instrument bank revenue	1,983	0.66	1,240	0.37
Gaelic Development	52,805	17.63	51,585	15.47
Feis Alba	2,480	0.83	1,480	0.44
	<u>299,569</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>333,499</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Expenditure				
Rent, rates and water	5,902	1.97	3,684	1.10
Insurance	7,621	2.54	6,025	1.81
Light and heat	702	0.23	594	0.18
Telephone and fax	2,355	0.79	1,961	0.59
Gaelic Development	31,765	10.60	15,941	4.78
Core salaries	73,956	24.69	34,442	10.33
National Insurance	6,540	2.18	3,850	1.15
Pensions	1,475	0.49	586	0.18
Staff expenses	8,859	2.96	4,134	1.24
Grants awarded	51,100	17.06	219,751	65.89
Stationery and printing	5,849	1.95	1,664	0.50
Publications	1,289	0.43	878	0.26
Annual Conference	7,906	2.64	69	0.02
Board expenses	1,216	0.41	1,183	0.35
Other expenses	8,821	2.94	1,854	0.56
Child Protection costs	8,232	2.75	2,756	0.83
Accountancy	-	0.00	600	0.18
25th Anniversary book (net of grant)	32,835	10.96	5,690	1.71
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets				
Computer equipment	75	0.03	200	0.06
	<u>256,498</u>	<u>85.62</u>	<u>305,862</u>	<u>91.71</u>
Finance costs				
Bank charges	58	0.02	-	0.00
	<u>256,556</u>	<u>85.64</u>	<u>305,862</u>	<u>91.71</u>
NET PROFIT	<u>£43,013</u>	<u>14.36</u>	<u>£27,637</u>	<u>8.29</u>

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

BALANCE SHEET
30 September 2006

	30.9.06		30.6.06	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Computer equipment		-		75
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	3,478		3,478	
Grants receivable	267,890		535,247	
Other debtors	2,578		2,578	
Cash management account	37,493		21,939	
Deposit account	174,722		74,722	
Bank account	-		6,590	
	<u>486,161</u>		<u>644,554</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Bank overdraft	16,288		-	
Trade creditors	2,496		2,496	
Social security and other taxes	5,353		5,353	
Grants awarded but unpaid	193,642		240,440	
Accrued expenses	1,500		1,500	
	<u>219,279</u>		<u>249,789</u>	
		<u>266,882</u>		<u>394,765</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>266,882</u>		<u>394,840</u>
FINANCED BY				
RESERVES				
Training project		25,225		28,703
Lochaber development fund		(22,960)		(11,212)
Blas Festival		27,796		65,445
Schools project		114,849		232,945
General fund		121,972		78,959
		<u>266,882</u>		<u>394,840</u>

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS SCHEDULE
30 September 2006

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2006 and 30 September 2006	<u>26,500</u>	<u>73,712</u>	<u>3,196</u>	<u>103,408</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2006	<u>26,500</u>	<u>73,712</u>	<u>2,921</u>	<u>103,133</u>
Charge for period	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>275</u>
At 30 September 2006	<u>26,500</u>	<u>73,712</u>	<u>3,196</u>	<u>103,408</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30 September 2006	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2006	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>275</u>

FEISEAN NAN GAIDHEAL

FUNDS SCHEDULE
30 September 2006

	General fund £	ICT project £	Training project £
At 1 April 2006	78,959	2,319	25,848
Profit for the period	43,013		
Earned income	-	-	44,165
Salaries and expenses	-	-	(26,835)
Administrative costs	-	(2,319)	(17,953)
At 30 September 2006	<u>121,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,225</u>

	Lochaber development fund £	Blas Festival £	Schools project £	Totals £
At 1 April 2006	(6,099)	(15,638)	89,027	174,416
Profit for the period				43,013
Grants received	19,033	226,800	219,511	465,344
Earned income	-	28,976	-	73,141
Salaries and expenses	(29,698)	(26,743)	(55,091)	(138,367)
Administrative costs	(6,196)	(185,599)	(138,598)	(350,665)
At 30 September 2006	<u>(22,960)</u>	<u>27,796</u>	<u>114,849</u>	<u>266,882</u>

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Funding from the Scottish Arts Council from 2007 onwards

Agenda Item: 4.2006.03(d)



Scottish Arts Council

Corporate Planning 2006 - 2009

Meetings with organisations

(Fèisean nan Gàidheal)

(10 October, Scottish Arts Council)

Note of Meeting

Present

Arthur Cormack, (Fèisean nan Gàidheal)

Ken Wilson Company Secretary and Treasurer (Fèisean nan Gàidheal)

Ian Smith, Head Of Music (SAC Lead officer)

Caroline Winn, Youth Music Officer, Informal Sector (SAC Note taker)

David McDonald, Youth Music Manager

1 Review

- Review progress against 2005-06 and 2006-07 funding agreements

1.Principle Activity 05/06

Have all been meet.

2. Critical Success Factors

2a) Fèisean nan Gàidheal have supported 42 Fèisean, an increase from the 35 that was the benchmark.

2d) ongoing with ESF. Training Programme is not as big but still continuing.

2e) Carolyn Paterson was sent the evaluation that was carried out by Stuart Brownlee.

2j) increase is from 30% to 32.5%

2l) the Fèisean nan Gàidheal book is at the printers. 4k are being

printed. 204 pages. Opportunities to do reprints, which would make money on the project. Distribution is via the Fèisean, and recognised book distributors. Retails at £25 for hard back and £18 for soft back.

3. Development Areas

Developmental areas are all met with the following points noted;

- a) 2 support workers and 2 development workers are in place improving on Fèisean nan Gàidheal's working practises.
- b) Lochaber, Celtic Colours, work in Nova Scotia.
- d) Local Enterprise Company have contributed £5k. Scottish Arts Council agreed to match the LEC £5k to ensure the post is maintained until the end of March 2007. Thereafter, the aim is to mainstream the post.
- e) touring showcase event using HIE money with 50 young people on a bus, as part of Highland 2007: the year Scotland Celebrates Highland Culture.
- f) 15 weeks of this now instead of 40 weeks. Drastically cut back due to lack of funds. This also impacts on audience/participant numbers.
- g) Bòrd na Gàidhlig funded Gaelic Development Officer post.
- j) TMTTN is on going but not as fast moving.

7. Financial

7.2 There was an under spend in YMI money from Highland Council's formula funding which has been carried forward

7.4 £60k Year 1, £75k last year.

2006/2007 Agreement

1. Principle Activity

All agreed, with the following points noted;

- c) Fèisean nan Gàidheal are working with Highland Council on delivering projects with their formula fund money. This is the 4th year of involvement with Highlands council on YMI in schools. There is also a contract with East Lothian Council.
- d) Training in Sutherland for those living in the community has been an invaluable resource for the local economy.
- e) Clydesdale supporting Blas. Highland Council partnerships. PAN network. Fèis Rois and Fèis Lochabair Cèilidh Trails have released commercial CDs, the latter with the assistance of Skippinish Records, of which is out this year.
- f) The profile needs to be raised still. Fèisean nan Gàidheal need to do more PR, the profile outside of the sector could be a lot higher. Fèisean nan Gàidheal don't have anyone, could potentially be a joint post within the Gaelic Arts sector, through GASD.

- g) The Traditional Music Forum is an invaluable forum.
- h) Blas is in its 2nd year. The profile is good. Ticket sales doubled. Cèilidh Trails are very important in helping Blas continue. There is a definite link between the Cèilidh Trails and the increased sales of Blas. In sustaining audiences and audience development the Cèilidh Trails act as a catalyst, developing and sustaining the programme.

2. Critical Success

All agreed with the following points noted;

- b) The post needs to be full time. P/T can't cope with all the work.
- c) Fèisean nan Gàidheal did this voluntarily. Elements of the Scottish Arts Council's Gaelic Plan may be deliverable by Gaelic Arts clients including Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- d) Scottish Arts Council and Colleges behind this. The course is a good course. Stow, Perth College involved. Involve Education department within Scottish Arts Council.

