

# faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 49 • An Dùbhlachd 2013 • December 2013

## PANTO NA GÀIDHLIG: SEASAIDH AGUS NA SÀILEAN SEUNTA



Bha Meanbh-Chuileag air an rathad eadar 2-11 Dùbhlachd leis a' phanto Ghàidhlig ùr *Seasaidh agus na Sàilean Seunta* a chaidh a sgrìobhadh le Aonghas MacLeòid. Thadhail a' bhuidheann air sgoiltean ann an Dùn Omhain, An t-Òban, Ìle, Glaschu, Comar nan Allt, Dùn Èideann, Inbhir Pheofharain, Inbhir Nis, Leòdhas, Na Hearadh, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach agus Loch Abar, a bharrachd air dà thaisbeanadh poblach a chaidh air adhart ann an Inbhir Nis agus aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

'S ann mu dheidhinn nighean òg air a bheil Seasaidh a bha am panto, is i air leth dèidheil air a bhith a' dannsa ged nach robh brògan ceart aice airson a dhèanamh.

A' gabhail pàirt còmhla ri Aonghas MacLeòid, Dougie Beck agus Shona Nic a' Mhaoilein bha Eilidh Daniels, a bhuineas do dh'Òbar Dheathain ach a tha a-nise a' fuireach ann an Glaschu. Chaidh a fastadh mar a' cheathramh ball den sgioba.

Thuir Aonghas MacLeòid, "Bha e na thlachd mhòr dhuinn Seasaidh a thoirt air an rathad am-bliadhna. 'S e sgioba air leth a bh' againn a-rithist 's tha sinn air sgilean dannsaidh na buidhne a chur am meud, is sinn a-nise comasach a leithid ballet is breakdancing a thaisbeanadh. Chòrd e rinn a' chlann fhaicinn a' gabhail tlachd anns an dealbh-chluich agus a bhith a' gabhail pàirt ann an cuid de na dannsaichean is òrain a bh' againn."

Tha an sgioba dràma air a bhith air leth trang am-bliadhna le grunn dhiofar phròiseactan 's bidh sin a' leantainn anns a' bhliadhna ùir le sreath phròiseactan san amharc airson 2014. Cùmaibh sùil air ar làrach-lìn airson fiosrachadh às ùire mu pròiseactan agus tachartasan dràma a lorg.

The Meanbh-chuileag team was on the road between 2 and 11 December with their newly written Gaelic panto *Seasaidh agus na Sàilean Seunta*. Angus MacLeod, Dougie Beck, Shona Macmillan and Eilidh Daniels performed the show 16 times in schools and halls, with excellent feedback from school pupils, teachers and those who attended two special public performances.

The drama team is now looking ahead to 2014 and a busy year is in store, with new plays, workshops and performances in the pipeline.



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## NA TRADS 2013

Chaidh Cuirm nan Duaisean Ciùil Traidiseanta a cumail ann an Obar Dheathain agus thog iomadh neach aig a bheil ceangal ris na Fèisean duais. Meala-naireachd orrasan agus air a h-uile duine a chaidh a mholadh airson duais. Thug Fèisean nan Gàidheal taic a-rithist dhan duais mar chuimhneachan air Seumas MacEanruig a chaidh a bhuileachadh am-bliadhna air Emily Lyle a dh'obraich fad iomadh bliadhna ann an Sgoil Eòlais na h-Alba.

The annual Traditional Music Awards, organised by Hands Up for Trad, were held in Aberdeen in early December.

Among the winners with Fèis connections were Gaelic Singer of the Year, Rachel Walker; Live Act of the Year, Breabach; Music Tutor of the Year, Corrina Hewat; and Up and Coming Artist of the Year, Robert Robertson.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal again sponsored the Hamish Henderson Award for Services to Traditional Music: which was awarded to Dr Emily Lyle, who spent many years working in Edinburgh University's School of Scottish Studies where she worked on editing the Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection.

Congratulations to all the winners and all those who were nominated for awards.

