

faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 41 • An Dùbhlachd 2011 • December 2011

Gaelic Promotional Campaign Launched



Chùm Fèisean nan Gàidheal Co-labhairt Bhliadhnail na buidhne ann an Dùn Bhathain air 23 agus 24 Sultain. Bha timcheall air 60 de luchd-eagrachaidh nam Fèisean an làthair le riochdairean bho bhuidhnean cultarail eile agus thug Ministear na Gàidhlig, An t-Oll Alasdair Allan BPA, seachad òraid.

Chuir An t-Oll Allan air bhog iomairt ùr sanasachd airson daoine a bhrosnachadh a thaobh na Gàidhlig, a' cleachdadh stuthan ùra air an deasachadh le Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Bidh bileagan fiosrachaidh air an sgaoileadh a' mìneachadh nam buannachdan an cois dà-chànanas, cothroman a tha a' Ghàidhlig ag adhbhrachadh agus dòighean airson inbhidh a tharraing gu ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.

Tha cothrom aig daoine a dhol gu www.feisean.org far an cluinnear faclan agus abairtean air-loidhne a tha cuideachd rim faighinn ann an cairt ùr abairtean. Bithear a' leudachadh nam faclan agus nan abairtean san àm ri teachd. Bidh na stuthan foillseachaidh rim faotainn le buidhnean Gàidhlig eile a bhios airson an sgaoileadh aig na tachartasan aca fhèin.

Thuir An t-Oll Allan: "Sheall rannsachadh bho chionn greis gum bu mhiann le daoine barrachd fhaighinn a-mach mun Ghàidhlig agus ciamar a dh'ionnsaicheadh iad. Dhaingnich an rannsachadh cuideachd beachd a' phobaill agus an luach a thathar a' cur air a' chànan agus a h-àite ann an cultar na h-Alba. Bidh an iomairt ùr seo, air a cur air dòigh le Fèisean nan Gàidheal, a' tarraing aire dhaoine do na cothroman a th' ann air feadh na dùthcha dhaibhsan a tha ag iarraidh Gàidhlig ionnsachadh."

Bha iomradh cuideachd air amasan cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a leudachadh aig ìre nam Fèisean ionadail.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Annual Conference in September was addressed by the Minister for Gaelic, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP.

Dr Allan launched Fèisean nan Gàidheal's new Gaelic promotional campaign with leaflets being made available containing general information about Gaelic including the benefits of bilingualism, the opportunities speaking Gaelic can bring and ways in which adults can learn the language.

People can log onto www.feisean.org to hear the words and phrases in a newly produced phrase card being spoken and the bank of phrases and words will be augmented regularly.

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LÀITHEAN FIOSRACHAIDH

Chaidh dà latha fiosrachaidh airson teaghlachan a chumail ann an Uibhist agus na Hearadh san t-Samhain airson cothroman ionnsachadh tromh mheadhan na Gàidhlig a neartachadh a-measg clann agus am pàrantan. Bha Fèisean nan Gàidheal an làthair aig gach tachartas airson seirbheisean agus cothroman ionnsachaidh na buidhne a chur am follais am measg phàrantan agus an cuid chloinne. Bha Ceiteag NicLeòid a' riochdachadh Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus Fèis Tir a' Mhurain ann an Sgoil Baile Mhanaich air Diciadain 16mh. Chaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a riochdachadh le Oifigear Leasachaidh na sgìre ann an Talla Coimhearsnachd an Tairbeirt.

Chaidh diofar stàilichean fiosrachaidh agus cur-seachadan a chur air dòigh le riochdairean à diofar bhuidhnean. Mar phàirt den tachartas fhuair clann cothrom leum air caisteal mòr làn àidhear, cairtean neo dealbhan Nollaig a chruthachadh agus an cuid aghaidhean a sgeadachadh le peant sònraichte, cur-seachadan a chaidh an libhrigeadh anns a' Ghàidhlig. B' e prìomh amas an tachartais seo obair nam buidhnean a shanasachadh do phàrantan agus na cothroman ionnsachaidh a tha rim faotainn anns na h-Eileanan an Iar fhoillseachadh dhaibh.

FÈIS ROIS PERFORM AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL



This year's Fèis Rois nan Deugairean took place in Ullapool from 17 – 21 October 2011. 121 teenagers took part in the event. Workshops on offer included fiddle, accordion, drama, Gaelic song, guitar, harp, piano, pipes, tune writing, song writing, sound engineering, step dance and group music making. The 13-strong tutor team included a number of former Fèis Rois participants, including Barry Reid, Lauren MacColl and Mairearad Green.