3. Development Areas

All agreed with the following points noted;

- d) this comes down to funding but HIE have already committed a portion to the project.
- e) upgrading of the website ongoing. Fèisean nan Gàidheal have quotes and are trying to consolidate with Blas website and to make the web easier to update.

4. Monitoring and assessment

Agreed.

2 Forward Plans

Consolidation of posts.

HIE have already committed to the next 3 years. (a total of £620k)

Priorities within Fèisean nan Gàidheal budgets are;

- City Fèisean Development Officer. Local Authority support.
- Cèilidh Trails x 5. Scottish Arts Council Lottery funding & LEC. £120k needed to keep all going.
- Gaelic Drama Summer School – needs Ian Smith guidance on working with Drama department, Cross Arts budgets.
- Look at funding and support of Fèis Rois
- Consolidation and mainstreaming of existing posts and services

Additional project money required for;

- Supporting 2 new Fèisean
- Supporting other publications
- City Fèisean Development Officer

3 Next Steps

£5k Lochaber support from Scottish Arts Council, can Fèisean nan Gàidheal have this in writing from Scottish Arts Council.

TMTTN, needs a kick start from Scottish Arts Council.

Arthur Cormack to come back with additional information to supplement that already provided, in light of the recent award of £620k to FnG from HIE. This to outline where pressure points are with proposals for additional funds, beyond the £250k foundation support, from SAC sources outwith Music, where appropriate.

4 AOB

END

Caroline Winn, Youth Music Officer, date 20 Nov. 06.



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Scottish Arts Council Funding 2007- 2009

Further updated information following meeting on 10 October 2006

1. Background

At our meeting in Manor Place on 10 October, it was clear that some further work was needed to provide the information required to allow SAC to make an informed decision on our funding for 2007-2009.

This paper supplements, and should therefore be read in conjunction with, our application for core funding submitted in September 2005, and the further update supplied in advance of our 10 October meeting, and has been brought about principally due to the news received after our update had been submitted, that Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) has agreed the full package of funding for which we had applied for the years 2006-09.

It should also be read in conjunction with the Economic Impact Assessment prepared for HIE by Steve Westbrook, a copy of which was supplied to Ian Smith at our meeting, and which outlines the likely impacts of investment in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's plans at this time.

2. Highlands & Islands Enterprise funding

We applied to Highlands & Islands Enterprise for a funding package to follow on from our previous deal covering the financial years 2003-06. Because of timing, this application necessarily had to be based on the application we submitted to SAC in September 2005, and on an optimum budget scenario, being the only scenario in which

we could significantly advance our work. HIE's funding has now been agreed as £632k over the financial years 2006-09, broken down as follows:

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
£144,000	£251,500	£236,500

Obviously it is only the latter two years that are relevant to our new foundation funding with SAC, as we already know the funding available to us in 2006-07. We also know the proposed foundation funding level is set at £250k per annum, but given that this is approximately half of what we might have expected in an optimum budget scenario, while appreciating completely why it is not possible to get that level of funding, we have prepared this paper with further information, so that SAC is clear what £250k per annum would mean for Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and the Fèisean.

In the first place, it is highly likely that HIE's formal offer will specify that the above sums will be a maximum available to us, but what is actually paid out will be a percentage of our actual expenditure. At present these are figures in the application to HIE:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Projected expenditure	£1,272,253	£1,676,102	£1,622,800
Percentage from HIE	11.3%	15%	14.6%

Again, only the latter two years are relevant to this paper, but given that HIE's funding will be based on a percentage of our expenditure, if we fail to meet our fund-raising targets – including those with SAC – our expenditure cannot be achieved, and we will therefore lose a proportion of the HIE funding pledged. We are keen to avoid the loss of funds from a source as significant to us as HIE, particularly when they have been so ready to support our proposed developments with every penny we asked for.

As already outlined in our September 2006 update submission, our present core funding is £95,101 (2006-07), but we have been in receipt of regular lottery (including £75k for our grants scheme for example) that took our funding up to around £212k this year.

If the £250k proposed was an increase from a baseline of £95k, then clearly that would be welcomed. 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 significant.

If we are to move our work on significantly in the next 3 years, and be able to take advantage of HIE's funding in full, then clearly our planned programme of activities could not remain as it is now. At best, £250k would allow our activities to remain exactly as we are at present, but only so long as we get funding from multiple sources other than SAC. At worst, it will mean a cutback in our programme along with a reduction in staffing, and in the number of Fèisean we can support, as well as the loss of significant support from HIE.

In the next section, having had discussion with SAC on 10 October, I have reworked our budgets, knowing what we have now been granted by HIE, and at the end of that, I have prioritised the projects that will need funding in addition to the £250k foundation funding earmarked, with suggestions as to where perhaps the money could be found.

3. Additional SAC funding required over and above foundation funding

We have included here the elements of our Development Plan that will require additional investment from SAC, over and above the £250k foundation funding, with HIE's agreed funding shown, and other funding, whether known or suggested. The rationale for these projects is contained in the September 2006 submission, and we have now prioritised these projects into high, medium and low.

Increase the funding available through our Grants Scheme for Fèisean – HIGH priority

Targets	To be able to fairly fund all the Fèisean and allow for new ones
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £50k per annum SAC (£25k); HIE (£25k approved)

CSFs	Offer finance to all eligible Fèisean on the basis of need
Suggested Funds	£100k annually from SAC lottery, to replace £75k per annum available between 2002 and 2007, and to give us the additional funding required to increase the global sum available for grants

Annual Training Programme including teenage provision – HIGH priority

Targets	To organise and run a programme of training to include development of teenage provision
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £52.5k in 2007-08 SAC (£20k); ESF/HIE/Other (£25k approved by HIE); Fees (£7.2k)
CSFs	Run a successful annual programme of training events Improve the provision for teenagers in some Fèisean
Suggested Funds	Continuation of funds from NCS Traditional Arts funding (£15k for training officer post now taken care of in foundation funding), but redirected towards training activity, and at £20k instead of £15k per annum

Gaelic Language Developments including TIE – HIGH priority

Targets	To support the work of Meanbh-Chuileag and to consolidate its funding
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £200k per annum for a full-time service SAC (£70k); Bòrd na Gàidhlig (£70k); LAs (£30k); Other (£30k with £20k approved by HIE)
CSFs	Secure the work of Meanbh-Chuileag as an integral part of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's programme on a full-time basis
Suggested Funds	Discuss with SAC's Drama Department to see if an annual contribution can be made to ensure this service

Support for new Fèisean – MEDIUM priority

Targets	To support 2 new Fèisean annually
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £12k per annum SAC (£8k); HIE (£4k approved for new Fèisean in HIE area)
CSFs	Offer finance to 2 new Fèisean each year
Suggested Funds	SAC's £8k could be adequately covered if £100k lottery funding is available for our Grants Scheme

Developing, distributing and selling publications – LOW priority

Targets	To publish at least one tutor resource annually thereafter
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £10k per annum SAC (£5k); Bòrd na Gàidhlig/LAs (£3k); Sales (£2k)
CSFs	Continue to have high-quality tuition resources available at Fèisean
Suggested Funds	SAC contribution applied for an a publication-by-publication basis

Extending support for Fèisean outwith the 'traditional' local authority areas – HIGH priority

Targets	To support employ a 'city' Fèis Development Officer
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £40k per annum SAC (£25k); LAs (£15k)

CSFs	Gain additional external support for those Fèisean outwith Highland, Western Isles and Argyll & Bute Employ a Fèis Development Officer to cover Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dumbarton, Inverclyde, STirling etc
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Suggested Funds	Additional project funding from SAC Music Project Funds or NCS Funds
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Continuing support for Fèis Cèilidh Trails and Blas Festival – HIGH priority

Targets	To continue to support existing Cèilidh Trails and to establish new ones, one per annum, outwith the Highland Council area To replace Highland 2007 funding from 2008 onwards
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £120k per annum for Cèilidh Trails HIE (£50k approved); SAC (£60k); LAs (£20k) Additional £35k required from 2008 for Blas Festival
CSF	Secure existing Cèilidh Trails and start one new one in 2007, probably in the Western Isles
Suggested Funds	£50k music project funding routed through Blas festival. This would support the Cèilidh Trails and the festival, thus including SAC in all Blas publicity Festivals and Promotions budget for £35k from 2008 onwards?

