

faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 34 • Am Màrt 2010 • March 2010

FREUMHAN 2010



Photo courtesy of Lizzie McDougall

'S i Fèis ùr tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig do dhaoine òga ann an S1 gu S4 a th' ann am Freumhan. Chaidh an Fhèis a chur air bhonn an-uiridh, 's i ga ruith le sgioba leasachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal, agus bidh i am-bliadhna ga cumail ann an Cille Chuimein bho 5 gu 9 Giblean. Thèid clasaichean a chumail ann an diofar ionnsramaidean, cho math ri tachartasan cànan agus ciùil eile.

Bha Freumhan 2009 gu sònraichte soirbheachail a thaobh a bhith a' toirt dhaoine òga còmhla bho air feadh Alba. Bha e na bhuannachd mhòr do na com-pàirtichean a bhith a' coinneachadh ri Gàidheil òga eile agus ùidh aca anns an aon seòrsa rud. Chan eil ach fichead àite air a' chùrsa, a' ciallachadh gum faigh com-pàirtichean oideachadh aig an ìre as àirde a bheir cothrom dhaibh na sgilean aca a leasachadh agus a thoirt air adhart.

'S e prìomh chuspair na seachdain obair còmhlain, a thèid a stiùireadh le buidheann de shàr luchd-teagaisg, nam measg Raonaid Walker, Eòghainn MacEanraig, Fiona NicAsgaill agus Anndra Mac a' Phearsain.

Ma tha ùidh aig duine sam bith ann am Freumhan, nach tèid sibh chun an làraich-lìn againn airson foirm-iarrtais - www.feisean.org/tachartasan - no cuiribh fios gu Kevin Rodgers air 01397 704132 no kevin@feisean.org. Feumaidh com-pàirtichean a bhith eadar 11 agus 16 bliadhna a dh'aois agus iad comasach air an ionnsramaid a chluich aig ìre eadar-mheadhanach. 'S ann tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a bhios an teagasg air fad.

Following on from a successful first year in 2009 Freumhan, the Gaelic medium Fèis for teenagers, will this year take place in Fort Augustus beteen 6 - 10 April.



Tachraidh an Fhèis a-rithist am-bliadhna anns an t-Sultain le trì àitichean ùra airson consairtean a chumail agus dà choimisean ùr inntinneach am measg nan tachartasan. Chaidh an àireamh de luchd-amhairc a bha a' frithealadh na Fèise suas 25% ann an 2009 bhon bhònuiridh agus tha sinn gu math dòchasach àireamhan mòra a thàladh a-rithist am-bliadhna.

We are gearing up for this year's festival with three new venues and two new commissions as part of the programme. In 2009 numbers were up 25% on the previous year and we are looking forward to attracting large numbers to this year's festival.

Keep up to date with programme news and ticket offers at www.blas-festival.com and www.twitter.com/blasfestival.

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REDUCTIONS IN HIGHLAND COUNCIL FUNDING

It looks likely that there will be significant cuts in the funding that Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Blas receive from the Highland Council, from April 2011 onwards. At a meeting in February the Council agreed to a reduction of 20% (£11,848) in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's funding and 30% (£31,500) in the funding for the Blas festival.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Chief Executive Arthur Cormack said: "The Highland Council has always been hugely supportive of the Fèisean and that support has been recognised at every opportunity by Fèisean nan Gàidheal. But in line with almost every local authority the Highland Council has to make cuts and we understand that."

"Fèisean nan Gàidheal is, however, unhappy that nobody from the Council came to discuss with us the full implications of the proposed cuts. For example, if a reduction of 30% in the funding of Blas means the end of the festival - which is likely - that would mean a loss of around £700k to the Highland economy for a saving of £31.5k which makes no sense at all."

FÈIS ÌLE

February mid-term saw the start of Fèis Ìle in the beautiful surroundings of Ionad Chalum Chille Ile.

