



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

A' toirt ar dualchais do ar n-òigridh

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Castlebay Hall, Isle of Barra

Tuesday 29 May 2007 @ 6pm

Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Taigh a' Mhill
Port-Rìgh
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach
IV51 9BZ

Fòn 01478 613355
Facs 01478 613399
Post-d brath@feisean.org
www.feisean.org

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in the Castlebay Hall, Isle of Barra from 6pm on Tuesday 29 May 2007

Agenda

2.2007.01 PRELIMINARIES

- (a) **Present**
- (b) **Apologies**
- (c) **Minutes of the last meeting of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board**
Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007 are circulated. Board members are asked to approve same as a true record of the meeting.
- (d) **Matters arising**
Board members are invited to raise any issues not included elsewhere on the agenda.
- (e) **Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group**
Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Group, held on 14 May 2007, are circulated for information. Board members are invited to raise any points they wish from those minutes.

2.2007.02 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 in a new format. Board members may discuss any issues arising from this summary.

2.2007.03 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 30 April 2007. Also included is a list of grants pledged to Fèisean for 2007-08. Board members are invited to 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 31 March 2007**
Management Accounts to 31 March 2007, provided by Nicolson & Co will be tabled at the Board meeting. Board members are invited to note the information contained in the accounts.

2.2007.04 POLICY ISSUES

- (a) **Blas Festival Ltd**
At the last Board meeting, Board members were asked to nominate directors for the Board of new company – Blas Festival Ltd – and a short report is circulated by the Director seeking a decision on who should be approached to represent Fèisean nan Gàidheal on the new Board.

2.2007.05 STAFFING ISSUES

(a) Proposals to change the staffing structure

The Director has prepared a short background paper, with diagrams, detailing proposals to change the structure of staff within Fèisean nan Gàidheal. He will make a presentation at the meeting and Board members will be asked to discuss the proposals with a view to having a Board/Staff session, sometime soon, to fully discuss all the issues with staff present.

In addition, the Chair wishes to raise discussion about the best way to elect or appoint Board members and a Chair, and the length of time for which they are appointed, in order to ensure that expertise is kept within the organisation. Katie Adam will lead a discussion on these issues.

2.2007.06 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

The 2007 AGM and Conference will be held in Aviemore on 14 and 15 September. Board members are asked to consider the content of the programme and a shortlist of people to be invited as guest speaker/s.

(c) Election of Directors

Board members are asked to note that Peggy MacLennan of Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich has been appointed to the Board following Tommy MacDonald's withdrawal from the election process.

2.2007.07 OTHER

(a) Meeting of the Executive Group

The papers from the Executive Group meeting held on 14 May have been circulated in their entirety by e-mail only. Board members are welcome to raise any points they wish from those papers.

(b) Date of next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for 14 September in Aviemore.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held in The Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport, on Monday 26 February 2007 from 1.30pm

Agenda Item: 2.2007.01(c)

1.2007.01 PRELIMINARIES

(a) Present

Katie Adam (Chair), Peggy Nicolson (Vice Chair), Jane MacNeil, George Stoddart, Laura Green, Michael Sweeney, Elizabeth Bain, Ian Smith (SAC), Arthur Cormack (Attending), David Boag (Attending), Anne Willoughby (Attending), Calum Alex MacMillan (Attending - translating), Alasdair Macleod (HIE - via conference call)

Laura Green was welcomed to her first Board meeting.

(b) Apologies

Jessie Newton, Alasdair MacDonald, Morag Anna MacLeod (The Highland Council)

(c) Minutes of the last meeting of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board

Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 December 2006 had been circulated. George Stoddart and Peggy Nicolson approved these as a true record of the meeting.

(d) Matters arising

Laura Green had to fill in a Companies House form 288a for new directors.

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

Minutes of the Executive Group held at Cluanie Inn on 12 February 2007 were circulated and contents noted by Board members.

1.2007.02 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 was circulated and noted by the Board members. Most of the funding had been secured. It had been agreed at the Executive Group meeting that the way of reporting this was to be updated.

(b) Ceòl nam Fèis concerts as part of Highland 2007

David Boag had prepared a paper on this project, which looked at one time as if it would have to be shelved due to lack of funds. Board members approved plans for the proposed series of showcase concerts.

(c) Support for Fèisean not within the Western Isles, Highland or Argyll & Bute

A report by the Director was circulated for discussion considering how best to support Fèisean within areas not covered by the local authorities that have traditionally supported our activities. The proposal was to employ an officer who would be based within the area of local authority that ended up funding the project. SAC support was also required, and Ian Smith mentioned that SAC would want to see a partnership with a local authority.

(d) New Fèisean nan Gàidheal Website

Sample pages from the new website were shown to Board members to give an idea of what the new site will be like. Board members had been asked to e-mail Arthur Cormack with their agreement to the use of the new logo, and this had been agreed.

The Blas website was part of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website and was being developed first because of the urgency to get the 2007 programme on sale.

1.2007.03 FINANCIAL ISSUES

(a) Financial Report

A report prepared by the Finance & Administration Officer, Anne Willoughby, had been circulated showing income and expenditure to and from Fèisean nan Gàidheal to 31 January 2007. Also included was a list of grants pledged to Fèisean for 2006-07. Board members were invited discuss any points relating to the information.

It was reported by Anne Willoughby that there had been minor cashflow problems but there was a significant amount of money to come in before the year-end. The first payment from HIE was due to come in and the final payment due in before the end of March. Angus Nicolson had to certify expenditure.

(b) Bank Balances and up to date information

The current balances, rounded up to the nearest pound, were:

- Current account: £22,000.00
- Hi-Interest account: £811.39

(c) Quarterly Accounts to 31 December 2006

Management Accounts to 31 December 2006, provided by Nicolson & Co, were circulated for information. Board members were invited to note the information contained in the accounts.

Ian Smith gave an update on funding from SAC. Fèisean nan Gàidheal were to receive £100,000 of lottery funding in addition to the core funding of £250,000 agreed. He confirmed that SAC were firmly committed to supporting language, culture and music and that Fèisean nan Gàidheal's role was important in this.

1.2007.04 POLICY ISSUES

(a) Changes to procedures for election of Directors

The recent election for a representative from the Western Isles Fèisean highlighted some shortcomings in the procedures set down for the election of Board members. A short report from the Director was circulated outlining ways to rectify this for future elections, which Board members were asked to discuss.

It was agreed to contact Douglas Graham to find out if Board members could have a vote among themselves to make a decision, or whether the election had to run again. It was agreed to re-run the election so that the Board member could attend the next meeting.

(b) Blas Festival Ltd

It had become necessary to form a new company – Blas Festival Ltd – that will be VAT-registered and will run the festival. It was necessary for Fèisean nan Gàidheal to nominate directors to serve on the Board of the new company and the Director for consideration and approval circulated a short report. It was agreed that Board members would e-mail Arthur suggestions for Board members for the new company.

1.2007.05 OPERATIONAL ISSUES

(a) Staff Progress Reports

Progress Reports from staff were circulated and their contents noted by Board members.

Elizabeth Bain reported the regional training weekend had been very successful and congratulated Iona and all the staff involved. George Stoddart asked that the Board's thanks be passed on to Iona.

(b) 2007 Annual Conference and AGM

Fèis Spè had invited us to take our Annual Conference and AGM to their area, Badenoch & Strathspey, in 2007. Anne Willoughby reported on quotations received from various establishments in the area. The Duke of Gordon Hotel and MacDonald Aviemore Resort Hotels were the two hotels being

considered. It was decided to approach the MacDonald Hotels again with a view to securing a reduction in costs.

(c) Election of Directors

This was already covered under an earlier point. Arthur Cormack was going to organise to re-run the election.

1.2007.06 OTHER

(a) A O C B

The Gaelic arts policy was being updated and Ian Smith was putting together a reference group.

He reported that Graham Berry, SAC's Chief Executive, was leaving on Wednesday and that he was getting married in July. Arthur Cormack had already written to him and sent a copy of Fèis: the 25th anniversary book.

The director mentioned that the response to the GASD strategy was in process.

Elizabeth Bain expressed concerns regarding a new Fèis setting up in Dunoon. Further clarification was required, and it was agreed that Douglas Beck would contact Elizabeth regarding this before making his trip to Dunoon.

(b) Meeting of the Executive Group

The papers from the Executive Group meeting held on 12 February were circulated in their entirety by e-mail only. Board members noted this.

(c) Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 29 May in Barra.

Katie Adam thanked everyone for attending, and Calum Alex for translations.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

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

Monday 14 May from 3.00pm

Agenda item: 2.2007.01(e)

EX2.2007.01 PRELIMINARIES

(a) Present

Katie Adam (Fèis a' Bhaile, Chair), George Stoddart (Fèis sa Mheadhan, Secretary/Treasurer), Peggy Nicolson (Fèis an Earraich, Vice-Chair), Arthur Cormack (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Director), David Boag (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Manager), Anne Willoughby (Fèisean nan Gàidheal Finance & Administration Officer), Alasdair MacLeod (Highlands & Islands Enterprise).

(b) Apologies

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

(c) Minutes of previous Executive Group meeting for approval

The minutes were approved as a true record.

(d) Matters arising

Alasdair MacLeod enquired about sales of 'Fèis: 25 years of the Fèis Movement'. It was reported that sales had been slow but distributors were being approached to increase sales. It was anticipated that Fèisean would sell more in the summer months.

EX2.2007.02 PROJECT UPDATES

(a) Bòrd na Gàidhlig contract 2007-08 (verbal)

David Boag provided updates on Sgioba-G. £65,000 was confirmed from Bòrd na Gàidhlig for Gaelic Developments. He reported that Bòrd na Gàidhlig wanted all drama groups working together to develop a Gaelic summer School. This would help raise interest among teenagers and students and increase numbers for Sgioba-G to draw on.

(b) Training Programme (verbal)

The Director reported that uptake for Cùrsa Inntrigidh was on-going and Gaelic grammar lessons for staff were continuing with another two days planned for June and August. Regional training sessions had gone ahead in the Western Isles the previous weekend. Another Tutor training session was planned for August.

(c) YMI contracts (verbal)

The Director reported that there was an over-spend on the YMI budget in Highland of around £16,000 due to increased spending on resources this year. The providers had been asked to reduce costs where appropriate but it was envisaged that spending would balance out the following year. The Director had a successful meeting with Graham Watson and a service level agreement was to be put in place for YMI funding.

(d) Blas Festival Progress Report (verbal)

Tickets were now on sale through The Booth. Additional funding may be required due to increased costs with Harvest. Inverness was included in the programme and there will be over 50 concerts this year. Blas musicians were appearing at Runrig's 'Beat the Drum' event in August 2007. There were other activities planned for the same day. There were clashes with the Mountain Bike Championships in Fort William but early marketing was planned in the area.

(e) Website Developments (verbal)

The new website had to be complete by the end of May as Ken Fraser was ending his contract to maintain the old website by that date. Fèisean could update their own pages if they chose to but there was also the option for it to be updated for them. It was agreed that there would be a presentation at the Board meeting/Annual Conference in September on the new website.

(f) Cèol nam Fèis concerts 2007 (verbal)

Nuala Kennedy was the Musical Director for the four concerts planned as follows:

27 June 2007 – Perth

28 June 2007 – Banchory

29 June 2007 – Glasgow

30 June 2007 – Edinburgh

A 'core' group had been secured from Cèilidh Trailers, but letters were being sent out to Fèisean for 16 –25 year olds to take part in one of the concerts. Rehearsals were planned for the Monday before the concerts.

(g) Cèilidh Trails (verbal)

New Cèilidh Trails were planned for Badenoch and the Western Isles dependent on funding. A sample letter of offer was included in the papers for information only. Alasdair MacLeod mentioned that HIE would like to receive publicity materials from the Cèilidh Trail concerts and Blas concerts. It was agreed that copies of press releases of events were to be sent to HIE also and quotes sought, where appropriate.

EX2.2007.03 STAFFING ISSUES

(a) Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer maternity cover (verbal)

The Director reported that Ingrid Henderson had given birth to a baby boy, and Fiona Ironside had replaced her temporarily. Fiona had been offered a 6-month contract, which would be renewed month by month thereafter until Ingrid's intentions are known. The Lochaber Steering Group had been interested in combining annualised hours with other Fèisean in the area, to employ an administrator but Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan were keen to retain their own administrator, so the Director had not taken action on this as yet until the finance was clearer.

(b) Proposal to relocate Inverness offices (verbal - David)

David Boag reported that he had been looking for new offices in Inverness. He had looked at offices on Academy Street but our lawyer, Douglas Graham, was not happy with the lease conditions. Katie Adam suggested he contact Fairways as they may have offices for rent. Alasdair MacLeod was also going to enquire within HIE.

