

# faileas



Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 45 • An Dùbhlachd 2012 • December 2012

## GLOIDHCEAN AGUS NA DÈIDEAGAN BRISTE



Bha sgioba Meanbh-chuileag air an rathad eadar 3 agus 10 An Dùbhlachd leis a' phanto Ghàidhlig ùr *Gloidhcean agus na Dèideagan Briste*. Thadhail a' bhuidheann air dusan sgoil agus talla choimhearsnachd eadar An Gearasdan, An t-Òban, Àth Tharracaill, Port Rìgh, Slèite, Dalabrog, Càrinis, Lacasdal, Borgh, Inbhir Pheofharain, Inbhir Nis agus Dùn Èideann agus tha e coltach gun do chòrd an dealbh-chluich ris a h-uile duine – sean is òg – a bha an làthair.

'S ann mu dheidhinn balach òg gòrach a tha am panto, agus tha e làn fealla-dhà agus òrain èibhinn. 'S iad Aonghas, Dougie agus Christine a bha a' cleasachd ann, còmhla ri Raonaid Cheanadach far a' Bhac ann an Leòdhas. Cha b' e seo a' chiad turas a rinn Raonaid obair còmhla ri Fèisean nan Gàidheal oir bha i na neach-aire aig Sgoil Shamhraidh Dràma 2012 ann am Port Rìgh.

“'S e seo an ceathramh panto a tha sinn fhìn air sgrìobhadh,” thuirt Dougie, “agus tha sinn a' faireachdainn gu bheil seo air aon den fheadhainn as treasa a rinn sinn fhathast. Chòrd a' chuairt rium gu mòr – tha Aonghas, Christine is Raonaid air leth sgileil air an àrd-ùrlar, agus thug e togail dhomh a' chlann fhaicinn is iad a' gabhail tlachd anns an dealbh-chluich. Chleachd sinn an stoidhle dannsa Gangnam Style sa phanto, is tha clann air feadh na dùthcha a-nise a' seinn “Gloidhcean Style” nan raointean-cluiche!”

Tha an sgioba dràma a-nise trang ag ullachadh airson pròiseactan dràma na h-ath-bhliadhna. Bidh dealbh-chluich ùr stèidhichte air beatha Iain Mhuir air chuairt aig deireadh an Fhaoilich, agus bidh obair air Fèis Dhràma bhliadhna Loch Abar is Earra Ghàidheil a' tòiseachadh goirid an dèidh saor-làithean na Nollaig.

The Meanbh-chuileag team was on the road between 3 and 10 December with the new Gaelic panto *Gloidhcean agus na Dèideagan Briste*. Angus MaLeod, Dougie Beck, Christine MacIntyre and Rachel Kennedy performed the show 12 times in schools and halls, and the feedback has been excellent. Part of the panto involved a parody of the hit Gangnam Style, and children in Gaelic playgrounds across the country are now singing and dancing “Gloidhcean Style”!

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Bha riochdairean an làthair aig a' Chruinneachadh Bhliadhna bho chòrr is 60 de na Fèisean an Alba, agus am measg na bha a' bruidhinn bha Pròbhost Loch Abair Ailean MacEanruig. Air an àrd-ùrlar a' cumail ceòl ris an èisteachd bha luchd-ciùil Fèisean Loch Abair agus nan Garbh Chrìochan agus Anndra Dòmhnallach, a fhuair oideachadh aig Fèis Loch Abair, air a' bhogsa.

Our Annual Conference in September was attended by more than 60 Fèis organisers from across the country and was addressed by Cllr Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber. Delegates were treated to music by young musicians from Fèis Lochabair and Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan while a former Fèis Lochabair participant, accordionist Andrew MacDonald, provided music for dancing.

Delegates heard the organisation's work in 2011-12 engaged over 43,000 people with nearly 6,000 Fèis participants, more than 3,000 benefiting from traditional music tuition in schools through YMI, nearly 17,000 attending Blas and 8,000 attending Cèilidh Trail performances during the summer of 2011. More details are available in the Annual Report for 2012, downloadable from Fèisean nan Gàidheal's website.



