Fèis Inbhir Narainn Aig 10

Fèis Inbhir Narainn is the name of the festival. It is being celebrated in its tenth year. Over 100 children and adults filled the Nairn Community Centre for a wide variety of workshops and classes. There was also a Fèis Bheag (‘Wee Fèis’) for the first time catering for young children aged 5 to 7.

Chair of Fèis Inbhir Narainn Jim Falconer was delighted with the day: “It’s been a great day and it’s wonderful to reach ten years. I’d like to thank every committee member, helper and tutor who has been involved over the years. I’d like to give a special thank you to Rhona MacDonald, the co-ordinator, who does so much for the Fèis. I’d also like to thank Mike Vass for the lovely new tune he has composed for us.”

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Fèis Inbhir Narainn’s attention has now turned to its busy programme of continuing classes. Each week during the school term the Fèis runs fiddle, accordion, tin whistle, chanter, pipes, guitar and keyboard classes: you can find out more at www.feisinbhirnarainn.com or contact Rhona on 01667 462681 or feisinbhirnarainn@feisean.org.
FÉIS INNIS AN UILLT IN BISHOPBRIGGS IN MAY

Thèid Fèis Innes an Uillt a chumhair air tri díofar laithnean ann a’ Cheitean; Disathairne 10mh, Disathairne 17mh is Disathairne 31mh. Bidh an Fhèis rud beag eadar-dhealaichte am-bliadhna le clasaichean ann an ceòl, iomair ealain a’ tachairt gach madainn is sgilean siorcrais air an fheasgar! Thà Fèis Innes an Uillt fosgaithe do dhùnne sam bhith agus chan fheum Gàidhlig a bhith gach pàiste ged a bhios Gàidhlig ga cleachdadh aig an Fhèis fhéin.

SPRING WORKSHOPS IN HIGHLAND FÉISEAN

Spring has arrived and with it three Highland Féisean are running music workshops for young people aged 8 to 18. On Friday 28th March Fèis Farr just outside Inverness held their monthly workshop night in Farr Community Hall from 7.30 – 9pm. These workshops offered taster sessions in traditional instruments such as fiddle, tin whistle, chanter, bodhran, Gaelic song and art. There was also a Fèis Bheag or ‘Wee Fèis’ for children under 8 and parents were welcome to take part too.

The next day Fèis Air an Òir in North Sutherland held a music day from 10am to 1pm in Melvich Primary School. A wide range of classes was on offer: fiddle, accordion, tin whistle, chanter, pipes, bodhran, guitar, mandolin, dancing, singing, drums and keyboard. The classes were open to everyone from beginner to advanced. Meanwhile Fèis na h-Òige are also planning taster workshops ahead of their main Fèis which this year takes place from 7th to 11th July. These classes are taught through the medium of Gaelic and offer a chance to try new instruments: accordion and clarsach are on offer on Saturday 26th April whilst guitar and keyboard are the choices for Saturday 26th May.

The classes are suitable for young people aged 8 to 18 but there will also be a Fèis Bheag on each occasion for children aged 5 to 7 offering a fun art, games and song session from 10am to 12noon.

Booking forms and more information on these events are available at www.feisean.org or contact Rachel on 014463 225559 or rachel@feisean.org.

FÉIS GHÂIDHLIG GHLASCHU

Tha Fèis Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu gu bhith a’ tachairt eadar 7mh agus 11mh den Ghiblean ann an Gòidlrama Hutchsons ann an Glaschu. Tha measgaichdadh mòr de clasaichean gu bhith aig an Fhèis seo agus le cuspairaicean mar bhogs-a-ciúil, fidheall, dràma, zumba, body percussion is eile, bidh rudaigein ann don h-aile duine. Cuiribh post-du gu feisg2014@yahoo.co.uk son barrachd fiosrachaidh.

This year’s Fèis Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu takes place between the 7th and the 11th of April at Hutchisons Grammar School in Glasgow. There is a huge selection of classes on offer this year including the accordion, fiddle, drama, zumba, body percussion and more!