(c) Western Isles Fèis Support Worker (verbal – Arthur)

Fiona MacInnes was finishing in July and there was discussion over whether her post should be advertised as full-time or part-time. It was decided to advertise it as a full-time post and Arthur was going to contact Comhairle nan Eilean Siar regarding additional funding.

(d) Administrator, Portree office (verbal – Anne)

Anne reported that Elaine Ferguson was finishing at the end June and it was decided that her post should also be advertised.

(e) Grievance raised by Fèis Dhùn Breatainn (verbal – Arthur/Katie)

Katie Adam reported that this had been more or less resolved but agreed to speak to Bernard Bell regarding some outstanding issues.

(f) Proposals to change staffing structure (diagram circulated)

The proposals to staffing structure were circulated and Arthur Cormack outlined the various roles. It was agreed that Arthur would present this to the Board meeting for further discussion. It was also agreed that the staff and Board would meet for a day with the possibility of a Board training session organised for part of the same day.

EX2.2007.04 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 (verbal)

The current bank balances were given as follows: £20,944.00 in the Current account and £66,504 in the High Interest account. £70,000 was on Deposit a/c for 2 month as well as £30,000 on Deposit a/c for 1 month.

(c) SAC funding (Agreement & Quality Framework and 2006-07 statistics circulated)

This was circulated for information only.

(d) Sgeama-leasachaidh nam Fèisean

This was circulated for information only

(e) Quarterly management accounts (to be tabled)

Expected quarterly management accounts, prepared by Nicolson & Co, were not available due to Angus Nicolson being on holiday.

EX2.2007.05 DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

(a) Archiving Project (verbal - David)

David Boag reported that £50,000 had been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a part-time officer would be required from October 2007. He anticipated that 2 Fèisean would be involved every year, a total of 6 Fèisean over 3 years.

(b) City Fèisean Development Officer (verbal - Arthur)

Arthur Cormack reported that he was going to proceed with approaching the councils in the relevant areas to secure funding for a full-time development Officer, which he had delayed until after the election of new councillors.

(c) GASD evaluation report by Phyllis Steel (circulated)

This report was circulated for information, and noted by members.

EX2.2007.06 BOARD MEETINGS

(a) Agenda items to be included in May Board meeting (verbal)

A presentation of the new staffing structure was to be included in the May Board meeting. It was also agreed to include the financial statement with actual income and expenditure to end April.

(b) Board Election - Western Isles (verbal)

The Director reported that when preparing to re-run the election the Western Isles for Board members, Tommy MacDonald had withdrawn and Peggy McLennan was therefore appointed to the Board of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

EX2.2007.07 GENERAL

AOCB

(a) Reporting format (verbal)

Katie Adam suggested that she would like the progress reports from staff to link in with the Development Plan and also the personal development plans of individual members of staff. Katie Adam produced a template to show how this might work.

It was agreed the Director would use this reporting method to report progress with development plan measures but that it was too late to include staff reports in this format this time round.

The Director reported that Fèis Lunnainn were having a launch at Westminster on 20 June and David Boag was accompanying youngsters playing at the event.

Fèis Mhoireibh had 45 participants registered and was taking place on 27 May 2007.

(b) Date and venue of next meeting

The date for the next meeting was 20 August 2007 at Cluanie Inn.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Progress on implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Development Plan 2005-10 incorporating targets of main funders

Agenda Item: 2.2007.02(a)

Enclosed is a summary of the main developments recommended in our Development Plan, along with progress to date. The format has changed to incorporate reporting on the performance indicators, or outputs, set by Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnG)C, the Scottish Arts Council (SAC), Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) and Highland 2007 (H2007), as well as to give Board members a better understanding of who is responsible for each area of work and what stage each project is at. To assist in this, we are using a RAG system – Red, Amber & Green. The status of each is as follows:

R (Red) = Not presently on track, and measures to restore progress not yet in place. Danger that targets may be missed.

A (Amber) = Not presently on target, but with measures in place to restore progress

G (Green) = On target

Dev Plan Ref	Measure in Development Plan	Responsible	Performance Indicators	Progress	Status
1	Provide support for the development of individual Fèisean, promoting excellent working practices, and developing their range of activities				
1.1	Grants Scheme for Fèisean	Director	Continue to run a Grants Scheme for Fèisean (SAC Target)	Grants scheme in place. Grants offered to 41 Fèisean. Grants being paid out as per agreements.	G
		Finance & Administration Officer	Deliver Grant-aid support to at least 35 Fèisean annually (HIE Target)	Grants offered to 41 Fèisean for 2007-08, 35 of which are in HIE area.	G
		Director	With HIE and others, expand the finance available for R & D through the Fèis Development Fund (SAC Target)	£60k fund available for 2007-08, up from £15k in 2006-07.	G
		Development Manager	Support at least 3 new and innovative projects per year through the Fèis Development Fund (HIE Target)	Applications being invited at present, and on an ongoing basis.	G
1.2	Reducing the burden on volunteers	Development Team	Support workers in place	Ongoing support with administration, grants and practical support.	G
		Development Team	Range of support services in place	Detailed below under appropriate service heading.	G
		Training Officer	Policies are made as easy as possible for volunteers to deliver	All policies available as downloads on website. Training offered where action needed on the part of volunteers. Hands-on support with implementation of Gaelic policy.	G
		Finance & Administration Officer	Continuation of Annualised Hours scheme, with increase in hourly rate	Annualised hours offered for 2007-08 as part of grant offer	G

		Director	Employ 5 local Fèis Development Officers (HIE Target)	Proposals to changes status of Support Workers to Development Officers to be discussed by Board in May. 4 Workers currently employed, but status may change.	G
1.3	Annual Conference	Finance & Administration / Training Officers	Run an Annual Conference (SAC Target)	Conference to take place in Aviemore on 14 & 15 September 2007.	G
1.4	Insurance	Finance & Administration Officer	Adequate insurance cover in place for Fèisean nan Gàidheal, its staff and all Fèis activities.	Policy reviewed and renewed.	G
1.5	Musical instrument Bank	Finance & Administration Officer	Regular lending of instruments to Fèisean.	Ongoing and well used. Demand outstrips supply in Fèisean	G
			Renting to individuals to maximise income.	High level of rental achieved although this could be higher.	A
1.6	Disclosure checking	Collator	All tutors and volunteers involved in Fèisean in receipt of an enhanced Disclosure check.	Ongoing – over 1,000 Disclosure Checks carried out and disclosures now being renewed after 3 years.	G
			Continue to ensure good practice in relation to Child Protection (SAC Target)	Policy updated and ongoing training offered to those who need it.	G
1.7	Maintenance of a Fèis Tutors database	Finance & Administration Officer	Up to date data available at all times.	New template being worked on at present and new data being added as necessary, e.g. Councillors and MSPS following recent elections.	A
1.8	Developing, distributing and selling publications	Director	Publish a book celebrating 25 years of the Fèis movement by 2006 (HIE Target)	Book celebrating 25 years of the Fèisean now published and we are currently working on selling as many as possible.	A
1.9	Production and distribution of regular news and other information	Marketing & Communications Officer		<i>Faileas</i> now being professionally produced on a regular basis.	G
1.10	Support for new Fèisean	Development Manager	Create 2 new Fèisean per year (HIE Target)	Fèis Mhoreibh a certainty and Fèis Dhùnomhain a possibility for 2007.	G
1.11	Supporting the development of Fèisean, or collectives of Fèisean, wishing to become more independent	Director/ Development Manager	Continue to support individual Fèis projects such as the Fèis Bharraigh expansion activities (SAC Target)	Supporting Lochaber Fèisean, Fèis Spè and Fèis Bharraigh.	G
1.12	Extending support for the Fèisean outwith the 'traditional' Fèis local authority areas	Director	In cooperation with one or more local authorities, employ a Development Officer to cover Fèisean not covered by existing officers. (SAC Target)	Looking at viability of an officer to cover these areas now that the election is over.	A
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				
2.1	Prepare a Gaelic Language Policy for Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which will be adopted by members of the organisation	Gaelic Officer	Develop and increase access to the Gaelic language and culture through the implementation of a Gaelic Language Policy and the development of Gaelic drama activities including a Gaelic Drama Summer School (SAC Target)	Policy issued formally to Fèisean with letters of offer, along with guidance. Gaelic plans and annual updates submitted to Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Close monitoring and maximum support given to implement effectively.	G

2.2	Develop a Gaelic Language Development Team	Gaelic Officer	Gaelic-speaking teams to be available to local Fèisean	Sgioba-G visit Fèisean regularly to assist Fèisean with Gaelic Policy implementation, with a programme of work tailored to their needs.	G
2.3	Develop mechanisms for the delivery of our Gaelic Language Policy within Fèisean nan Gàidheal	Gaelic Officer	Database of phrases and vocabulary for Fèisean to be on website by end of 2007 (BnG Target)	Ongoing work on this with a view to publishing by year-end.	G
		Gaelic Officer	Gaelic to be visible on all local Fèis information leaflets with 30% to be fully bilingual (BnG Target)	Gradually trying to make all Fèisean use fully bilingual materials, and this is an ongoing task with hope of meeting target.	A
2.4	Develop wholly Gaelic-medium Fèisean and Gaelic-medium tuition at existing and new Fèisean	Director	An increasing number of GM Fèisean	6 Fèisean now GM, up from 2 in 1996 and GM tuition being developed within Fèisean that are not wholly GM.	G
		Development Manager	Ensure commitment to Gaelic among new Fèisean	No new Fèisean admitted for membership without demonstration of Gaelic commitment.	G
2.5	Development of Gaelic Drama	Drama Officer	Develop 2 Gaelic drama Fèisean (SAC Target)	Drama Fèisean in Argyll and Lewis in 2006-07. Plans for 5 in 2007-08	A
		Drama Officer	Deliver a minimum of 2 Gaelic drama summer schools (HIE Target)	Development work to take place in 2007. Drama summer school to be in place for 2008.	A
		Drama Officer	Deliver 4 Gaelic drama projects in 2007-08 (BnG Target)		A
		Director	Retain Gaelic drama officer (BnG Target)	Dougie Beck's post mainstreamed although reliant on BnG funds	G
		Drama Officer	Hold 5 Gaelic drama festivals across Scotland with at least 30 schools involved (BnG Target)	See SAC target above.	A
3	Develop the work of the Fèisean within the formal education sector				
3.1	Youth Music Initiative contract in Highland	Director/Coordinator	Continue to develop the work of the Fèisean within the formal education sector, in partnership with YMI in Highland and East Lothian (SAC Target)	Ongoing, and running successfully in its 4 th year. Tuition resources have been issued to all schools and tutors. Lesson plans now in place and system working. Part-time Co-ordinator now looks after day-to-day organisational issues.	G
3.2	Potential for Youth Music Initiative contract work in other areas	Director	Expand the delivery of traditional music classes beyond the Highland Council area, in partnership with YMI, wherever appropriate (SAC Target)	Work ongoing with East Lothian Council, with Fèis Dhùn Eideann.	G
3.3	Gaelic Language work in schools	Drama Officer	Meanbh-Chuileag to visit 5 LEC areas per year (HIE Target)	Meanbh-Chuileag to tour is new school session, starting August 2007.	A
3.4	Other formal educational work	Director		Possible involvement in resource development through the Traditional Music Forum. Fèis an Earraich to be working with Portree High School on a YMI-funded after school club project. A number of other Fèisean have been successful with informal YMI applications to the SAC.	A
4	Strategic projects and contract work, with partners, carried out by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and individual Fèisean				
4.2	Development of Blas – Celebrating Highland Music	Director	Develop and expand the Blas festival as part of Highland 2007. (SAC Target)	Blas 2007 on sale now.	G