Development of Gaelic Drama – MEDIUM priority

Targets	To develop a new Gaelic Drama Summer School
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £75k annually from 2007-08 HIE (£15k approved); Bòrd na Gàidhlig (£25k); Other (£15k)
CSF	Run first Summer School in summer 2007
Suggested Funds	Discussion with SAC Drama Department, and with Bòrd na Gàidhlig who have been working jointly on a drama strategy

Encourage local Fèisean to archive material that could be utilised in teaching situations in their area – MEDIUM priority

Targets	To set up an archiving project with 4 Fèisean each year from 2007-08
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £20k per annum SAC (£5k); Heritage Lottery Fund (£15k)
CSFs	Begin Archiving Project in 2007 Have a body of collected material available to Fèisean
Suggested Funds	Reallocation of £5k of NCS funding previously available to FnG

Showcasing opportunities – MEDIUM priority Highland 2007 project

Targets	To organise a 4-city tour of a Fèis showcase concert
Funding	Additional budget requirement: £80k in 2007-08 SAC (£20k); HIE (£15k) approved; Box Office (£12k); Sponsorship and others (£33k)
CSF	Develop a Fèis showcase for Highland 2007 A successful tour in 2007
Suggested Funds	One-off funding perhaps from SAC-designated funds to support Highland 2007 initiatives

4 Budgets

In putting together this latest budgets, we have included sums we now know are approved by HIE and have included the additional sums we require from SAC with a narrative suggesting where such funds could be found, which ties in with the suggestions made in Section 3.

The budget scenarios presented clearly show that Fèisean nan Gàidheal's planned activities would be curtailed significantly if Scottish Arts Council's level of funding is set at £250,000 per annum, as would our ability to take full advantage of the HIE funding being offered.

To summarise, we think the following funding is required from SAC to carry out **our programme in full**:

Financial Year	2007-08	2008-09
Foundation Funding	£250,000	£250,000
Lottery Funding	£100,000	£100,000
Project Funding	£57,500	£92,500
NCS Funds previously available to FnG but redeployed + additional	£50,000	£50,000
One-off Project Funding	£20,000	£0
Drama Funding	£95,000	£95,000
Total required	£572,500	£587,500

To enable us to realise only our **High Priority projects** would require:

Financial Year	2007-08	2008-09
Foundation Funding	£250,000	£250,000
Lottery Funding	£100,000	£100,000
Annual Project Funding	£47,500	£82,500
NCS Funds previously available to FnG but redeployed	£50,000	£50,000
Drama Funding	£70,000	£70,000
Total required	£517,500	£552,500

You will see in section 6 of our September 2006 submission the effect this will have on numbers taking part, or rather the positive effect a more reasonable increase would have. Already, we have lost around 2,000 participants between 2004-05 and 2005-06 because one of our projects – the Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education project – suffered a cutback in funding over those two years. This is obviously a major area of expenditure if we are to offer a 40-week touring cycle to schools, and other visits to Fèisean and Sradagan groups. A scaled-down service can be offered for less money.

With adequate funding, our work has the potential to reach much larger numbers than at present, but if the only funding offered is at the proposed level of £250k per annum, we would have no choice but to work on standstill, or even worse, curtail what we do. Among the casualties would be the Fèis Cèilidh Trails, a proposed showcase tour as part of Highland 2007, the re-development of a Gaelic drama summer school, support for new Fèisean, as well as human resource support for the city-based Fèisean which have different needs to rural ones. These are significant projects for us, and identified clearly within our Development Plan, which was available to SAC at the time of last year's CFO review.

We currently have around 11,000 individual young people taking part in our activities, but this has been as high as 13,000 when certain projects have been adequately funded, and this can only be sustained with reasonable investment in our work, and increased only with additional investment.

Having reviewed our budgets for a third time for this latest exercise, but also in the course of preparing a funding bid to HIE, **we estimate our SAC Music funding requirement to be £377.5k in 2007-08**, made up of £250k foundation funds, £57,500 project or lottery funds, £50k NCS funds and £20k one-off funds, which might perhaps be found from end-of-year funding. In addition **up to £100k** would be required to sustain the programmes of the local fèisean through our grants scheme, which we are suggesting should continue to come from lottery funds, as it has done over the past 4 years.

This does not provide for a **full-time Theatre-in-Education group**, although we have now included the costs of that in our budgets. This is certainly something we would like to discuss with SAC, possibly with the Drama

Department in addition to our lead officer in Music. This has been costed at around £200k per annum. Given the strategic look being taken at Gaelic drama development by both SAC and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, perhaps 50% from each body might be forthcoming to provide this valuable service, meaning **an additional £70k being made available by SAC**, most appropriately through the Drama Department.

Arthur Cormack

Director

December 2006

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Highlands & Islands Enterprise funding 2006-09

Agenda Item: 4.2006.03(e)

Background

Board members will recall that we had applied to Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) late in March for a funding package to see through our developments in the years 2006 - 2009. The process took longer than we had envisaged mainly because our main contact within HIE, Alasdair Macleod, had taken up a new post as Gaelic Officer.

Eventually the economist Steve Westbrook was employed by HIE to carry out an impact assessment of HIE's funding our next 3 years of development, and this was positive enough that HIE have approved all the funding we had requested.

The package offered

HIE's funding has now been agreed as £632k over the financial years 2006-09, broken down as follows:

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
£144,000	£251,500	£236,500

This is a very welcome offer, and although we have not yet had a formal letter of offer, in discussions with Alasdair Macleod and John Watt, HIE's Director of Strengthening Communities, it emerged that there would be two special conditions:

1. Fèisean in the HIE area would not be permitted to apply to their Local Enterprise Company during the period of this agreement, and
2. There would be no guarantee of this level of funding post April 2009.

I was concerned about the first condition, and agreed to write to all the Fèisean affected explaining the reasoning for this was that the LECs are already pretty tight budget-wise for at least the next 2 years, and HIE saw our funding the Fèisean (a) as a way of ensuring that there is still an avenue left open to local Fèisean to apply for funding for projects, (b) ensuring the funding can be used more strategically across the Fèisean network, and (c) reducing the number of small grants the LECs have to administer.

We had not consulted the Fèisean in the course of making an application to HIE (other than when we drew up our latest Development Plan on which the application was based) as to the kinds of projects for which the Fèisean themselves may need LEC assistance over the 3-year period. I was aware that a number of the larger, more developed Fèisean may have had projects for which they would need LEC assistance.

It had been agreed that we should look at making our Fèis Development Fund larger to allow us to incorporate applications from Fèisean that may require a higher level of grant than is currently available through that scheme.

Next Steps

Having heard back from the majority of Fèisean, and having met with Fèis Rois (one of the most likely to be affected) I have now agreed with HIE that within the funding they had agreed, we would be allowed to vire some funding from some headings to the Development Fund, to create a figure within which we could cope with extra applications from Fèisean. I am confident that we can increase our Fèis Development Fund from around £15k to somewhere approaching £50k using funds from HIE, The Highland Council and the Scottish Arts Council. This will mean that all Fèisean, whether within the HIE area or not, can benefit, as long as we ensure that funds intended for the Highlands & Islands are spent in that area.

David Boag, our Development Manager has prepared a paper for discussion, outlining how the Fèis Development Fund might operate from April 2007 onwards.

Arthur Cormack
Director
December 2006

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Development Fund proposals for 2007 onwards

Agenda Item: 4.2006.03(f)

Introduction

This scheme has been a great success for Fèisean wanting to run new projects within their own communities. Over the first two years, more than 40 projects have received funding from the scheme, and although Fèisean nan Gàidheal put £35K into the project, more than £150K in new initiatives and projects has resulted.

