

# faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 29 • An Dùbhlachd 08 • December 08



## FÈIS A' BHAILE

Aig cuirm-chiùil aig deireadh seachdain na fèise, fhuair caraidean agus teaghlachan cuireadh gu taisbeanadh dhen tàlant aig na 89 com-pàirtichean a bha an làthair aig Fèis a' Bhaile am bliadhna.

Chuidich Ali Ross leis na dathan – le solais stèidse. Chuir an dealbhadair Derek Prescott ris na seallaidhean a ghlac trum na fèise, is fhuair luchd-amharc cothrom na dealbhan fhacinn. Mar as àbhaist, 's iad na sgilean ciùil a dh'ionnsaich a' chlann a rinn an oidhche agus cha do leig iad sìos sinn. Tha na clasaichean còmhlain-ciùil gar tàladh le rudeigin ùr gach bliadhna – cuir nad inntinn ceòl traidiseanta agus 'Beat-boxing'!!!

Rinn Calum Alex bho Sgioba-G obair mhiorbaileach mar 'Fhear-an-taighe'. Ga chuideachadh bha clann bho gach clas ag innse, ann an Gàidhlig, dè bha iad a' dol a chluich.

Fad na seachdain bha clas a bharrachd againn de còmhlain-ciùil gach latha far an robh cothrom aig clann nach robh aig an fhèis pàirt a ghabhail ann. Le taic bhon luchd-teagaisg a bha againn airson na fèise mar Iain Mac Ille Mhìcheil, Sharon Hassan agus Ciorstaidh Fowler, chrìochnaich a' chuir-m-chiùil le snas.

'S e a' phrìomh leasachadh air an robh sinn ag obair thar na bliadhna pròiseact còmhlan-ciùil fo stiùir aig Irene Fhrìseil agus Ùisdean Marwick. 'S e rud uabhasach fhèin iongantach dhuinne cuireadh fhaighinn a chluich ann an Eden Court còmhla ri Fèis na h-Òige aig Blas na Fèise.

Tha a' chomataidh a' toirt taing mhòr dhan h-uile duine a chuidich Fèis a' Bhaile ann a bhith cho soirbheachail am bliadhna, gu h-àraid Fèis Spè, Fèis na h-Òige agus an 'Sgioba-G'. Cuideachd, do dh'Àrd-sgoil Bhaile Thèarlaich airson taic leantainneach.

At the end of fèis concert, families and friends were treated to a colourful, visual and musical display of talent from all the 89 participants who attended Fèis a' Bhaile this year.

As ever, the children's musical achievements are the highlight of the evening and they certainly did not disappoint! The Groupwork classes manage to treat the audience to something new each year - if you can imagine traditional music with 'Beat-boxing'!!!

Calum Alex of Sgioba-G did a wonderful job as Fear an taighe, assisted by children from each class who introduced their own sets in Gaelic.

A main development over the past year was their Groupwork Project which was led by tutors, Irene Fraser and Hugh Marwick. The highlight was when they performed at Eden Court along with Fèis na h-Òige as part of The Blas Festival.

The committee would like to thank all involved in making this year's fèis such a success especially Fèis Spè, Fèis na h-Òige and Sgioba-G. Also to Charleston Academy for their continuing support.

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## BUILL A' BHÙIRD

Tha còignear bhall as ùr air tighinn air Bòrd Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air ais air Catriona Nic an t-Saoir (Fèis Loch Abar) mar Chathraiche; Katag NicNèill (Fèis Bharraigh); Derek Mac'IlFhinnein (Fèis a' Bhealaich); Magaidh Chamshron (Fèis an Earraich); agus Mairi Oakley (Fèis na h-Òige) nam ball ùra cuideachd.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Directors retiring this year left five vacancies on the Board, four in Highland and one in the Western Isles. The five new Board members are Catriona MacIntyre (Chair), Derek MacLennan, Mairi Oakley and Maggie Cameron from (Highland) and Katag MacNeil (Western Isles).

Retiring Directors were Chair Katie Adam, Jane MacNeil, Vice-Chair Peggy Nicolson and Alasdair MacDonald. We thank them all for their commitment and support.

## FÈIS MHUILE

Fèisean nan Gàidheal provided some financial assistance towards Fèis Mhuile who were involved in the Òran Ùr do Mhuile competition which was organised by the local Mull Mod Committee to celebrate 70 years of Mull Mods.

Eighteen enthusiastic youngsters attended and all took part in guitar, Gaelic singing and songwriting, accordion and fiddle classes. They all had great fun and managed to write a song about Mull's wicked weather which that weekend consisted of thunder, lightning, and hail rapidly followed by snow!