	Development Manager	50 events across the Highlands (BnG Target)	53 planned.	G
	Development Manager	Gaelic-speaking Fear/Bean an taighe at each event (BnG Target)	Will be in place as per previous years.	A
	Development Manager	Gaelic signage at each Blas venue (BnG Target)	Will be implemented	A
	Development Manager	Blas promotional materials to be bilingual (BnG Target)	Will be in place as per previous years.	G
	Marketing & Communications Officer	Blas website to be bilingual (BnG Target)	Now live at www.blas-festival.com	G
	Development Manager	Gaelic phrase cards to be issued to all audience members (BnG Target)	Will be in place as per previous years.	A
	Development Manager	Increase audience from 4,600 to 5,000 (BnG Target)	With extra events this should be achievable.	A
	Director	To deliver a programme that is aligned to the core aims of Blas (HC Target)	This is the case with a programme that involves young people, Gaelic language, international artistes and innovation.	G
	Director	If additional funding allows, to continue the support of five Cèilidh Trails and an annual Gaelic Music in Schools week (HC Target)	Cèilidh Trails will be supported, and if YMI providers can get the schools sufficiently interested, a Gaelic Music in Schools Week will be in place also, using existing YMI funds.	A
	Director	To deliver a festival that is inclusive and will appeal to a wide cross-section of age groups and cultural backgrounds (HC Target)	Previous festivals have drawn people aged 5 to 89, with or without Gaelic, so we would hope to build on that for this year.	A
	Director	To maintain excellent artistic standards and high standards of customer and stakeholder care (HC Target)	Very good programme already in place. Reliant on local promoters for customer care although there will be a Blas representative at every event. New company should ensure good stakeholder care and we will ensure that funders, in particular, are looked after with complimentary tickets and invitations to launches, receptions etc.	A
	Director	Confirmation that Blas 2006 has achieved the output targets outlined in the business plan. (H2007 Target)	Already reported on to Highland 2007, and targets exceeded.	G
	Director	Confirmation that Blas 2006 achieved the target ticket sales projected within the business plan. (H2007 Target)	Box Office targets for Blas 2006 were exceeded.	G
	Director	Provision of the detailed programme for Blas 2007, highlighting the international focus of the events programme. (H2007 Target)	To be formally submitted to Highland 2007 but officers have been party to the process.	A
	Director	Confirmation that Blas 2007 has achieved the output targets outlined in the business plan. (H2007 Target)	To be reported on post Blas 2007.	A
	Director	Confirmation that Blas 2007 achieved the target tickets sales projected within the business plan. (H2007 Target)	To be reported on post Blas 2007.	A

		Director	Submission of the Highland 2007 post event evaluation questionnaire. (H2007 Target)	To be completed post Blas 2007.	A
		Director	Evidence of positive funding support to host Blas 2008. (H2007 Target)	To be reported on post Blas 2007 but we are actively seeking support from agencies and sponsors, with SAC and HIE already having contributed through Cèilidh Trail funds.	A
4.3	Continuing support for Fèis Cèilidh Trails	Director	In partnership with Fèisean, further develop a network of Cèilidh trails (SAC Target)	Funding available within Blas budget, with additional HIE and SAC funds secured for 2007.	G
		Development Manager	Create a minimum of 5 Fèis Cèilidh Trails across HIE area by 2009 (HIE Target)	Fèis an Earraich, Fèis Chataibh, Fèis Lochabair, Fèis Rois and Fèis Spè running Cèilidh Trails in 2007.	G
		Development Manager		Looking at feasibility of a Western Isles CT also.	A
4.4	Encourage local Fèisean to archive material which could be utilised in teaching situations in their area	Development Manager	Archiving project to be established.	Heritage Lottery Fund has approved £50k and we have match funding in place.	A
4.5	Gaelic Arts Strategic Development – GASD	Director	Maintain and implement the GASD programme as a senior partner (SAC Target)	Ongoing work and FnG involved as a partner and as a deliverer of certain elements. Gaelic Arts Conference held in Stornoway on 8 and 9 May. Future of GASD to be discussed with stakeholders soon.	G
4.6	Inter-Fèis activities	Development Manager		Funding integrated within our Development Fund from 2007 onwards. Fèis Rois and Fèis Eilean an Fhraich involved in a joint project with concert planned for Hebcelt Festival 2007.	G
4.7	Traditional Music Tutor Training Network – TMTTN	Training Officer	Develop training provision and professional development, open to everyone involved in promoting, organising and participating in Fèisean, and to other involved in traditional music development and delivery (SAC Target)	Training Development Officer to call a meeting of TMTTN before end of June to re-start progress.	R
5	Develop training to enhance the skills of those involved in Fèisean and promote excellence within the Fèis movement				
5.1	Retain a Training Development Officer	Director		Post mainstreamed but reliant on SAC managed funds.	G
5.2	Annual Training Programme	Training Officer	Deliver training to 20 Fèisean per year (HIE Target)	It is expected that this target will be met with the Fèis Thrèanaidh to be held in February 2008. Ongoing training being offered, with 4 Fèisean at recent event in Uist.	A
		Training Officer	Deliver training to 50 tutors and organisers per year (HIE Target)	Fèis Thrèanaidh to be held in February 2008 will fulfil the target regarding organisers. 30 tutors expected on Level I and II courses at SMO also in February 2008. Level I and II courses also to be offered in Inverness in August 2007.	A

		Training Officer	Continue in-house Training Programme (HIE Target)	Staff training is ongoing. Anne Willoughby – progressing with MBA Iona MacDonald – progressing with Masters (Culture) Chris DePlano – 1 week Marketing course – 6/07	G
		Training Officer	4 Gaelic grammar sessions for FnG staff (BnG Target)	Two organised already with more to come: Gaelic Grammar – Fort William – 12/6/07 Gaelic Grammar – Portree – 28/8/07	G
		Training Officer	4 Gaelic language workshops for Fèis committees at different levels by March 2008 (BnG Target)	To be arranged.	A
		Training Officer	Support for 20 people to undertake a Gaelic course suitable to their needs in 2007-08 (BnG Target)	Offered on an ongoing basis, with 13 currently undertaking Gaelic language training of different kinds.	A
		Drama Officer	4 one-day workshops for drama tutors across Scotland (BnG Target)	To be arranged but plans already discussed.	A
5.3	Teenage provision within the Fèis movement	Director/ Development Manager		Will continue to support Fèis Rois nan Deugairean. Fèis Lochabair looking at making similar provision for teenagers. Archiving project will involve teenagers. Cèilidh Trails involve teenagers.	A
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				
6.1	Networking	Director	Expand, wherever possible, partnership opportunities with other organisations both within and outwith the Gaelic community, and continue to work with existing forums, among them, the Scottish Traditional Music Forum. (SAC Target)	Continue to attend meetings, and contribute to the development, of the Traditional Music Forum. Working with a number of key partners who fund our work. VisitScotland have invited us to work with them on Traditional Music awareness-raising training workshops for their TIC staff. Working with RSAMD and Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School. Discussions with RSAMD and UHI about a 'Fèis College'.	G
		Director/ Development Manager	Maximise Fèis contribution to success of the Highland 2007 (HIE Target)	Blas Festival is a major project for H2007. Fèisean taking part in Highland Promise activities where invited. Fèisean and Cèilidh Trails all listed as events under the H2007 banner. Fulfilling the remit of the 'Year that Scotland celebrates Highland Culture' with Ceòl nam Fèis concerts. Fèisean taking part in H2007 PR events at the Scottish Parliament in June, and in London in July. H2007 have asked us to provide some Fèis input to the Arts & Business Awards dinner in Edinburgh in September.	G

6.2	Advocacy	All staff led by Director	In partnership with the Scottish Arts Council and as members of the Traditional Music Forum, FnG will play a key role in the promotion and continuing development of traditional music in Scotland. (SAC Target)	Our work is geared towards this and demonstrated through the large number of bodies on which Fèisean nan Gàidheal has a presence, and the central place the Fèis movement has in the development of traditional music in Scotland.	G
6.3	International Links	Director		Cape Breton, English and Irish musicians will take part in Blas this year. Fèis Lochabair Cèilidh Trailers hosted a cèilidh for visiting Cape Bretoners in May.	G
6.4	Promotion and Marketing	Marketing & Communications Officer	Increase and raise profile of Fèis movement and its success with 10 pieces of local/regional coverage and 3 instances of national coverage per year. (HIE Target)	4 x YMI press releases issued. Regular news items circulated. Coverage needs to be worked on, however, but confident that this target will be met by March 2008. Faileas being created regularly.	A
		Director	Investigate greater partnerships with the commercial sector. (SAC Target)	Clydesdale Bank on board as a Blas sponsor. Further work needed in this area.	A
6.5	Information	All staff with support of Gaelic Officer where necessary	All information to be produced bilingually, or in Gaelic only, where appropriate (BnG Target)	Majority of external FnG information is produced bilingually. Staff communications are in Gaelic only. Most Fèisean are being assisted to allow them to produce information bilingually. Gaelic content of <i>Faileas</i> has increased greatly.	A
		Director	Work with HIE in commissioning research quantifying wider economic impacts of Fèis movement on cultural and creative industries in the Highlands & Islands to be published by 2008 (HIE Target)	To be arranged with HIE at a time appropriate to them, but we will cooperate fully.	A
6.6	Website and ICT	Marketing & Communications Officer	Redevelop Fèisean nan Gàidheal's web presence so that it is on a content management system (SAC Target)	New site being designed by Pelican Design using Sitekit. Part of the website (Blas) is live now.	A
		Marketing & Communications Officer	Bilingual website to be up and running by end of 2007 (BnG Target)	FnG website will be live by end of May 2007.	G
6.7	Showcasing opportunities	Development Manager	Stage 4 high-profile showcase concerts as part of Highland 2007 (HIE Target)	4 Ceòl nam Fèis showcase concerts to be mounted this year in Banchory, Perth, Glasgow and Edinburgh.	G
		Director/ Development Manager	Raise the profile of the Fèis movement through dedicated showcase concerts as part of Highland 2007, and other workshop/training activities (SAC Target)	Harvest will be part of Blas In talks with NessFest about a Fèis showcase event as part of that festival. Fèis youngsters will be showcased as part of the Runrig event at Drumnadrochit.	G

Arthur Cormack
Director
May 2007

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Financial Report

Agenda Item: 2.2007.03(a)

This report includes:

- 1 Income and Expenditure from 1 - 30 April 2007
- 2 List of the grants pledged to Fèisean for 2007-08

Agenda item 2.2007.03(b)

- 1 Current bank balances will be tabled at the meeting

Agenda item 2.2007.03(c)

- 1 Management accounts for the quarter to 31 March 2007 prepared by Nicolson & Co will be tabled at the meeting, or sent out in advance if they are delivered to us early enough.

Anne Willoughby
Finance and Administration Officer
May 2007

Income and expenditure to 31 March 2008, with actual transactions to 30 April 2007

Agenda Item: 2.2007.03(a)1

Fèisean nan Gàidheal Budget 2007-08

INCOME	Budget	Period	Actual
Core Grants	£ 344,575.00	£ 28,714.58	£ 78,193.00
Grants Scheme	£ 191,500.00	£ 15,958.33	£ 0.00
Fèis Development Fund	£ 60,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 0.00
Annualised Hours	£ 25,000.00	£ 2,083.33	£ 0.00
Training	£ 81,250.00	£ 6,770.83	£ 0.00
Gaelic Development	£ 51,562.00	£ 4,296.83	£ 41,200.87
Youth Music Initiative	£ 244,511.00	£ 20,375.92	£ 0.00
Blas Festival	£ 269,500.00	£ 22,458.33	£ 0.00
Earned Income	£ 16,300.00	£ 1,358.33	£ 1,249.79
Meanbh Chuileag TIE Service	£ 80,000.00	£ 6,666.67	£ 0.00
City Fèisean Development Officer	£ 30,000.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 0.00
Support Cèilidh Trails	£ 89,000.00	£ 7,416.67	£ 0.00
Gaelic Drama Summer School	£ 65,000.00	£ 5,416.67	£ 0.00
Archiving Project	£ 20,000.00	£ 1,666.67	£ 0.00
Press/PR/Website Updates/Newsletter	£ 10,000.00	£ 833.33	£ 0.00
Fèis Showcase Concerts	£ 52,400.00	£ 4,366.67	£ 0.00
General Funds still to be raised	£ 46,952.00	£ 3,912.67	£ 0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£ 1,677,550.00	£ 139,795.83	£ 120,643.66

EXPENDITURE

RUNNING COSTS

Staff Salaries	£ 271,278.00	£ 22,606.50	£ 18,730.58
NIC Contributions	£ 29,841.00	£ 2,486.75	£ 1,355.63
Pension Contributions	£ 7,000.00	£ 583.33	£ 220.83
Staff Travel	£ 27,000.00	£ 2,250.00	£ 1,324.73
Office Rent & Rates	£ 20,000.00	£ 1,666.67	£ 1,382.85
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£ 11,000.00	£ 916.67	£ 2,898.06
Telephone, Fax, E-mail, Heat & Light	£ 8,000.00	£ 666.67	£ 1,140.78
Board Expenses	£ 4,500.00	£ 375.00	£ 0.00
Implementation of Child Protection policy	£ 10,000.00	£ 833.33	£ 860.00
Insurance	£ 9,000.00	£ 750.00	£ 6,428.39
Sundry Expenses	£ 2,500.00	£ 208.33	£ 421.86
Accountancy & Bank Charges	£ 3,000.00	£ 250.00	£ 0.00
Professional Fees	£ 2,000.00	£ 166.67	£ 195.00
Instrument Bank Maintenance	£ 3,000.00	£ 250.00	£ 193.89
Additional Support Needs	£ 2,000.00	£ 166.67	£ 361.50
Capital Expenses	£ 7,000.00	£ 583.33	£ 606.98