FÉIS LOCHABAIR SA GHIBLEAN

Bidh Fèis Lochabair a’ tachairt ann am Bun-sgoil Banabhaidh agus le luchd-teagaisg clùiteach, ceàrdhean is consaitean, ‘s e seachdain air leath a bhios ann, lán de cheòl is fealadha-há! Tha Fèis Lochabair mothachail gu e àm duillich a tha seò don fhéadadhainn as sine a tha trang ag ullachadh airson an deuchainnean. Mar sin tha iad airson clasaichean cómhlainn a chur air doigh a h-uile feasgar dhaibh. ‘S e deagh chothrom a tha seò an fhéis a fhritheachadh gun a bhith call a-mach air obair-sgoile.

Fèis Lochbair is taking place on the 7th – 11th of April in Banavie Primary School. For those intermediate to advanced level musicians busy revising for exams, Fèis Lochbair are offering daily afternoon groupwork sessions. This will provide a fantastic opportunity for them to enjoy the Fèis without taking too much time out from their studies! For more information please email feislochbair2014@hotmail.co.uk.

LAUREN BYRNE’S CÉILIDH TRAIL BLOG

Lauren Byrne blogged on her experiences on the Lochaber Cèilidh Trail during the summer of 2013. “In the beginning, I was not entirely aware of what I was letting myself in for, what new world was about to be opened up for me to explore and enjoy. Forming a band of young folk, in such a way that the Cèilidh Trail does, allowed me to meet many new people as well as become better acquainted with those I already knew. By the end of it I found myself with five new best friends, with whom I felt I could connect in a previously unknown way, through the sharing of music. The training week in Plockton, with tutoring from many talented and well-known faces, threw you right into the centre of it all surrounded only by dozens of passionate musicians, with the week culminating in a céilidh for all Fèis Alba attendants as well as the locals.

Then the tour itself, which ranged from formal concerts to laid back pub sessions, gave us the opportunity to expose our talents to the public and present what great substance traditional music has to offer. The tour was also responsible for many great, craic-filled journeys and (sleepless) overnight stays, my personal favourites being the night in a hotel in Loch Lomond following a nerve-wracking concert alongside the highly acclaimed Karen Matheson of “Capercaillie”. Then of course the infamous trip to the Isle of Muck, the ferry home being cancelled, leaving us having to hitch a lift from another tiny, boat, fully-filled boat... We decided to have a tune to pass the journey time — in order to get back to the mainland in time for our next gig. It’s fair to say the tour kept us all busy throughout the summer and there are certainly a few in-jokes between the band and more than a few funny stories to be shared.

I was devastated when the Cèilidh Trail had to come to an end. However, the sadness was nothing in comparison to the sense of achievement, as well as so many other attributes I gained from it all. Being part of the Fèisean Lochabair Cèilidh Trail has opened up so many new doors for me and has completely steered my life in a different direction for the better. For one, it has inspired me to begin learning Gaelic, and I now intend to go on to study Gaelic and traditional music in further education. Thanks to the Cèilidh Trail, the potential of members of the band has been recognised and many of us are still kept busy even now, months afterwards, with various gigs steadily building ourselves a good reputation, which will hopefully lead us on to greater things in the future...."
NEW APPROACH TO GAELIC TEACHING IN HIGHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Tha clann-sgoile aig gach chean den Gàidhealtachd air toiseach-tòiseachadh a dhèanamh air Gàidhlig ionsachadh tro phróisseactan air an lìbhrigeadh le Fèisean nan Gàidheal ann an co-bhonn ri Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd. Thairis air deich seachdainnean, bidh sgoilearan ann an clasaichean 5-7 ann an seachd sgoiltean deug an Loch Abar, Dùthaich MhicAoidh agus Gàillibh air an oideachaidh ann an Gàidhlig tron t-seirbheis Fèisgoil. Bidh oidean a tha fileanta sa Gàidhlig ga lìbhrigeadh, a’ teagasg càin an agus a’ chleachdadh chur-seachtadan tarraineachd, geamannan, dàrama òran airson sgilean còmhraidh bunaiteach ionsachadh dhan ògirid.