Information about the 2006-07 scheme went out to Fèisean recently and Monday 15th January 2007 is the deadline for projects to be in. I fully understand that this doesn't leave a lot of time to come up with new projects, but Fèisean nan Gàidheal didn't get full confirmation of funding for the scheme until mid November.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Local Enterprise Companies

The situation for next year is different, now that Highlands and Islands Enterprise have committed their support to the scheme. This support however is conditional that Fèisean no longer will be able to apply to their Local Enterprise Company (in the HIE area) for funding.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal conducted some research amongst the Fèisean in the HIE area before their offer was formally accepted. The answer which came back was that very few of the Fèisean actually received funding from the LECs anyway and the amounts of money were not excessive. We also received advice from HIE that the LECs may not be in a position to provide Fèisean with financial support.

The scheme 2007-09

Our conclusion is that this is an excellent opportunity to establish a much more robust and supportive scheme from 2007-09, with the new money from Highlands and Islands Enterprise plus the money we already have from the Highland Council and the Scottish Arts Council. Over and above this, there are three other schemes in our Development Plan; "Inter-Fèis activity", "Publishing" and "New Fèisean" and I think that it would be appropriate to roll these into the one Development Fund. As a result, the scheme will be wider in scope and more flexible than it is presently.

Operating the scheme

These are my recommendations on how the scheme should be established:

- 1 The same general criteria that we have for the present scheme will carry on to the new scheme, e.g. all applicants have to be Fèisean nan Gàidheal members, the project has to be new to the Fèis, Gaelic has to be supported in some way and all outstanding administrative matters have to be up-to-date before the application can proceed. This scheme should not be used to fund projects for which funding can be found elsewhere.
- 2 Generally at the moment, each Fèis will only get one grant from the scheme per year. With this scheme, the door will be open for more than one application per year if appropriate.
- 3 This year, each project has to have been completed before 31st August 2007. With this scheme, Fèisean can run new projects than span over two years.

This scheme will support:

- New general projects, for example purchasing new items such as instruments or equipment, going on special trips or staging a special "one-off" event.
- Fèisean that may wish to undertake a publishing project such as songs or stories from the area.
- Fèisean that wish to run an Inter-Fèis activity, for example a teenage groupwork event open to participants from wider than their own Fèis area, or an exchange programme (between Fèisean).
- New Fèisean in their first year as members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Presently, new Fèisean can only get up to £750 from the scheme, but I recommend that there be no upper limit for this.

There will be two levels of project:

- Small projects where the Fèis will be seeking less than £1,000 for the entire project. A decision will be given within 1 month.
- Large projects where the Fèis will be seeking more than £1,000. Presently, no project can access more than £1,500 but I recommend that this ceiling is removed. Any project seeking more than £5,000 from the scheme will be approved by the Executive Group at the meeting closest to the application date. For large projects like this, there must be dialogue with their designated officer or support worker prior to making any application, and perhaps there will be a need for other evidence such as a development plan for the project, letters of support and so on. Also, the Fèis will get practical support from the Development Team in searching for additional support and finances as required.
- I propose that no project should receive more than 70% of the total costs from the scheme, with at least half of the remaining 30% provided as cash and the rest as in-kind support, e.g. volunteer time. Very often projects may receive less than 70%.
- The new scheme will be open from 1st April 2007 and will close on 31st December 2008, with all work completed by 31st July 2009.

David Boag
Development Manager
December 2006

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Staff Reports

Agenda Item: 4.2006.05(a)

Arthur Cormack, Director

Introduction

At long last we have published the new book celebrating 25 years of the fèis movement, and we have resurrected *Faileas*, both of which have raised our profile again. An extremely generous package of funding has been agreed with Highlands & Islands Enterprise for 2006-09, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal – the fèis movement – has been nominated as Community Project of the Year in the Scots Traditional Music Awards.

It has been an extremely busy and productive time and I, and other staff, have included summaries of the work we have been involved in.

Finance

After months of negotiation, Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) have agreed a package of funding for Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and the fèisean for this year, and up to March 2009. At £632k, we got every penny we asked for, which is a major achievement, and I am grateful for the support of Alasdair MacLeod and his colleagues in helping to secure this. A more detailed report is included elsewhere.

The SAC position is also reported on elsewhere, and negotiations are ongoing helped, I believe, by the fact that HIE has confirmed its funding.

Agreed funding has been coming in as expected, and we have not had any cashflow problems to speak of.

As agreed, we are now getting quarterly accounts from our accountants, and these are included in the financial report.

Staffing

- Ingrid Henderson has intimated that she is expecting a baby in March, and I congratulate her, and Iain, on their happy news. I intend to find a temporary replacement for Ingrid to cover her maternity leave, which is likely to commence at the end of February.
- A review of staff salaries and contracts was carried out by Anne Barke and is dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.
- We had a staff meeting on 14 September in Portree.
- Our next staff get-together will be in Oban on 14 December.
- Staff Gaelic Grammar training days have been organised for 5 and 19 December.

Youth Music Initiative

Rae MacEachern continues to have the day-to-day responsibility for this, and much more has happened in the way of training and production of resources that I was able to cope with on my own. The problems we had at the beginning of term have been overcome, and the programme is being run successfully.

Chris Rasdale, Fèis Rois's Education Officer, has left to take up a new life in France, and that leaves a gap that needs to be filled as quickly as possible to ensure that the large part of the contract that Fèis Rois fulfils will continue smoothly.

Blas

Blas 2006 was a great success. The festival is much more than 9 days of events, but is the vehicle for the continued support of 5 Fèis Cèilidh Trails, an annual Gaelic Music in Schools Week, as well as the vibrant 9-day festival.

In 2006, over 200 traditional musicians were employed to perform at 43 events in 7 areas of the Highland Council area. Gaelic featured in all publicity materials and on Blas website, and Gaelic-speaking 'presenters' were utilised for every event. Gaelic was used at every event by Gaelic singers and other performers, and every member of the audience got a Gaelic phrase card.

Part of its success, I think, is that Blas utilises 2 well-established networks: the Fèis movement and the Promoters' Arts Network – PAN. Over 400 volunteers were involved in putting Blas on in 2006.

Audience figures have almost doubled in the first 2 years of Blas, with people coming from all over the world - some specifically for Blas events.

4,600 people attended in 2006 (2,633 in 2005), and here are some other statistics:

- Overall rating 4.4 out of 5 for events across the board - 88% satisfaction
- 4.6 out of 5 for 'value for money' (4.4 in 2005) - 92%
- 3.9 out of 5 for Gaelic language element (4 in 2005) - 78%
- 70% local or from the Highlands (73% in 2005)
- 7% from other areas of Scotland (8% in 2005)
- 11% from other areas of UK (11% in 2005)
- 12% from overseas (8% in 2005)

Our plans for 2007 are well advanced, and we aim to make it an extra special event as a part of Highland 2007, to include:

- Inverness and surrounding area will be included
- Involvement with Runrig at Drumnadrochit
- Radio Scotland launch of Blas again in 2007
- Blas will feature at the Rugby International at Murrayfield
- Harvest will be part of Blas 2007
- Larger scale events will raise profile and increase revenue

Gaelic Arts Strategic Development - GASD

GASD's work is ongoing and we have been involved as a group in preparing a Gaelic Arts Strategy as part of a submission as a response to the National Plan for Gaelic, published by Bòrd na Gàidhlig recently.

GASD has also published some research on attitudes to, and participation in, Gaelic arts activity. I have e-mailed this round Board members, as it is a fairly hefty document!