PROGRAMME COSTS

Grants Paid Out	£ 225,000.00	£ 18,750.00	£ 23,248.00
Annualised Hours	£ 35,000.00	£ 2,916.67	£ 0.00
Fèis Development Fund	£ 60,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 0.00
Training Programme	£ 54,000.00	£ 4,500.00	£ 1,041.75
<i>Training Programme Management Fee</i>	-£ 17,900.00	-£ 1,491.67	£ 0.00
Gaelic Language Development	£ 56,000.00	£ 4,666.67	£ 9,310.37
<i>Gaelic Language Development Management Fee</i>	-£ 12,500.00	-£ 1,041.67	£ 0.00

Youth Music Initiative	£ 244,511.00	£ 20,375.92	£ 9,936.12
<i>Youth Music Initiative Management Fee</i>	-£ 18,500.00	-£ 1,541.67	£ 0.00
Fèis Bharraigh Development	£ 15,000.00	£ 1,250.00	£ 0.00
Annual Conference	£ 15,000.00	£ 1,250.00	£ 691.00
Blas Festival	£ 271,020.00	£ 22,585.00	£ 8,464.22
<i>Blas Festival Management Fee</i>	-£ 15,000.00	-£ 1,250.00	£ 0.00
NEW PROJECTS			
Support for Meanbh Chuileag	£ 80,000.00	£ 6,666.67	£ 0.00
City Fèisean Development Officer	£ 35,000.00	£ 2,916.67	£ 0.00
Support Cèilidh Trails	£ 89,000.00	£ 7,416.67	£ 0.00
Gaelic Drama Summer School	£ 65,000.00	£ 5,416.67	£ 0.00
Archiving Project	£ 20,000.00	£ 1,666.67	£ 0.00
Press/PR/Website Updates/Newsletter	£ 10,000.00	£ 833.33	£ 1,446.00
Fèis Showcase Concerts	£ 52,400.00	£ 4,366.67	£ 502.00
<i>Fèis Showcase Concerts Management Fee</i>	-£ 7,600.00	-£ 633.33	£ 0.00
Contingency	£ 5,000.00	£ 416.67	£ 0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 1,677,550.00	£ 139,795.83	£ 90,760.54
Management Fees	-£ 71,500.00	-£ 5,958.33	£ 0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 1,606,050.00	£ 133,837.50	£ 90,760.54
Transfer to Reserves	-£ 12,512.50	-£ 1,042.71	£ 0.00
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 29,883.12

Grants pledged to Fèisean 2007-08

Agenda Item: 2.2007.03(a)2

GRANTS TO FEISEAN 2007-08 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	£ 8,109.00	£ 3,994.00	£ 3,658.00	350	£ 2,625.00	£ 0.00	£ 18,386.00	£ 9,077.00	£ 9,309.00
Fèis Lochabair	£ 2,387.00	£ 1,175.00	£ 4,416.00	260	£ 1,950.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,928.00	£ 2,672.00	£ 7,256.00
Fèis Innis an Uillt	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 732.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,032.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,032.00
Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan	£ 4,362.00	£ 2,149.00	£ 4,500.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 12,511.00	£ 0.00	£ 12,511.00
Fèis Chataibh	£ 2,774.00	£ 1,366.00	£ 1,800.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,440.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,440.00
Fèis a' Bhealaich	£ 285.00	£ 141.00	£ 50.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 776.00	£ 0.00	£ 776.00
Fèis Thròdainnis	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Fèis Rois nan Deugairean	£ 9,681.00	£ 4,768.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 14,449.00	£ 0.00	£ 14,449.00
Fèis Chille Mhòraig	£ 590.00	£ 291.00	£ 50.00	50	£ 375.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,306.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,306.00
Fèis Eige	£ 598.00	£ 295.00	£ 480.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,523.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,523.00
Fèis Rois Òigridh	£ 7,638.00	£ 3,762.00	£ 5,468.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 16,868.00	£ 8,550.00	£ 8,318.00
Fèis Srath Fharragaig	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 728.00	30	£ 225.00	£ 0.00	£ 953.00	£ 0.00	£ 953.00
Fèis na h-Òige	£ 2,186.00	£ 1,076.00	£ 2,744.00	180	£ 1,350.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,356.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,356.00
Fèis Air an Oir	£ 614.00	£ 302.00	£ 4,568.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,234.00	£ 0.00	£ 6,234.00
Feis Ghlinn Albainn	£ 1,327.00	£ 653.00	£ 3,351.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,481.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,481.00
Fèis Ratharsaidh	£ 969.00	£ 478.00	£ 0.00	40	£ 300.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,747.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,747.00
Fèis a' Bhaile	£ 2,155.00	£ 1,061.00	£ 486.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,202.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,202.00
Fèis Òigridh na Mara	£ 1,122.00	£ 553.00	£ 6,336.00	160	£ 1,200.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,211.00	£ 0.00	£ 9,211.00
Fèis Inbhir Narann	£ 766.00	£ 378.00	£ 3,900.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,794.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,794.00
Fèis Spè	£ 3,266.00	£ 1,609.00	£ 3,540.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 8,415.00	£ 0.00	£ 8,415.00
Other Area/City Councils									
Fèis Dhùn Èideann	£ 2,880.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,714.00	600	£ 4,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,094.00	£ 0.00	£ 11,094.00
Fèis Chille Conbhal	£ 979.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,396.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,375.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,375.00
Fèis Arainn	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Fèis Obair Dheathain	£ 1,960.00	£ 0.00	£ 288.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,998.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,998.00
Feis Dhùn Breatainn	£ 1,459.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,176.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,635.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,635.00

Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Fèis Lannraig a Tuath	£ 835.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 835.00	£ 0.00	£ 835.00
Fèis 'sa Mheadhan	£ 2,750.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	50	£ 375.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,125.00	£ 0.00	£ 3,125.00
Western Isles Council									
Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain	£ 3,338.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,792.00	150	£ 1,125.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,755.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,755.00
Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich	£ 2,350.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 3,406.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 8,356.00	£ 0.00	£ 8,356.00
Fèis Tìr an Eòrna	£ 2,391.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,012.00	100	£ 750.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,653.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,653.00
Fèis Bharraigh	£ 3,493.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,089.00	200	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,582.00	£ 0.00	£ 7,582.00
Fèis Eilean na Hearadh	£ 995.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,495.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,495.00
Fèis an Rubha	£ 1,033.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,033.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,033.00
Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh	£ 475.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,447.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,522.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,522.00
Argyll & Bute Council									
Fèis Latharna	£ 1,932.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,060.00	150	£ 1,125.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,617.00	£ 2,949.00	£ 2,668.00
Fèis Mhuile	£ 968.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,840.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,908.00	£ 0.00	£ 4,908.00
Fèis Thiriodh	£ 2,590.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 676.00	80	£ 600.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,366.00	£ 0.00	£ 5,366.00
Fèis Ìle	£ 886.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,386.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,386.00
Feis Glaschu	£ 2,325.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	0	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,325.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,325.00
Fèis Ceann Loch Goibhle	£ 425.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 916.00	20	£ 150.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,991.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,991.00
	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	£ 82,893.00	£ 39,551.00	£ 67,619.00	3680	£ 27,600.00	£ 0.00	£ 217,663.00	£ 23,248.00	£ 194,415.00

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Blas Festival Ltd

Agenda Item: 2.2007.04(a)

Background

As discussed at the last meeting a new company, Blas Festival Ltd, has been formed and incorporated at Companies House with the registration number SC 308889. It will be a normal trading company, wholly owned by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and will be VAT registered. Angus Nicolson, our accountant, has begun the process of registering the company for VAT, but it takes 12 weeks at present.

It is the intention that all Blas transactions will be through the new company from 1 April 2007, and any that have been processed to date through Fèisean nan Gàidheal will be recharged to Blas Festival Ltd once the VAT registration is complete, and the directors appointed.

Discussion points for the Board

It was agreed that the Blas Steering Group be disbanded and becomes the Board of Directors of the new company. Board members agreed that the Board make-up would consist of:

- A Chair nominated by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- Two additional Board members nominated by Fèisean nan Gàidheal (these need not be FnG Board members but people nominated to represent the Board, i.e. staff or past members of the Board who have an active interest in the festival).
- Two Board members to be nominated by The Highland Council from its membership, following the May 2007 election.
- One Board member nominated by the Promoters' Arts Network.

Nominations

Following the last Board meeting, I e-mailed Board members to ask for nominations, and the following were received:

- Katie Adam nominated John MacDonald
- Peggy Nicolson nominated Catriona Macintyre and Kirsteen Graham
- Elizabeth Bain didn't think she had the knowledge of people involved to nominate anyone
- Jane MacNeil nominated Arthur Cormack, David Boag and Ingrid Henderson

Decision needed

The Board now requires to make a decision as to we should approach as a matter of urgency.

It should be remembered that the need for a separate company is largely administrative, and that a wider Action Group with the necessary expertise is involved in the nitty-gritty of the programming, publicity etc. It is presumed the new company Board would wish this arrangement to continue.

The nomination of officers may be a good way ahead as they are the ones most involved in the Blas Festival from day-to-day and as they would be attending meetings anyway, and are wholly accountable to the Fèisean nan Gàidheal board, this arrangement would cut down on the administration of the new Board.

On the other hand, folk not involved day-to-day may bring another perspective to the festival, although given that the Action Group exists to give the festival artistic direction, I am not sure this would be helpful. John MacDonald, Kirsteen Graham and Catriona MacIntyre are all employees of the Highland Council, which could cause difficulties with conflicts of interest and in dealing with elected members representing the Council.

Arthur Cormack
Director
May 2007

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Proposals to change the staffing structure

Agenda Item: 2.2007.05(a)

Background

Since we had the staff wages review with Anne Barke last year, I have been looking at ways in which the staff structure could be changed slightly, to enable us to have people managed better on a day-to-day basis, and to make best use of the skills we have within the staff.

A diagram of a proposed structure is given on the following pages – “putting the Fèisean at the heart of what we do” - which shows how the Fèisean should be able to interact with our staff, what services can be offered to them, and also how staff link internally, and could be managed better.

Main Changes proposed

- Establishment of an Executive Manager to split off finance, administration and HR from day-to-day development work. Anne Willoughby is working towards an MBA and has built up the skills to take on more of a management role. Given that I am out of the office quite frequently, I believe giving her the responsibility to manage the Portree office, and its staff, would increase efficiency.
- The upgrading of Fèis Support Workers post to those of full-time Development Officers. This would give us 4 full-time Development Officers (maybe 5 if we succeed in getting a ‘city’ officer) each one of whom could have a ‘specialism’. For instance, one could be an expert in raising funds, and assist the Fèisean in raising funds externally, as well as having an overview of their grants from Fèisean nan Gàidheal and identifying leverage opportunities. Another might be a Cèilidh Trail expert and work with those Fèisean who run, or who would like to run, a Cèilidh Trail. Another would be a Gaelic expert, and so on.
- People paid on Annualised Hours would fulfill the role of support worker more and more, and would be in receipt of training, as appropriate, to enable them to fulfill this role.
- Staff would take on the role as ‘Lead Officer’ for a number of Fèisean, to be allocated on a fair basis, after having been assessed and scored. This might apply to all staff, not just Development staff, and would mean taking on responsibilities, in liaison with the ‘specialists’ for their Fèisean including:
 - Being the first and regular point of contact for Fèisean, answering queries locally
 - Assisting with grants to Fèisean including FnG grants
 - Regular liaison with Fèisean
 - Communication with administrative workers
 - Delivery of main FnG services at local level
 - Organisation locally of FnG service delivery, e.g. Training, Gaelic Development in close collaboration with other staff