This year, the advanced group work class was led by former Fèis Rois participant, Corrina Hewat and her husband, pianist and composer, Dave Milligan. Corrina participated in the very first Fèis Rois 25 years ago in 1986.

This group had the unique opportunity to go on to perform in The Royal Albert Hall in London as part of The Schools Prom series on Tuesday 8th November.

31 traditional musicians and 2 step dancers from Fèis Rois collaborated with 7 classical musicians from across Scotland to perform 8 minutes of music arranged by Corrina Hewat and Dave Milligan. The Heads of Instrumental Tuition in Scotland (HITS) were invited to nominate their best brass and woodwind players to participate in this unique collaboration.

The Schools Prom is organised by national music education charity, Music for Youth. This charity allows young musicians across the UK the chance to perform at festivals and concerts.

"Music for Youth shares many of the same values as Fèis Rois," said Chief Executive, Fiona Dalgetty. "We are delighted to be working in partnership with them to give our young musicians the opportunity to perform in one of the most prestigious venues in the world. Our young performers were excellent ambassadors for traditional music, the Gaelic language and Highland culture."

The Fèis Rois group was invited to perform at The Proms to highlight that Music for Youth will be bringing its entire festival series to Scotland for the first time in 2012.

FÈIS FARR

Thòisich sreath ùr de bùthan-obrach aig Fèis Farr a tòiseachadh air 25 An t-Samhain ann an Talla Farr, Srath Narann. Bidh an Fhèis fosgailte don a h-uile duine, agus bidh cothrom aig com-pàirtichean dà chlas a dhèanamh, tagadh eadar feadan, bogsa-ciùil, fìdhheall, seinn, dannsa-ceum, bodhran, giotàr, fideag agus ealan.

Over the years, Fèis Farr has grown in strength and stature and moves confidently into 2012.

This year's series of workshops began on 25th November in Farr Hall, Strathnairn. This year sees a new line-up of tutors and activities including Accordion, Chanter, Fiddle, Gaelic Song, Step Dance, Bòdhran, Guitar, Whistle and Art. Further sessions will be held on 26th December, 20th January, 17th February and 16th March. All ages and abilities are warmly welcomed. For more information phone 01808 521333, or visit the Fèis Farr Facebook page.



FÈIS NAN GARBH CHRÌOCHAN & FÈIS ÒIGRIDH NA MARA

Gach seachdain tha an neach-teasgais ionadail, Lauren Tait, a' teagasg chlasaichean clàrsaich do Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan agus Fèis Òigridh na Mara. Leis gu bheil Lauren a' teagasg eadar dà Fhèis a tha faisg air a chèile, rinn i cèilidh neo-fhoirmeil ann an Àrasaig san Dàmhair far an robh fiathachadh air a thoirt do phàrantan agus caraidean nan sgoilearan. Bha feasgar uabhasach math aca, le na sgoilearan air fad a' cluich còmhla agus an tachartas a' còrdadh riutha gu mòr 's e cho neo-fhoirmeil. Ged a tha na sgoilearan air fad aig diofar ìrean, bha Lauren a' faireachdainn gum biodh cèilidh bheag cudromach dhaibh airson eòlas fhaighinn air a chèile, misneachd fhaighinn le bhith a' cluich do dhaoine agus deagh adhbhar do na sgoilearan a bhith ag obair air a' chlarsach aig an taigh! Tha Lauren an dòchas dà chèilidh eile a chur air doigh mus dùin na sgoiltean san Ògmhios ann an Àth Tharracaill agus ann am Malaig.

Over the last few months, former Fèis participant and local musician, Lauren Tait, has taught clàrsach classes for Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan and Fèis Òigridh na Mara. Lauren organised a successful joint informal concert in Arisaig in October.

FÈIS NAN DEUGAIREAN

Le 15 deugairean a' gabhail pàirt aig toiseach an Dàmhair, bha Fèis nan Deugairean, air a ruith le Fèisean Lochabair, uabhasach soirbheachail.

Chaidh a cur air dòigh thairis air trì làithean ann an Àrd-sgoil Loch Abar. Bha na deugairean a' gabhail pàirt ann an clasaichean traidiseanta Fèise – fìdhheall, clàrsach, bogsa-ciùil, seinn, meur-chlàr, giotàr, feadan agus fideag.

