

# faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 25 • Issue 25 • An t-Ògmhios 07 • June 07

## Ceòl nam Fèis 2007 air Chuairt air Feadh Alba

Airson a' chiad turais a-riamh, thèid consartan Ceòl nam Fèis aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal a chumail taobh a-muigh na Gàidhealtachd. Thèid ceithir consartan a chumail thairis air ceithir oidhcheannan aig deireadh an Ògmhios, le measgachadh de luchd-ciùil bho na Cèilidhean air Chuairt, cuide ri òigridh bho na Fèisean ionadail. Tha na consartan ag amas air cothrom a thoirt do dh'òigridh aois 16 gu 25 na sgilean aca a leasachadh le bhith a' cluich ceòl traidiseanta air àrd-ùrlar air beulaibh luchd-èisteachd.

Bidh còrr is 50 neach-ciùil a' gabhail pàirt anns gach consart, fo stiùir Nuala Cheanadaich. Airson blas ionadail a chur air gach consart, thèid cuireadh a-mach do gach Fèis a tha stèidhichte anns na sgìrean far am bi na consartan a' tachairt, airson cothrom a thoirt dhaibhsan pàirt a ghabhail sna cuirmean-chiùil.

Thuir Dàibhidh Boag, Manaidsear Leasachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal, "Tha na cuirmean-chiùil seo a' toirt dhuinn cothrom feadhainn den luchd-chiùil òga as fheàrr ann an Alba fhaicinn, agus bheir e sealladh dhuinn de ghinealach ùr luchd-ciùil na Gàidhlig. Ceithir consartan agus fìor dheagh chothrom airson obair nam Fèisean a chomharrachadh anns a bliadhna a' chomharraicheas Alba cultur na Gàidhealtachd"

Thèid ceithir consartan Ceòl nam Fèis a chumail ann am Peairt (27.06.07), Beannchar (28.06.07), Glaschu (29.06.07) agus Dùn Èideann (30.06.07), le taic bho Chomhairle Ealain na h-Alba agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean. Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh, tadhail air an làrach-lìn ùr againn aig [www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org) neo faic an t-sanas air duilleag 2.



### Ceòl nam Fèis 2007 On Tour Across Scotland

Around 50 young musicians from the fèisean will be going on tour around Scotland over four nights this June. Each concert will feature musicians from the 'Cèilidh Trail' groups across the Highlands, as well as fèis participants from the local fèisean in each area.

David Boag, Development Manager at Fèisean nan Gàidheal said, "This is the first time that we have taken Ceòl nam Fèis on tour, and out of the Highlands. The concerts offer a feast of some of Scotland's finest young traditional musicians, and will be an exciting preview of the next generation of Gaelic musicians. Four great concerts and a tremendous way to highlight the work of the Fèis movement during the year Scotland celebrates Highland Culture".

The four Ceòl nam Fèis concerts will be held in Perth (27.06.07), Banchory (28.06.07), Glasgow (29.06.07) and Edinburgh (30.06.07), with support from the Scottish Arts Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. For more information, visit our new website on [www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org) or see our advert on page 2.

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### Làrach-lìn agus Suaicheantas Ùr do dh'Fhèisean nan Gàidheal

Aig toiseach na mìosa chaidh làrach-lìn ùr Fèisean nan Gàidheal beò air an eadar-lìon. Tha an làrach-lìn ùr fada nas simplidh a chleachdadh agus, leis gu bheil Fèisean nan Gàidheal air fàs, tha barrachd dhuilleagan ann le tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air obair na buidhne agus na pròiseactan anns a bheil i an sàs.

Cuide ri seo, chaidh suaicheantas ùr fhoillseachadh a chuireas ris an làrach-lìn ùr agus a thèid a chleachdadh gu furasta anns gach suidheachadh. Tadhail air an làrach-lìn aig [www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org)

### New Website and Logo for Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has recently launched a new website which is simpler to use and features more information on the work of the organisation. To accompany this development, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has introduced a new logo, which it hopes will complement the new site and be easily used on all media platforms. Visit the new website at [www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org).