Questions

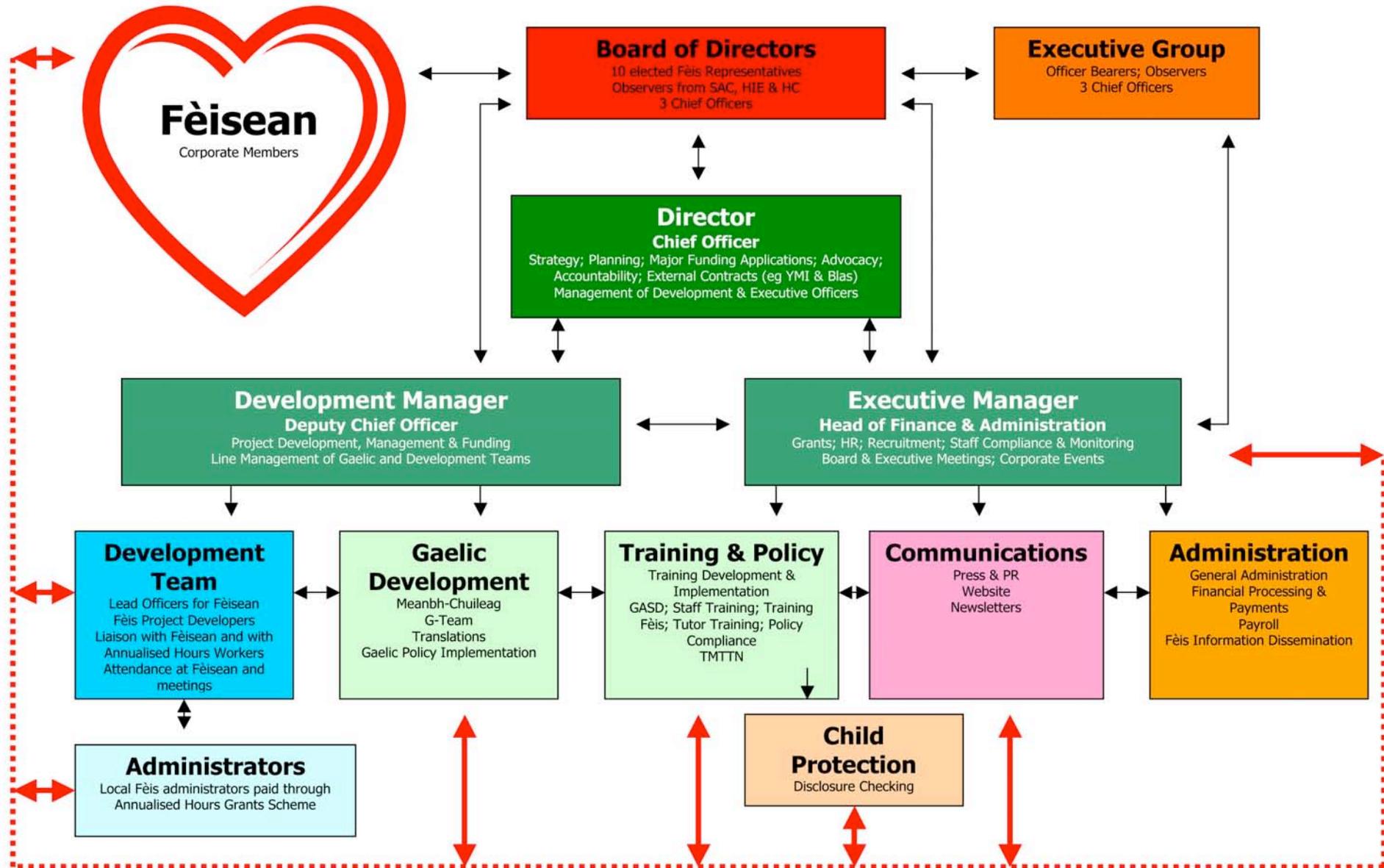
There are also some key questions that need to be addressed, such as:

- Is this ‘tweaked’ structure workable?
- What would the training needs be to achieve it?
- What are the information gaps to be filled?
- What are the opportunities for closer collaboration?
- Can we get rid of geographical boundaries?
- Can we loosen up the job description boundaries?
- Do we need support staff or development staff?
- Should we develop the annualised hours workers?
- Does the scheme work?
- Any other questions/concerns to be raised?

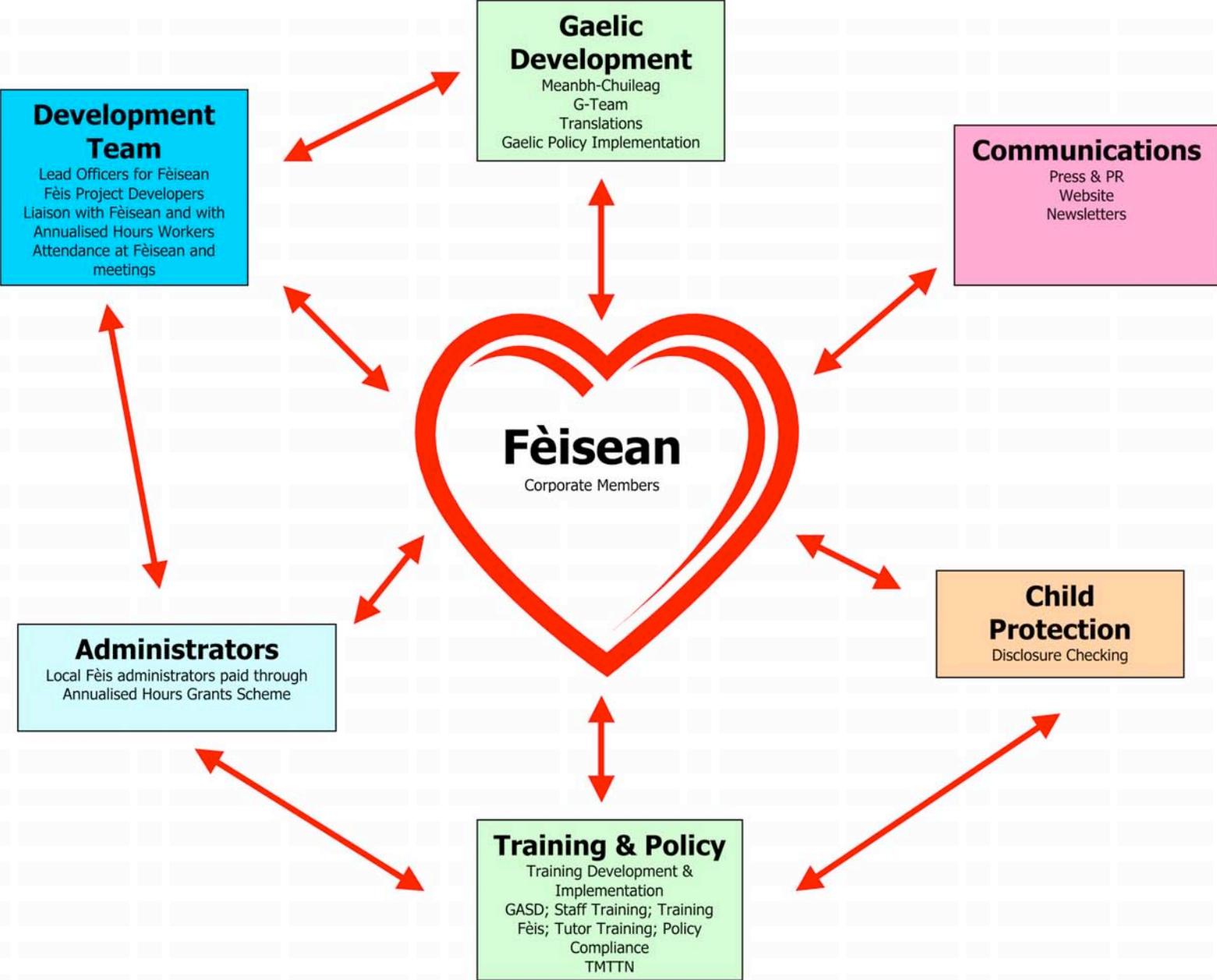
The purpose of this paper is just to get the ball rolling and I will make a longer presentation at the Board meeting, to lead discussion. Staff were talked through the ideas at a recent meeting, and have not come back with any feedback as yet, but should be involved in discussions before a final decision is made.

Arthur Cormack
Director
May 2007

Fèisean nan Gàidheal – Proposed Staff Structure: Fèisean “at the heart’ of everything we do ...



Fèisean nan Gàidheal – Proposed Staff Structure: Fèisean “at the heart’ of everything we do ...



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Staff Reports

Agenda Item: 2.2007.06(a)

Arthur Cormack, Director

Introduction

The period from February to May has been a busy one, with significant progress having been made on a number of our key projects for 2007-08. The following is a summary of what I, and the rest of the team, have been involved in and should be read in conjunction with the restyled Development Plan implementation report under 2.2007.02(a).

Finance

The financial year 2006-07 ended with our having been paid the majority of what was due to us, and we are awaiting Angus Nicolson carrying out the audit.

Our main funding has now been agreed for 2007-08, with the signing of a new agreement with the Scottish Arts Council, which is included in the Executive Group papers.

Funding has been coming in as expected in the first month of the financial year, and our cashflow has been fine.

Staffing

- Ingrid Henderson left on maternity leave on 2 March, and was replaced by Fiona Ironside, who took up her post on 19 March.
- Fiona MacInnes will be leaving us at the end of July to take up a teaching post
- Elaine Ferguson will be leaving us at the end of June and she, too, will be taking up a teaching post.
- There was a staff meeting in Plockton on 23 April.
- Two further staff Gaelic Grammar training days have been organised.

Youth Music Initiative

The Highland Council Youth Music Initiative contract will be over budget this year, by around £16k according to our best estimates at this time. I met with the Highland Council who are going to issue a service level agreement in respect of our Youth Music Initiative contract with them, which should make things a bit more secure, and will ensure that we can recoup any overspend from next session's allocation.

Classes in schools have been going extremely well, and feedback has been extremely positive. A special YMI insert formed part of the latest edition of *Faileas*, and the delivery partnership with the council was highlighted in the Scottish Parliament on 14 March by Patricia Ferguson MSP, then Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport who said: "I was particularly pleased to read today a special newsletter that has been produced by Fèisean nan Gàidheal with the youth music initiative at Highland Council. The newsletter says that not only has the youth music initiative reached every primary school in the Highland Council area but also it has led to the creation of employment for many talented professional traditional musicians. That is to be applauded."

Blas

Blas 2007 is largely on target, and the website is now fully bilingual. Tickets have been selling on The Booth and the main promotional push will begin in earnest from June onwards.

Gaelic Arts Strategic Development - GASD

GASD held a conference in Stornoway 8 and 9 May at which I made a presentation on the Fèis movement and our current developments. The first 3 years of funding from GASD is now committed, and a large number of worthwhile projects have been funded. Phyllis Steel for the Scottish Arts Council prepared an evaluation report, and this is included in the Executive Group papers for the information of Board members.

Fèis 'College'

The idea of creating a tertiary level opportunity for fèis graduates – a Fèis College - was discussed by myself, Dougie Pincock (National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music), Brian MacNeill (RSAMD) and John Wallace (RSAMD Principal) at a meeting in Plockton some time ago. Bryan Beattie, who has been working as a consultant with the RSAMD, facilitated the meeting.

A meeting has now been called on 6 June, which unfortunately I cannot attend, bringing together potentially interested parties – including UHI, HIE, Scottish Executive, SMO, Eden Court and the Highland Council - to see if it can be made to happen.

A paper outlining three possible options is being finalised for the meeting and I will keep Board members up to date on what is agreed.

Traditional Music Forum

A meeting of the forum was held in Edinburgh on 5 March, which I attended. A promotional DVD had been produced for the forum, which is now being re-edited to be more representative of what's happening up and down Scotland, and to include Gaelic titles.

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 have had ongoing correspondence with Fèis Dhùn Breatainn, which has now been left to the chair of Fèisean nan Gàidheal to resolve.
- I made a successful application to the Scottish Arts Council's informal YMI scheme for Fèis an Earraich to engage in after-school classes at Portree High School in partnership with Fuaran nan Ealan.
- I visited Fèis an Earraich, Fèis Lochabair and Fèis Rois during the Easter holidays.
- I have taken part in discussions with Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle regarding future funding, in particular to do with a capital project, and will attend a meeting between them and the SAC in July.
- I am due to attend a meeting of the Lochaber Fèisean Steering Group in Acharacle on 24 May.

Meetings and other events attended

- 5 March: Attended the Traditional Music Forum meeting in Edinburgh
- 20 March: Attended Blas meeting in Inverness
- 27 March: Attended Fèis Dhràma an Òbain
- 29 March: Met with Mac TV to discuss television coverage of Blas 2007
- 31 March: Presentation to the TMSA conference at the Scottish Parliament
- 3 April: Visited Fèis an Earraich in Portree
- 4 April: Visited Fèis Lochabair in Fort William and Fèis Rois in Ullapool
- 6 April: Attended Fèis an Earraich concert in Portree
- 23 April: Attended Staff Meeting in Plockton
- 24 April: Attended Blas meeting in Inverness and a meeting at Bòrd na Gàidhlig to discuss our contract with the Bòrd.
- 3 May: Met with Rae MacEachern re YMI
- 8/9 May: Attended and made a presentation to the GASD conference in Stornoway
- 14 May: Attended meeting with Highland Council in Inverness regarding YMI, and then Executive Group meeting in Cluanie
- 24 May: YMI Providers' Group meeting in Inverness and Lochaber Fèisean Steering Group meeting in Acharacle

David Boag, Development Manager

Introduction

As usual, the end of the financial year has been a busy time tying up projects, preparing final accounts and writing reports. Over and above that we have been actively seeking new offices. Although we are very happy to be with CnaG, the four of us are quite compact where we are, and leaves no potential for expansion.