## FÈIS ÒIGRIDH NA MARA

Thòisich an dàrna latha de Fèis na Mara le clasaichean ann an dannsa-ceum agus fìdheall le Megan NicEanraig (Breabach, Salsa Celtica), giotàr le Eòghann MacDhonnchaidh (Breabach), drumaireachd agus piobaireachd le Anndra Mac a' Phearsain (Deoch 'n Doras), bogsa-ciùil le Gary Innes (Mànran) agus fideag le Callan MacBeth. Chòrd Fèis Òigridh na Mara ris na 25 com-pàirtichean gu mòr. Chrìochnaich an latha le feadhainn dhiubh a' cluich aig Cèilidh Gary Innes ann an Talla Choimhearsnachd Mhalaig agus Mhòrair.

The second day of Fèis na Mara, Saturday 6th October, began with taster sessions in step-dancing and classes in fiddle with Megan Henderson (Breabach, Salsa Celtica), guitar with Ewan Robertson (Breabach), drumming piping with Andrew MacPherson (Deoch 'n Doras), accordion with Gary Innes (Mànran) and whistle with Callan MacBeth. The 25 participants in Fèis Òigridh na Mara, from all over Lochaber, had plenty traditional Highland music-making opportunities to choose from. The day ended with some of the participants playing at Gary Innes' Family Cèilidh in Mallaig & Morar Community Centre, where they showcased the new tunes they developed that afternoon. A brilliant day was had by all!

## FÈIS INBHIR NARAINN

Fèis Inbhir Narainn has been busy recently continuing weekly classes in Accordion, Chanter, Fiddle, Guitar, Keyboard and Whistle. They have also been fund-raising through bag-packing, coffee mornings and recently held a St Andrew's Day Family Cèilidh for the community and beyond, which was a great night of dancing, singing and storytelling.

During November Ruairidh MacMillan led a couple of Groupwork Sessions which were well attended, and the Fèis hopes to continue these after the New Year.

Fèis Spè Junior Cèilidh band and the Fèis Inbhir Narainn Youth Cèilidh Band got together in Nairn for a Groupwork Day thanks to funding from Enterprise Music Scotland. The youngsters enjoyed the day of Groupwork, Music Composition and Percussion. They braved the cold weather and played their set in the bandstand at the Links in Nairn – what a backdrop!



## AWARDS FOR FÈIS ROIS

**Meala naidheachd air Fèis Rois a thog duais airson Pròiseact Coimhearsnachd na Bliadhna aig Na Trads tràth san Dùbhlachd agus, goirid an dèidh sin, bhuannaich iad an roinn airson Obair Chruthachail ann an Sgoiltean aig Duaisean Alba Chruthachail.**

Congratulations to Fèis Rois for picking up the Community Project of the Year Award at the Scots Traditional Music Awards in early December. The award was recognition for a marathon summer of music with their two Cèilidh Trails, including a national one, offering summer employment to 17 music students from across Scotland, playing to 5,000 people at 78 programmed events, as well as many more impromptu events. In addition, the young musicians performed to over 1,000 people in England between Scotland House (during the Olympic Games), Cambridge Folk Festival and a performance at St Columba's Church in London.

Fèis Rois organised a flashmob performance in Eden Court Theatre during the opening concert of Blas and their 17 Cèilidh Trail musicians opened the Blas Finale concert. Five Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail musicians, and musicians from the Argyll Cèilidh Trail, took part in the Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Camanachd Association international shinty/hurling collaboration in October, funded by Colmcille.

Hot on the heels of success at Na Trads, Fèis Rois won the Creativity in Schools category at the inaugural Creative Scotland Awards to round off a very busy and successful year.

## FÈIS DEUGAIREAN LOCH ABAIR

Bha deireadh-seachdain de cheòl, dannsa, Gàidhlig agus fealla-dhà aig deichnear dheugairean a thàinig às a' Ghearasdan agus Àth Tharrachail airson pàirt a ghabhail ann am Fèis nan Deugairean eadar 28 agus 30 Sultain ann an Àrd-sgoil Loch Abair.