## CEÒL TRON GHEAMHRADH ANN AN GOILLSPIDH



'S e an samhradh an t-àm as trainge do dh'Fhèis Chataibh mar as àbhaist is i a' cumail a prìomh sheachdain anns an luchar agus Cuairt Cèilidh – turas proifeiseanta do luchd-ciùil òga - air an aon mhìos.

Tha i a-nis a' dlùthachadh air a' chòigeamh bliadhna fichead agus sùil ri tachartas ciùil no dhà tron gheamhradh a bharrachd air tachartasan an t-samhraidh.

An toiseach as t-Samhain, chumadh latha-ciùil ann an Àrd-sgoil Ghoillspidh. Aig an tachartas seo, bha bùthan-obrach air an tairgse do dh'òigridh eadar 8 is 18 bliadhna a dh'aois aig a h-uile ìre. Bha caochladh chuspairean air an tairgse leithid fìdheall, feadan is a' phìob, a' chlàrsach, an fhìdeag, an giotàr, am bogsa-ciùil, am meurchlàr agus òrain Ghàidhlig agus bha faisg air 40 òganach ionadail an làthair.

Now approaching its twenty-fifth birtwhday, Fèis Chataibh is busy with several winter music events as well as its main summer activities. The first of these took place in November with a Winter Workshop in Golspie High School. This one day event offered tuition in various subjects for young people aged 8 to 18 of all playing abilities.

The Fèis is now planning a residential groupwork weekend for early March as well as auditions for the 2014 Cèilidh Trail. This hugely successful scheme is open to young traditional musicians and singers between the ages of 16 and 22 and offers a great opportunity to take part in a paid, professional summer tour.

For details of the upcoming groupwork weekend, Cèilidh Trail auditions and all Fèis Chataibh events please keep an eye on [www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org) or contact fèis secretary Debbie Celli on 01408 634 210 / [debbiecelli@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:debbiecelli@yahoo.co.uk). You can also find Fèis Chataibh on Facebook.

## FÈIS SPÈ IN THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK

Fèis Spè is busy with many interesting projects across the Cairngorms National Park with autumn and winter turning out to be as busy as the summer.

In October the main Fèis Spè week was held with over sixty young people taking part in traditional music, singing, dancing and Gaelic classes.

A residential weekend for teenage musicians was then held in November in Badaguish near Aviemore. This was a joint effort between Fèis Spè and Fèis Rois and brought young musicians and singers from different areas together for a weekend of groupwork.

At the start of December an exciting new audio visual installation was unveiled in Strathdon on the eastern side of Cairngorm National Park. This installation arose from an arts project between Fèis Spè and Strathdon Primary School focussing on the Poll Dubh or 'Black Mire' - a fairy pool renowned in local folklore for its magical properties. Fèis Spè artists helped the children to make their own audio and video recordings for the installation, honing new technology skills as well as learning about local folklore.

Young Fèis Spè musicians were busy in December: the Junior Cèilidh Band put their Badaguish groupwork skills to good use playing at two concerts at the start of the month and the Cèilidh Trail also played several dates to ring out 2013.

In the New Year, Fèis Spè is looking forward to auditions for the 2014 Cèilidh Trail. These will take place on 22nd February in Aviemore Primary School. This highly successful scheme presents a great opportunity for any young musician or singer aged between 16 and 22 to take part in a professional, paid group tour over the summer.

Over the same weekend Fèis Spè will also be holding a music weekend with separate days for different age groups. On 22nd February there will be a Fèis Bheag for p1-3 and a Junior Fèis for p4-7. On the 3rd there will be a Senior Fèis on offer for S1-6 pupils.

Looking ahead to spring there will be another residential teenage weekend in Badaguish from 14-16th March. This will again be organised in conjunction with Fèis Rois and will focus on groupwork skills.

You can find out more about all of Fèis Spè's activities online at [www.feisspe.org.uk](http://www.feisspe.org.uk) and on Facebook. You can also contact Caroline Sterritt, Fèis Spè Development Officer, on [caroline.sterritt@feisean.org](mailto:caroline.sterritt@feisean.org) or 07989 907 213.