I attended the funeral service of Pipe Major Norman Gillies in Ullapool at the start of March. He did a fantastic amount of work with young pipers in Ross-shire and beyond, and he was a great friend of the Fèis movement.

Management of Staff

I am in regular contact with the support staff on a regular basis, particularly with my colleagues in the Inverness office. I attended a staff meeting in Plockton on 23rd April. Fèis Bharraigh have been very busy with their various projects, and I gave some additional support to Gillian Hammill as she prepared funding bids to Lloyds

TSB, the Youth Music Initiative and Children in Need. As well as this, I have been assisting with their new festival – Barra Fest, which takes place at the end of July.

Gaelic Developments

Gaelic Developments are continuing apace, and we are gearing up for another busy year. Dougie Beck completed a highly successful Meanbh-Chuilleag tour at the end of March, after which I was able to put claims and reports to Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Arts Council. We have had tremendously positive feedback from schools as a result of this play.

I was extremely fortunate to be present at a fantastic night in An Lanntair, Stornoway, where Fèisean nan Gàidheal hosted a night of youth drama as part of the "Mach ann an Deich" festival. This was the culmination of our Lewis and Harris youth drama project and I would like to thank Fiona MacInnes and Dougie Beck for the great work they did. Over and above this, the Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich group "Oidhche Chiadain" performed during the set changes, and they were great! There was another night of youth drama in Oban on the 27th March as the culmination of our Argyll drama project. Unfortunately I was too busy to attend, but apparently it was another great night. I would like to thank Christine MacIntyre for the work she did in producing another successful night.

We got our new contract from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, worth £65,355 for projects in 2007-8. This incorporates £13,355 to support Calum Alex's projects, £10,000 for Gaelic training initiatives across the organisation, £15,000 to support Dougie's work, £10,500 specifically for drama Fèisean, £5,000 for a training programme to support Gaelic drama tutors and £11,500 for the Blas festival.

Blas Festival

I have been busy recently with Blas meetings, in Portree on 15th February, in Fort William 22nd February, Inverness on 20th March and 24th April and a phone conference on 2nd March. Over and above this I prepared and submitted a funding application to the PRS foundation looking for support for our first ever commission, "Kin".

Fèis Development Fund

The 2006-7 scheme is now closed, and I am happy to report that we have been able to support 22 different projects, worth nearly on £60,000 for the £15,000 investment. The 2007-9 scheme is now open. I devised the application at the beginning of April and all Fèisean now have these. I think that with the £60,000 we now have in the fund annually, it is a valuable opportunity for Fèisean to try out new ideas!

Archiving Project

I got word at the end of April that we were successful with the application I submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund at the start of the year. I am sure that we will get official permission to start the project shortly, when I will circulate more information to Fèisean and the media.

Ceòl nam Fèis Concerts

At the last meeting of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board the members agreed that we would stage four Ceòl nam Fèis concerts across Scotland 27 – 30 June 2007. The following is a list of the concerts we will stage:-

Wednesday 27 – Perth Theatre

Thursday 28 - Woodend Barn, Banchory

Friday 29 - Strathclyde Suite, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Saturday 30 – St Brides Centre, Edinburgh

Nuala Kennedy has now been engaged as musical director for the project and she will be selecting the items for the tour on behalf of Fèisean nan Gàidheal. This means that she will be responsible for putting the concerts together, showcasing the variety of work that takes place at Fèisean.

I am pleased to say that we already have about 30 participants from the Fèis an Earraich, Fèis Rois, Fèis Lochabair and Fèis Chataibh cèilidh trails signed up. I expect that there will be room for 45 participants aged 16 – 25 to take part in all four concerts and I distributed information to all Fèisean about two weeks ago seeking their opinions as to other suitable participants.

Over and above that, I am also seeking proposals from Fèisean who would be interested in taking part in one of these concerts. These participants can be of any age.

Meetings and co-operation with other groups

- I attended a consultation on the Cultural Bill organised by the Highland Council in Inverness, 14th February
- Attended the Dealbh Ealain Conference in Stornoway, 9th and 10th May.

Meetings with Fèisean etc

- Attended meetings of the FnG Executive Group at Cluaine Hotel, 12th February and 15th May.
- Meeting of the FnG Board in Glasgow, 26th February
- Spent two days assisting Fèis Bharraigh, 27th and 28th February
- Met with members of Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich in Stornoway, 13th March

Iona MacDonald, Training Development Officer

Information on courses

- Level 1 & 2 Tutor Training took place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on 17/18 February 2007. The course was full with 30 participants, and the two days were very successful.
- Staff Development
- Gaelic Grammar – Fort William – 12/6/07
- Gaelic Grammar – Portree – 28/8/07
- Anne Willoughby – progressing with MBA
- Iona MacDonald – progressing with Master's (Culture)
- Chris Deplano – 1 week Marketing course – 6/07
- School of Scottish Studies – next date to be arranged.
- 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.

Other Work

- TMTTN – First student ready to complete the course "Certificate in Music Tuition" in June 2007
- GASD – Assisted PnE with the running of the Gaelic Arts conference on 8/9 May

Nicola Marshall, Development Officer

I am very busy at the moment having just got back from a weeks holiday. The Fèisean in my area have been and will be very busy over the next few months with various different projects. At the moment I am working on Cèilidh Trails, Fèis Alba and where necessary helping with preparations for the summer Fèisean. In addition to this, I am working on an 'open stage' as part of Blas and I will be helping out with the 'Ceòl nam Fèis' tour at the end of June.

Fèisean

Fèis a 'Bhaile

Fèis a' Bhaile held their AGM and a very enjoyable family cèilidh in April which I attended. At the moment they are running a series of workshops in Gaelic song and step-dance with funding from the InvernessFest Fringe and Maree is working on preparations for the main Fèis which takes place in October.

Fèis a' Bhealaich

I have not had any contact with Fèis a' Bhealaich recently.

Fèis Chataibh

Fèis Chataibh are almost ready for their main Fèis which takes place in the first week of July. For various reasons there will be a few changes to the committee over the next few months but the Cèilidh Trail will take place as usual, a group from Fèis Chataibh will be participating in the Ceòl nam Fèis tour and the committee are working on a project to produce a new tune book which will feature tunes written by Fèis Chataibh tutors and participants. This project has been supported by the Development Fund.

Fèis Chille Mhoraig

Fèis Chille Mhoraig are having a bit of a break at the moment but they have recently received funding for an art project which will happen in the autumn. They were hoping to run a taster workshop in Glenurquhart High School this week but this was postponed by the school. I hope that they will be re-scheduled if at all possible.

Fèis an Earraich

The main Fèis took place in Portree primary school in April. This year saw the Fèis expand to accommodate almost two hundred participants all of whom, along with the tutors, had a great week. During the week Deirdre Graham and I held auditions for this year's Cèilidh Trail and a group of eight musicians will head out on the Trail after attending Fèis Alba.

Fèis Gleann Albainn

Fèis Gleann Albainn continue to work on their various projects. They held a very successful adult Fèis in February and the main Fèis will take place in July. At the moment the committee are busy selling tickets for NessFest. There is a new web-site for both the festival and the Fèis - www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk.

Fèis Inbhir Narann

David and I met with Shona Arthur a couple of weeks ago to discuss Fèis Inbhir Narann's plan for a large project which will involve them working with the local primary schools. The project which will include various activities from Gaelic song to planting trees, will be based on the Gaelic alphabet. They will be applying for funding from the development fund and other sources and getting the plans together over the coming weeks.

Fèis na h-Òige

Fèis na h-Òige are looking forward to their main Fèis after a very successful series of Saturday workshops. In addition to the regular activities at the workshops a Fèis bheag for 5-8 year olds was also run and proved to be very popular. I hope to catch up with the committee before the end of this month.

Fèis Spè

Fèis Spè are always busy. They will be holding a concert of past and present participants in June the 8th which has been part funded by Highland 2007. At the moment their main project is the launch of the Cairngorms Cèilidh Trail. I sat on the interview panel for the co-ordinator and I am pleased to say that Caroline Reagh has now taken up the post. I was also in attendance for the auditions for musicians and as with Fèis an Earraich the applicants were all of an excellent standard.

Fèis Farr

I attended one of Fèis Farr's workshop evenings in February and it was great to see a large number of participants aged 8-80 all enjoying the workshops together. The latest series of workshops has now finished but the Fèis will host a concert as part of the Blas festival in September before starting the next series of workshops in October.

Fèis Ratharsaidh

I have not had a lot of contact with Fèis Ratharsaidh but the main Fèis took place in February as usual and got a very good report from the SAC after a visit from Jim Gaitens. I recently drafted a funding application for instruments and follow-on workshops for the Fèis but the committee are too busy at the moment to take on the project.

Fèis Rois

Fèis Rois are busy as usual. The junior Fèis took place in Ullapool in April and this was followed by their adult fèis in May both of which were very successful. They will be holding auditions for their Cèilidh Trail in the next few weeks.

Fèis Air an Oir

Fèis Air an Oir continue to run their fortnightly classes. I have not spoken to them recently but I have written to the committee to remind them that I am happy to help them with any applications, projects or ideas that they want help with.

Fèis Alba

Fèis Alba is almost organised. There will be around thirty participants this year and I am pleased to report that eight of these will be from the Cairngorms Cèilidh Trail. The main tutors for the week will be Mhairi Hall and Gordon Gunn.

Meetings & events in addition to regular meetings

February

- 16 Visit to Fèis Farr
- 19 Meeting with Judith Bullivant

- 22 Blas meeting, Fort William
- 27 TMC Partnership meeting

March

- 20 Blas meeting
- 30 Interviews for Cairngorms Cèilidh Trail

April

- 5 Auditions for 'Ceilear' (Fèis an Earraich Cèilidh Trail)
- 17 Meeting with Elspeth Buxton, Fèis Spè
- 18 Meeting with Rae MacEachern re: Fèis Alba
- 23 Staff meeting, Plockton
- 25 Blas meeting
- 27 Meeting with Suzanne Irvine and evening meeting with Bill & Christine – Fèis Gleann Albainn
- 28 Fèis a' Bhaile AGM
- 29 Auditions for Cairngorms Cèilidh Trail

May

- 2 Meeting with Development Staff, Fort William

Fiona Ironside, Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer (Maternity Cover)

I am delighted to be standing in for Ingrid while she is off on Maternity Leave and I am thoroughly enjoying the challenges of a new job! Having just taken up post on 19th March 2007 a large part of my time has been spent familiarising myself with the work of the Fèisean, "learning the ropes" and meeting the Lochaber Fèisean and various people associated with my role.

Lochaber Fèisean Activity

General Fèis work is ticking over in the area; Fèis Lochabair had a very successful Fèis week in April with over 130 children participating, the efficiency with which it is run is a credit to the hard work of the committee. Feedback forms from the Fèis have seen several newcomers to their on-going classes.

Garbh Chrìochan and Eige are very busy organising their main events in July.

Òigridh na Mara are currently investigating ways of raising the profile of their weekend long Fèis in November as disappointing numbers last year led to it being cancelled. The possibility of a schools performance and profile raising event to promote the weekend Fèis and their on-going classes is being looked into.

Cèilidh Trail Project

Sileas Sinclair has been appointed as this years Cèilidh Trail Co-ordinator.

Catriona MacIntyre, Sileas and I held auditions on 21st March and the 8 youngsters who applied were all successful. It's an all girl group this year and the participants are: Sarah Jane Shankland, Claire Delaney, Fiona MacIntyre, Kathryn Nairn, Alexandra Davies, Erin McHale, Carolyn MacKee and Sally Vanden.

Sileas and I have been working closely to a timeline which Ingrid and I drew up before she went off on Maternity Leave. Plans are progressing well, with the tour dates and venues now finalised.

Two training days in June with Ian MacFarlane and Megan Henderson will be followed by a weeks training at Fèis Alba and they will then go straight into their 3 week tour which runs from 6th – 29th July. They will also be performing as part of Blas, 31st August – 8th September.

