MEANBH-CHUILEAG

Gaelic theatre-in-education group Meanbh-chuileag is in the middle of a Scotland-wide tour with a new play. Aonan aims to introduce pupils to a subject that potentially impacts on us all – wildlife crime, and the effect this could have on animals around us.

The tour kicked off on 22 February at Condorrat Primary School, Cumbernauld, and it will be on the road until 1 April, in which time the group will have visited almost every Gaelic primary school and unit in Scotland.

The tour is being funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig with additional support from Scottish Natural Heritage, through PAW Scotland which campaigns against wildlife.

SGOIL SHAMHRAIDH DHRÂMA 2011

The Gaelic Drama Summer school is on the horizon again, and with last year’s students scooping up prizes at the FilmG awards a few weeks ago we are expecting plenty applications this year.

There are up to 20 places on the course, which will be held in Portree from 4 to 15 July. Tutors include well-known faces such as Artair Donald, Catrìona Lexy Campbell, Daibhidh Walker and Roddy Nicolson, as well as others who will be coming in for short periods.

The fortnight will come to a fantastic conclusion on Thursday 14 July with a performance night which will, for the first time, be held in conjunction with Fèis Alba.

For more information please contact Dougie Beck on 01463 225559 or dougie@feisean.org.

Applications must be in by 22 April, and an application form can be downloaded here: www.feisean.org/downloads/SSD2011app.pdf - on you go – you know you want to!
FÈIS DHÙN ÈIDEANN

Chaidh Fèis Dhùn Èideann air adhart eadar 14-17 Gearran am-bliadhna agus ’s iad a bha trang le 62 com-pàirtiche aig an Fhèis tron latha agus 6 eile a’ deìamh Cleas is Ceòl.

Bha deagh spòrs aig na com-pàirtichean ag ionnsachadh port is òran ûra agus a’ cluiche gheamaichearn agus ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig le Sgioba-G. Chuala muinntir na Fèise balach beag ’s e air an t-slighe chun an ath chlas aige ag rádh “Tha e mar phàirt de theaghlaich a bhith dol dhan Fhèis leis a h-ùile duine cruinn còmhlach”.

Cumaidh buill a’ chomataidh a’ choineanmh bhliadhna aca air Dìluaín 9 Cèitean ann am Bun-sgoil Chroit na Cìse agus tha thèid failte chrídeail a chur air daoine ûra tighinn air a’ chomataidh gus taic a chumail riutha anns na tachartasan aca.

Tha prògram leantainneach na Fèise a’ rhuith fhathast agus gheibhear tuilleadh fìosrachaidhmu na clasaichean seo agus a’ choinneamh-bhliadhna air an làrach-lìn aig www.feisean.org no cuiribh fios gu Gillian Dhòmhnallach aig feisdhuneideann@feisean.org

Fèis Dhùn Èideann was held between 14th and 17th February with a healthy number of 62 participating and a further 6 coming along to ‘Cleas is Ceòl’. A good week was had by all, with one young participant overheard saying “Coming to the Fèis is like being part of a big family.” The committee will hold their AGM on the 9th of May at Tollcross Primary School and they extend a warm welcome to new members to support them with their activities.

For further information about the AGM and the programme of follow-on classes visit www.feisean.org or contact Gillian Macdonald on feisdhuneideann@feisean.org

FÈIS AN IAR-THUATH

Beyond our wildest dreams… so said the organising committee behind the first ever Fèis in Scourie which took place in February, 40 children from all over the North West, gathered for two days of tuition and fun. Subjects ranged from fiddle, tin whistle, keyboard and guitar to Gaelic song, drama and traditional Scottish step dancing.

The children were enthusiastic in their participation, honing skills in instruments they already played as well as trying new things for the very first time. This is one of the main aims of a Fèis: to allow children the opportunity to have a go at trying something new in a very informal, fun setting.

They were also gently introduced to the Gaelic language, many children hearing it for the very first time. This is one of the most satisfying aspects of this particular Fèis was the diversity of participants. Their geographic remoteness can leave them feeling somewhat insular at times and it was wonderful to see new friendships being formed by children from equally small places who never normally get the chance to meet.

They were able to see instruments they had never seen before, try a form of dancing many had never experienced, and it was obvious that many felt inspired by the musical brilliance of their peers. The look on so many young faces at the children’s concert which rounded off the weekend spoke of new horizons, a newfound confidence and a desire to carry forward their new skills.

The committee are already working on a follow-up event in August and a repeat of the three day Fèis and ended the event with a full house cèilidh with the children all turned out in their new Fèis Ìle hoodies.

FÈIS CHOLLA

Over 20 children attended Fèis Cholla in February and took part in guitar, accordion, Gaelic drama and games. Alongside that were short sessions on island stories and some traditional dancing classes.