## FÈIS FARR LÀN FEALLA-DHÀ

Bha 'Latha Fealla-dhà' gu math trang aig Fèis Farr aig deireadh na Sultain is faisg air 40 teaghlach a' gabhail pàirt ann an latha ciùil, craic is sliseag cèic no dhà.

Air an latha bhathar a' tabhann seiseanan fìdhe, fìdeig, seinn, dannsa-ceum, drumaireachd agus ealain. Bha na blasadan beaga seo fosgailte dhan a h-uile duine, sean is òg, aig gach ìre comais agus bha pàrantan a' gabhail pàirt cuideachd.

Fèis Farr held a busy Family Fun Day with nearly forty families enjoying a day of music and fun.

Fèis Farr's evening classes run from November to March on the last Friday of every month. Classes are on offer for children aged 8 to 18 and there is also a Fèis Bheag ('Wee Fèis') for children under 8.

You can find out more about Fèis Farr online at [www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org) and on Facebook, or contact Rachel on [rachel@feisean.org](mailto:rachel@feisean.org).

## FÈIS DHÙN ÈIDEANN

Fèis Dhùn Èideann will hold its annual Fèis between 15-18 February 2014 at Bun Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce (Parkside Primary School), with a different format to best suit their participants.

On 15th February there will be a day of workshops for secondary school pupils followed by an evening Cèilidh with Fèis tutors.

A two day event will then be held for primary school pupils on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th February. Participants in P4-7 can choose 3 different activities over the 2 days. Cleas is Ceòl is available for primary 1-3 pupils where they attend for half days.

All participants will have the chance to use and develop their Gaelic skills in interactive sessions over the Fèis days.

For more info. contact Gillian MacDonald on [feisdhuneideann@feisean.org](mailto:feisdhuneideann@feisean.org)

## FÈIS ÒIGRIDH NA MARA

Thòisich an dàrna latha de Fèis na Mara le Latha Fèise Fèis Òigridh na Mara ann am Bun-sgoil Mhalaig. Le clasaichean ann am fìdheall le Deirdre Beck, giotàr le Murchadh Camshron, drumaireachd agus piobaireachd le Anndra Mac a' Phearsain, bogsa-ciùil le Sileas Nic a' Cheàrdaich agus fìdeag le Hamish Napier, chòrd an latha ris na 15 com-pàirtichean gu mòr. Thàinig an latha gu crìoch le taisbeanadh anns an talla choimhearsnachd air an oidhche.



# FÈIS NAN DEUGAIREAN AN LOCH ABAR



Bha deireadh-sheachdain miorbhaileach aig Fèis nan Deugairean (Loch Abar) a chaidh a chumail ann an Àth Tharacaill am-bliadhna. Thàinig 20 com-pàirtiche bho air feadh Loch Abar agus nas fhaide air falbh agus rinn iad clasaichean ann an giotàr, bogsa-ciùil, piàna, dannsa-ceum, clàrsach, seinn, piob, fideag is fìdheall. Bha tòrr spòrs is fealla-dhà ann cuideachd. Fhuair na deugairean an cothrom puirt ùr ionnsachadh bho chàch a-cheile Oidhche Shathairne na Fèise nuair a chaidh seisean neo-fhoirmeil a chumail san talla-sgoile. Chuir sinn crìoch air an Fhèis seo le seisean eile ann an Taigh-Òsta Loch Seile. Thàinig sluagh mòr dhan tachartas seo agus chòrd e riutha uile na sgìlean ùra a dh' ionnsaich iad a chur gu feum ann an dòigh spòrsail, neo-fhoirmeil.

A fantastic weekend was had at the Teenage Fèis in Lochaber which took place in November in Acharacle.

20 participants took part in the range of classes offered in guitar, accordion, piano, stepdancing, clarsach, singing, pipes, whistle and fiddle. Cailean Collier also ran workshops in Gaelic and using Gaelic on the stage. It was very useful and they got a chance to practise this on the Saturday night when an informal session was held in the school hall.

A session at the Loch Shiel hotel marked the end of the Fèis and this was very well attended, giving the teenagers a chance to show off their skills in a fun and informal environment.

Now the countdown is on for Fèis nan Deugairean 2014!!!

