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 oideachan 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 cothachadh a thoirt do dh’òigridh aoi 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 blàs 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’ tachair, airson cothoom a thoirt dhaibhsan pàirt a ghabhair snà cuirmean-chiùil.

Thuir Dàibhidh Boag, Manaidsear Leasachadh Fèisean nan Gàidheal, “Tha na cuirmean-chiùil seo a’ toirt dhruinn cothrom feadhainn den luchd-chiùil òga as theàrr ann an Alba fhaicinn, agus bhuir e sealladh dhruinn de ghinealach ur luchd-ciùil na Gàidhlig. Ceithir consartan agus flor dheagh cothrom aird obair nam Fèisean a chomharrachadh anns a bliadhna a’ chomharracheas 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 bhò Chomhairle Ealain nan Eilean, airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh, tadhail air an lùrach-lìn ùr againn aig www.feisean.org.

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 or see our advert on page 2.
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!

Donnchadh MacLeòid

Bhàsaich Donnchadh MacLeòid anns a’ Chèitean, aig aois 72. Nuair a chaith Fèisean nan Gàidheal a stèidheachadh, bha Donnchadh air a thagadh mar Chathraiche air a’ bhuidheann ur, agus bha e os chionn chùisean ann na tràth-làithean mas do ghabh e gheim-crìde a thug an t-uallach a leigeil dheth.

Thug Donnchadh seachad iomadh bliadhna a’ toirt taic do ghnorthaichean na Gàidhlig, agus a bharrachd air dreuchdan aig a’ Chomunn Gàidhealach agus eile, bha e na Rùnaire air Fèis Fiolm is Telebhisean nan Dùthchannan Ceilteach.

Tha sinn gu mòr an comain Dhonnachaidh airson gach nì a rinn e airson iomairt nam Fèisean. Tha Donnchadh a’ fàgail a bhean, Catrìona, triùir balaich agus nighean, agus tha ar co-fhaireachdairí triùr air a dhuine aig an t-òraidh dheth.

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 Gàidhealach, 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.

Meanbh-chuileag – Le Meas

Às dèidh dhùinn a bhith air an rathad bhò thoiseach na Dùbhchaidh, thàinig a’ chuaraid againn gu crìch air 22 Màrt san Sgoil Gàidhlig ann an Glaschu.

Rinn sinn 38 taisbeannadh ann an 35 sgoiltean Gàidhlig air feadh na dùthcha, bho Bhaile Dhubhthacha gu lìe agus bho Ullapul gu Dùn Èideann agus chunnnaic 911 duine-chloinne an deabh-chluich.

Bha Le Meas stèidhichte an dà chuid ann an Alghanastan agus Glaschu, agus bha e a’ air leth soirbhéachail. Phuaradh deagh àthrisice bho thidsearan agus bhuòin choileann-soile, 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 phríomh charactar anns an deabh-chluich – Chris, balach à Glaschu a bhà air chluich le Colla Domhnallach aig toiseach na cuairte, agus mu dhereadh le Dougie Beck, agus Maram, nighean à Kabul a bhà air a cluich le Deirdre Gheumach.

Bidh duilleag shònraichte aig Meanbh-chuileag air làrach-lù Fèisean nan Gàidheal, agus gheibh sibh sin aig 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 to find out more!
**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 31st, 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 tiocaidean ‘Earlybird’ a’ bha cho soirbheachail an- uirdh gu bhith ann am- bladhna a-rithist. Tha an tiocaid seo a’ toirt prìsean nas saoire dhaibhsan a cheannacheas 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 chumhachadh air tiocaidean airson gach cuirm san fhèis san féis ach feumaidh iad a bhithe air an ceannachd ro thoiseachan an luchair.

www.blas-festival.com

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**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 ceilidh 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 15th 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 for Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street in central Glasgow, with around 90 participants taking part. Classes this year included fiddle, clàrsach and Gaelic song.

**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 3rd and 4th 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. For more information visit the Fèis Gleann Albainn website at [www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk](http://www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk)

**Fàilte air Fiona Ironside**

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal a’ cur fàilte air Fiona Ironside a bhios na h-Oifigeach Leasachadh do na Fèisean ann an sgìre Loch Abair bhàd ’s a tha Ingrid NicEanraig air fòrladh mathaireil. Ron a-seo, bha Fiona na co-àrdanaiche airson prògraman traidiseanta na h-lomairt Chìuig Òigrdhan san sgìre. Tha sinn an dòchas gu tèid gu math leatha anns an obair úr.

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.
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 Lathama, 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 Tiree
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!

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

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