The children had a great time over the three day Fèis and ended the event with a foot stumping cèilidh in the village hall on the Monday evening and vowed to have the same again next year.

FÈIS ÌLE AGUS DHÌURA

Fèis Ìle took place in February and with over 45 children taking part Iona Cholmille Ìle in Bowmore was buzzing with music and dance during their school mid-term break. For the first time they also included a Fèis Bheag for the under 8s who came in for a shorter period of time and loved the dancing, singing and games. The event ended with a full house cèilidh with the children all turned out in their new Fèis Ìle hoodies.

FÈIS LOCHABAIR

Fhà a na clasaichean leantainneach aig Fèis Lochabair a’ rhuith gu math an-dràsta. Chaidh seachadain shòrnraicthe a chumhair aig Bùn-sgoil Naomh Màiri anns a’ Ghearasdan eadar 28 Gearran agus 4 Màrt agus chum Fèis Lochabair builthean-obrach ann an Dràma, Sgeulachdan, Geamaichean Gàidhlig, Orain Ghàidhlig agus Ùlpan. Bha an t-seachdain fosgaichte don a h-ùile duine – spoilearan, pàrantan agus teaghlaichean. Feumair taing a thoir anns a’ Ghàidhlig oir ’s ann bho Taic Freumhan Coinmhearsnach a thàinig an t-airgead a thug an cothrom seo do dh’Fhèis Lochabair.

FÈIS ÌGLRIDH NA MARA

Tha Fèis Ìgildh na Mara gu math taing ‘fhlaur iad taic-airgid airson pròiseact a ruith air Eilean Chanaidh. Thèid seo air adhart aig deireadh a’ Mhàirt 2011. Thathar an dòil gun tèid bùithean-obrach ann an Orain Ghàidhlig, ceòl agus Ùlpan a thabhan.
DEUGAIREAN AIR AM BROSNACHADH LE CLASAI Cheannceannaire ÙRÀ
FÈIS TÌR A’ MHURAIN

Chùm Fèis Tar a’ Mhurain cèilidh ann an Tallach Stacoinibridh air Disathairne 12 Màrt. A’ chuich le chèile air beulaibh luchd-èisteachd airson a’ chiaid turais bha cómhlan Tar a’ Mhurain, buidheann de dh’oiridh a thàinig cómhla san t-Samhain 2010 airson an cuid gèllean cómhlain a leasachadh. Tha naoinear ann a’ chòmhlan; Pàdraig Moireasdan air a’ bhogsa, Micheal agus Alasdair Steele air a’ phioth, Paul NicAonghais agus Claire NicNéill a’seinn, Sarah NicAonghais air an ìdhhil, Siobhan NicNéacail air a’ bhogsa agus a’ dannsa agus Aonghas MacAonghais agus Mairi Innes air a’ ghìotar.

Tha na clasaichean air a bhith gu rith gu soirbhreachail ann an Tallach Stacoinibridh a h-uile seachdaim agus iad air an rith le Angusa Mhoireasdan agus Daibhidh Ballantyne. Thill Norrie Maclomh, bhon a’ chòmhlan Mànran, air ais a dh’Uibhist airson bhuth-obrach shònraichte a rith leis na deugairean air Dìhoinone 11 Màrt. Ghabh Norrie fhèin pàrt anns a’ chuirm cuideachd.

Chòrd an oidheach gu mòr ris a h-uile duine a bha an làthair agus tha a’ chumail a uisteadh a-nise trang ag ullachadh airson Fèis na bladhna-sa a bhios a’ tòiseachadh air Dìluain 11 luchar.

Bu mhath le Fèis Tar a’ Mhurain taing a thoirt do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig airson a’ chur mu choineamh na clasaichean cómhlain.

TOUR OF MID-ARGYLL & COWAL SCHOOLS
Ingrid Henderson and Anne Martin have just completed their annual Mid Argyll & Cowal schools tour working with over 300 children. Their formula consists of explaining a bit about the songs they sing, a little about the clarsach, then they combine it with getting the children to follow them in learning some short catchy Gaelic songs. After playing to larger classes, they then do small workshops where the children can get hands on and try playing the clarsach.

The schools look forward to their visit and each year they manage to add in a few different schools. While in Ardrishaig Primary, the class 6 children linked in the Gaelic songs with the project they were doing on emigration and they enjoyed it so much that the school requested the Fèis Development Officer find them a step dancer to carry through the emigration/Gaelic culture link and asked about the possibility of organising their own small Fèis. Good news indeed.