## Highest Numbers Yet at Fèis an Earraich in Portree

This year's Fèis an Earraich got off to another successful start, with attendance at its highest level ever. Over 160 children aged 9 -16 gathered in Portree Primary School for the five-day fèis. They were joined this year by 17 young teenagers from the Armagh Pipers Club in Northern Ireland, all of whom play a variety of traditional instruments. As well as attending classes during the fèis week, they attended an intensive Scottish Gaelic course during the fèis. A final concert took place in the Aros Theatre in Portree on Friday night, which had sold out by the time the doors had opened!

## Meanbh-chuileag – Le Meas

Às dèidh dhuinn a bhith air an rathad bho thoiseach na Dùbhlachd, thàinig a' chuairt againn gu crìch air 22 Màrt san Sgoil Ghàidhlig ann an Glaschu.

Rinn sinn 38 taisbeanaidhean ann an 35 sgoiltean Ghàidhlig air feadh na dùthcha, bho Bhaile Dhubhthaich gu Ìle agus bho Ullapul gu Dùn Èideann agus chunnaic 911 duine-chloinne an dealbh-chluich.

Bha Le Meas stèidhichte an dà chuid ann an Afganastan agus Glaschu, agus bha e air leth soirbheachail. Fhuaradh deagh aithrisean bho thidsearan agus bhon chloinn-sgoile, nam measg:

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.

Bha dà phrìomh character anns an dealbh-chluich – Chris, balach à Glaschu a bha air chluich le Colla Dòmhnallach aig toiseach na cuairte, agus mu dheireadh le Dougie Beck, agus Maram, nigean à Kabul a bha air a cluich le Deirdre Ghreumach.

**Bidh duilleag shònraichte aig Meanbh-chuileag air làrach-lìn ùr Fèisean nan Gàidheal, agus gheibh sibh sin aig [www.meanbh-chuileag.org](http://www.meanbh-chuileag.org)**

## Meanbh-chuileag Theatre-in-Education

Meanbh-chuileag was very busy in the months leading up to the end of March with the play Le Meas (With Respect) which was performed in 35 Gaelic schools across the country between December 2006 and March 2007. In total, 911 children saw the play, which is set both in Afghanistan and Glasgow, and fantastic feedback was received from teachers and pupils alike.

**Meanbh-chuileag will have its own special pages on the new Fèisean nan Gàidheal website. Go to [www.meanbh-chuileag.org](http://www.meanbh-chuileag.org) to find out more!**

Ceòl Tradiseanta aig àrd ìre  
Traditional music at its best

**Ceòl nam fèis**  
nam

Our world-wide age range Fèisean is open again each year to celebrate the talents of young traditional musicians and singers from the 100 countries in an unbroken concert series.

Wednesday 27 June – Diciadain 27 Ògmhios  
Perth Theatre – 7.30pm  
Box Office Telephone: 0800 311 6333  
Online Tickets/Reservations on website: [www.fèisean.org.uk](http://www.fèisean.org.uk)

Thursday 28 June – Diardaoin 28 Ògmhios  
Banchory – Woodend Barn – 7.30pm  
Box Office Telephone: 01336 629643  
Online Tickets/Reservations on website: [www.fèisean.org.uk](http://www.fèisean.org.uk)

Friday 29 June – Dihaoine 29 Ògmhios  
Strathclyde Suite – GRCH – 7.30pm  
Box Office Telephone: 01875 313 0000  
Online Tickets/Reservations on website: [www.grch.com](http://www.grch.com)

Saturday 30 June – Disathairne 30 Ògmhios  
Edinburgh – St Bride's Centre – 7.30pm  
Box Office Telephone: 0131 248 1460  
Online Tickets/Reservations on website: [www.fèisean.org.uk](http://www.fèisean.org.uk)