Contact with the fèisean

- I have been in touch with all Fèisean by letter and in disseminating information
- I was in touch with all fèisean with information about the election of Board members for Fèisean nan Gàidheal
- I attended Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Conference in Uist
- I attended Fèis Rois's Ceòlraidh concert in Dingwall on 30 October, which was a wonderful occasion
- I met with Rita Hunter of Fèis Rois, in Dingwall, on 3 November
- At the time of writing I am due to attend a meeting of the Lochaber Fèisean Steering Group in Fort William on 1 December
- At the time of writing I am due to meet with Fèis Spè on 4 December

Meetings and other events attended

- 27 September: Attended the Highland 2007 launch at the Scottish Parliament, which included music from Fèis Rois youngsters
- 5 October: Blas meeting in Aigas
- 9 October: Meeting with John MacDonald to discuss monitoring of Highland Council funds
- 10 October: Meeting with the Scottish Arts Council in Edinburgh, along with Ken Houston, to discuss funding for Fèisean nan Gàidheal
- 16-20 October: National Mòd in Dunoon
- 27 October: Blas Action Group meeting in Strathpeffer
- 1 November: Meeting with RSAMD, Plockton Centre of Excellence & Bryan Beattie in Plockton
- 9 November: Presentation to Highland Council's Education, Culture & Sport Committee about Blas 2006
- 15 November: Fèisean nan Gàidheal Executive Group meeting in Cluanie
- 16 November: GASD meeting in Inverness
- 21 November: Blas meeting in Fort William
- 27 November: GASD research launch in Inverness
- 1 December: CPD music meeting at the Scottish Arts Council in Edinburgh
- 2 December: Book launch and Traditional Music Awards in Fort William

David Boag, Development Manager

Introduction

The last couple of months have been very busy again, especially with the Blas festival, Gaelic developments and the theatre-in-education projects. Over and above that, there have been many Fèisean taking place and I took some leave to take part as a judge in the European Minority Language Contest "Liet Lavlut" in Sweden and to take part in the Mod in Dunoon.

Management of Staff

A great deal of my time now is taken with managing staff; in the Inverness office on a daily basis, Fiona MacInnes in Stornoway, Christine MacIntyre in Argyll and John Jo MacNeil in Barra. I attended a staff meeting held in Portree, 14th September.

Gaelic Developments

I attended a training course in Perth, 4th and 5th November, organised by Calum Alex MacMillan. The aim of the course was to encourage more people to take part in the "Sgioba-G" project. Lack of personnel with the necessary skills to undertake "Sgioba-G" commitments has been one of the key difficulties with the programme to date. Fifteen people attended the course in Perth and I am now more hopeful that we have enough people to progress this project to the next level.

Over and above that, I have been working closely with Dougie Beck on the Lewis and Harris drama project and the "Meanbh-Chuileag" tour. Also with Christine MacIntyre and Dougie on the Argyll Drama project.

Over the next month I will be working on our application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for Gaelic Developments in 2007/8. This application has to follow their "National Plan for Gaelic" and the five key priorities identified; vitality, status, communication, education and culture.

I wrote the reply on behalf of Fèisean nan Gàidheal as part of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's public consultation on their "Draft National Plan for Gaelic."

Blas Festival

I was heavily involved with the Blas festival at the beginning of September. I was M.C. at three of the concerts, across the Highlands and I enjoyed each of them. I am the chair of the Blas action group and I am happy to say that the festival was very successful. Just under 5,000 people attended the concerts, with the majority of these being sold in advance. The Cèilidh Trails played a big part in the event and I think that Blas is very supportive of the Fèis movement all over the Highlands.

As well as that, the place of Gaelic was very strong at Blas and it is an example of best practice to other music festivals to place Gaelic nearer the centre of things, rather than being on the periphery.

We are working hard at the moment on the Blas 2007 programme, with the aim of this being ready and in print at the start of the year. We recognise that there will be a lot of competition from other events in 2007 and we must be much more efficient than we have been with our marketing.

I attended a meeting of the "Promoters Arts Network Forum" in Strathpeffer, where I gave a verbal presentation on Blas and answered their queries.

Training

I undertook training in "Adobe Audition" from Chris DePlano in Inverness, 24th October. It is our aim to prepare a "podcast" each quarter for the new Fèisean nan Gàidheal website.

Meetings and co-operation with other groups

- Board meeting in Benbecula, 15th September.
- I was an adjudicator at the S W Ross local Mod in Plockton, 29th September.
- I attended a meeting with the Cairngorms National Park Authority in Grantown, 26th September to discuss the establishment of a Cèilidh Trail.
- I attended the PAN forum in Strathpeffer, 27th September.
- I met with Dr Anna Carr of the University of Otago, New Zealand who is in Scotland conducting research into cultural initiatives that have links to language and tourist developments. She came with me to Fèis a' Bhaile for a short time.

- I attended a meeting of the main Gaelic organisations, at Bòrd na Gàidhlig's offices in Inverness, 16th November.
- I attended the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Executive Group meeting at Cluaine Inn, 15th November.

Visits to Fèisean

- I attended the Fèisean nan Gàidheal AGM and Conference in Benbecula, 15th and 16th September.
- I was fortunate to be at the Fèis Rois "Ceòlraidh" concert in Dingwall, 30th September.
- I visited Fèis a' Bhaile in Inverness, 16th and 17th October where they had their biggest attendance to date. I also think that they did an excellent job in raising the profile of Gaelic at their Fèis, for example, plenty of Gaelic signage around and about.
- I met Judith Bullivant of Fèis Spè in Grantown, 26 October.

Iona MacDonald, Training Development Officer

Approaching the end of the year, we are expecting to hear the outcome of our application for funding to the Highlands and Islands Programme Partnership (ESF). This application was for over £80K (of which £40K would come from ESF) for our training courses. A meeting will be held at the beginning of December to discuss applications, and we will hear shortly after that.

Information on courses

- Collecting Culture – Inverness – 28 October 2006 – with Cailean Maclean and DW Stiùbhart.
- Ceòl Beag – Port Rìgh – 18/19 An t-Samhain – postponed.
- Committee training – This will now happen at the beginning of February in Inverness. A draft of the timetable is as follows:

Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Market (Draft)							
Inverness, 3/4 February 2007							
Saturday	9.30 - 10	10 - 11.15	Break	11.30 - 1	1pm -2pm Lunch	2.00 - 3.15	Break 3.30 -5
Room							
Ness Room	Welcome	First Aid (all day...) with Bob Law, RML			Safety Training		
Rm 1	Gaelic 1 (Beginners) With Gilleasbuig Ferguson	Gaelic 2 (Improvers)	Lunch	Gaelic 3 (Grammar)	Gaelic 4 (Writing)		
Rm 2	Computer Basics (1) Word with Marion Douglas	Outlook Email with Marion Douglas	Lunch	Computer Basics (2) Excel with Marion Douglas	Computer Databases with Marion Douglas		
Rm 3	Marketing & Press	Child Protection	Lunch	Committee & Board Responsibilities Iona	Fundraising		
Kenneth St Hall	Using PA with David Boag			Lunch			
Sunday	9.30 -10	10 - 11.15	11.30 - 1	1pm - 2pm	2.00 - 3.15	Finish	
Rm 1	Risk Assessment	Accounting/Bud geting	Lunch	Event Management & Fèis Organisation Nicola et al Graphics for Posters			
Rm 2	Gaelic Activities for Kids Dougie/Calum Alex	Web Design	Lunch	Celtic Art Projects Jane Bregazzi			
Rm 3	Highland History/Culture Iona	Gaelic Music & Song	Lunch				

- At the AGM of Fèisean nan Gàidheal on 15/16 September in Benbecula, we heard from Cathlin MacAulay of the School of Scottish Studies. She delivered a talk on the work of the School in the Uists that was superb in every way. We also visited some of the museums in Uist by bus, and received a running commentary from Tommy MacDonald that was both scholarly and fascinating.
- In the meantime, long-running courses such as the Access to Gaelic course (SMO), staff development and forward development of the plan are taking place.
- We also have a date for the next Level 1 & 2 Tutor Training, which will take place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on 17/18 February 2007
- Other Work
- TMTTN – currently producing support materials for the delivery of the Certificate in Music Tuition in colleges.
- GASD – currently working on training needs and professional development for personnel within the Gaelic Arts.