OIDCHE
SHOIRBHEACHAIL AIG FÈIS TÌR AN ÈORNA
Chùm Fèis Tar an Èorna cèilidh air Dìhoinone 11 Màrt airson airgead a thoirt dhaibh gu Fèis na bladhna-sa a leasachadh. Chaidh an cèilidh a chumail ann an Tallach Chàirinis le moran dhì ìdhail bhon a’ chòmhearnachd a’ fhrithéalachd. Chaidh £630 a thogail uile gu léir. Thàinig cluichheadairean bho Colaisde Bheinn nam Faoghla chumail port neo dhà agus ghabh compàirtichean an Fèise pàirt anns a’ chuirm cuideachd. Bha cathrachaidhe na Fèise, Nanag Skivington, na bean an taighe a’ chumail airson a thogail. Bu thòigh le Fèis Tar an Èorna taing a thoirt dhan a h-uile duine a rinne an oidhche cho soirbhreachail.

Fèis Tar an Èorna recently held a family cèilidh in Carinish Hall to raise funds towards the development of this year’s Fèis. The cèilidh was well attended with people enjoying live music performed by Fèis participants and musicians from the Benbecula Music College. The evening was hosted by Nanag Skivington and Uisdean Robertson. £630 was raised on the night and the committee of Fèis Tar an Èorna would like to thank everyone for their support.

FÈIS GRANTS TO BE MAINTAINED IN 2011-12
A dh’aindeoing gearraidhean air an airgead a tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal a’ fhaighinn bhò chuid de na h-údhfarasain ionadail, tha sinn a’ cumail buidsead nan tabhartas an aon aon leis an 2011-12 sa bha a’ bhànaidh. Dhearrbh Alba Chruthachail bhò chionn greis gu toireadh iad £100k dhan sgeama.

Despite cuts in local authority funds, as a result of having made savings over the course of 2010-11 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is able to keep its 2011-12 Grants Scheme budget at the same level as last year. Creative Scotland recently confirmed £100k towards the scheme which, along with funding from Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siorr and Argyll & Bute Council, should ensure that Fèisean have a good portion of the funding they need to operate in the coming year.

INSTRUMENT BANK
Throughout the year the Fèis movement works with many children of all ages giving them the opportunity to learn and experience various instruments such as Accordian, Clarsach, Fiddle, Guitar, Keyboard and Bodhran. To help us deliver this we have an Instrument Bank and we send instruments across Scotland for use at the various Fèisean. The demand is high and we are always looking to increase our stock. If you have any instruments which you no longer use and would like to donate to Fèisean nan Gàidheal then please contact Moreen Pringle on 01478 613355 or email moreen@feisean.org. Any donation would be much appreciated both by us and by the children involved.

BLAS: 9 - 17 SEPTEMBER
Tickets for a series of 20 events as part of this September’s Blas Festival are now on sale. As we go to print good news is expected about additional funding for the festival, which will allow us to programme further events prior to the launch of the full programme in May. Until the end of April, there are Supersaver discounted tickets available through the local promoters for their own events. These will typically offer £4-£5 off the cost of a normal ticket as well as reasonably priced family tickets, and we hope this will help some people who want to attend Blas events in these tough financial times.

The Blas Festival website has all the details and will be updated on a regular basis - www.blas-festival.com.
TRÈANADH
FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL ANNS A’ GHEARASDAN

The weekend of the 12/13 March saw 40 representatives of the Fèis movement throughout Scotland gathering in Fort William for two days of training on subjects of particular interest to Fèis organisers.

Fèis organisers participated in first aid, Gaelic (at 4 levels), Using PA, safety and technical issues in event management, legal and organisational subjects, child protection and risk assessment, music as therapy, and Fèis organisers participated in networking.

The 10th annual Fèis Tutor Training session took place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on 26/27 February this year. A cohort of 29 students took part in training at 3 levels, guided by the tried-and-tested team of Valerie Bryan and Andy Thorburn, assisted by Susan MacLaren (Child Protection), Murdo MacLeod (Gaelic) and co-ordinated by Iona MacDonald.

Over the winter Andy, Val and Iona had put together a Level 3 weekend course to ensure progression for experienced tutors, where numbers are limited to ensure a more intensive teaching and learning opportunity, and where certification will depend on successful observation of teaching practice in a live situation. The Level 1 and 2 students also benefited from a slightly revised course this year, which is tuned to current professional expectations.

Again this year, several tutors were funded to attend the course by their local Fèis, and a small number of representatives from other music tuition bodies also attended, funded by their own organisations. The local Fèis also benefits from its investment in the course through the networking and tune-swapping aspects of the course.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a company limited by guarantee, recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Scottish Charity, number SC002040, and is funded by Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, The Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise

TÌR – CÒMHLAN DE NABAIDHEAN CELTTEACH

The weekend of the 12/13 March saw 40 representatives of the Fèis movement throughout Scotland gathering in Fort William for two days of training on subjects of particular interest to Fèis organisers.

Fèis organisers participated in first aid, Gaelic (at 4 levels), Using PA, safety and technical issues in event management, legal and organisational subjects, child protection and risk assessment, music as therapy, and Fèis networking.

It was not all hard work, however, as a cèilidh with Ach na bà was included in the programme for Saturday evening!