Chrìochnaich gach latha le dà uair a thìde de sheasanan-buidhne, far an robh na compàirtichean air fad a' tighinn còmhla ris an luchd-teagasg airson seataichean ciùil a chur ri chèile airson tachartas feasgar Diluain. Bha Ingrid NicEanraig, Aonghas Binnie, Colla Dòmhnallach agus Sileas Nic na Ceàrdaich am measg luchd-teagasg ionadail na Fèise. Bha Vicky Nicilleathain, à Sgioba Ghàidhlig Fèisean nan Gàidheal, a' teagasg Gàidhlig agus obair nam meadhanan gach latha, a' crìochnachadh le fiolm air leth a chruthaich na deugairean fhèin.

Thug Ingrid NicEanraig, neach-teagasg ionadail le cliù eadar-nàiseanta, seachad a beachd mun Fhèis: "Tha e luachmhor fhaicinn cho dèidheil, deònach agus èasgaidh 's a tha na deugairean air a bhith ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh sgilean ùra. Tha tàlant air leth ann an Loch Abar agus tha e uabhasach math gu bheil na deugairean deònach an ùine aca a chur seachad aig tachartas den t-seòrsa seo."

Chaidh an Fhèis a mhaoinachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig – Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd, agus chaidh taic mhòr a chumail ris an tachartas le muinntir comataidh na Fèise agus daoine sa choimhearsnachd.

A successful Fèis nan Deugairean – Teenage Fèis - run by Fèisean Lochabair was held between 8 – 10 October in Lochaber High School, with 15 participants taking part in the event. Each day ended with a two-hour group session where all participants gathered along with tutors to create new sets for the final event on the Monday afternoon.



BLAS 2011

'S iomadh oidhche is tachartas air leth a bha ri fhaotainn aig Blas na bliadhna-sa a bha gu math soirbheachail le barrachd air 14,000 duine ga frithealadh.

Dhùin an t-seachdamh fèis le fìor dheireadh sheachdain de spòrs is fealla-dhà ann an Inbhir Nis. B' e latha gu math trang a bh' ann do leithid Gary Innes bhon chòmhlán Mánran a bha ag obair aig Cuairt Dheireannach de Chupa na Camanachd – ged nach robh e a' cluich ann am bliadhna – far an robh òigridh bho na Cèilidhean air Chuairt a' cluich.

Ghabh Gary chun an àrd-ùrlair nas fhaide air an oidhche le Mánran a bha a' cluich còmhla ri Dàimh, Cherish the Ladies agus òigridh fìor thàlantach a bha a' riochdachadh Fèis a' Bhaile agus Fèis na h-Òige.

Le taic a bharrachd bho Eileanan na h-Alba, bha Fèis Blas na bliadhna a' comharrachadh agus a' foillseachadh na tha sònraichte mu chuid de na làraich is suidheachaidhean eireachdail a tha mu chladaichean iomallach na Gàidhealtachd. Bha an fhèis a' comharrachadh ceud bliadhna bhon rugadh am bàrd Somhairle MacGillEain le Hallaig, ceòl a chaidh a dhealbhadh leis an neach-ciùil ainmeil à Inbhir Nis, Stuart MacRath. Chaidh Hallaig, air a chur air adhart ann an co-bhonn ri Urras Shomhairle, a mholadh ann an Duaisean Ciùil Traidiseanta na h-Alba.

Having got off to the best-ever opening weekend in terms of attendance and range of performances, the festival's continued success through a packed week resulted in over 14,000 people attending events as part of Blas 2011.

Donna MacRae, Director of Blas 2011 added: "This year's festival has been innovative, imaginative and inspiring. We have involved local suppliers and their food and drink produce at events; provided local talent with a platform to showcase their skills alongside some of the most popular traditional musicians in the world and built new relationships with organisers and 400 volunteers which has seen us stage events selling out at numerous venues from Lochaber to the top of the Cairngorms, from Wick to the waters of Loch Ness. Our opening Friday night in particular was unprecedented with four out of six shows sold out. This is all a great tribute to the artistes themselves, the volunteers who have helped stage everything behind the scenes and indeed to the audiences who have continued to back Blas as a concept which delivers the high quality events across a wide range of venues involving a stellar list of performers. We are very proud of the fact that we attracted sell-out audiences. It might be difficult to top this but we are up for the challenge of surpassing what we have achieved when we deliver Blas 2012."

This year's Blas festival staged nearly 100 cultural events between 9 and 17 September throughout the Highlands and Islands including a comprehensive schools programme organised by Lynn Johnston of The Highland Council. Traditional music as well as Gaelic language and song are the bedrock of the festival and, for the first time, Blas also featured Gaelic writers in collaboration with Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (The Gaelic Books Council) and Acair. Online responses show that the festival's use of Gaelic enhances the experience for the audience.



