The first ever Western Isles Ceilidh Trail will take place this year showcasing the musical talents of 8 young aspiring musicians. Following a week's training at Feis Alba to be held in Plockton the local group will perform at various venues throughout the Western Isles during a two week trail in August where they will be treated as professional musicians.

"Being part of the Western Isles Ceilidh Trail is both a wonderful opportunity and a great learning experience! I have a chance to work with a small group of local musicians and to be on tour as a band will be very exciting indeed."

For tour details or further information please contact Rhona Johnstone on 01851 830796.

Other Ceilidh Trails are taking place during the summer in Badenoch & Strathspey; Lochaber; Sutherland; Ross-shire and Skye & Lochalsh. Details at www.feisean.org/ceilidh-trails.html
**PRÓISEACT NÁN TASGLANN**

Tha pròiseact úr aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal ‘Pròiseact nána Tasglann’ ag amas air òrain, ceòl agus scealachdàn a chrùinnneachadh agus a chláradh bho na dìofar sgìrean far am bi Fèisean a’ tachairt. Am bliadhna, tha Fèis a’ Bhealaich a’ ghabhail pàirt anns a’ phróiseact agus tha com-pàrticipate na Fèise air a bhith a’ deahnach agamalaman còmhla ri muinntir an àite agus ag ionicnachadh braon Gàidhlig às a’ Chomraigh. Cuideachdadh, thàinig Fèis Air an Oir, Fèis a’ Bhaile agus Fèis na h-Oige uile còmhla airson latha-tréanaidh ann an anod-tadhail Chùil-lodair far an do dh’ionnsach a com-pàrticipate sgìlean ùr airson agallamh a dhéanamh. Leanaiù a bhàs an pròiseactean seo ann an Inbhir Nis agus Cataibh tron bliadhna agus tha Fèis Cheann Loch Gòibhle an dàul pàirt a ghabhail anns an darna bliadhna den phróiseact.

**THE ARCHIVING PROJECT**

The archiving project is an exciting development for FnG that aims to collect and record songs, tunes and stories from areas where Fèisean are taking place. With funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, this year Fèis a’ Bhealaich have been taking part in the project where Fèis participants have been recording local Gaelic speakers and learning Gaelic songs from the Applecross area.

In addition to this, Fèis Air An Oir, Fèis a’ Bhaile and Fèis na h-Oige came together for a training day at the Culloden Visitor Centre where participants learned new skills in collecting and recording oral history. The projects in Inverness and Sutherland will continue throughout the year and Fèis Cheann Loch Gòibhle will be taking part in the second year of the project.

**12 SGOIL A’ CUR AIR ADHART OBAIR ÙR ANN AN GÀIDHLIG**

Dh’obraich Fèisean nan Gàidheal còmhla ri dusan bun-sgoil anns na h-Èilean an Sìar, Siorrachd Rois, Cataibh agus anns an Èilean Sgitheanach son odircheanann draíma a chur air dóigh.

Bha gosgoilearan bho Airidh an Tuim, Sguire na Pàirc agus Lional ann an Leòdhhas; Geàrrloch, Drochaid a’ Bhana, Cnoc na Creige agus Inbhir Pheotharain ann an Siorrachd Rois agus Cataibh; agus Cille Mhoire, Dún Bheagain, An t-Àth an Siorrachd Rois, Dùn Bheagain, An t-Àth an Siorrachd Rois, Cataibh; agus Leathan agus Port Righ anns an Èilean Sgitheanach a’ deasachadh dhaebhlinn-chluiche sonrachaidh airson nan cuirmeann.

Thuirf Dougie Beck, Olighgear Draíma Fèisean nan Gàidheal “‘S e deagh chothrom a bh’ ann airson nan gosgoilearan a bhith a’ cleasachd air an àrd-ùrlar. Tha sinne a’ faireachdann gu bheil draíma Gàidhlig cudromach airson Gàidhlig na cloinne a leudachadh”.

Thug am pròiseact seo chothrom do 303 gosgoilear ann an anodan Gàidhlig pàirt a ghabhail anns na bùthdean-obrach draíma. Ghabh 262 dhìuibh pàirt ann an deallbh-chluich air an àrd-ùrlar.