The tutors this year were Simon Moran from Jura teaching fiddle, Fraser Shaw from Islay teaching whistle, Iseabail MacTaggart from Islay tutoring Gaelic song and Cara MacLean, originally from Skye, teaching step-dance.

The children all enjoyed the two day Fèis and ended it with an excellent cèilidh on the Friday evening featuring a huge raffle with prizes the children themselves had amassed from local shopkeepers. Due to the good weather, the children were able to enjoy both the indoor and outdoor facilities of the centre and all vowed to return next year and the same applied to all the tutors who thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



FÈISEAN AN LOCH ABAR AGUS AN GLASCHU

Tha Fèis Lochabair a' dèanamh deiseil airson seachdain gu math trang eadar 29 Am Màrt agus 2 An Giblean. Tha iad an dùil timcheall air ceud pàiste fhaicinn aig Fèis na bliadhna-sa aig Bùn Sgoil Lochside.

Tha na balaich ann an còmhlan Fèis Lannraig a Tuath air a bhith trang ag obair air na pìosan ciùil aca. Bha iad còmhla air 6 An Gearran gus stuth ullachadh airson clàradh. Bu chòir gum bi EP deiseil aca ann an ceann mìos.

Bidh Fèis Ghlaschu a' tachairt eadar 12 – 16 An Giblean. Tha comataidh Fèis Ghlaschu a-nise stèidhichte air a ceann fhèin an àite a bhith co-cheangailte ri Cultar & Spòrs Ghlaschu. Tha iad a' coimhead air adhart ris an t-seachdain agus bu thoil leotha taing a thoirt do Cultar & Spòrs Ghlaschu airson na rinn iad thar nam bliadhnan airson Fèis Ghlaschu.

Bha Fèis nan Inbheach aig Fèis Ghleann Albainn ann a-rithist sa Ghearran agus bha i gu math soirbheachal. Chòrd an tachartas ris a h-uile duine a bha an làthair agus tha iad uile airidh air beagan fois a-nise.

Tha sreath làithean Fèise gu bhith aig Fèis Innis an Uillt a dh'aithghearr air 6, 13 agus 27 Am Màrt aig Bun-sgoil Innis an Uillt. 'S e seo a' chiad turas a tha iad air sreath mar seo fheuchainn agus tha sinn uile an dòchas gun tèid gu math leotha.

LOCHABER AND GLASGOW FÈISEAN

Fèis Lochabair committee have been busy preparing for this year's Fèis which will again take place at Lochside Primary School between 29th March and 2nd April. Around 100 participants are expected for this year's event which will include classes in Clàrsach, Guitar, Fiddle, Gaelic song and much more.

The lads in the Fèis Lannraig a Tuath group have been honing their material in preparation for the up and coming recording of their EP. They spent 6th February working with Finlay Wells on arrangements and other ideas and we can't wait to hear the finished product.

Fèis Ghlaschu will take place this year between 12 - 16 April at Hutcheson Grammar Junior School. The last few months have been busy for the committee having made the decision to come out from under the wing of Culture & Sport Glasgow. Fèis Ghlaschu would like to thank them for everything they have done for the Fèis in recent years and look forward to working with them on projects in the future. Mile Taing!

Fèis Ghleann Albainn had another fantastic Adult Fèis weekend in February. This year's event was a roaring success and was enjoyed immensely by all involved.

Fèis Innis an Uillt are staging a series of Fèis days in March. These days will see many subjects taught including Shinty, Accordion, Chanter and Drama.

Fèis an Earraich

Chan eil muinntir an Eilein Sgitheanaich air mòran fois fhaighinn an dèidh bliadhna a bha air leth trang an-uiridh. Eadar cuairt cèilidh leis a' chòmhlan Ceilear anns an Iuchar, turas dhan Ghearmailt agus pàirt a ghabhail ann an Ceòl nam Fèis aig deireadh na bliadhna, tha e doirbh a chreidsinn gu bheil Fèis na bliadhna-sa ach beagan làithean air falbh! Bidh baile beag a' Phluic a' cur thairis le luchd-ciùil òga 's iad a' frithealadh Fèis an Earraich aig Àrd-sgoil a' Phluic eadar 29 Màrt agus 2 Giblean. Mar as àbhaist bidh prògram fallain de theagasg air a thabhann dhan òigridh agus ro dheireadh na seachdain bidh a' chlann làn misneachd a' dol dhachaigh.

