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 sgoi agus talla choimhearsnachd eadar An Ghràig, An d’Òban, Àth Tharracaill, Port Rìgh, Slèite, Dalabrog, Càrinis, Lasadacal, 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 lán 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 Leòdhais. Cha b’ e seo a’ chiad torus 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 fhin air sgiobhadh,” thuirt Dougie, “agus tha sinn a’ faireadhdainn gu bheil seo air aon den fhèidhinn anns an bhràth a rinneadh.” Chòrd a’ chuaireachd gu mòr – tha Aonghas, Christine is Raonaid air leth sgileil air an ard-ùrlar, agus thug e tógail dhomh a’ chìann fhaicinn is iad a’ gabhail tachd anns an dealbh-chluich. Chleachd sinn an stoidehlie 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-athbhliadhna. Bith dealbh-chluich ùr stèidhichte air beatha lain Mhuir air chuaireachd air deireadh an Fhuionlich, agus bidh obair air Fèis Dhhràma bhliadhnin Loch Abar air Earrad Ghàidheil air a bhios a’ tòiseachadh goirid an deòidh 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. They performed 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”!

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Bha riochdairean an làthair aig a’ Chruinneachadh Bliadhna bhò chòrr is 60 de na Fèisean an Alba, agus am measg na bha a’ bruaidhinn bha Pròbhost Loch Abair Ailean MacEanruig. Air an ard-ùrlar a’ cumail ceol ris an éisteachd bha luchd-cluiche Gloidhcean Leòdhas Abair agus nan Garbh Chriochan agus Anndra Dòmhnullach, a fhuaire oideachadach 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.
FÉIS ÓIGRIDH NA MARA

Thòisich an dàrna latha de Fèis na Mara le clasaichean ann an danna-seum agus fidheall le Megan NicEanraig (Breabach, Salsa Celtica), giotar le Èòghan MacDhonnnchaidh (Breabach), drumaireachd agus piobaireachd le Anndra Mac a’ Phearsain (Deoch ’n Doras), bogs-a-cìul le Gary Innes (Mànran) agus fideag le Callan MacBeth. Chòrd Fèis Óigridh na Mara ris na 25 com-pàirtichean gu mòr. Chriochnaich an latha le feadhainn dhuibh a’ cluich aig Cèilidh Gary Innes ann an Talla Choinmhearsnachd Mhàlaig agus Mhòrrair.

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 with Andrew MacPherson (Deoch ’n Doras), accordion with Gary Innes (Mànran) and whistle with Callan MacBeth. The 25 participants in Fèis Óigridh 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!

FÉIS 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 the Fèis Òigridh na Mara. The youngsters enjoyed the day thanks to funding from Enterprise Music Scotland. The youngsters enjoyed the day thanks to funding from Enterprise Music Scotland.

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 Spé 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 ROS

Meala naidheachd air Fèis Ros a thog duais airson Pròiseact Cùmhbearnachd na Blàidhna aig Na Trads tràth san Dùbhlaichd agus, goirid an déidh sin, bhuanach iad an roinn airson Obair Chruthachail ann an Spòrrtan aig Duaisean Alba Chruthachail.

Congratulations to Fèis Ros 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 Ros 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 Ros Cèilidh 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 Ros won the Creativity in Schools category at the inaugural Creative Scotland Awards to round off a very busy and successful year.

FÉIS DEUGAIREAN LOCH ABAIR

Bha deireadh-seachdain de cheol, dannsa, Ghàidhlig agus feallda dhà aig deichnearthach ar thaing a’s a’ Ghearsanad agus Àth Tharrachail airson pàirt a ghabhail ann am Fèis nan Deugairean eadar 28 agus 30 Sultain ann an Ardvóig Comhairle.

Le clasaichean clàrsaich agus meur-chlár le Ingrid NicEanraig (Còmhlan Cèilidh Ghileann Fhionghain), giotar agus bogs-a-cìul le Murchadh Camshron (Triùir Aonghais MhicNeacail), a’ phìob-mhòr agus fidheall le Èòghan MacEanraig (Còmhlan a’ Bhattlefield, Mànran), agus dannsa-ceum le Clare Jordon, cha robh adhbhar gearain mun ire de lucht-teagaigs a bh’ aca!