[www.fèisean.org](http://www.fèisean.org) Scottish Arts Council

## Donnchadh MacLeòid

**Bhàsaich Donnchadh MacLeòid anns a' Chèitean, aig aois 72. Nuair a chaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a stèidheachadh, bha Donnchadh air a thaghadh mar Chathraiche air a' bhuidheann ùr, agus bha e os cionn chùisean anns na tràth-làithean mas do ghabh e greim-cridhe a thug air an t-uallach a leigeil dheth.**

Thug Donnchadh seachad iomadh bliadhna a' toirt taic do ghnòthaichean na Gàidhlig, agus a bharrachd air dreuchdan aig a' Chomunn Ghàidhealach agus eile, bha e na Rùnaire air Fèis Fiomh is Telebhisean nan Dùthchannan Ceilteach.

Tha sinn gu mòr an comain Dhonnchaidh airson gach nì a rinn e airson iomairt nam Fèisean.

Tha Donnchadh a' fàgail a bhean, Catriona, triùir balaich agus nigean, agus tha ar co-fhaireachdainn riutha aig an àm seo.

Duncan MacLeod passed away in May, aged 72. When Fèisean nan Gàidheal was established, Duncan was chosen as the Chair of the new body, and was in charge of things in the early days until a heart attack forced him to give up the position.

Duncan spent many years involved in Gaelic affairs, and in addition to various posts within An Comunn Ghàidhealach, he was the Secretary of the Celtic Film and Television Festival.

We are very grateful to Duncan for all he did for the fèis movement.

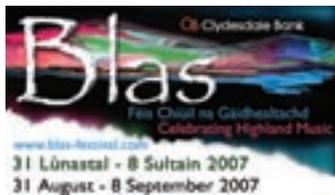
Duncan is survived by his wife, Catriona, three sons and a daughter, and our thoughts are with them at this time.

# Blas Festival : Substantial Reductions for 'Early Birds'

**Catch worms if you want but a more appealing option if you are an early bird is access to really attractive ticket prices for this year's Blas Festival.**

Though Blas blasts off on August 31<sup>st</sup>, there has already been considerable interest in tickets for the fifty or so different events taking place throughout the Highlands and Islands over the nine-day festival. For those who book between now and the end of June, great reductions are available on the full-price tickets. For example, a £4 reduction can be secured on tickets for a Blas concert in Inverness' St Andrew's Cathedral at which Karen Matheson and the Scottish Ensemble will perform. Another Blas concert, staged in Fort William and featuring Shooglenifty together with the celebrated Northumbrian piper, Kathryn Tickell will cost early birds £10 rather than the normal full price of £13. These reductions are typical of those offered across the whole range of Blas events this year.

Among the highlights for 2007 will be a reprise of Donald Shaw's 'Harvest', being

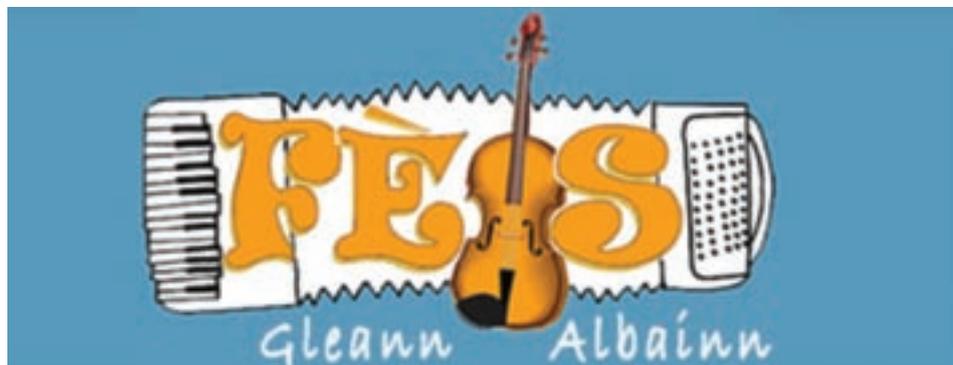


presented in association with Fèis Rois and featuring over 40 Fèis youngsters alongside internationally-renowned musicians.

