Ministear airson Cultair aig Coinneamh Bhliadhna Fhèisean nan Gàidheal

Minister for Culture set to attend AGM

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal AGM and annual conference is due to take place in Aviemore this year, where the Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, Linda Fabiani MSP is expected to be in attendance.

Representatives from the Fèisean will gather to hear a report on how the organisation has fared over the past year. Also, a presentation will be given on the organisation’s new website, and how member-fèisean can put it to good use.

Jennifer McGlone from the Scottish Arts Council will be offering information on the Youth Music Initiative, whilst Elspeth Macgillivray will give a guest-lecture about well-known musicians from Badenoch.

The AGM and conference will be held on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th of September at the MacDonald Aviemore Highland Resort. It is expected that many representatives from the fèisean across Scotland will be in attendance.
New Fèis for Moray

The inaugural Fèis Mhoireibh was held on 26th and 27th May 2007 in Moray College, Elgin. A total of 57 children participated in the two day Fèis. All children learned cèilidh dancing with the live cèilidh band, and Gàidhlig in the ‘Fun with Gàidhlig’ time.

This first Fèis was well supported and enjoyed by all, as evidenced from Fèisean nan Gàidheal feedback forms. Children and parents are asking when the next one is. One child was overheard saying there should be a Fèis in Elgin once a month! The closing concert/cèilidh was at The Laichmoray Hotel, Elgin. All the children performed at the concert and then enjoyed dancing their newly learned dances at the cèilidh that followed with the ‘Tutor Ceilidh Band’ with singing from Catriona Watt.

Special thanks to the following for help and support; Graeme Nairn (Graphic Designer), Vic Flett (Sound and Vision Elgin), Calum Alex (FnG), Coisir Ghaidhg Mhoireibh, Moray College, Laichmoray Hotel and the many hard working helpers.

Chaidh ceum chudromach a ghabhail airson nan ealain thràidiseanta an-dè nuair a dh’aoantaich ceithir priomh instiutidian ri coimhead air dòighean gus ‘Acadamaidh nam Fèis’ a churthachadh ann an Alba.

Tha Acadamaidh Rioghail na h-Alba airson Ceòl agus Dràma (RSAMD), Institiud OGE nam Mile Blaidhna (OGE), Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) agus Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnG) a’ fhoilseachadh còmhla, dòighean eadar-dhealaichte gu bheil dèanadh ur a stèidhcheadh agus a rith, buidheann a tha an t-aonadach na bhrosnaicheachd agus na leasaicheachd ceòlraisaidh, dràma agus dóna gan dèanamh.

Thubhairt Iain Wallace, Prionnsabal OGE, “Tha seo air leth ri atsonach gus déanamh ris an iarratas daoine a bha aig na ifeadh ar feadh Alba air fad. Tha sin a’ fàcinn dhaoine òg le tàlantán morhbaileach a’ tighinn tro na dorsan againn airson air ceum ann an Ceòl Albannach ach tha sinn luma-làn – feumaidh sinn cothrom a phàigheadh. Tha an deireadh-seachdain a fheil mise dhinn.

Chuir Prionnsabal OGE, Bob Cormack, ri seo, “Tha na ceithir ionadan uabhasach déidhcheil air seo a chur an gniomh – tha sinn air ar a-nimhean a chur ri Meòrachan Caidreigh Gus dèanamh cinteach gum faigh sinn air seo a chur air chois. Tha e fòilseachadh gur e leasaicheachd òg a cha thuirt a chòrd beagadhachd, agus chuireadh e ris na tha tachart air ann an lìonra OGE a-cheana – ach bhi oideachaidh e na chuideachadh mòr aig ire nàiseanta.”

“Tha mi dhan bheachd gur bheil seo na chomhairr gu bheil gluasad nam Fèis air

Leasachadh Mòr Ùr gus taic a chur ri Ceòl Traidiseanta

Chaith cumhachd a’ ghabhail airson ealaín thràidiseanta an-dè nuair a dh’aoantaich ceithir priomh instiutidian ri coimhead air dòighean gus ‘Acadamaidh nam Fèis’ a churradh ann an Alba.