CLASAICHEAN CÀNAIN DO CHLANN NAM BUN-SGOILTEAN

Tha Dougie air a bhith ag obair ann am bun-sgoiltean air feadh na Gàidhealtachd 's e a' toirt cothrom do mu 170 de chloinn aig nach eil Gàidhlig beagan den chànan ionnsachadh.

Tha bun-sgoiltean Shrath Èireann, na Manachainn, Drochaid an Aonachain, Drochaid Ruaidh, Chaol Loch Abar, na Comraich, Chille Chuimein, an Naoimh Brìghde agus Achadh an Todhair Uarach air a bhith an sàs ann an sreath de bhùthan-obrach spòrsail a tha ag ionnsachadh dhaibh faclan, abairtean agus òran no dhà.

'S e luchd-obrach FhG a chuir na leasan ri chèile, agus bidh na Fèisean

fhèin a' faighinn buannachd àsta anns na bliadhnaichean ri tighinn oir gabhaidh tòrr de na geamaichean is stuthan eile a chleachdadh airson tachartasan Sgioba-G.

Mar a thuir Dougie, "Ged a tha tòrr bun-sgoiltean a' teagasg Gàidhlig mar dhàrna cànan air Ghàidhealtachd tron sgèama GLPS agus tro dhòighean eile, tha cuid mhath de sgoiltean ga fhaighinn doirbh a leithid a sheirbhis a thabhann. Tha sinn an dòchas, leis a' phròiseact anns a bheil sinn an sàs an-dràsta, gu bheil sinn a' lìonadh na beàrran seo."

Tha sreath de shia bùthan-obrach an lùib a' phròiseict seo, 's e ga mhaoineachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Bu mhath leinn an t-seirbhis a leudachadh gu sgìrean eile, nam biodh maoin ann.

ARGYLL CÈILIDH TRAILERS

The Argyll Cèilidh Trail band fresh from their appearance at Blas then had to hot foot it to Inveraray as they were performing at the Best of the West Festival at Inveraray Castle. Despite being one member short when their piper took ill, they still gave an excellent performance.

In October two of the band members were invited to perform with Fred Morrison in Cairnbaan. Singer Kim MacDonald and piper David Provan were delighted to have been asked to be Fred's support act and played to a full house.

Kim and fellow cèilidh trailer Ewan MacDonald also got into the last 10 finalists of Radio 2's Young Traditional Musician of the Year. This was an excellent achievement for two of the young performers on their first time entering the competition.



FÈIS ÒIGRIDH ÌLE

Anns an Dàmhair thàinig buidheann Èireannach a' tadhair air Ionad Chaluum Chille Ìle ann an Ìle. Nan lùib bha Comhairlichean, Tidssearan, luchd-obrach òigridh, luchd-gnothaich agus clèir. Bha iad air turas rannsachaidh airson faighinn a-mach ciamar a tha a' dol don Ghàidhlig Alba ann an Ìle agus am b' urrainn dhaibh beagan bheachdan thoirt air ais gu Èirinn a Tuath ann an dòchas gun tig leudachadh air an àireamh do luchd-labhairt Gaeilge ann an Èirinn a Tuath.

A group of Irish visitors came to Ionad Chaluum Chille Ìle in October. They consisted of Councillors, Teachers, youth workers, business people and clergy. They were on a fact finding visit to discover how Scottish Gaelic was faring on Islay and whether they could import some ideas over to Northern Ireland in the hope of increasing the number of Irish speakers in the North. The two Councils involved were Dungannon & South Tyrone and Cookstown.



TRÈANADH 2012

Chan fhada gus am bi 2012 againn, agus mar as àbhaist tha seiseanan trànaidh againn sa chiad ràithe a tha freagarrach do luchd-teagaisg agus luchd-eagrachaidh. Bidh Trànanadh Luchd-teagaisg againn air 25 agus 26 An Gearran 2012 aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig far am faigh daoine dà latha de obair chruaidh ach taitneach le Andy Thorburn agus Valerie Bryan gan stiùireadh.