Blas is supported by The Highland Council, Highland 2007, the Scottish Arts Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise, and is sponsored by the Clydesdale Bank.

Tha na tiocaidan 'Earlybird' a bha cho soirbheachail an- uiridh gu bhith ann am- bliadhna a-rithist. Tha an tiocaid seo a' toirt prìsean nas saoire dhaibhsan a cheannaicheas iad ro dheireadh an Ògmhios. Mar sin, an àite ceithir nota deug a chosg air tiocaid airson cuirm anns a' Ghearasdan aig a bheil Shooglenifty agus Kathryn Tickell a' cluich, gheibh sibh e airson deich notaichean. Tha cothrom aig daoine airgead a chùmhnadh air tiocaidan airson gach cuirm san fhèis ach feumaidh iad a bhith air an ceannachd ro thoiseach an Iuchair.

[www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com)



## NessFest: A Magical Weekend of Traditional Music

Fèis Gleann Albainn is leading a new Celtic music festival taking place this summer in the Fort Augustus area. NessFest aims to showcase the area's rich culture to both visitors and locals alike. It will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of August in the beautiful grounds of the former Fort Augustus Abbey, featuring concerts from some great bands including Wolfstone, Shooglenifty and The Gary Innes Band. There will also be free music sessions, children's theatre, art workshops and the all new 'Loch Ness Magic Challenge', a competition designed to celebrate and honour Scotland's tradition of magical expertise.

Fèis Gleann Albainn committee member and Festival co-ordinator Bill Skeoch said, "NessFest promises to be a gem in the heart of the Highlands. For the size of the local community there is vibrant interest in, and support for, Fèis Gleann Albainn and traditional music in general. We hope Fort Augustus will provide a scenic venue for this new festival".

Weekend tickets for the festival are on sale now priced £35 or £15 for under 16's. Tickets can be booked on-line at [www.thebooth.co.uk](http://www.thebooth.co.uk) or by e-mailing [cedartower@aol.com](mailto:cedartower@aol.com). For more information visit the Fèis Gleann Albainn website at [www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk](http://www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk)

## Fèis Latharna

In the second week of April this year, children from the Oban area gathered for their annual fèis week. Participants attended a special cèilidh dance on Wednesday night in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall in Oban featuring bands such as Skipinnish and the Anna Massie Band. The week ended with a well attended final concert at Park Primary School.

## Fèis Lochabair

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Fèis Lochabair took place in Lochaber High School in the first week of the Easter holidays, with over 130 participants attending the week long event. Fiona Ironside, Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer said, "The week passed with great success, and the youngsters really enjoyed the event. The final concert was a great showcase of what they had achieved".

## Fèis Ghlaschu

This year's Fèis took place in the Centre of Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street in central Glasgow, with around 90 participants taking part. Classes this year included fiddle, clàrsach and Gaelic song.

## Fàilte air Fiona Ironside

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal a' cur fàilte air Fiona Ironside a bhios na h-Oifigear Leasachaidh do na Fèisean ann an sgìre Loch Abar fhad 's a tha Ingrid NicEanraig air fòrladh màthaireil. Ron a-seo, bha Fiona na co-òrdanaiche airson prògraman traidiseanta na h-Iomairt Chìùil Òigridh san sgìre. Tha sinn an dòchas gun tèid gu math leatha anns an obair ùr.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal welcomes Fiona Ironside to the team, as the Lochaber Fèisean Development Worker. Fiona has taken over duties in the area from Ingrid Henderson, who is currently on maternity leave. Prior to joining the organisation, Fiona was the local Youth Music Initiative Co-ordinator for the area. We would like to wish her well in the job ahead.

# Argyll & South By Christine MacIntyre Fèisean Support Worker

It's that time again, he said with a hiss!  
Who? You may say, why our man Chris!  
Do it the same as you did the last time,  
so once again, this is in rhyme!

Not much to say this time around,  
life has been quiet in the fèis pound!  
Spent writing reports and YMI applications,  
just doing my bit for the wee Gaelic nations!