After an eventful year last year following their Easter Fèis, Fèis an Earraich can hardly believe that this year's Fèis is just around the corner! Participants enjoyed a variety of different activities last year which saw them travel to Germany, perform as part of the Ceòl nam Fèis concert in November and embark on a tour in the Skye and Lochalsh area as part of the cèilidh trail group Cèilear. The village of Plockton will be bursting with young musicians as they attend Fèis an Earraich to be held at Plockton High School from 29 March – 2 April. As expected the Fèis will offer a diverse programme of tuition led by some of Scotland's finest musicians.

Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh

Bidh cruinneachadh beag de chlann ann an Leòdhas a' frithealadh Fèis aig àm na Càisge cuideachd. Tha Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh a' deisealachadh airson Fèis na Càisge a bhios a' tachairt eadar 5 agus 9 Giblean ann an Tàbost, sgìre Nis. Bidh na cuspairean a leanas air an tabhann le luchd-teagaisg ionadail: bogsa, fidheall, pìob mhòr, seinn agus cur-seachadan Gàidhlig.

Across the Minch, a young group from Ness will gather at Taigh Dhonnchaidh in Habost to participate in this year's Easter Fèis that will run from 5 – 9 April. A timetable with the following subjects will be on offer: accordion, fiddle, bagpipes, Gaelic singing and a surprise activity each day.

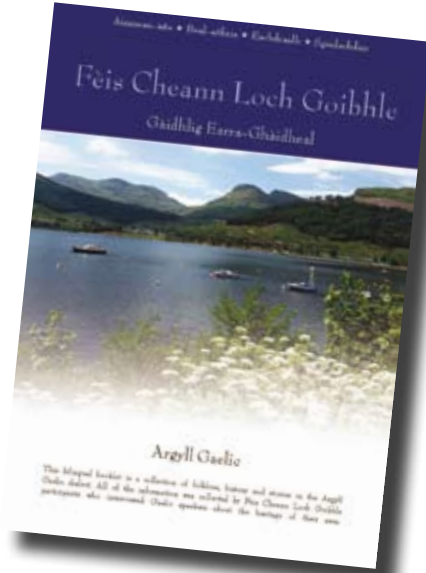
DÈ THA DOL AIG PRÒISEACT NAN TASGLANN

Tha com-pàirtichean Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle aig Àrd-sgoil Dhùn Omhain air a bhith trang ag obair air leabhran a chur ri chèile làn sgeulachdan, eachdraidh agus beul-aithris Gàidhlig sgìre Earra-Ghàidheal. Chum na com-pàirtichean sreath de dh'agallamhan còmhla ri luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig Earra-Ghàidheal agus tha iad air a bhith ag obair air pròiseact mu dheidhinn ainmean-àite Gàidhlig na sgìre.

Tha Fèis a' Chaolais cuideachd air a bhith trang a' rannsachadh dualchas sgìre Drochaid a' Bhanna agus a' cruinneachadh sgeulachdan agus cuimhneachan bho mhuinntir an àite. Thèid leabhran ùr làn stuth a chaidh a chruinneachadh a chur air bhog aig Fèis a' Chaolais anns an Ògmhios.

Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle participants at Dunoon Grammar School have been busy compiling a booklet of Gaelic stories, history and folklore of the Argyll area. The participants undertook a series of interviews with local Argyll Gaelic speakers and have been working on a project about local Gaelic place-names.

Fèis a' Chaolais have also been busy researching the heritage of the Bonar Bridge area and collecting stories and memories from local people. A new booklet of the material collected will be launched at Fèis a' Chaolais in June. For more information, or if you would like a copy of the Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle booklet, please contact Emily Edwards in our Inverness office on 01463 225559 or emily@feisean.org.