I am also liaising with James Graham about the possibility of the Cèilidh Trailers performing at the opening of the Mountain Bike World Championships which is being held in Fort William in September.

Youth Music Initiative

As part of their Highland Promise Activities, children from the Small Isles and Knoydart Primaries were staying in Mallaig this week and I used this opportunity to give them the last of their YMI tuition for 2006/07.

This completes all of the YMI tuition for Session 06/07 and following a YMI Providers Meeting in Inverness on 24th May, programming will commence for next year. Once again, very favourable feedback has been received from the Lochaber schools and the use of lesson planning sheets seems to be working well.

Highland Promise 2007

As part of the Highland 2007 celebrations schools have been asked to run extra cultural activities. Following rough costings and proposals drawn up by Ingrid for all 4 schools clusters, the Kinlochleven cluster have confirmed that they wish me to programme events for them. The Mallaig Schools Clusters events are being run in partnership with the Mallaig Community Centre.

Mallaig Schools Cluster:

Fèis Òigridh na Mara are working in partnership with Mallaig Community Centre who are running a Gaelic Song Writing Project with Niki Robertson project managing it.

I took part in initial discussions and the programming of workshops for the Island Schools. These workshops have now taken place. Workshops will be ongoing leading to a performance later in the year.

Kinlochleven Cluster:

Kinlochleven High School have asked me to organise a "Mini Fèis" week in May. This is proving challenging as the budget is fairly small and very much determines how much I can offer. At the moment we propose to offer Step Dance, Tin Whistle and Gaelic Song with our tutors visiting the school from 9 – 11, Mon – Fri. Tuition will take place from Mon – Thurs with a performance on Friday by both pupil and tutors. I am currently waiting to hear back from the school.

The Kinlochleven Cluster Primaries have approached me separately from the High School and I am in the process of programming Gaelic Song Tuition along the same lines as their YMI tuition. They have requested the same tutor that I use for their YMI tuition (Rachel Walker) and are hoping to have a school performance later in the year.

High School Performance

A performance and profile-raising event was organised in Lochaber High School for Fèis Lochabair with funding from the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Fund. This event took place on Mon 26th and Tues 27th March as part of an extended assembly for the S1 and S2 pupils and our 2 local musicians, Gary Innes and Andrew Stevenson, performed to around 300 pupils. As well as a brief performance the pair spoke to the pupils about their own experience as Fèis participants and tutors, the week long Fèis, ongoing classes, Blas and the Cèilidh Trail. A Lochabair Fèisean leaflet, Blas Leaflet and Teenage Fèis Feedback Form (see below for more details) were handed out to the pupils.

Teenage Fèis

To enable research into the demand for a Teenage Fèis in Lochaber, I prepared a Teenage Fèis Feedback Form. As part of the Lochaber High School Performance, our musicians handed out the form to the pupils and encouraged them to let us hear their views. Unfortunately very few forms have been returned and Jim Sutherland (Head), has since, kindly agreed to let me put posters around the school encouraging the kids to fill the forms in, and return them to the school office. It was also drawn to their attention in the daily school bulletin.

With full cooperation from the Head at Mallaig High School, myself and Niki Robertson (Fèis Òigridh na Mara) visited the school during a lunch hour in early April. Around 35 pupils completed the form and the response was extremely positive. All pupils we spoke to were very enthusiastic and united in the view that it should be a residential Fèis!

I contacted both Ardnamurchan and Kinlochleven High Schools about the possibility of a similar visit but am at present still awaiting a response from the Head Teachers. A database of the interested teenagers' details is in progress.

Project Applications (update)

Fèis	Funding Body	Detail	Amount	Stage
Garbh Chrìochan	Awards for All	Shinty Equipment	£2000	Unsuccessful

Fèisean Lochabar	FnG Development Fund	High School promotional concert	£300	Successful & event taken place
Òigridh na Mara	FnG Development Fund	Laptop and printer	£850	Successful and purchased

Other

I am now sitting on the Mod Fringe committee who are busy planning fringe events for Mod 2007 which is taking place in Fort William this year.

I have been asked to organise an open stage event for Mod participants and Fèis children. It is proposed that this would take place on the Monday – Friday of Mod week, twice daily and at the same time each day. The location would be at a suitable central gathering point in Fort William town centre, two options are currently being explored.

A visit from Beth MacNeil and 11 other members of Fèis an Eilean in Cape Breton prompted Catriona MacIntyre, with a little help from myself, to hastily organise an informal Cèilidh on Wednesday 16th May in the West End Hotel in Fort William. Entertainment was certainly not in short supply with 6 out of our 8 talented new Cèilidh Trailers performing for most of the evening. They were joined by 3 of last years Cèilidh Trailers and other local singers. Our guests treated us to some traditional Cape Breton Gaelic Songs and it was very interesting talking to them about their annual Fèis. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Attended meetings/events:

February	22	Steering Group Meeting, Camaghael
March	20	Meeting with Arthur and David, Inverness
	21	Cèilidh Trail Auditions, Camaghael
	26	Meeting with Niki, Fèis Òigridh na Mara, Mallaig
	27	Working with Sileas on Cèilidh Trail, Camaghael
	27	Attended Fèis Lochabair Meeting, Camaghael
April	2-6	Attended/helped at Fèis Lochabair
	16	Attended Lochaber Gaelic Development Group Meeting
	17	Working with Niki (Highland Promise 07) Mallaig
	18	Working with Sileas on Cèilidh Trail, Camaghael
	19	Attended Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan Meeting, Acharacle
May	1	Attended Mod Fringe Meeting, Camaghael
	2	Working with Niki, Fèis Òigridh na Mara, Mallaig
	8	Attended Fèis Lochabair Meeting, Camaghael
	9	Attended Fèis Òigridh na Mara Meeting, Mallaig
	10	Working with Sileas on Cèilidh Trail, Camaghael
	15	Attended Lochaber Gaelic Development EGM, Fort William
	16	Met with people visiting from Fèis an Eilean, Cape Breton in Fort William
	22	Working with Sileas on Cèilidh Trail, Camaghael
24	YMI Meeting, Inverness	

Fiona MacInnes, Support Worker

From the beginning of February 2007, I was very involved in the Lewis and Harris Drama project (PDLH). Six schools participated but unfortunately none from Harris. I helped the schools with their plays when I visited them during February and the beginning of March. Most of the pupils devised their own scripts, and all of them and their teachers are to be commended for all their hard work and the excellent performances they gave on the evening of Tuesday 13th March in the Lanntair in Stornoway. It was a brilliant night and enjoyed by all who participated and attended. As well as the talented young actors, the audience were also treated to great music and singing from the teenage group, Oidhche Chiadain, who are fast earning a good reputation for themselves in Lewis.

I was teaching in Benbecula during the month of May, and whilst there I organised and held a Western Isles regional meeting. Even though this was requested, and very beneficial for the small number who appeared, only Fèis Tìr an Eòrna and Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain attended. This was very disappointing since it is really good for the Fèisean to receive specific training and to get together on an annual basis.

During the remaining months with Fèisean nan Gàidheal, I will be busy assisting the committees with their summer Fèisean. I will be very sorry to be leaving my work after five happy years, and I will miss it. ! I hope through my future role as a teacher, I will still be involved in the Fèis movement in some way. I wish to thank everyone, and especially my FNG work colleagues and the Western Isles Fèisean for all their help, co-operation and all the good times! A big thank to you all.

Fèis Bharraigh

- In regular contact with the Fèis support worker
- The Fhèis will be held from 15 until 21 July

Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich

- I maintain regular contact with the chairperson of the committee
- The FEAF and Fèis Rois teenage groups will be performing at the Hebridean Celtic Festival in July
- The Fèis will be from 23 until 27 July

Fèis Eilean na Hearadh

- In regular contact with admin worker.
- I have attended meetings on 12 and 22 March
- The Fèis will take place 9 – 13 July

Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh

- Regular contact with admin worker
- Ceòl Nis will run between 31 July and 4 August

Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain

- I have been in regular contact with the admin worker and the chairperson
- I have been assisting the committee to acquire financial help to run the Fèis
- Attended a meeting on 29 April
- The Fèis will be in Iochdar school on 9 – 13 July

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna

- I attended meetings on 15 March and 1 May in Carinish.
- The Fèis will be during the first week of July (2 – 6 July)

Fèis an Rubha

- Attended AGM on 20 March
- The Fèis will take place 6–10 August

Other

- Met Artair Donald and the Lanntair staff re PDLH on 23 February
- Attended a staff meeting in Plockton on 23 April
- Attended the GASD Arts Conference in Stornoway on 8 May
- Organised and attended the Western Isles regional meeting in Carinish, North Uist, on 11- 12 May

Christine MacIntyre, Support Worker

Duties to date

March:

- Organised Argyll Drama Fèis @ Oban High School. 7 schools with a total of 104 children took part and enjoyed every minute of it!
- Arranged for the Dè a Nis film crew to attend the Drama Fèis and St Columba's school to record voxpops.

April:

- Attended Fèis Latharna in an official capacity and as a tutor for video
- Visited Fèis Ghlaschu
- Met with Argyll & Bute Council reps and NYCOS representatives re the formation of Kodály Musicianship Training Possibilities
- Attended a staff meeting at Plockton
- Attended a smaller staff meeting in Fort William

May:

- Attended NYCOS workshop in Appin
- Met with representatives in Dunoon with the intention of establishing a fèis there

Fèis Arainn (Arran)

Cancelled this year due to relocation to new school being the same week as the fèis was to be held.

Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar (West Dunbartonshire)

Progressing, sourcing various funding possibilities

Fèis Innis a Uillt (Meadowburn)

Due to hold a full day fèis on the 2nd June and progressing well with shinty classes

Fèis Latharna (Oban)

They have an application pending with the New Community Investment Programme. They held a successful Easter Fèis in April and one of their teenagers has been accepted to participate in the Lochaber Cèilidh Trail. Committee here is now very pro-active.

Fèis Lannraig a Tuath (North Lanarkshire)

Progressing well in time for August. Seeking to source new funding and exploring the possibility of a series of Gaelic Pop Group workshops. Working in partnership with the Glasgow Gaelic School, Meadowburn and Riverside

Fèis Mhuile (Mull)

In consultation with parents and pupils to establish the demand for classes

Fèis Òigridh Ile agus Dhiùra (Islay & Jura)

Held a very successful fèis on Islay and for the first time in Jura. There is much enthusiasm here to continue having a fèis and to expand the winter classes

Fèis Ghlaschu (Glasgow)

Attendance at this fèis is in the region of 86, however there is still too high a concentration of pre-schoolers and under 8's! The use of the CCA on Sauchiehall St was not a very good choice due to its proximity to the main thoroughfare and the inappropriateness of the building itself. On the positive side, the aged 8+ children that attended had a very good time and greatly enjoyed the experience.

Fèis Thiriodh (Tiree)

Due to happen in July. Fuller details in the next report

Fèis Chile Chonbhail (Inverclyde) Barrhead, East Renfrew and Inverclyde

Happening at the same time as Fèis Lannraig a Tuath! Located in three areas and dependant on the response from parents in this largely non-Gaelic environment!

Fèis Cheann Loch Goill (Lochgoilhead)

They held a very successful two day event at the Ardroy Outward Bound Centre. They combined Gaelic song, instruments with outward bound activities and it was a thoroughly enjoyable and well organised residential event. They hope to repeat this next year.

Still to happen: Fèis Innis an Uilt, Tiriodh, Lannraig a Tuath and Cille Chonbhail, Working in partnership with Fèille Choluim Chille on Mull organizing events in Gaelic song, shinty and percussion in June.

To attend a Gaelic Grammar training event organized by FNG in Fort William in June Working in partnership with Argyll & Butte Council's Cultural co-ordination re securing funding for Isaly/Jura & Colonsay residency.

Dougie Beck, Gaelic Officer (Dràma)

Meanbh-chuileag

The tour came to an end in the Gaelic School in Glasgow on 22 March after nearly four months on the road with the play *Le Meas*.

Below is a summary on the work we carried out:

Week beginning	Place
4 December 2006	Uist
22 January 2006	Islay, Tiree, Mull
29 January 2007	Lochaber, Inverness and Badenoch
5 February 2007	Ross-shire, Aberdeen, Cumbernauld
12 February 2007	Skye
19 February 2007	West of Scotland, Edinburgh
5 March 2007	Skye, Barra, Lewis
12 March 2007	Lewis
19 March 2007	Glasgow

Between December 06 and the end of March 07 we visited 35 schools, performing the play 38 times in front of 911 children.

We managed to reach every Gaelic school in Skye and Lochalsh. Although Kilmuir primary thought that their numbers were too low to justify us visiting them, they came to see the play in Staffin Primary.