Tha 3 irean ann a-nis – Ìre 1 far am faigh sibh clas Gàidhlig agus stiùireadh air mar bu chòir dhuibh a bhith a' làimhseachadh chlasaichean de sheòrsachan eadar-dhealaichte. Tha a' mhòr-chuid de dhaoine aig a bheil beagan eòlais air teagasg aig na feisean a' faighinn taic mhòr às cuideachd. Bidh Ìre 2 a' togail air na dh'ionnsaich sibh air Ìre 1 (no airson daoine a tha sàr-eòlach air teagasg aig feisean), agus a tha a' sùileachadh barrachd eòlais agus lèirsinn bho na com-pàirtichean (chan eil Ìre 2 fosgailte do dhaoine fo aois 18). Bidh Ìre 3 fosgailte do dhaoine a rinn Ìre 2 a-mhàin far am faigh sibh clasaichean fa-leth ag obair le ceòl Gàidhlig, agus fèin-mheasadh air ur sgilean teagaisg. Thèid Ìre 3 a chrìochnachadh nur n-ùine fhèin le measadh "beò" bho neach-meas a tha aithnichte agus uidheamaichte ann am beachd luchd-stiùiridh a' chùrsa.

Ged a tha na h-oileanaich air a' chùrsa seo gu math trang fad an dà latha, chan eil sin a' ciallachadh nach eil cothrom ann airson spòrs, agus bidh seisean ciùil ann oidhche Shathairne far am faigh sibh cothrom cluich còmhla agus eòlas a chur air a chèile.

Cuideachd, tha clàr-ama Fèis Trànaidh 2012 a' tighinn ri chèile gu snog, agus thèid a cumail aig Mercure Hotel (An t-seann Caledonian, mar as aithne dhuinn e) ann in Inbhir Nis air 10 agus 11 Màrt 2012. Bidh bùithtean-obrach ann air Stuth Gàidhlig (geamaichean, òrain, cur-seachadan) dha na Fèisean, clàradh agus craoladh clasaichean-ciùil, dìon-chloinne, measadh chunnairt, coimpiutaireachd, agus a' làimhseachadh ultaichean mhòra – rudeigin airson a h-uile duine!

Gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh aig <http://www.feisean.org/ga/proiseactan/>

Ma tha ceist aig duine mu na tachartasan seo, cuiribh post-d gu Iona aig iona@feisean.org, no fòn air 01478 614001.

FÈIS ROIS GAELIC AND MUSIC RESOURCE



As part of their 25th anniversary celebrations, Fèis Rois has published a new Gaelic language and music book with two accompanying CDs.

The first half of the book aims to support tutors, participants and others to learn the Gaelic language and includes General Gaelic language phrases that will be useful in everyday conversation; Specific Gaelic language phrases that are relevant to learning and teaching the many different instruments and subjects on offer at a Fèis and has an accompanying 70-minute CD.

The second half of the book is a music resource.

It includes a selection of more than 30 Gaelic songs and tunes that will provide a shared repertoire amongst Fèis tutors and participants; 10 tunes that celebrate the people who have contributed to the success of Fèis Rois over the past 25 years. These include original compositions by Duncan MacGillivray, Norman Gillies, Mairearad Green, John Somerville, Blair Douglas, Lauren MacColl, Corrina Hewat, James Ross and Val Bryan.

There is also an accompanying CD of each of the tunes being played through slowly for those who are more comfortable learning by ear than with sheet music.

Individuals can purchase the book from Fèis Rois for £15 by visiting www.feisrois.org or contacting them on 01349 862600.

Fèis Rois is also offering other Fèisean the opportunity to buy some books for £10, which you can then re-sell for £15 to make some money for your Fèis.

Please contact Fiona Dalgetty for more information: fiona.dalgetty@feisrois.org

IOMAIRT CHIÙIL OIGRIDH



Youth Music Initiative has now become well established in Highland schools and news that it is continuing into session 2012/13 allows Fèisean nan Gàidheal tutors to work closely with schools in delivering aspects of the Curriculum for Excellence.

The Traditional programme addresses the Principles and Practice of Expressive Arts along with elements of Literacy and Health and Wellbeing.

At the Tutor Training Day in August, tutors identified major positives experienced in schools. Among them are;

- To pass on knowledge and music
- Being able to teach children something about which I am passionate
- Fun/relaxed
- Boys singing
- Variety of input
- Picking up Gaelic
- Flexible working hours
- Sense of achievement
- Cultural awareness
- Meeting individual needs

This term, Sheilah Cunningham and Elspeth Buxton have been working with Ullapool Primary School to enhance their project on 'the Clearances'. This culminated in a spectacular performance of a dramatisation of 'The Battle of the Braes' with children singing, playing a variety of instruments and exhibiting confidence in performing.

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