## TIME TO SHINE: SCOTLAND'S YOUTH ARTS STRATEGY

Chuir Fèisean nan Gàidheal fàilte air Ro-innleachd Ealain na h-Òigridh - "Time to Shine" - a chaidh fhoillseachadh san t-Samhain le Fiona Hyslop BPA, Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cultair agus Janet Archer, Ceannard Alba Chruthachail.

Chuir sinn fàilte cuideachd air an tionndadh Gàidhlig den Nobhail Graifceach "Dall Ort" a chaidh fhoillseachadh airson "Time to Shine" a mhineachadh ann an dòigh tharraingeach, chruthachail.

Tha iomradh air obair nam Fèisean san ro-ràdh aig Fiona Hyslop agus san ro-innleachd fhèin.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has warmly welcomed "Time to Shine", Scotland's arts strategy for young people aged 0-25, launched in November by Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs and Janet Archer, Chief Executive of Creative Scotland.

Fiona Hyslop makes mention of the Fèisean in her foreword: "We are exceptional in having a range of National Youth Arts Companies for theatre, music and dance and are blessed with many energetic and visionary stakeholders such as Sistema Scotland and Fèisean nan Gàidheal."

According to the strategy itself: "The traditional arts sector and in particular the Fèisean movement spearheaded by Fèisean nan Gàidheal is looked at with envy from many other parts of the globe. There is much that Scotland's young people's arts sector can learn from it in terms of how it is networked, how it reaches out beyond its perceived usual participants, how it identifies and supports talent and how it supports the continued up-skilling of its workforce."

The strategy document can be viewed here <http://www.creativescotland.com/explore/national-youth-arts-strategy>.

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Chief Executive said: "Time to Shine maps out a future pathway for youth arts and we welcome the strategy and the new funding announced with its publication. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is eager to play its part in delivering the strategy. We are happy that the influence of the Fèisean has been recognised in it, which is recognition of a tremendous amount of voluntary work over many years."



## FÈIS ROIS NAN DEUGAIREAN 2013

Ghabh 100 deugaire pàirt ann am Fèis Rois nan Deugairean san Dàmhair, a' mhòr-chuid dhiubh à sgìre Rois ach le òigridh bho sgìrean eile a' tadhal cuideachd. Thuirt 4 a-mach à 5 de na com-pàirtichean gun do chòrd an cothrom riutha an cuid sgìlean Gàidhlig adhartachadh agus an cur gu feum.

100 secondary school pupils took part in Fèis Rois nan Deugairean in Ullapool from 7-11 October. 73 young people from Ross-Shire were joined by 27 of their peers from across Scotland, including Inverness, Orkney and the Western Isles.

They participated in workshops led by the 13-strong tutor team. Ensemble playing has become popular amongst the teenagers at Fèis Rois with 65 of the 100 choosing groupwork for afternoon classes.

20% of the participants were fluent Gaelic speakers with 47% recalling the Gaelic they learned the previous year, building on their language skills this year. 79% of participants said they enjoyed having the opportunity to use and/or enjoy Gaelic at the Fèis.

The participants played to a packed audience in the Macphail Theatre on Friday 11th October.

## SALTIRE SOCIETY BURSARY



Fèisean nan Gàidheal was delighted to work with the Saltire Society to offer a young Fèis graduate an international Travel Bursary supported by British Council Scotland. The Saltire Society invited Fèisean nan Gàidheal to seek proposals from the Fèis network and, following an application process, Innes White, a Fèis Rois participant, was selected to receive the award.

The Award consists of £1,500 to enable Innes to pursue a research project, including international travel, together with a certificate and membership of the Saltire Society. Innes proposes to spend a month in Catalonia learning about the Catalan language and culture, focussing mainly on the music and dances of the region and to undertake tuition and mentoring in these fields.

Gur math a thèid dhut, Innes.