Bha am pròiseact seo gu math soarbheachan ann an Earra-Gàidheal ann an 2006 agus mar sin tha sinn a’ chròm a leanachadh gu ghrapaiche eile am-bliadhna.

Chaidh an pròiseact draíma seo a mhaoineachadh le Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Èilean, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, Comhairle na Èilean Siar agus Comhairle Ealaín na h-Alba.

**SCHOOLS DRAMA PROJECT**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal teamed up with twelve primary schools in the Western Isles, Ross-shire, Sutherland and Skye for what was a series of fun nights featuring new Gaelic drama.

Pupils from Airidh an Tuim, Pàirc and Lional in Lewis; Gàrrloch, Bonar Bridge, Craighill and Dingwall in Sutherland and Ross-shire; and Kilmuir, Dunvegan, Broadford and Portree in Skye, performed individual plays that they had written and developed themselves.

The schools drama project was launched successfully in Argyll in 2006, and as a result has extended to other areas this year.

The project enabled 303 pupils in Gaelic Medium education to take part in the drama workshops that were held in the three areas and 262 of them to perform on stage. This provided them with a great opportunity to develop their language skills as well as their acting skills!

**FEIS CHOLLA**

The island of Coll held its first feis ever. It was attended by 90% of the island’s children of Feis age. Besides the normal music, drama and shinty, they also had for the first time cooking at a Feis. Everyone enjoyed the cakes and biscuits. Now they are all eagerly looking forward to next year for more of the same fun and hilarity.

**FEIS DHÙN OMHAIN**

Dunoon now has a new Feis. At the moment they are working closely with the children who are taking part in this year’s National Mod. In October, they are holding a one day Feis and after that they hope to work closely with the Gaelic unit at Sandbank primary.

**FEIS AIR AN OIR**

Following on from a successful year of projects in 2007, which included a special Burns Supper, ‘Summer in the Strath’ and the production of a DVD as a fundraiser for the Feis, Fèis Air an Oir have been busier than ever. As one of the first Fèisean to participate in Pròiseact nána Tasglann, they have been out and about in their local community as well as making a trip to Inverness to join Fèis a’ Bhaile and Fèis na h-Oige for a joint workshop. In addition to the archiving project and their regular fortnightly classes, the committee organised the Caithness and Sutherland local Mòd which took place in June.

**FEIS LANNRAIG A TUATH**

Fèis Lannraig a Tuath has won a Celtic Initiative Award for North Lanarkshire. Meala naidheachd air a h-uile duine againn - well done to all of you!
FÈIS BLAS A’ CUR AIR BHOG CLÀR CULTARACH 2008

Chaidh prògram Blas a bhogadh ann an Eden Court, Inbhir Nis air 29 Cèitean. Tha an fhèis Ghàidhlig is chìùl thraidiseanta as luaithie fàs anns an rioghadh a’ cur 45 tachartas air adhart air fedh na Gàidhealtachd ann an 2008 eadar 5 agus 13 Sultain. ’B e Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, ann an co-bhonn le Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus Promoters Arts Network, a dhealbhachd an Fhèis.

Tha e mar phrìomh amas aig Blas cultar na Gàidhealtachd a chomharrachadh, agus bidh an luchd-ciùil is còmhla-deòthain-chiùil a’ dheàrr ann ann an Alba agus à dúthchannan eile a’ libhbrìgheadh prògram sgoinneil, le òighridh na Gàidhealtachd agus a’ Ghàidhlig an teasaicheadh gnhothaichean. Bidh luchd-ciùil nam Fèisean gu math thar tarang aig Blas, le bhuidhean de dh’òighridh a’ gabhail páirt ann an tòrr chonsairtean. Bidh na bhuidhean òig a’ Channaireadh agus Fidhlear an Chìleigh Earnair a’ chìola còmhla ri còmhluinn air leth-animeil à Eòrin - na Chàiteann - ann an Eden Court air 10 Sultain. Bidh Fèis Rois a’ cur cuirm shòrònraichte “Ceòlraidh” air doigh ann an Srath Pheòr Pavilòin air 12 Sultain. A bharrachd a’ sinn, bidh tòrr de luchd-teagaisg nam Fèisean a’ gabhail páirt cuideachd.