Bha na com-pàirtichean trang a’ dèanamh obair mheadhanan còmhoirthir ri Clare Jordon gach latha, far an robh iad a’ cruthachadh flòm a’ cleachdadh camera Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus a’ dèanamh agallamhan còmhoirthir ris an lucht-teagaiga.

Chriochnaich gach latha le na com-pàrtichean ag obair le stiùireadh bhon luchd-teagaigeach air seatraitheach a chur ri chèile.

Thàinig Fèis nan Deugairean 2012 gu crioich do lachaidh neo-thoirmeil far an do chluichd na deugairean còmhla air beuladh an t-sluagh.

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 clarsach 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, Mànran), and step-dancing with Clare Jordon, 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 Jordon 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.
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 adventuruous 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.

Dagdar Gordon and Veronique Nelson have been working in Craighall 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 high. The whole approach of the teaching resulted in a highly polished performance. Everyone involved in the project thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Please bring them back!"

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

FIS EADAR-NÁISEANTA NA H-IOMAIN ’S NA H-IOMÁNAÍCHTA
Air an deireadh-sheachdain 26 gu 28 Dàmhair, rinn buidheann de dh’aoon-deug luchd-cùill bhò na Fèisean air Co. a’ Chlàir far an do chluichd iad aig Fís Eadar-Náiseanta na h-Iomáin ’s na h-Iománaíochta a thachair ann an Inis mar phàirt den t-sreath bhiliadhainn de na cuairtean-deirreannach eadar Alba agus Èireann.

Bha an turas mar phàirt den iomaid chultarail ùr le buidheann de luchd-cùill òga a’ Chlàir leis an ainm Tigh na Coille a tha fo stiùir an fhidhleir chliùtich Denis Liddy. Bha a’ bhuidhean Albannach na measgachadh de chom-pàirtichean às na Cèilidhean air Chuirart à Earra-Ghàidheal agus Siorrachd Rois agus chluich iad còmhlach ri Tigh na Coille aig omadh taisbeannadh agus cuairt a bha a’ dol tron deireadh-sheachdain. Thåining an iomladh, a fhuair taic bho Colmille, gu bith tro chrom-pàrticheas ùr eadar Fèiseaen nan Gàidheal, Comann na Camanachd agus an GAA a tha uile air an aon rámh’s iad ag amas air sàr-thaisbeannadh de chultar na Gàidhlig a chur aird dòigh aig an aon âm ris na geamaichean.

In October a group of eleven young FES 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.

FÉISGOIL
Aig a’ Chruinneachadh Bhliadhnain de na Fèisean ann a’ Ghearrasd san t-Sultan, dh’fhéilich Fèisean nan Gàidheal iomairt ùr foghlaim, Fèiseog, a’ tarrainn earrannan de shaoghail an fhoghlaim agus coimhearsnachd còmhla.

Bhon uair sin, tha 16 oidean air tréanadh fhiaighean airson teagasg Gàidhlig a lìbhreachadh agus tha Comhairle Pheàrth agus Canann Rois air an t-seirbhies fhastadh airson Gàidheal a theagasg ann an cùid de na spòiltean aca. Tha còmhraidhean air a bhith a’ dol air adhart le ùghdarras eile cùideachd airson déanamh soilleir clamar a b’ urrainn dhùinn an cùideachd.

Thuirt Ceannard Fèisean nan Gàidheal Art MacCormaig: “S’ e leudachadh air an obair anns an robh sinn ann a rèis thuige seo a th’ ann am Fèiseog, a’ cur gu feum sìgilean a tha sinn a’ cleachdadh ann a bhith a’ teagasg dràma agus ceòl, airson Gàidhlig a theagasg. Tha sinn gu mòr den bharrail gun urrainn do dh’Fhèisean nan Gàidheal seirbhís ùir a thairisginn do na h-ùghdarras ann an iomadal. Cuírthid seo ris ann leis an fhàchar thàinig mar mhòr ann air an fhoghlam Gàidhlig, Èolas na h-Alba agus rùin an Riaghaltas aithnson a thoirt do dh’fhìdichd an Alba barrachd cànann ionnsachdadh.”

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.”
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.

FilmG AGUS NA H-ÒRAIN ÙRA

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

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

TUTOR TRAINING

Each year, Fèisean nan Gàidheal runs a two-day course for Féis 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 Féis, identify learning materials, how to control classess, 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.

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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.

www.feisean.org