Nicola Marshall, Development Officer

I spent September out and about. At the start of the month I was at a number of Blas concerts mainly in the outlying areas. In addition to that I spent a couple of days in Skye before heading to our AGM. I really enjoyed the trip to Uist, especially the weather! October was busy with Fèisean and at the moment I am busy with my usual work as well as projects for Highland 2007 and a new project for the Cairngorms National Park. Myself and the other support/development workers are working together to finish off a hand-book for all the Fèisean.

Fèisean

Fèis a 'Bhaile

The main Fèis took place in the second week of October with 80 participants and a great week was had by all. Drama classes are continuing as usual and I will be meeting with Katie Adam and Maree Nicolson to look at the possibilities of developing Maree's post as administrator.

Fèis a' Bhealaich

Fèis a' Bhealaich had a busy month in September. They hosted a Blas concert in Applecross village hall which was very busy. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Shortly after that they held their main Fèis.

Fèis Chataibh

In September the Fèis Chataibh Cèilidh Trailers had the opportunity to participate in Blas which they really enjoyed. I attend the Fèis AGM on the 28th of September and the committee welcomed two new members. At present the committee are starting to plan their main Fèis which will take place in the first week in July as usual.

Fèis Chille Mhoraig

The main Fèis took place in the Craigmonie Centre in Drumnadrochit. The committee were slightly concerned about a lack of participants prior to the event but the weekend turned out to be reasonably well attended. The AGM will be taking place sometime in the next few weeks.

Fèis an Earraich

The Cèilidh Trailers from Fèis an Earraich were also involved in Blas and they had four very good performances. Some of the Cèilidh Trail along with some other Fèis participants and two committee members are on a trip to Northern Ireland at the moment. Fèis an Earraich will also hold their AGM in the near future.

Fèis Gleann Albainn

I continue to work with Fèis Gleann Albainn on their 'Nessfest' project and the project is developing to involve the whole community. As well as the festival the committee are also working hard on plans for their adult fèis which will take place in February.

Fèis Inbhir Narann

Fèis Inbhir Narann took place in Nairn Academy at the beginning of October. The Fèis was open to children and adults and they all received expert tuition. Regular classes continue to run weekly.

Fèis na h-Òige

The Fèis continue to run Gaelic Song classes for teenagers and they are very popular with participants. I recently worked with the committee to run a series of art workshops as part of their project for Highland 2007.

At the last workshop Gaelic children's program 'De a Nis?' joined us for the day and we hope they will be able to come back at the end of the project when the completed banners will be on display.

Fèis Spè

Fèis Spè are busy as ever. Their main Fèis took place in October in Grantown. Last week they organised a 'Marathon Strip the Willow' as a fund raiser for the Fèis. The winter Cèilidh Trail will be taking place again this winter and myself and David Boag will be working with the Fèis and Cairngorm Leader+ on a new project for the National Park.

Fèis Farr

Fèis Farr have started a new block of classes this month and they will run monthly up until April.

Fèis Thròdairnis

I attended the Fèis Throdairnis AGM in September and it was agreed that the Fèis would be put on hold for the moment due to the lack of local support and the fact that a number of the committee are leaving the area. A number of Fèis instruments have gone missing in recent times and it is hoped these will be recalled. I will work with the remaining committee members to look at the longer-term options for the Fèis.

Fèis Ratharsaidh

The Fèis will take place in February as normal and Rebecca has been working on a funding application for the SAC for year round classes.

Fèis Rois

Autumn was very busy for Fèis Rois. They were also involved in Blas and they had their annual teenage fèis. At present they are looking for a new Education Officer as Chris Rasdale will be leaving.

Fèis Air an Oir

I visited Fèis Air an Oir while I was out and about with Blas and it was good to hear Fèis participants at the Blas concert. The Fèis continue to run their program of fortnightly classes.

Fèis Alba

Fèis Alba will once again, be taking place from the 2nd to the 6th of July in Plockton.

Meetings & events in addition to regular meetings

August

- 31 - Meeting with Judith Bullivant

September

- 1 - Blas - Wick
- Blas – Strathy
- 7 - Blas – Raasay
- 8 - Blas – Applecross
- 9 - Blas - Staffin
- 14 - Staff meeting, Portree
- 15 – 16 FnG AGM & Conference
- 25 - Blas meeting, Inverness

October

- 5 - Fèis Inbhir Narann visit
- 13 - Fèis Spè visit
- 16 - Fèis a' Bhaile
- 17 - Fèis a' Bhaile
- 23 - Meeting with Ingrid, Fort William
- 26 - Meeting with Cairngorm Leader+, Grantown
- 27 - Blas meeting, Strathpeffer
- 31 - Informal meeting with Mairi Oakley

November

- 7 - Meeting with Bill Sylvester, Florians Theatre

- 7 - Nessfest meeting, Fort Augustus
- 14 - RSAMD/SAC Training & Development Focus group
- 18 - Assisting with Fèis na h-Òige 2007 Project
- 21 - Blas meeting, Fort William

Ingrid Henderson, Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer

Busy as ever in Lochaber. I remember a time when the latter part of the year was less hectic for Fèis work but that doesn't seem to be the case now funding claims to be made and preparations for new Projects as part of the Highland Year of Culture in 2007.

Blas

The Blas Festival ran extremely well in September with nine concerts happening throughout Lochaber. I attended eight out of the nine either in a representative or hosting capacity and I thoroughly enjoyed my week. Feedback has been great and some useful pointers have also come back from audience and musicians on improvements for next year which plans are already afoot for. The Blas group has met a few times now to plan the 2007 event and after various brain storming sessions we hope to have the final line up and programme on line from January.

Cèilidh Trail Project

In this period the Cèilidh Trailers have been involved in the Blas Festival in a supporting role at gigs in Lochaber. They were brilliant as ever and will be appearing together for the last time this year at the Trad Music Awards in Fort William in December.

Finances are being tied up for the 2006 trail with Leader+ and Lochaber Enterprise before we begin a new round of auditions and planning for the 2007 Trail. From next year onwards the funding will come from Highlands and Islands Enterprise through Fèisean nan Gaidheal.

Project Applications

I've been involved in raising funds for a few Fèisean projects over these months. Details are as below:

Fèis	Detail	Amount	Stage
Òigridh na Mara	Instrument purchase and workshops	£8500	Successful and running. Secured £5000
Garbh Chrìochan	Shinty Equipment	£2000	In process. Awaiting result.
Eige	Instrument purchase	Approx £1500	In process. Awaiting result.
Glenfinnan 07	Gaelic classes and culture events	£9000	In process. Awaiting result.

YMI

The second block is complete now for this year and feedback is being sought from the schools as to how this has gone and in particular how the new elements (lesson plans and resource packs) are going. Fiona is still working part time for the scheme but since all of the mainland schools are planned for the year, the island school visits are taking priority.

As part of the Highland 2007 celebrations schools have been asked to run extra cultural activity for next year and all of the Lochaber clusters have made an approach to me at the office to help with this provision. With input from them I have drafted up rough costings and initial proposals for all four in order that they could use these at planning meeting in November. These include plans for come and try Fèis days, extra Gaelic song workshops, Gaelic song writing and performances. I am still awaiting final decisions from the schools on these proposals but if they go ahead this will mean more related work for the YMI post of other Fèis workers programming the projects.

Acharacle Primary School

Unfortunately we are still waiting on word from Highland Council about the VAT issues and if we can claim this back through them in order to keep the SAC funding amount under the upper limit of 75%. I have been trying

to get a steer on this from Brian Hemming since June 12th but I have no conclusive answer as yet. Although this won't hold up the building in anyway we would still like to know if this main source of funding will be possible.

The building project itself is also delayed at present due to very high tenders coming forward. There will be a meeting in Acharacle to discuss this in December, which Lesley will attend on the Fèis behalf.

Other

I have been helping Simon and Jennifer with plans for the Trad Music Awards coming to Fort William in December. The Lochaber Fèisean will be helping and stewarding at the event and as well as the Cèilidh Trail performing we are also providing other young musicians for sessions. The Fèis book launch will also take place in the afternoon before the Awards.