Le clasaichean clàrsaich agus meur-chlàr le Ingrid NicEanraig (Còmhlán Cèilidh Ghleann Fhionghain), giotàr agus bogsa-ciùil le Murchadh Camshron (Triùir Aonghais MhicNeacail), a' phìob-mhòr agus fìdheall le Eòghann MacEanraig (Còmhlán a' Bhatfield, Mánran), agus dannsa-ceum le Clare Jordan, cha robh adhbhar gearain mun ìre de luchd-teagaisg a bh' aca!

Bha na com-pàirtichean trang a' dèanamh obair mheadhanan còmhla ri Clare Jordan gach latha, far an robh iad a' cruthachadh fiolm a' cleachdadh camara Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus a' dèanamh agallamhan còmhla ris an luchd-teagaisg. Chrìochnaich gach latha le na com-pàirtichean ag obair le stiùireadh bhon luchd-teagaisg air seataichean a chur ri chèile.

Thàinig Fèis nan Deugairean 2012 gu crìoch le seisean neo-fhoirmeil far an do chluich na deugairean còmhla air beulaibh an t-sluaigh.

Ten teenagers from Lochaber enjoyed a weekend of music, dance, Gaelic and fun at Fèis nan Deugairean (Teenage Fèis) 2012 from 28 to 30 September in Lochaber High School. With classes in clàrsach and keyboard led by Ingrid Henderson (Glenfinnan Cèilidh Band), guitar and accordion with Murdo Cameron (Angus Nicolson Trio), pipes and fiddle with Ewen Henderson (Battlefield Band, Mánran), and step-dancing with Clare Jordan, there was plenty of great traditional Highland music being shared and no complaints about the standard of tuition on offer! The participants took part in a media class with Clare Jordan each day, in which the teenagers made a film and interviewed their tutors. Each day ended with group-work offering the participants the opportunity to create sets with help from the tutors. Fèis nan Deugairean 2012 closed with an informal session, which was open to the public,



# IOMAIRT CHIÙL ÒIGRIDH | YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE



Dalneigh Primary Highland Dancing while singing *Brochan Lom* - Having fun with tutor Maggie MacDonald

All primary schools within the Highland Council area have had their first blocks of traditional music sessions for school session 2012-13. Primary 6 is the target group but many smaller schools with composite classes have had the opportunity of sharing the experience with other class groups.

Schools now embrace the traditional aspect of the YMI programme as part of the Curriculum for Excellence and tutors are valued for addressing outcomes requirements of Expressive Arts. Tutors have already had an impact on schools and have been involved in a variety of projects.

Pupils in Raasay Primary School have recently been fired up by the Collie/MacKenzie Project. Along with a brilliant classroom exhibition and some adventurous soup recipes to keep climbers warm, they have written a song to celebrate the lives of John MacKenzie and Norman Collie. With help from Anne Martin and Hector MacInnes, they have arranged the song for keyboards, guitars, percussion and cello and are aiming to record their achievement on CD. Their performance will be part of a Collie/Mackenzie Day of celebration in February, when a monument will be unveiled.

Dagger Gordon and Veronique Nelson have been working in Craighill Primary School, Tain. The P6 class and P4-7 Gaelic class have been involved in group music-making as well as learning traditional songs. The pupils included some of their YMI songs in their school concert on the 4th December.

Duncan MacKay, Head Teacher said "David and Veronique worked so well with our children to ensure that all were involved in the music making sessions. The children were enthusiastic and highly motivated. The whole approach of the teaching resulted in a highly polished performance. Everyone involved in the project thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Please bring them back!"

Pupils from South Lodge, Invergordon, had sessions delivered by Irene Fraser Downie. The Evaluation Report stated "Delivery was excellent. Pupils engaged with the lessons and enjoyed seeing the instruments being played. Behaviour was dealt with positively and the rapport was good. The pupils enjoyed having proper music sessions and were able to dance and sing at the same time."

Seems all is going well and proving the value of the traditional YMI programme.

## FÈIS EADAR-NÀISEANTA NA H-IOMAIN 'S NA H-IOMÁNAÍOCHTA

Air an deireadh-sheachdain 26 gu 28 Dàmhair, rinn buidheann de dh'aon-deug luchd-ciùil bho na Fèisean air Co. an Chláir far an do chluich iad aig Fèis Eadar-Nàiseanta na h-Iomain 's na h-Iománaíochta a thachair ann an Inis mar phàirt den t-sreath bhliadhna de na cuairtean-deireannach eadar Alba agus Èireann.