However the weather could not dampen the spirit of the Òran Ùr do Mhuile competition which was fantastic. There were plenty of entries and the songs were sung by local musicians Alasdair Whyte and Kirsty MacKinnon. For one competition the lyrics were provided but a tune had to be written, and this meant that Alasdair Whyte had to sing the same song twice but with two different tunes, not an easy task!

Backing vocals and musical accompaniment were by Mary Ann Kennedy and Findlay Napier's band. Adjudicators were Fiona Mackenzie, Calum Munro and Anne Lorne Gillies (who watched the competition via a Skype link set up in the hall).



Alasdair Whyte sang the new songs



The Music to Lyrics adult competition was won by Allan MacDonald with *Gheibhinn cadai math*. The Youths under 18s was won by local lass Shannon MacLean aged 10 and what a star she was, singing a song about Shaun her big brother. The final category, Adult's Music and Lyrics, was also won by Allan MacDonald with the song *A Mhuile nam Beann*.

All in all it was a great night and a fantastic competition and, regardless of the foul weather, was followed by a cèilidh into the wee small hours. Hope they don't wait another 70 years for the next one!

A CD of all the winning entries was produced by Watercolour Music Productions and can be purchased at various outlets.



## FÈISEAN ANN AN LOCH ABAR AGUS GLASCHU

'S e àm caran sàmhach a tha seo an-dràsta ach tha na clasaichean a' ruith gach seachdain mar as àbhaist air feadh Loch Abar.

Tha Fèis Loch Abair dìreach air a' choinneamh bhliadhnail aca a chumail agus chaidh a h-uile sian mar bu chòir gun atharrachadh sam bith air a' chomataidh.

Tha Caoimhin Rodgers, Oifigear Leasachaidh Fèisean Loch Abair, gu bhith cuideachd a' coimhead as dèidh Fèis Ghleann Albainn, Fèis Lannraig a Tuath, Fèis Ghlaschu, Fèis Chille Chonbhal agus Fèis Innis an Uillt bho seo a-mach. Thuirt Caoimhin: "Thachair mi ris a' chuid as motha dhiubh mu-thrath agus tha mi a' coimhead air adhart ri bhith ag obair còmhla riutha."

## LOCHABER AND GLASGOW FÈISEAN

We are now entering a quiet period for the Fèisean but the weekly classes are still running throughout Lochaber.

Fèis Lochabair recently held their AGM and all went well with the office bearers holding their posts for the coming year.

As well as being responsible for the Lochaber Fèisean, Kevin Rodgers, Development Officer has now taken on Fèis Ghleann Albainn, Fèis Lannraig a Tuath, Fèis Ghlaschu, Fèis Chille Chonbhal and Fèis Innis an Uillt. He has already met with the majority of the Fèisean and is looking forward to working with them.

## FÈISEAN NAN EILEAN SIAR

Air 19 Dàmhair chaidh faraidhean Chaledonian Mhic a' Bhriuthainn a lùghdachadh fo sgeama ùr RET (Road Equivalent Tariff) a thathar an dùil a thairgse gu ruige àm an Earraich 2011. Le bhith a' tabhann phrìsean nas lugha tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba an dòchas piseach a thoirt air turasachd nan eilean agus eaconomaidh dùthchail a bhrosnachadh. Tha sinn glè chinnteach gum bi mòran a' gabhail a' chothrom a tha seo agus saoilidh sinn gur e seo an t-àm as fheàrr na làithean-saora agaibh a chur air dòigh. Ma tha sibh am beachd sgrìob a thoirt dha na h-Eileanan an Iar an ath-bhliadh' dèan cinnteach gun tadhal sibh air an làrach-lìn againn ach am faigh sibh a-mach a bheil Fèisean sam bith a' gabhail àite. Bidh fàilte chridheil gur feitheamh.

## WESTERN ISLES FÈISEAN

Taking advantage of a new pilot scheme that was introduced in October to lower the cost of travelling by ferry, it is now feasible for Jenna Cumming, Development Officer for the Western Isles, to cover Fèisean in the Isle of Skye. The new fares reflect the cost of travelling an equivalent distance by road. The Scottish Government hope that this reduction will encourage tourism and strengthen local economies. If you are planning to visit the Western Isles next year make sure you visit our website to find out if there are any Fèisean or Ceilidh Trails taking place. Some of the 2009 dates known so far are:

- 6 - 10 April: Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh
- 6 - 10 July: Fèis Tìr an Eòrna
- 13 - 17 July: Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain
- 13 - 17 July: Fèis Eilean na Hearadh
- 13 - 18 July: Fèis Bharraigh
- 27 - 31 July: Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich
- 3 - 7 August: Fèis an Rubha

# Fèisean nan Gàidheal Fèis Trèanaidh 2009 Training Market 2009



## FÈIS TRÈANAIDH 2009

The Fèis is set for 14/15 March 2009, and will be held at the Ben Wyvis Hotel set in its own grounds in the pretty former spa village of Strathpeffer, just north of Dingwall.