## “MISSION: EXPLORE IAIN MUIR” SA GHÀIDHLIG



Annas a' Ghiblean agus sa Chèitean thadhail 'Meanbh-chuileag', a' chompanaidh theatar oideachaidh aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal, air còrr is 44 bun-sgoil le 'Seonaidh a' Mhonaigh', dealbh-chluich mu bheatha agus obair an eòlaiche nàdair Iain Muir. Às dèidh bogadh den leabhran-d aig Urras Iain Muir sa Ghiblean, mhol Fèisean nan Gàidheal tionndadh Gàidhlig fhoillseachadh mar ghoireas a bhiodh feumail do sgoiltean Gàidhlig a bh' air an dealbh-chluich fhaicinn.

**Chuir Urras Iain Muir fàilte air a' bheachd agus dh'obraich Fèisean nan Gàidheal còmhla ri Urras Iain Muir gus an dreach Gàidhlig a chruthachadh.**

Follow in the footsteps of the naturalist John Muir for free with the Gaelic version of the e-book "Mission: Explore John Muir" published by the John Muir Trust with Fèisean nan Gàidheal's help.

The e-book contains a unique set of 20 'missions' created to inspire people to follow in the footsteps of John Muir. It is free to download and captures a variety of Muir's adventures and messages and turns them into easy-to-complete activities.

In April and May 2013, Meanbh-chuileag, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Theatre in Education company, visited over 44 primary schools with 'Seonaidh a' Mhonaigh' (John of the Moors), a Gaelic play about the life and work of the naturalist John Muir. Following the launch of the e-book in April, Fèisean nan Gàidheal proposed the idea of publishing a Gaelic version as a complimentary resource for Gaelic-medium schools that had seen the play.

The John Muir Trust welcomed the idea and Fèisean nan Gàidheal worked together with Toby Clark, Scotland Manager for the John Muir Awards, in the creation of the Gaelic version.

The Gaelic version of the "Mission: Explore John Muir" is available here [http://www.jmt.org/assets/john%20muir/me\\_john%20muir\\_gaelicfinal.pdf](http://www.jmt.org/assets/john%20muir/me_john%20muir_gaelicfinal.pdf)

## FUARAN: GAELIC SONG COLLECTING PROJECT

In November young people came together to learn more about song and story-collecting at a course in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, led by Iona MacDonald, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Mairead MacDonald, Tobar an Dualchais.

They will be carrying out this voluntary collection work in their own local communities and feeding it back to Fèisean nan Gàidheal with the intention of making it more accessible to the public.

Those involved are Ellen MacDonald (Inverness/North Uist), Eilidh MacFadyen (Tiree), Clare Jordan (Connel/Islay), Morvyn Menzies (Perthshire), Ceitlin Smith (Ness), Mischa Macpherson (Lewis/Benbecula) and Ruairidh Cormack (Skye).

# NOLLAIG CHRÌDHEIL AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH ÙR

## TUTOR TRAINING 2014

Bidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a' ruith cùrsa trèanadh do luchd-teagaisg nam fèisean air 22/23 An Gearran 2014 aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Bidh 3 ìrean ann:

'S e amas ìre 1 bunait a thoirt dhut mar oidear aig do chiad fèis, a' toirt a staigh Gàidhlig, deasachadh, planadh agus dìon chloinne.

'S e amas ìre 2 a bhith a' freagairt cheistean sònraichte aig luchd-teagaisg, mar smachd, stuthan teagaisg agus dìon chloinne.

Bidh ìre 3 a' togail air a dhà ìre eile, agus a' toirt a-steach dòighean teagaisg pragtaigeach agus a' beachdachadh air clasaichean beò.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal will be running its training course for Fèis tutors on 22/23 February 2014 at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

There will be three levels available:-

Level 1 will focus on the basics of teaching at your first Fèis, including the importance of Gaelic at a Fèis, careful prior preparation and an introduction to child protection.

Level 2 will focus on more specific issues encountered by tutors, such as dealing with difficult pupils, teaching resources and a child protection question and answer session.

Level 3 will build on the previous 2 levels, incorporating more practical teaching techniques and observations.

For further information, or to book a place, contact Iona MacDonald at [iona@feisean.org](mailto:iona@feisean.org), or on 01478 614001, or the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website at <http://www.feisean.org/en/projects/project.php?ID=4>



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