We had a successful week in the west of Scotland. We were helped out by Alasdair Law when we had problems contacting the head teacher of Highlanders' academy in Greenock to arrange a visit. However, Alasdair sorted this out for us.

On the way to the Western Isles, we stopped in Dunvegan since we had not managed to visit the primary school there when we had been in Skye a few weeks earlier. We then went to Barra, since bad weather had prevented us from going when we were in Uist in December.

We then moved on to Lewis, but unfortunately I developed a sore throat, which meant we had to cancel a couple of the schools. We used this time to prepare for the Lewis Dràma Festival (see below).

Angela Kennedy was engaged to prepare a teachers' and pupils' support pack. Based on the play, the pack is excellent and will be a great benefit to each school.

The tour was extremely successful, although we did have problems in recruiting actors for it. Good reports were received from teachers and pupils alike, including:

From: Catriona Smith [catsmithalba@yahoo.com]
Sent: 22 February 2007 12:18 am
To: meanbh-chuileag@feisean.org
Subject: Performance at Onthank Primary School, Kilmarnock

Dear Company,

I would like to pass on my thanks to the two actors who came to our school and performed the play about Maram. It was a treat for all of us and was very moving (I was crying at one point!!) Of all the productions I've seen as a Gaelic Medium teacher, this was the most relevant. The actors had beautiful, clear Gaelic, which the children easily understood. The production was pitched at just the right level and our children with learning difficulties also gained much. As the P5-7 teacher, I didn't know you were coming.... so what a fantastic surprise that it turned out so good. The workshop was extremely useful too....after we went back to class, we looked at the

atlas and found out lots of other things about Afghanistan. Many, many thanks to the Company and please pass on my thanks to the fine actors. I hope you'll come again! We're a small Department and the children don't get many opportunities like this.
Le deagh dhùrachdan,
Catriona Smith

and the following article which appeared in the West Highland Free Press:

West Highland Free Press | Friday 6 April 2007



Sleat pupils raise funds for Afghan Aid

Pupils at Sleat Primary School in Skye have been putting their break time to great use over the past three weeks.

The school's P5-7 children have been holding a sale each day at 11am, offering bric-a-brac, videos, toys, books and baking in order to raise funds for Afghan Aid.

Acting head teacher Suzanne MacDonald said that the impetus for the fundraising came after the pupils saw a play brought to the school by Meanbh-Chuileag — the Gaelic theatre education group — about the relationship between a Scottish boy and an Afghan girl.

The two communicate over the internet and the boy talks about how he hates school because it is boring. The girl in Afghanistan is horrified by his feelings and tells him how he is very lucky, and that in her country women are not allowed to go to school.

At the end of the play, the girl invited the Sleat children to ask her questions about life in Afghanistan.

"The children were very moved by the play when they realised what life is like for children there and decided they wanted to raise some money so they set up the stall. They did very well," said Ms MacDonald.

So far the children have raised over £275 for the charity.

Drama Projects

Pròiseact Dràma Leòdhais (Lewis Drama Project)

Pròiseact Dràma Leòdhais came to an end on 13 March in An Lanntair in Stornoway, with the following schools taking part:

Sgoil Lacasdail	"Strì an Fhearainn" (The Land Struggle)
Sgoil Bharabhais	"An Crais" (The Crash)
Sgoil Bhrèascleit	"Tac Chalanais" (Callanish Tack)
Sgoil a' Bhac	"An rud a thig leis a' ghaoith" (What comes with the wind)
Sgoil Shiaboist	"A' Ceannachd Ad" (Buying a Hat)
Sgoil na h-Àirde	"Blàthachadh na Cruinne" (Global Warming)

Altogether, around 50 pupils took part in the evening.

We had a few problems recruiting drama tutors for the project, and we will be examining this when we come to run the project again later in the year. Fiona, Christina MacDonald (Point), and Arthur Donald visited the school in the weeks leading up to the night in An Lanntair to give advice and direction. Arthur acted as rehearsals manager on the day and was fear an taighe in the evening.

Pròiseact Dràma Earra Ghàidheal (Argyll Drama Project)

Pròiseact Dràma Earra Ghàidheal came to an end on 27 March in Oban High School. It was Christine, myself and Mairi Morrison who went around the schools giving instruction and advice, and once again it was Arthur Donald who acted as fear an taighe on the evening.

The following schools were involved:

Salen Primary	"Am Biorsdaidh Pàrtaidh" (The Birthday Party)
Strath of Appin Primary	"A' chaora 's fheàrr ann an Earra Ghàidheal" (The Best Sheep in Argyll)
St Mary's, Fort William	"An Cafaidh" (The Cafe)
St Columba's Primary	"Avrill Àlainn" (Snow White)
Bowmore Primary	"Dubh-Sìth" (The Black Fairy of Jura)
Sandbank Primary	"Avrill Àlainn" (Snow White)
Mallaig Primary	"Air Bàta Cal-Mac" (On the Cal-Mac boat)

The project was very successful and Christine did a huge amount of work for it. This was the second year of the project, and it will be run again next year.

Applecross Workshop: 30 March

I spent a day in Applecross at the end of March doing Gaelic and drama workshops in the primary school. This was as a part of a project organised by Fèis a Bhealaich to produce a DVD on Gaelic in the area. I will be returning shortly to do another workshop for the same project.

Edinburgh Week: 23 to 27 April

I was based in Edinburgh Castle for a week taking children round while playing the character of Duncan Ban MacIntyre. The week was organised by Comunn na Gàidhlig. 249 children came to the Castle over the week, from 12 schools. Each group was with me for two hours, and the children saw most of the most important features. I was also involved in organising a cèilidh for the children, which took place halfway through the week.

Dunoon Gaelic Day: 28 April

Myself and Rona Wilkie went to Dunoon to conduct a day of Gaelic activities for pupils of Sandbank Primary, Dunoon. This is the third time we have been present at this day, which is organised by Cowal Gaelic Partnership, and while I was there I spoke to the committee about setting up a Fèis in Dunoon. Usually Highlanders' Academy in Greenock send pupils to the day, but unfortunately they were not there this year.

Dealbh Ealain: 8 May

I travelled to Stornoway to be stage manager for the concert which was held as part of the conference "Dealbh Ealain" which was organised by Pròiseact nan Ealain.

National Trust for Scotland

I was supposed to be taking part in a project with the National Trust for Scotland - *An Fhìdeag Airgid* (The Silver Whistle) – but unfortunately it was cancelled due to lack of interest. In spite of this, I hope that we can work with them again in the future.

The months ahead

I am busy just now planning for the months ahead, and I am working on the following projects:

Training weekend for Fèis drama tutors. This will be held in Perth in September. It will be suitable for anyone with drama experience who would like some training in how to teach it at Fèisean. This will be part of a programme which will work towards a **drama summer school** which will be held in summer 2008. We are also considering running a drama project aimed at students which will be similar to the projects we are holding in schools at the moment. These projects aim to get young people interested in drama – we have been noticing that young actors with Gaelic and people who are capable of teaching drama are getting harder to find.

Drama Projects. We hope to run drama projects in the following areas this year – Skye and Lochalsh, Lewis and Harris, Argyll and Uist and Barra. In addition to this we hope to run a North Highland project, perhaps with assistance from Out of Eden. I will be working closely with Eden Court in the coming months on a project that they themselves will be running – *Ceann Mòr*. This will be taking place in Gaelic primary schools across the North Highland area.

FnG will shortly be advertising for a **drama worker** who will work with me on the above projects. This individual will be greatly involved in teaching on the drama projects, and it is envisaged that he or she will spend time with Eden Court learning drama skills and teaching techniques.

Calum Alex MacMillan, Gaelic Officer

Sgioba-G

The Sgioba-G has been busy over the past three months and I have been on the road getting the chance to meet with some of the Fèis committees.

Fèis Dhùn Èideann

This Fèis was held on the 12-15 February. Rona Wilkie, a student in Edinburgh, and I were directing the Gaelic activities with help from Gaelic speaking tutors and supervisors. We also helped out with a number of other duties, running the tuck shop, supervising children at breaks and in some classes, putting the concert together and I also was the MC at the tutors' cèilidh.

Fèis Obar Dheathain

On the 17-19 February Sgioba-G visited Fèis Obar Dheathain. Anna Wombwell, a Gaelic student in Aberdeen, and I directed the Gaelic activities with some help from Gaelic speaking tutors. We assisted the committee with a number of other duties including; registration, supervision at breaks, timetabling the children's concert and I also took the role of MC at the concert. I enjoyed the Fèis and was happy with how the Sgioba-G had worked.

Fèis Cheann Loch Goille

I went down to Fèis Cheann Loch Goille on 10-11 March. I ran some workshops for the participants doing some art projects and games. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the activities and it was good to see that some of the children who were going through the GLPS system in their school were able to hold basic conversations.

Fèis Lochabair

I went to Fort William for the Fèis which was held on the 2-6 April. I was running the Gaelic activities with help from some of the tutors and committee members. As well as co-ordinating the activities I was also assisting with the 5-8s, Drama, Lunchtime games and shinty. The Fèis was very enjoyable and I was very pleased with how the Gaelic activities had worked.

Fèis Rois & Fèis An Earraich

Though the Sgioba-G was not present at these Fèisean I did prepare Gaelic activities for their team of supervisors to do with kids as part of evening activities.

Meetings

Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain

On the 15th March I went to meet with the Uist Fèisean. I spoke about the G-team and Gaelic activities for their Fèis. I am going to prepare a programme of Gaelic activities for their Fèis in July.

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna

I also attended a meeting with some of the members of the Fèis Tìr an Eòrna committee. They were noticing the need for more Gaelic content at their Fèis. We decided on a time in their Fèis timetable for Gaelic and Fiona MacInnes will direct these Sgioba-G activities.

Fèis Mhoireibh

I met with some members of the committee and we discussed Gaelic at the Fèisean. I have prepared activities for the Fèis and I will be attending the first day of the Fèis to assist with these activities.

Fèis Ghlinn Albainn

Nicola and I attended a meeting with this Fèis on the 22nd March. We discussed Gaelic activities at the Fèis and also Gaelic policy. We have since drafted up a Gaelic policy for the Fèis and I will be preparing resources for their Summer Fèis.

Future work

In the coming weeks and months I am meeting with; Fèis Eilean Cholla, Fèis a' Bhaile, Fèis na h-Òige and I am hoping to arrange further meetings with more Fèisean. I will be preparing the Sgioba-G activities and looking for more fun and interesting activities for the Fèisean

Translations

I have been busy with translations for various Fèisean. I have translated a number of application forms, press-releases, posters and other information. I was also present at the board meeting at Glasgow airport in February.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Funding

We received additional funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to buy computers and cameras for the work of Sgioba-G. We are very grateful for this support and I am now working towards developing new activities that will make use of this new equipment.

Database

I have begun work on a new database of useful words, terms and phrases that will be useful for the day-to-day work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Fèisean.

An Làrach Ùr

I met with Chris Deplano in March to discuss the new website and the Sgioba-G section. We are working together on developing this section of the website

Christopher DePlano, Communications & Marketing Officer

YMI

At the end of February I was asked to plan a press-push, with a weekly look at the traditional programme of the Youth Music Initiative. Each release looked at the different areas within the Highland Council, where local fèisean are delivering the initiative. As part of this, I was accompanied by photographer Gordon Willoughby to Inverness to take the opportunity to speak to the participants, teachers and tutors taking part. A press release was sent out every week, in the six weeks running up to the Election, with the final release being sent to the national papers, with comments from Patricia Fergusson (MSP and Minister for Culture) and David MacDonald from the SAC.

Blas Website

Working with Cailean Maclean, I put together an action plan for the Blas website. I spent around a week on the site updating it and am constantly keeping an eye on it.

Faileas newsletter

Following problems with the designers and printers, the second edition of the revised Faileas was printed. Following training on Adobe InDesign, I hope to have the next edition printed in time to hand out at the forthcoming Ceòl nam Fèis concerts.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's new website

The new website will be up and running at the end of the month. I spent a morning with Fèis Rois organising their planning, as well as an afternoon with Calum Alex, planning the Sgioba-G section of the site, as well as Sgioba G marketing in general.

Following the purchase of a Zoom H4 recording device, I used the opportunity of the final Feis an Earraich concert to record the event, which I hope to put up on the new website.

Training

I have applied to go on a marketing course, run by the TMA, at Newbattle Abbey College in Edinburgh.



Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Taigh a' Mhill
Port-Rìgh
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach
IV51 9BZ

Fòn 01478 613355
Facs 01478 613399
Post-d brath@feisean.org
www.feisean.org