Lochaber Enterprise: I have attended my first meeting as a Director of Lochaber Enterprise and I think this will prove very useful to the Fèisean and the general profile of the Gaelic arts and community sector in the future.

Fèis Guide: I have been involved in the creation of a Fèis best practise Guide to help Fèisean young and old improve their work. With help from the support and development workers, the guide pulls together good examples of letter, contracts, registration forms and a timeline for carrying out tasks, as well as general information about grants and Fèis support. This is complete and will be circulated in CD and paper form at the beginning of December.

Attended meetings/events:

September	1-9	Attendance at Blas events
	13	Meeting with Lesley, Garbh Chriochan
	14	Staff meeting, Portree
	15/16	Attendance at the FnG AGM, Benbecula
	25	Blas meeting, Inverness
	28	Working with Fèis Oigridh na Mara
October	2	Gaelic Development meeting, Fort William
	6	Working with Lesley, Garbh Chriochan
	9	Trip to visit Fèis Eige
	10	Meeting with Deirdre MacDonald, Fort William school
	cluster	
	23	Working with staff on Fèis Guide, Camaghael
	24	YMI Meeting, Camaghael
	27	Blas Meeting, Satrthpeffer
	27	Garbh Chriochan Gathering, Acharacle
	30	Mod07 meeting, Fort William
31	Lochaber Enterprise Director's meeting, Glenuig	
November	6	Working with Niki, Fèis oigridh na Mara
	8	Meeting with Simon Thoumire, Nevis Centre
	9	Attendance at Glenfinnan 07 meeting
	14	Fèis Lochabar AGM, Camaghael
	21	Blas meeting Fort William

Fiona MacInnes, Support Worker

Following a hectic and busy summer, things have quietened down slightly during the last few months for the Western Isles Fèisean.

Some of the Fèisean have held their AGMs, and I have made every effort to attend. There have been difficulties enticing new people to come along to the meetings and therefore a lack of numbers and choice for the election of office bearers. Indeed this is not a new phenomenon for the Fèis movement or for other voluntary organisation. It is usually the same people that are involved in the organisation over a number of years, and they would like to see other people taking over. It is necessary and very important that people take an interest

in the Fèis within their own area, especially parents with young and participating children, to ensure its continuity.

Over the next few months, I will endeavour to assist and advise the Fèis committees where it is needed, in particular with their new projects, fundraising and any help required with the completion of the 2007/08 grant forms. A fourth Western Isles Regional meeting will be held in Barra before the end of March 2007, but only if there is insufficient interest shown in the planned training weekend in Inverness in February. I will continue to contact the Fèis committees on a regular basis, and attend meetings whenever possible.

I will be based in Uist for the month of January 2007 whilst I do my school placement in Sgoil Lionacleit

Fèis Bharraigh

- I met with the Fèis Bharraigh Support worker in Benbecula on 6 October and in Barra on 8 November.
- Devised questionnaire for parents re views on winter and master classes, a FB instrument bank and the Summer Fèis in general.
- The AGM will be held on 4 December.

Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich

- I attended a meeting on 6 September
- The AGM will be held on 30 November.

Fèis Eilean na Hearadh

- In contact with admin worker by telephone and email.
- The committee have not met since having their Fèis in July.

Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh

- In contact with new admin worker by telephone and email.
- There are plans to have Ceòl Nis during first week of July as opposed to August

Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain

- Attended AGM in Kildonan on 5 October
- The winter classes began in November.

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna

- I attended the AGM in Carinish on 8 November – Insufficient numbers and interest to fill the roles of committee office bearers.
- Met with the secretary on 10 November to devise a questionnaire for parents.
- To attend an EGM in Carinish on 22 November.

Fèis an Rubha

- In contact with secretary by email.
- The committee have not met since having their Fèis in August.

Other

- Attended a staff meeting in Portree on 14 September.
- Attended AGM in Benbecula on 15 and 16 September.
- Attended a Heritage and Arts seminar in the Lanntair, Stornoway, on 10 and 11 November
- Had a meeting with Dougie Beck in Stornoway office on 30 October, to discuss the drama projects for primary school in Lewis and Harris, Pròiseact Dràma Leòdhais agus na Hearadh (PDLH)
- I visited schools to discuss and to do some drama re PDLH – Back School on 31 October and Aird School on 3 November.
- To attend Leverburgh School on 22 November re PDLH and another visit to Aird School on 29 November.

Christine MacIntyre, Support Worker

Fèis Arainn (Arran)

Quiet at the moment. They are soon to be investigating funding avenues, fiddle classes ongoing.

Fèis Dumbarton (Dumbarton)

Preparing for the next fèis. There seems to be a little uncertainty as to whether the school choir project proceeded or not, still trying to clarify this matter and hope to attend their next meeting later this month.

Fèis Innis a Uillt (Meadowburn)

Sourcing tutors for their next fèis. They were a little disappointed at there being no picture of their fèis in the new Fèis Book and to there being some inaccuracies in their section!

Fèis Latharna (Oban)

Ongoing. They have submitted an application under YMI in the informal sector and are awaiting news on that. There is a new committee since their last AGM.

Fèis Lannraig a Tuath (North Lanarkshire)

This is their fundraising time so they are busy organising cèilidhean etc for their 07 fèis

Fèis Mhuile (Mull)

This fèis has changed its committee yet again! So I will need to go to Mull to see what is going on.

Mull/Latharna Project

It has now ended and I am in the middle of writing the end of term report.

Fèis Òigridh Ile (Islay)

I am assisting them in investigating the possibility of securing funding for a musician in residence that will cover Islay, Jura & Colonsay

Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu (Glasgow Drama)

This fèis seems to be securing it's funding from the various councils involved and has not used up this years fèis grant

Fèis Chile Chonbhail (Inverclyde)

According to Alasdair Law, this fèis is very busy organising next year's programme

Fèis Ghlaschu (Glasgow)

Still awaiting an update from Rona MacDonald regarding this fèis.

Fèis Thiriodh (Tiree)

Busy progressing next year's fèis with winter classes ongoing

Fèis Cheann Loch Goil (Lochgoilhead)

Progressing well. Preparing for a two day residential Fèis to be held in March 2007

Meetings

September

- Uist AGM
- Appin (1)
- Glasgow (3)
- Oban (3)
- Lochgoilhead (1)

October

- Oban (3)
- Glasgow (3)
- Edinburgh (1)
- Fort William (1)
- Helensburgh (1)

Novmeber

- Glasgow (4)
- Inverness (1)
- Helensburgh (1)

- Ardrishaig (1)

Activities

- Disclosures ongoing
- Training for video and editing
- Gaelic grammar course Inverness
- YMI application for Fèis Latharna
- Researching for pod casting
- Argyll Drama Fèis organising ongoing.

Conclusion

Trying to keep apace of Argyll & Bute's implementation plan regarding future funding for fèis projects especially involving Gaelic elements.

Dougie Beck, Gaelic Officer (Dràma)

I acted as MC at Blas concerts in Wick, Durness, Strathpeffer, Kingussie, Balintore and Invergarry. These concerts were all very successful.

Sgioba-G

I attended Fèis Spè for a day, where I was assisting in setting up the Sgioba-G squad for the week.

I was greatly involved in the training weekend that was held in Perth at the start of November for people who wish to teach Gaelic at Fèisean as part of Sgioba-G. I held workshops in a number of different subjects, such as drama and games.

The Mod

Myself and Calum Alex went to Dunoon where we held art workshops for children attending the competitions. Around 50 children, from all corners of Scotland, attended the workshops.

Website etc

Myself and Chris Deplano have met to talk about the new website, especially about ways to encourage teenagers to use Gaelic in creative ways (podcasting etc). I have also met with Christine to talk about the same subject. We have concluded that a facility such as Bebo or MySpace, but in Gaelic, would be a benefit to teenagers, but there could be online safety implications.