Bha an turas mar phàirt de iomlaid chultarail ùr le buidheann de luchd-ciùil òga à Co. an Chláir leis an ainm Tigh na Coille a tha fo stiùir an fhìdhleir chliùitich Denis Liddy. Bha a' bhuidheann Albannach na measgachadh de chom-pàirtichean às na Cèilidhean air Chuairt à Earra-Ghàidheal agus Siorrachd Rois agus chluich iad còmhla ri Tigh na Coille aig

iomadh taisbeanadh agus cuairt a bha a' dol tron deireadh-sheachdain.

Thàinig an iomlaid, a fhuair taic bho Colmcille, gu bith tro chom-pàirticheas ùr eadar Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Comann na Camanachd agus an GAA a tha uile air an aon ràmh 's iad ag amas air sàr-thaisbeanadh de chultar na Gàidhlig a chur air dòigh aig an aon àm ris na geamaichean.

In October a group of eleven young Fèis musicians travelled to Co. Clare to perform at the International Shinty/Hurling Festival.

The trip was part of a new cultural exchange with a group of young Irish musicians from Co. Clare called Tigh na Coille who are led by renowned fiddler and music teacher Denis Liddy. The Scottish group was made up of participants of the current Argyll and Ross-shire Ceilidh Trails and they teamed up with Tigh na Coille for several well received performances over the weekend.

## FÈISGOIL

Aig a' Chruinneachadh Bhladhna de na Fèisean anns a' Ghearasdan san t-Sultain, dh'fhoillsich Fèisean nan Gàidheal iomairt ùr foghlaim, Fèisgoil, a' tarraing earrannan de shaoghal an fhoghlaim agus coimhearsnachd còmhla.

Bhon uair sin, tha 16 oidean air trèanadh fhaighinn airson teagasg Gàidhlig a libhrigeadh agus tha Comhairle Pheairt agus Ceann Rois air an t-seirbheis fhadastadh airson Gàidhlig a theagasg ann an cuid de na sgoiltean aca. Tha còmhraidhean air a bhith a' dol air adhart le ùghdarrasan eile cuideachd airson dèanamh soilleir ciamar a b' urrainn dhuinn an cuideachadh.

Thuir Ceannard Fèisean nan Gàidheal Art MacCarmag: "S e leudachadh air an obair anns an robh sinn an sàs thuige seo a th' ann am Fèisgoil, a' cur gu feum sgilean a tha sinn a' cleachdadh ann a bhith a' teagasg dràma agus ceòl, airson Gàidhlig a theagasg. Tha sinn gu mòr den bharail gun urrainn do dh'Fhèisean nan Gàidheal seirbheis ùr a thairginn do na h-ùghdarrasan ionadail. Cuiridh seo ris na leasachaidhean a tha san amharc tron Churraicealam airson Sàr-Mhathais ann am foghlam Gàidhlig, Eòlas na h-Alba agus rùn an Riaghaltais cothrom a thoirt do dh'òigridh an Alba barrachd cànan ionnsachadh."

Fèisean nan Gàidheal launched a major new educational initiative, Fèisgoil, at its annual conference in September. Since then, 16 tutors have been trained in how to deliver Gaelic classes and Perth & Kinross Council has already contracted the service to deliver Gaelic teaching in some of its schools. Meetings and conversations have been ongoing with several other local authorities including Highland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Argyll & Bute, Falkirk, Glasgow City and North Ayrshire to outline how Fèisgoil could assist them.

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Chief Executive, said: "Fèisgoil is a development of work in which we have already been involved, with the new initiative being the transfer of skills utilised to good effect in the teaching of drama and music, in order to teach Gaelic language. We believe Fèisean nan Gàidheal could offer a valuable service to local authorities as they embrace opportunities to support Gaelic education, Scottish Studies and the Scottish Government's proposals for the teaching of additional languages to all children in Scotland."