Tha iomadh tachartas taraingeach eile air clàr na blàidhsna, nam measg Phil Cowie-egan agus Aly Bain, an seinneadar J.P. Cormier à Éilean Cheap Breatann, an còmhlan Mìreannach/Amerireaganach Cherish The Ladies, Peatbog Faeries, Julie Fowlis, Alyth, Shoglenityf anc Balich Hatasraigh.

Gheibeach fiosrachadh mun fhòis agus mu tòrr rudan eile air an làrach-lìn.

Blas Festival 2008 launched

This year’s Blas Festival was officially launched at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness on 29th May. The festival takes place from 5 - 13 September and is a joint initiative between Fèisean nan Gàidheal, The Highland Council and the Promoters Arts Network, delivering a programme of 45 events right across the Highlands.

Blas is a celebration of Highland Culture, presenting a programme of top quality Scottish and International artists, whilst ensuring that young people and the Gaelic language are given a starring role. Fèisean involvement in the festival has never been stronger with groups performing at 19 concerts. Gaelic song group Canntaireachd and Fèis Rois Kiltearn Fiddlers are on the bill with Irish super group The Chieftains at Eden Court on 10th September and Fèis Rois are organising a special “Ceòlraidh” concert set to take place at the Strathpeffer Pavilion on 12th September. Over and above this, many Fèis tutors will be performing throughout the festival.

Other festival highlights include performances from Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, stunning singer/songwriter J.P. Cormier from Cape Breton, top Irish-American group Cherish the Ladies and Scottish talent, The Peatbog Faeries, Julie Fowlis, Alyth, Shoglenityf and the Vatersay Boys.

Information about the festival events and some great competitions are available from the website.

FÉIS ALBA 2008

Fèis Alba has become an outstanding training opportunity for young musicians. This year, youngsters from the Western Isles will be joining participants from Lochaber, Skye and the Cairngorms at Fèis Alba in Plockton. The Fèis makes use of the excellent facilities available at the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music.

Participants are given the opportunity to learn more about key skills that will be of use to them as they develop as aspiring semi or fully professional musicians.

It is funded by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the Scottish Arts Council, The Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise and has proved especially useful to participants of the various Ceilidh Trails. As well as providing training, it provides a platform for young people with similar interests to share their creativity.

This year participants will benefit from the expert tuition of well-known traditional musicians including Fraser Stone, Ingrid Henderson and Donald Shaw. The Ceilidh Trails will be kicked off with a joint concert at Plockton High School Pupil Residence on Thursday 3 July at 7.30pm.

TRAINING 2008

The date for the annual Fèis Tréanaidh - the Training Fèis for organisers - has been fixed for 14 and 15 March 2009 at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer.

Keep an eye on the website for further information, and let us know if you have any requests for workshops during the weekend.

Don’t forget:

Level I Tutor Training at Cromarty on 9 and 10 August. Details from iona@feisean.org.
Ghabh 29 com-pàirce nam Fèisean pàirt anns an taisbeanadh Gaidhealtachd 2007 ann an Eden Court anns an Fhaoilleach far an do chluich iad coimisean ùr a sgriobh Blair Dùghlas air a son. Cluinnear an ceòl a-rithist mar phàirt den Fhèis Blas aig Eden Court air Disathairne 6 An t-Sultain; ann an taigh-tasgaidh Kelvingrove ann an Glaschu cuideachd anns An t-Sultain; agus ann an Liverpool anns an Dùblachd, mar phàirt de ‘Dhealbh Dùthcha’ agus tachartasan Prìomh-bhaile Cultarach na Roinn Eòrpa 2008.


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LÀRACH-LÙN - WEBSITE
www.feisean.org

for useful information and resources on Events, Fèisean and Projects (including the Archiving Project, Meabhn-Chulleag, Sgioba-G and the Cèilidh Trails) taking place throughout Scotland.

Under the “Information” section you will find details on Fèisean nan Gàidheal, its staff and responsibilities as well as downloadable documents such as copies of our Annual Reports and Policies e.g. Child Protection and Gaelic Policies; New Fèis Information; Grant information; Details on the Youth Music Initiative Scheme; Resources; and Research documents.

If you require any advice or assistance (or have anything you wish to put on the website) contact your relevant Development Officer who will be glad to help - or get in touch with us at the address below.

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