Drama Projects

Myself and Fiona went to six primary schools (Stornoway, Back, Breasclate, Shawbost, Aird and Leverburgh) in Lewis and Harris at the start of November to carry out the first of the project's workshops. Two more schools have come on board since then (Laxdale and Barvas). Another tutor will be going out to the schools again during the week of 11 December, and then one more time in January. An Lanntair in Stornoway has agreed to give us a night in their theatre (free of charge), as part of their Drama Festival which will be running in March. This will give the children an opportunity to display what they did in school to the general public. The aim of the project is to give children the chance to do some drama, working towards the production of a short play about 15 minutes in length based on the folklore of the school area.

Following on from the success of Pròiseact Dràma Earra Ghàidheal, the project will be repeated, starting in January. This time it will be including schools in Morar and Acharacle, along with Argyll schools. I will be doing workshops in some of the schools myself.

Meanbh-chuilleag

Rehearsals are taking place just now for the new play *Le Meas*. The play is based both in Glasgow and Afghanistan and tells the story of Chris (Coll MacDonald) and Maram (Deirdre Graham) who have met on the internet. Chris's hormones are his worst enemy just now, and he is of the opinion that everyone is against him, especially his mother and his teachers. Everything changes when he meets Maram on the internet, since he discovers how lucky he is to be living in a 'developed' country like Scotland. The play is available in Gaelic only for p4-7. In addition to the play, each school will receive a workshop based on the themes of the play and a pack of support materials.

This is the first time that Meanbh-chuileag has toured a two-person play. I have been directing the play and working on production of props.

The group will be visiting fifty-five schools between now and the end of March.

Other Work

I will be holding a workshop in Word and Photoshop in Connell for FnG staff in mid-December.

Calum Alex MacMillan, Gaelic Officer

G-team at Fèisean

From the beginning of September G-team has been working at three Fèisean.

Fèis Cille Moraig

This Fèis was held on the 22/23 September. The G-team ran classes over the two days and the team also helped with the children's concert. The Fèis wasn't very strong with regards to Gaelic and it was good to see the G-team there.

Fèis Spè

The Sgioba-G were at this Fèis which ran from the 9-13 October. A specific time was set aside for G-team activities. The two members of the G-team got further help from Gaelic speaking tutors to carry out the different activities. The classes didn't work as well as we would have hoped, but we learnt a lot from this and I'm looking forward to working with the committee to draw up a Sgioba-G which would be more suitable to the needs of the Fèis.

Fèis a' Bhaile

The Sgioba-G were at this Fèis which ran from the 16-20 October. There were two classes for G-team at this Fèis – 15minutes in the morning and 15minutes again in the afternoon. The classes worked well, although a longer class time would be needed to do more interesting projects, but apart from that the G-team leaders were happy that this worked well.

Fèis Òigridh na Mara

Unfortunately this Fèis was postponed, but when it does go ahead they will be wanting the Sgioba-G to be present.

Grammar Course

At the beginning of October I went on a grammar course run by Clì Gàidhlig. I found this very helpful and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Dunoon Mod

Dougie and I went to the Royal national Mod in Dunoon to do some children's workshops on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17. We were working alongside Fay MacDearmaid from Cnag/Sradagan with the workshops being aimed for 5-12 year olds.

There were four art-themed workshops each day and Fiona Mackenzie from the Màiri Mhòr nan Oran Fellowship ran a song and storytelling workshop on the Tuesday. The workshops were very successful with over 40 children attending over the two days. A number of parents and teachers commented on how useful these workshops were. It was clear to see that the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Meetings/Working with Chris

Chris came over to Inverness in October to give us a training exercise in Adobe edition which was very enjoyable and it will be very useful for the new website. I've also been working with Chris on some of the press releases that Fèisean nan Gàidheal send out, both on radio and through mail.

Perth Training Weekend

On the 4-5 November we held training days for people who wanted to work as part of the G-team.

There were a total of 14 participants at this training weekend. There were others who were very interested in the G-team work but couldn't make the training weekend due to other engagements.

I put together a folder together for this weekend. It gave information on a number of things including; Gaelic policy, Gaelic at Fèisean, G-team activities and responsibilities. We worked through this folder over the weekend looking at, working through various activities and speaking about Gaelic issues at Fèisean.

The participants had the chance to give their ideas for what they thought would be a useful activities for the G-team to do with children at Fèisean and a number of good ideas were discovered and taken on board!

We are very grateful to Kevin Rodgers, Gaelic officer with Perth & Kinross Council, for the financial support and the help he gave us with hotel accommodation.

Sgioba-G at Future Fèisean

There is an increased demand for the Sgioba-G at Fèisean now, and there is more and more interest from Fèisean where it has not been previously. There are two February Fèisean who want Sgioba-G.

Fèis Obar Dheathain

This Fèis are wanting the Sgioba-G back for their February Fèis. I met with the committee in October and we discussed a set time for G-team activities and also the other responsibilities and duties the G-team could have over and above running the activity classes.

Fèis Dhùn Èideann

This Fèis want the G-team for the first time. I have spoken with the committee and we have agreed on a set time for G-team classes and have also discussed the role of the G-team members over and above these classes.

I am making plans at the moment to go out and visit Fèisean and discuss the G-team and the benefits there are of having the team at their Fèis.

Future work

I am working on a new information pack to send out to Fèisean, telling them of the G-team set-up and also how the team can help out in a number of different ways and not just to run the Gaelic classes. I am certain that by having G-team at the Fèis, it would be of great benefit to Fèisean.

I am also working on a programme of fun activities for the G-team, ones which will be appealing to children whilst also aiding their Gaelic development.

By making plans to go and meet the Fèisean I would hope to talk about Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Gaelic policy, the Fèis' own Gaelic policy, Sgioba-G, and any other Gaelic related issues and help the Fèisean in any way I possibly can.

I will also be working with Chris on the website information and other media releases.

Christopher DePlano, Communications & Marketing Officer

Since taking up my new post I have tied up most 'loose ends' connected with the publication of the book. At the end of October we took delivery of 4,000 copies of the book. As soon as they arrived I began preparing for the book-launch. I sent out more than 300 invitations and 150 complimentary books to individuals and organisations who were involved and supported the project. At this stage, I'm hoping to host the book launch at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William prior to the Trad Music Awards.

I have also been researching, planning and designing the structure of the new websites for both FnanG and Blas. Working with Pelican Design in Portree. I hope that the new websites will go active early in the new year.

As part of this particular project, I spent a day working with the team in Inverness. I trained them on how to make their own Mp3's for 'podcasting' on the new website. We also discussed the Gaelic policy and the form Sgioba-G would take, online. Also, I met with Brian Ó hEadhra from Blas to discuss the re-development of the Blas website.

After an absence of a year and a half, a new Faileas has been published, in time for the book launch. Although this publication took a little longer than anticipated, I am confident that it will please everyone.

In terms of news output, I managed to get a piece on a Sgiob-G session in Perth on Radio nan Gàidheal and convinced De a Nis to do a piece of a Fèis a Bhaile activity on Inverness.

I spent two days at a strategic marketing course, led by Hi-Arts in October. I am hoping to continue with my training programme very soon.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Election of Board

Agenda Item: 4.2006.05(c)

Members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal were invited to submit nominations for election to the Board of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, for a fixed term of 3 years, as follows:

- The nominee from the Western Isles Fèisean who polls the highest number of votes
- The nominee from The Highland Council area Fèisean who polls the highest number of votes
- The nominee from Argyll & Bute area Fèisean who polls the highest number of votes
- The nominee from all other areas in which Fèisean take place who polls the highest number of votes

Since there was only one nomination from the Argyll & Bute area Fèisean, Elizabeth Bain was automatically elected for a period of three years.

Since there was only one nomination from 'all other areas', Michael Sweeney was automatically elected for a period of three years.

Since there were no nominations from Highland Council area and Western Isles Fèisean, a further opportunity has been given to Fèisean in those areas to put forward nominations, which have to be received by me either by post, fax, or personal delivery, not later than 5pm on Monday 4 December 2006.

I will update Board members at the meeting on whether or not we have attracted nominees, and if not, we can discuss how the Board would like to go about filling the remaining places.

Arthur Cormack
Director
December 2006



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