SPECIAL SCHOOL FÈIS DAY

Pupils from schools in Ross-shire and Inverness have attended the first Fèis Rois and Live Music Now Fèis Day for special school pupils. Pupils from St Clements, St Duthus and Drummond schools were visited in January by Mairearad Green and Ewan Robertson, who ran workshops to introduce traditional music. The pupils then came together at Dingwall Town Hall on the 3rd of February to take part in a day-long event with games, music and dance, led by Mairearad, Ewan, Alpha Munro, Anna Massie and Fraya Thomsen with assistance from Siannie Moodie.

The project is funded through the national Youth Music Initiative (through Highland Council and Fèisean nan Gàidheal) and The Kimie Trust, in partnership with Live Music Now – an organisation which specialises in creating access to music, and provides training opportunities for tutors.

Judith Walsh of Live Music Now commented that “the Fèis Rois / Live Music Now model has proved hugely successful, both for the participants and for the musicians. Live Music Now musicians have greatly enjoyed working with the three schools over a sustained period, getting to know pupils and building rapport during their in-school visits. This format allows for a tailored approach, as the musicians drew on their in-school experiences and conversations with teaching staff to create exciting and relevant ‘Fèis Days’ for the three schools to attend. These shared Fèis Days have proved a great way to encourage pupils to enjoy the social side of music, playing together with their peers, meeting new people and performing alongside professional musicians. The collaboration with Fèis Rois has had a great impact on Live Music Now’s reach in the Highlands and by joining forces our organisations have been able to achieve a more strategic approach to music making in the SEN sector.”



Photo courtesy of Iona Spence/SPP Photos

TUTOR TRAINING WEEKEND



Photo courtesy of Lizzie McDougall

Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s annual Tutor Training Weekend took place in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig between 20 and 21 February 2010. It was attended by 25 participants including Kath Muldowney and Abi Lightbody of Get Reel, Stirlingshire. Following the weekend Kath kindly sent us this article that she had prepared for their own newsletter giving a flavour of the weekend:

“We went along to the weekend not knowing what to expect and arrived at registration on the Saturday morning with some fear and trepidation. However, that soon disappeared when we met the main tutors running our course, Andy Thorburn and Val Bryan. They very quickly put us at our ease which in turn allowed us to get the most out of the weekend.

Val and Andy soon had us deep in discussion on teaching techniques, preparation and the many practical issues that arise when tutoring classes. We also covered some great ice-breaking techniques, warm-ups, and musical games. One of these had us all on the floor passing drumsticks to each other! Great fun and very useful – honest!

We also attended a very enlightening session on child protection given by Susan MacLaren and a session giving us a taster of the Gaelic language with Gilleasbuig Ferguson.

Day one ended with dinner and a great music session held in the old barn which went into the wee small hours!

Day two was a practical day of music and song where we were split into groups and had to teach each other new material, mainly in the tradition of learning and teaching by ear, which we then had to come back and perform in the afternoon.

The weekend ended with the issue of some very welcome and well earned certificates and thanks to the team.”

SGOIL SHAMHRAIDH DHRÀMA

Tha gnothaichean a' tighinn air adhart gu dòigheil a thaobh Sgoil Shamhraidh Dhràma 2010. Tha sinn air sgioba ealanta de shàr luchd-teagaisg a chur ri chèile, nam measg Artair Donald, Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul, Daibhidh Walker, Calum Rothach, Ruairidh MacNeacail agus Frank McConnell. Thèid clasaichean a chumail ann am Bun-sgoil Phort Rìgh, agus thig a' cheala-deug gu crìoch Diardaoin 15 lùthar le cuirm shònraichte ann an Àros, Port Rìgh. Tha sinn air leth toilichte nach cleachd com-pàirtichean ach a' Ghàidhlig rè na Sgoile, agus gu bheil Gàidhlig aig an luchd-teagaisg gu lèir am-bliadhna.