Tha Fèisgoil a’ chàthad oidean a tha eòlach air teagass anns an roinn neo-fhoirmeil agus foirmeil. Thairis air na bliadhnaichean, chaithd cuid mhath de dh’oidean a thèranadh airson a thèranadh anns a sgoltéan, mar eisimein le lomairt Chiùil na h-Ogridh. Tha lomairt Chiùil na h-Ogridh air deargbhardh gun faod builean foghlaim matha a bhith air an colleanadh na bhaich air an clasaichean aotraidh a thar iad a deachadh prògràmman obrach sònraichte a tha a’ cur ri eòlas nan gòirean. A-rèir Fèisean nan Gàidheal, tha seo a’ cheart cho fior ann an teagass càin an agus, leis gu bheil iad fileanta sa Gàidhlig, tha sònraichte a tha a’ cur ri eòlas na sgoilearan. A-rèir Fèisean nan Gàidheal, tha seo a’ cheart cho fior ann an teagass càin an agus, leis gu bheil iad fileanta sa Gàidhlig, tha sònraichte a tha a’ cur ri eòlas na sgoilearan. A-rèir Fèisean nan Gàidheal, tha seo a’ cheart cho fior ann an teagass càin an agus, leis gu bheil iad fileanta sa Gàidhlig, tha sònraichte a tha a’ cur ri eòlas na sgoilearan.

Pupils at two ends of the Highlands are being given the opportunity to begin learning Gaelic through two new Fèisean piloting projects delivered in schools by Fèisean nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council. Over a ten-week period, 17 schools in Lochaber, Sutherland and Caithness receive Gaelic language tuition through the Fèisgoil service. Pupils in primary 5-7 receive tuition from Gaelic-speaking tutors who visit the schools weekly and use a number of interactive activities, games and songs, to increase awareness and give basic conversational skills to the pupils.

Councillor Hamish Fraser, Chairperson of the Highland Council’s Gaelic Implementation Group, welcomed the piloting of Fèisgoil services. He said: “Fèisean nan Gàidheal airds to introduce Gaelic to Primary school pupils; using resources which will be delivered by experienced tutors who have the necessary skills to work with the young people.” He continued, “We are keen to give as many young people as possible an introduction to Gaelic and this project fulfils a commitment in the Council’s Gaelic Language Plan.”

Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning and Scotland’s Languages, said: “Fèisean nan Gàidheal tutors have had good results using games and songs to teach pupils Gaelic, challenging them to use the language in activities beyond the classroom. I look forward to hearing how well the staff and pupils at the seventeen schools taking part get on in this partnership between Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Highland Council.”

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal Chief Executive, said: “Fèisean nan Gàidheal is delighted to be working in collaboration with The Highland Council on these pilot projects, with financial support from the Scottish Government. Fèisgoil is a new service that pulls together the various strands of education and community work Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been involved in and expansion of that work will include a new Gaelic teaching service. We believe Fèisgoil 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. The service also assists local authorities and public bodies deliver commitments in their Gaelic Language Plans.”

Fèisgoil uses tutors acquainted with teaching in the informal and formal education sectors. Over the years, many tutors have been trained to teach music in schools through the Youth Music Initiative, for example. The Youth Music Initiative has proved that good quality educational outcomes can be achieved by co-operation between classroom teachers and tutors delivering specific programmes of work that enhance pupils’ experiences. According to Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the same is true of language teaching and, since they are already fluent in Gaelic, Fèisgoil tutors are trained to a similar level as those teachers delivering the Gaelic Language in Primary Schools (GLPS) programme.

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE

Schools in Highland are coming to the end of the YMI programme for session 2013-14. The programme of visits in most schools finishes at the Easter break due to a busy summer term. Once again the tutors involved have inspired and encouraged pupils in developing their creativity.

Eilidh Mackenzie used the song ‘Daphne Cochrane’ with pupils as a framework for making up their own song. One child decided to create a drawing of the class version.... Pink, with a monobrow, fishy lips, wooden legs, bingo wings etc.