Ile and Jura had a mid-term break,  
so to their fèis my way I did make!  
I heard fiddles and whistles, guitars and a box,  
while Shineag made them sing right out of their  
socks!

Then to the land of deer where people are few,  
why Jura of course, to a fèis that is new  
They fretted that things would not go to plan!  
But how could they fail, they had Simon Moran?

Fèis Latharna, ones who do like to try  
are still busy plaguing those at YMI!  
"Explain further what this music entails?"  
the clipped voice from Edinburgh on the phone  
wails!

Fèis Lannraig a Tuath, well I just don't know,  
they are teaching their kids Tai kwan do!  
"But is this in Gaelic?" I say to Elaine,  
"Goodness" she says, "wuman, you can be such  
a pain!"

Tha an fhèis againn làn Ghàidhlig, ceòl agus crac,  
so go tell that to Arthur when you report back!

Fèis Cheann Lochgoil with all their potential,  
have organised a fèis that is all residential  
They will go in a line and march right along,  
with Kathleen Graham singing a wee Gaelic song!



They will climb up some walls and cross a ravine  
with their pied-piper, wee Mairearad Green  
Elizabeth says "if this fèis is a winner,  
at this rate I will get definitely thinner!"

Finally I got to go on a spree  
when to do some Disclosures, I went to Tìree  
Annualised hours have caused them some grief;  
we need a Treasurer, Secretary and a new Chief!

Your merchandise boxes are piled up our wall!  
Take them away, say those from the hall!  
We'll put an advert in the paper for storage and staff,  
so wording the advert gave them all a great laugh.

Fèis Dhràma Ghàidhlig caused much mirth and  
great laughter  
Now they are asking who gets the BAFTA.

Fèis Ghlaschu went its own way, and held their  
week in the CAA  
To Plockton we went for our staff there to meet  
And I can assure you too, it's a great place to eat!



A workshop with NYCOS the Scottish Youth  
Chorus

Was the next task that was set before us?  
60 odd kids with sticks and no drum  
While not realising they were learning to hum!

To find out next what I have in store  
You will have to wait until Aviemore!

## Fèis Thrèanaidh Inbhir Nis

Aig toiseach a' Ghearrain, thàinig luchd-eagrachaidh, comataidhean agus luchd-obrach còmhla airson dà latha de thrèanadh ann an Inbhir Nis. Bha seiseanan goirid rim faotainn air iomadh cuspair thairis air an dà latha, bho Chunntasachd gu Ealain, Sgioba-G agus Dion Chloinne gu Na Meadhanan agus Gàidhlig, agus bha Ciad Chobhair a ruith fad an latha Disathairne. Far an robh e iomchaidh, chaidh na seiseanan a theagasg le luchd-obrach Fèisean nan Gàidheal, agus chaidh eòlaichean a tharraing a-steach airson nan cuspairean eile. A rèir nan duilleagan-measaidh a thill muinntir nam Fèisean, bha an tachartas iomchaidh, tlachdmhor agus tarraingeach anns gach dòigh. Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal an dùil a leithid a ruith an-ath-bhliadhna aig an aon àm.

Ma tha thu fhèin airson barrachd fhaighinn a-mach mu thrèanadh, cuir fios dhan Oifigear Trèanaidh, Iona NicDhòmhnaill aig 01478 614001, no [iona@feisean.org](mailto:iona@feisean.org)

## Successful 'Training Fèis' held in Inverness

At the start of February this year, delegates and staff from the Fèisean gathered in Inverness to take part in a two day 'training fèis', with workshops available in a variety of subjects including Gaelic language, First Aid and accountancy for fèis groups. Where possible, sessions were led by Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff, with trainers brought in where appropriate. Following strong support through feedback, it is hoped that Fèisean nan Gàidheal will run a similar event at the same time next year.

For more information contact Iona MacDonald, Training Development Officer: [iona@feisean.org](mailto:iona@feisean.org)