The programme includes the usual mix of business, cultural and general interest courses. Many have been suggested by previous participants and all have been picked for their usefulness to Fèis personnel. For example, we will have a certificated one-day course in First Aid, computer and Gaelic classes at various levels, courses to help volunteers and tutors to deal appropriately with behavioural and emotional challenges in children, a course to help with public speaking, and even "How to run a fèis".

Fèisean nan Gàidheal will pay for two delegates from each fèis to attend (one of whom should be the Annualised Hours Worker, if the fèis has one). Further delegates will be charged the 24-hour rate at cost (£65).

A copy of the programme for the Fèis has been sent to the main Fèis contacts. Further copies are available from Iona MacDonald – [iona@feisean.org](mailto:iona@feisean.org).

## RITA HUNTER

*A personal appreciation by Arthur Cormack*

Rita Hunter recently left her post as Director of Fèis Rois, after 20 very successful years at the helm. It is difficult to know where to start in quantifying her contribution to the Fèis movement over that period.

When I joined Fèisean nan Gàidheal in 1992, Rita was a member of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Board. She had recently started full-time at Fèis Rois which, under her leadership, grew into an organisation that delivered a very wide programme of work. Latterly this consisted of 3 Fèisean annually, a Cèilidh Trail (an idea pioneered by Rita), a huge range of classes, workshops and master-classes, a large portion of the Youth Music Initiative work contracted to Fèisean nan Gàidheal by the Highland Council and the Fèis also acted as a traditional music agency.

In addition to all those 'core' activities, Rita was the brains behind events like Donald Shaw's *Harvest* at Celtic Connections and the *Cèòlraidh* concerts where young people had the opportunity to work and perform with their choice of traditional artists.

Rita has a seemingly endless capacity for delivering innovative work, which was key to the success of Fèis Rois. Working with thousands of young people, from Ross-shire and beyond, and having responsibility for their welfare while away from home is not something everyone could, or would, take on. Rita was their friend, mentor and 'mother' in her years at the helm of Fèis Rois.

Rita has been an important figure in traditional music development in Scotland over many years. She was a member of the Music Committee of the Scottish Arts Council, and chaired a Working Group which led to a report on the development needs of the traditional music sector. As a result of this, the SAC made traditional and Gaelic music the priority for development within its music strategy at the time. She was a member of the Scottish Traditional Music Forum and the Blas Festival Action Group.

The Fèis movement in general, and Fèis Rois in particular, owes an immeasurable debt to Rita Hunter, and we wish her well for the future and hope she will have a continuing involvement in the movement she had a key role in developing.

## ÙLPAN

Anns an t-Samhain chaidh Caoimhin Rodgers is Calum Ailig MacMhaoilein air cùrsa trèanaidh airson luchd-teagaisg Ùlpan.

'S e dòigh teagaisg ùr a th'ann an Ùlpan airson Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh. Chaidh a chleachdadh an toiseach ann an Israel airson cànan nan Iùdhach ionnsachadh agus bha e uabhasach soirbheachail. A-nise tha e cho soirbheachail 's gu bheil e air a chleachdadh ann an tòrr diofar àiteachain anns an t-saoghal. Thòisich na Cuimrich a chleachdadh anns na seasgadan agus tha na mìltean a-nis air Cuimris ionnsachadh le Ùlpan.

Airson a' chùrsa trèanaidh, thòisich iad le dà latha trèanaidh shìos anns an Drochaid Ruaidh agus bha còignear uile gu lèir air an trèanadh. Chaidh a shealltainn dhaibh ciarar a bha na clasaichean ag obair agus dè bhiodh a dhith air neach-teagaisg. 'S e dà latha inntinneach a bha ann. An uair sin bha seachdain aig luchd-teagaisg ullachadh son seachdain teagaisg de dh'Ùlpan còmhla ri oileanaich anns a' Ghearasdan.

Abair gun robh seachdain air leth aca, còignear luchd-teagaisg agus ochdnar oileanach ag obair tro 24 aonadan fad sia latha. Bha e uabhasach math agus ged a bha iad gu math sgìth aig deireadh na seachdain, chòrd e riutha uile gu math agus rinn na h-oileanaich adhartas mìorbhaileach agus bha iad gu math misneachail mu na dh'ionnsaich iad.

Ma tha thu airson barrachd fhaighinn a-mach mu Ùlpan, no ma tha ùidh agad ann a bhith nad neach-teagaisg thoir siùil air [www.cli.org.uk](http://www.cli.org.uk).

In November Kevin Rodgers and Calum Alex Macmillan went on a training course to become tutors for Ùlpan, the new teaching method which has been adapted to Scottish Gaelic. This method was first used in Israel to learn Hebrew in the 1940s and has been adapted by other countries for teaching minority language. Wales began using Ùlpan in the early 1960s and thousands have gone on to learn the language using this method.