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A thiginn gu ire,” thuairt Art MacCarmagain, Stiùiriach Fèisean nan Gàidheal, “Le 43 fèisean a-nis air feadh Alba, tha cothrom air fàs agus bhuir eurich churthachadh Acadamaidh nam Fèis cochorm, air a bheil sinn a’ fàilte, do dhaoine òg a tha a’ tighinn tro ghluasad nam Fèis tuilleadh leasaicheadh a dhèanamh air an gsean agus air an traidisean a chumail a’ dol. Tha e Ghaéidhl a’ chridhe na tha sinn a’ déanamh, agus le ionadan eile a’ gabhal com-pàirt, neartaichidh sin àite a’ chàinann an uaidheachd a’ chur bith.”

Stèidhichidh luchd-obrach bhò na ceithir ionadan sgìoba gus a thiginn air ais leis an fhaighdean airson a bhuidhinn a chur air a’ chòrd, ’s a dhaoine ainhceachd. Thathar an duil gum bhith a’ thiginn air a thiginn gu co-dhùnadh an 2007, Bliadhna Chùlraidh na Ghaeildeachadh.

Major New Development to Support Traditional Music

A significant step took place for the traditional arts in Scotland yesterday with the agreement of four key institutions to look at ways of creating a new “Fèis Academy” in Scotland. The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, UHI Millennium Institute, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Fèisean nan Gàidheal are to explore jointly various options for establishing and operating the new body which is intended to promote and develop traditional music, drama and dance.

Staff from the four institutions will form a working party to report back with recommendations to set up and fund the new body. It’s intended that a decision will be made during 2007, the Year of Highland Culture.
Pròiseact Thasglann a’ faighinn £50,000 bho Maoin Dualchais a’ Chrannachur Nàiseanta

Fhuair Fèisean nan Gàidheal £50,000 bho Maoin Dualchais a’ Chrannachur Nàiseanta bho chionn ghoidrid gus pròiseact thasglann a stèidheadadh leis an amas dèanamh cinteach gu bheil tuigse aig daoine òga a tha fritheadadh fèisean dè na tha mun cuairt orra agus am pàirt cudromach a tha aca ann an dèanamh cinteach gu bheil an dearbh-aithne ionadail sònraichte aca air a dhion agus air a mholadh.

‘S e priomh adhbhhar a’ pròiseact ’sgilean a thoirt do dhaoine òga a dhul a-mach dhan choimhreasnachd acsa, stuthan a tharranach ri cheile agus an taisbeaniadh ann an doigh anns an ionaichd iad òghe agus daoine eile na h-brain, ceol òg agus dannaichean mar phàirt de phrògram na fèise.

A bharrachd air a bhithe a’ crùinneachadh stuthan Ghàidhligh, thathar cuideachd an dùn guin toir am pròiseact seo cothrom do dhaoine òga aig a bheil Ghàidhlig a bhith a’ leasachadh an doigh sa bheil iad a’ cleachadh a’ chàinann.

Bhid am pròiseact air a ruith le oifigeur pàirt-tuise, a bhios san dreuchd a’irson tri bladhna, ag obrachadh le dà Fhèis gach bliadhna. Cuiridh an t-oifigeur air doigh sreath de bhùthtean-obrach ann an coimhreasnachdan ionadail, far an cuir daoine a tha ghabhail pàirt ann eòlas air tasgail a tha ann cheana (m.e. ann an Comann Eachdraidh ionadail), sealltainn mar a chealadh teicneolais airdir clàradh, a’ cur air doigh ceadan, a’ cuideachadh leis a’ crùinneachadh fhèin agus le bhith gu dheasachadh ann an riocadh a ghabhas a cleachadh, mar eisimpleir leabhran no CD.

Criochnaichd gach pròiseact le taisbeaniadh aig am na Fèisean ionadail gus sealltainn a tha a air a bhith air a crùinneachadh gus a cho-rioin ris a’ choimhreasnachd san fharsaingeachad.

Archiving Project Awarded £50,000 from Heritage Lottery Funds

Fèisean nan Gàidheal have recently received £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery funds to create an archiving project which aims to ensure that young people attending Fèisean have a clearer understanding of what exists around them, and the important part that they can play in ensuring that their unique local identity is maintained and celebrated.

The main thrust of the project is to provide young people with the “tools” to go out into their community, collect materials and present them in such a way so that they and others can learn these songs, tunes and dances as part of the Fèis programme.

As well as collecting Gaelic material, it is also anticipated that this project will allow young people with Gaelic to improve their use, and quality of use of the language.

The project will be led by a part-time officer, who will be employed for 3 years, working with 2 Fèisean per year.