SEIRBHIEIS ÙR RO-SGOILE

Tha tè de na daoine as ainmeile ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig air a bhith tadhal air sgoiltean-àraich as cròileagain Loch Abar a choinn ghoirid is i’ a cluich gheamannan le clann òga is a’ toirt trèanadh seachad do luch-teagasg is tèidsean.

Tha Sineag Nic na Ceàrdach, a bhùineas don Choingheal faigse air an Òban, air a bhith ag obair gu dòilinn còmhla ri Douggie Beck is iad a' leasachadh seirbhisean ùr ro-sgoile a' deidh dhaibh a bhith an làthair aig an Alltan (co-labhair Stòrlann) san Dàmh air an-uiridh.

Mar a thuirt Sineag: “Bha e riamh mar amas dhamh a bhith ag obair còmhla ri clann, clann òga gu h-àraigh. Tha mi air mo dhèanmhgan gu bheil an chothrom seo agam a-nise, is tho a’ a’ choimhead air adhart gu mòr ri bhith cur seachadh barrachd ùine an air rathad còmhla ri Douggie.”

Tha Douggie ag aontachadh: “Tha Sineag, agus daoine coltach rithe, air leth feumal airson cànann na clonòin bìge a thoir air adhart. Tha cùid de dh’eòlaichean den bheachd gu bheil e deasach an gairc an clann còmhla aig aois ro-sgoile co-dhúiu beagan ùine seachadh còmhla ri a leithid, oir tho a’ a’ toirt còthrom dhaibh bacaidhean a chur bhuapa is cànann feuchann is obrachadh a-mach ann an sùidheachadh nach eil idir eagalach.

A thuileadh an air obair a tha a’ déanamh còmhla ri Sineag, tha mi air pasgan taice is stùir a chuir ri cheile do luch-obrach nan sgoiltean-àraich, is tha bùth-obrach a’ dol còmhla ris a’ phagasan seo. Mar phàirdh den bhùth-obrach seo, gheibh tèidsean is daoine eile taic is stiuir air mar a laimhsichear leithid Sineag agus cuideachd còmhlaire a thaobh dràma a ghabhas a dhèanamh le clann nan sgoiltean-àraich”

Tha an t-seirbhisean ùr seo ga tabhann mar phàirdh den iomairt ùr Fèisgoil. Nam biodh sibh airson ’s gun tigeadh Douggie is Sineag a thadhal air a bhuidheann agaibh, no ma tha sibh airson seisean CPD a chur air doigh, cuibh fios gu Douggie air dougie@feisean.org.
SGOIL SHAMHRAIDH DRÀMA
2014 ANN AM PORT RÌGH

SGol Shamraidh Dhràma 2014
Gaelic Drama Summer School 2014

PORT RÌGH | PORTREE  07.07.14 - 18.07.14

Ma’s e ‘Thal’ freagairt gach ceist gu h-àrd, siuthad! Cuiribh iarrtas a-steach an-diugh fhèin gus àite fhaighinn aig an Sgoil Shamhraidh Dhràma 2014.

AGM & CONFERENCE 2014

BUILL A’ BHÙIRD

Congratulations and best wishes go
to our Gaelic Drama Officer Angus
MacLeod and his wife Angela on the
birth of their daughter Eva Grace on 6
February 2014.

BUILL A’ BHÙIRD

The recent recruitment, five
new board members were appointed
to Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s board. They
are: Seumas Campbell (Fèis Fhoirt); Bob
MacKinnon (Fèis Dhùn bhreatain an iar);
Elizabeth Bain (Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle);
Deirdre Beck (Fèis Lochabair) and Kirsteen
Graham (Fèis an Earraich).

Duncan MacQuarrie has taken up the role
of interim Chairperson.

Retiring directors were Catriona MacIntyre,
Maggie Cameron, Bernard Bell, Fiona
Johnston and Janet MacDonald. We thank
them for their commitment and all the
support they gave to the organisation.

MEALAIBH UR NAIDHEACHD

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