They started with an intensive two days' training in Roy Bridge which was followed by a week's teaching practice where 5 tutors taught 8 pupils the first 24 units of Ùlpan. It was extremely enjoyable and great to see how much the students had increased in confidence using this new method.

## TURAS LUCHD-OBACH A HIORT



'S e a' chiad chuimhne a th' agam air an ainm "Hiort" nuair a bha mi san sgoil ann am Port Rìgh, agus bha bhideo mu dheidhinn anns a' chlas Ghàidhlig agam. Bhon uair sin, mar tòrr dhaoine eile, gu h-àraid air a' Ghàidhealtachd, bha ùidh mhòr agam anns an eilean bheag inntinneach seo. Tha Hiort 41 miltean bho chosta an iar Bheinn nam Faoghla anns a' Chuan Sgìth, agus chaidh sinn a-mach air a' bhàta "Orca II" aig Aonghas Caimbeul, às an t-Òb, Eilean na Hearadh. Bha deichnear san sgioba againn uile gu lèir, le còigear luchd-obrach Fèisean nan Gàidheal nar measg. Thuir Aonghas gum bu chòir dhuinn dà latha a chur seachad airson a bhith cinnteach gum faigheamaid a-mach, agus 's e deagh chomhairle a bha sin, oir bha a' ghaoth ro àrd air a' chiad latha.

An ath latha, dh'fhàg sinn an t-Òb mu 8 sa mhadainn, agus bha sinn cha mhòr 3 uairean a thide air an t-slighe a-mach gu Hiort. Ged a bha an t-side na b' fheàrr bha na tonnan fhathast àrd agus 's e faochadh dha rìribh a bh' ann dhan a h-uile duine air bòrd nuair a ràinig sinn Hiort fhèin. Bha 3 uairean a thide againn air an eilean, agus 's e faireachdainn caran neònach a bh' ann a bhith coiseachd timcheall thoglaichean agus thaghean air an robh mi cho eòlach ged nach robh mi riamh ann. Chunnaic sinn na creagan far am biodh na Hiortaich a' buan nan eun agus cho cunnartach 'sa bha iad! 'S e àite air leth inntinneach a th' ann gu cinnteach, ach 's e briseadh dùil a bh' ann dhòmhsa toglaichean ùra an airm am measg nan làrach eachdraidheil fhacinn.

Às dèidh dhuinn tilleadh dhan Orca II, sheòl sinn a-mach gu Boraraigh, Stac Liath agus Stac an Armain agus 's e

faireachdainn air leth diofraichte a bh' againn a-muigh an sin, am measg nan eun, nan tonn agus nan creag. Eadar an sgiobair Aonghas agus a cho-obraiche Crisdean, chuala sinn tòrr sgeulachdan mu na Hiortaich 's iad a-muigh a' buan air na creagan seo, agus bha e gu math follaiseach gur e beatha gu math cruaidh is cunnartach a bh' aca.

Bha an latha a sior fhàs na b' fheàrr agus air an t-slighe dhachaigh chunnaic sinn leumadairean a' cluich anns na tonnan faisg air a' bhàta. Às dèidh trì uairean a thide eile, thàinig sinn gu tìr, agus ged 's e latha fada, sgìtheil a bh' ann, bidh cuimhne aig a h-uile duine san sgioba againn air an turas sin, gu bràth tuilleadh.



## TRIP TO ST KILDA

Earlier this summer, a group including 5 members of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff took the trip out on the Orca II, from Leverburgh in Harris to St Kilda. The bumpy journey on the way out was more than made up for by their experiences on this legendary island, boasting the highest sea cliffs in the United Kingdom and the stunning trip round Boreray, Stac Lee and Stac an Armain.

## ANNE WILLOUGHBY'S GRADUATION



Anne Willoughby, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Executive Manager has graduated with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) having recently completed a PG Diploma in Management Studies. The whole programme took 3 years to complete with a mixture of online studying, day release and residential weekends.

Thuir Anna "Cha robh e furasta a h-uile càil a dhèanamh agus a bhith ag obair cuideachd ach chòrd an cùrsa gu mòr rium. Tha mi airson taing a toirt do bhuill a' Bhùird an cothrom seo a thoirt dhomh agus cuideachd don luchd-obrach a bha air leth taiceil - mòran taing dhuibh uile."

Chuir Art MacCarraig meala naidheachd air Anna, ag ràdh: "Bha Anna dìcheallach agus dealasach fhad 's a bha i a' dèanamh a cùrsa agus a' cumail a h-obrach anns an oifis a' dol aig an aon àm. Tha sinn moiteil às na rinn i, agus is cinnteach gum bi na sgilean a thog i gu feum Fèisean nan Gàidheal san àm ri teachd."

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