London Fèis launched at Houses of Parliament

In June, a delegation of 4 young musicians from Fèis Rois headed south to help celebrate the launch of the first London Fèis. The idea of Fèis London is to bring the spirit of the Fèisean to Britain’s largest city and to create an opportunity for a people who have never experienced the beauty, vitality, excitement and relevance of one of the United Kingdom’s most thriving artistic traditions.

The fèis took place over the weekend of 7th to 9th September 2007 in Froebel College, Roehampton, South West London. Set in 4 acres of landscaped grounds, Grove House, the main reception, is an English Heritage listed building, built in the eighteenth century.

The Rt Hon. Charles Kennedy MP for Lochaber & Skye was in attendance at the launch of the fèis at the Houses of Parliament in London. He said;

“I’m delighted to see plans for the first London Fèis in September really taking shape now. The event at the House of Commons was a great success and the organisers are drawing deserved support from across the political spectrum. I think and hope that this initiative can achieve a great deal in drawing upon the vast numbers of Scots and Gaels in and around Greater London and really advance our music and culture in a positive way. It’s a pleasure to be associated with it all”

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Fèis Rois Cèilidh Trail

Now running for its eighth year, the Fèis Rois Cèilidh Trail covered a total of eighteen events throughout the summer across Ross-shire. Highlights included playing at the Cèilidh Place in Ullapool, and performances at two of the most prominent music festivals in the Highlands this year – Belladrum and Beat the Drum. Following a short break the group continued their performances during this year’s Blas festival.

New Cèilidh Trail for Cairngorms National Park

This summer saw an exciting new tour by eight young traditional musicians. Funded by CNPA and Leader+, the Cairngorms Cèilidh Trail performed throughout the Cairngorms National Park.

Caroline Reag, Co-ordinator for the tour said; “From the energy and music played on their first training day these musicians provided fantastic musical entertainment”

The musicians, from throughout the Highlands, Lochgigead and Inverurie spent a week working together in Plockton before touring throughout the National Park. “We are going to be the coolest Cèilidh Trail band” said one of the musicians. Be ready to rock in your seats!!!!

The Original Ceòrìar

The Skye and Lochalsh Cèilidh Trail group this summer played at over 20 gigs throughout the area, performing a mixture of cèilidhs, sessions, concerts and even on the Mallaig-Armadale ferry. The highlight of the event was Elgol Hall, where locals and tourists alike came along to enjoy the atmosphere. The group of eight, co-ordinated by Calum Edmunds from Waterloo, near Broadford on Skye also performed at Beat the Drum as well as this year’s Blas festival.

Lochaber Cèilidh Trail

Following a week’s training at Fèis Alba in Plockton, eight young performers from the Lochaber area performed around 20 gigs between the 6th and 29th July. They performed at a variety of locations from boat-cruises to concerts. The tour also took in Inverie and the small isles of Muck and Eigg. The group also played at Beat the Drum in Drummadrochit as well as the Fèis Gleann Alba-ind led NessFest.
In June this year, thirty of the best young traditional musicians from the Highlands and Islands embarked on a series of concerts, as they set off on the first ever Ceòl nam Fèis tour of towns and cities out with the Highlands.

Led by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Arts Council, each concert featured performers aged 16 - 25 from Highlands and Islands Fèisean, alongside younger participants local to the Perth, Aberdeenshire, Glasgow and Edinburgh venues.

The first concert was held in Perth on Wednesday June 27th, when the touring performers were joined by participants from Stirlingshire-based Fèis sa Mheadhan and Fort Augustus-based Fèis Ghleann Alba. The Highlands and Islands performers then moved up to Banchory, Aberdeenshire on Thursday June 28th, where young performers from Fèis Obar Dheathain in Aberdeen took to the stage. The penultimate performance in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Friday June 29th also played host to a group from Argyll’s Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle. The tour ended in the St Brides Centre, Edinburgh on Saturday June 30th, when aspiring musicians from Fèis Dhùn Eideann in Edinburgh joined the tour.

David Boag, Development Manager at Fèisean nan Gàidheal said, “This was the first time that Ceòl nam Fèis has been on tour out of the Highlands. The concerts offered a feast of some of Scotland’s finest young traditional musicians as well as giving an exciting preview of the next generation of Gaelic musicians. These four great concerts are a tremendous way of highlighting the work of the Fèis movement during this, the Scottish year of Highland Culture”.

On this page, we take a look at some of the pictures from these events.