## FilmG AGUS NA H-ÒRAIN ÙRA



Tha com-pàirteachas ùr, brìghmhor eadar a' bhuidheann Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus Watercolour Music a' cur ri roinn ùr, tharraingeach ann am farpais FilmG na bliadhna-sa. Airson a' chiad uair tha FilmG a' sireadh bhideothan ciùil airson òrain Ghàidhlig a tha air a bhith air an ùr-sgrìobhadh agus air an seinn le tàlant òg.

Thug Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus Watercolour cead do FilmG agus fiolmadairean cothrom bhideo ùr a dhèanamh de na h-òrain san Taigh Òran, pròiseact sgrìobhaidh airson òrain ùra a stèidhich Fèisean nan Gàidheal le Stòras Watercolour. Cluinnear na h-òrain air làrach-lìn Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Thàinig ochd òrain ùra a-mach às a' phròiseact seo, a' toirt cothrom do bhuidhnean òga stiùireadh is comhairle fhaighinn bho sheinneadairean is luchd-ciùil a tha air cliù a chosnadh mar-thà sa ghniomhachas, leithid Alasdair Whyte. Fhuair iad cothrom cuideachd na h-òrain ùra a chlàradh.

Thèid a' bhideo a choisneas a' phrìomh dhuais san roinn a shealltainn aig cuirm nan duaisean sa Mhàrt 2013, far an tèid uidheamachd fiolmaidh is gearradh luach £1,000 a bhuileachadh air stiùiriche/riochdaire na bhideo.

## TUTOR TRAINING

Each year, Fèisean nan Gàidheal runs a two-day course for Fèis tutors at 3 different levels at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat. The next course will be run on 23 and 24 February 2012. Level 1 is for people starting out as tutors in the Fèisean, Level 2 is for tutors with some experience, or who have completed Level 1 and are over 18 years of age. Level 3 is for those who have considerable experience of teaching at Fèisean and who have completed Level 2.

Participants will learn how to prepare for a Fèis, identify learning materials, how to control classes, essentials of child protection, and participate in practical music sessions – according to level. Fèisean nan Gàidheal will accept participants between 16 and 18 years of age on Level 1, with parental permission.

The two-day course costs £70 all in (including overnight accommodation on Saturday). Further information is available from Iona MacDonald at 01478 614001 iona@feisean.org.

This year's FilmG competition invited young filmmakers to create music videos for 12 new songs, written and performed by young Gaelic-speakers, 8 of them from the successful An Taigh Òran/Songhouse, an innovative song-writing project between Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Stòras Watercolour, a not-for-profit company established by the label's directors to encourage emerging talent in Gaelic music.

The winning video will be screened at the FilmG awards event in March 2013, where filming and editing equipment to the value £1,000 will be awarded to the producer/director of the video.

Arthur Cormack, Chief Executive of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, said: "We were very happy to make best use of funding from HIE, Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig to collaborate with Stòras Watercolour in the creation of new Gaelic songs. We are delighted that the songs from An Taigh Òran may now be developed further into music videos through FilmG, giving them a life beyond the original project and much-needed exposure for an under-supported artform."

## MEALA NAIDHEACHD

Congratulations and best wishes go to our Western Isles Development Officer Jenna Morrison and her husband Benji on the birth of their daughter Chirsty Bella on 21 November. A h-uile duine slàn, fallain.

## BLAS 2012 ANOTHER SUCCESS

Blas 2012's Grand Finale at Eden Court's Empire Theatre capped a marvellous 9 days of entertainment throughout the Highland. 7,693 people attended 116 events recording a 90% satisfaction rating. 78% felt that attending a Blas event made them more appreciative of the Gaelic language and the average audience, per concert, was up from 127 in 2011 to 154 this year with 78% of available tickets sold.

This year's festival attracted new sponsorship from RBS, Business Gateway and West Highland College. The event was also supported by public-sector bodies Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and The Highland Council, which has consistently supported the festival's growth.

Blas exceeded its box office targets, which it has done almost every year since it began. The economic benefits of the festival include employment to musicians, income to accommodation and food providers and to other areas of the creative industries. But the greater benefit is the opportunity to celebrate Gaelic culture and promote the language.

Plans are already underway for Blas 2013 which will take place from 6 to 14 September. It is hoped that there will be an appearance from one of Scotland's foremost bands marking a significant anniversary next year.



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