'S e 23 Giblean an latha mu dheireadh airson iarrtasan, agus thèid agallamhan a chumail às dèidh sin. Tha iarrtasan a' tighinn a-steach gu math luath, ach tha ùine gu leòr ann fhathast ma tha duine airson cur a-steach air a son.

It's not too late to apply for the Sgoil Shamhraidh Dhràma, which will be held in Portree from 5 to 16 July. If you are aged between 14 and 18 and have an interest in drama, then visit www.feisean.org/events and download the application form.

DRÀMA SNA SGOILTEAN

Tha Dougie agus Aonghas air a bhith trang ag obair ann an sgoiltean cha mhòr air feadh Alba. Tha Aonghas air a bhith ann an Leòdhas, Dùn Èideann agus anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus e ag obair le sgoilearan gus piosan dràma rèidio a chur ri chèile. Tha Dougie dìreach air tòiseachadh air an aon seòrsa phròiseact ann an Uibhist, agus tha e cuideachd air a bhith a' dol timcheall sgoiltean Earra-Ghàidheal is Loch Abar 's e ag obair le clann air dealbhan-cluiche a thèid a thaisbeanadh aig cuirm mhòr anns a' bhun-sgoil ùir ann an Ath Tharracaill.

Bidh na piosan dràma airson rèidio gan craoladh air BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, agus thèid fiosrachadh mu dheidhinn seo, agus mu cheann-latha cuirm dràma Earra-Ghàidheal is Loch Abar, a sgaoileadh nas fhaise air an àm.

Dougie and Angus have been busy visiting schools in almost every corner of Scotland conducting workshops in stage and radio drama. A performance night will be held in Acharacle in June, and the drama pieces will be broadcast by BBC Radio nan Gàidheal. Information on dates etc will be available closer to the time.

LUCHD-OBRAICH

Chaidh Calum Ailig MacMhaoilein fhastadh mar Manaidsear Leasachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal aig toiseach na bliadhna an dèidh do Dhaibhidh Boag dreuchd ùr a ghabhail aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Tha Calum air a bhith còmhla ri Fèisean nan Gàidheal greis mhath mar Oifigear Gàidhlig.

Aig an aon àm tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal air a bhith ag ath-chruthachadh sgioba an luchd-obrach agus tha Nicola Marshall air gabhail ri dreuchd ùr mar Àrd Oifigear Leasachaidh.

Tha sinn a' guidhe gach soirbheas dhan dithis aca nan dreuchdan ùr.

Calum Alex Macmillan has been appointed as Development Manager with Fèisean nan Gàidheal following David Boag's departure to take up a new post at Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

At the same time, we have re-structured our staffing slightly and Nicola Marshall has taken up a new post as Senior Development Officer.

We wish both of them well in their new posts.

MEALAIBH UR NAIDHEACHD



Congratulations to Nicola Marshall, our Senior Development Officer, who married Duncan Simpson in Strathpeffer on Saturday 6 March.

We wish them every happiness for their future together.

A h-uile latha sona dhuibh, gun latha idir dona dhuibh!

Welcome to Creative Scotland's Chief Executive



Creative Scotland 2009 Ltd has announced that the Chief Executive of Scotland's new national arts and culture body will be Andrew Dixon, Chief Executive of the NewcastleGateshead Initiative for the last five years. Andrew has 30 years' experience of working in the arts media and creative industries.

Andrew's appointment as Chief Executive will be effective from the date that Creative Scotland is formally established. However, as Chief Executive Designate, he will be invited to participate in Creative Scotland 2009 board meetings, from later this month.

..... and Farewell to Jim

Jim Tough will be leaving the Scottish Arts Council in May to take up a new post as Area Arts Director North with the Arts Council of England. Jim has been a great supporter of the Fèis Movement from his early days with SAC, when he succeeded John Murphy as Combined Arts Director, and during his tenure as Chief Executive. We wish him all good wishes in his new post. Gach deagh dhùrachd dha na dhreuchd ùr.

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