Blas 2014 marks a significant milestone with the 10th anniversary festival reaching 100 venues in the Highlands and Argyll between 5 & 13 September. Blas will be the first of a number of national and international events as part of Highland Homecoming, supported by EventScotland.

There will be a new commission by fiddler Iain MacFarlane, and a stellar collection of musicians will be appearing across the area including Dàimh, The Mischa MacPherson Trio, Mànran, The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Marloch, Dougie MacLean as well as Gaelic singers such as Christine Primrose, James Graham, Gillie Mackenzie, Alasdair Whyte and Linda Macleod. Contemporary Gaelic songs will feature through Dòl Eoin Mackinnon and Macanta. Shinty’s cultural associations will be explored, as will the work of Gaelic writers past and present. International visitors include Cape Breton fiddler, Howie MacDonald and Cherish the Ladies. The festival finale will be Ceòl nam Fèis, a concert highlighting the success of the Fèis movement in engaging young people with the traditional arts - a hallmark of Blas since its inception.

The Highland Council has continued its support of Blas. Councillor Maxine Smith, Vice Convener said: “This year’s Blas festival programme, in the Year of Homecoming, is exciting, engaging, and educational as it showcases Gaelic and traditional music in venues across the Highlands and Argyll. The festival allows residents and visitors to access the very best of traditional music in communities across the Highlands from Portree to Portmahomack and from Torridon to Taynuilt.”

Over ten years, Blas has promoted 410 events involving 3,102 performers and has attracted an audience of 88,448. 11 new commissions and 24 hours of content for BBC Alba have been created. The festival has had an audience satisfaction rating of 91.2% over that time and has contributed £4.4m to the Highland economy.

Another of the festival’s main supporters is Creative Scotland whose Director of Communications, Kenneth Fowler, said: “Having grown in scale and influence over ten years to become a pivotal event on Scotland’s cultural calendar, Blas is a fantastic celebration of music and the performing arts. This year’s programme is truly inspiring and I wish the festival every success.”

FÉIS CHATAIBH A’ COMHARRACHD 25 BLIADHNA

Tha Fèis Chataibh air bhioran bhon a thèid a’ còigeamh fèis thar fhichead aca a chumail san luchar ann an Goillspidh.

Eadar 7 – 11 den luchar thèid Árd-sgoil Ghoillspidh a lionadh le compàirtichean òga a’ faighinn oideachadh sna h-ealain thraidiseanta bho chuid dhen luchd-cùil, sinneadairean is luchd-ealain a b’ fhèarr air an Alba.

Agus gus a’ bhliadhna chudromach seo a chomharrachadh thèid cuirm-cùil shòranraichte a chumail Dicaidain 9mh den luchar ann an Árd-sgoil Ghoillspidh is bidh fàilte chridheil ron chomhhearsnachd air fad.

Fèis Chataibh is eagerly anticipating a milestone 25th annual traditional arts festival in Goillspie this July.

From 7 – 11th July Goillspie High School will fill with young participants eager to learn from some of Scotland’s leading traditional musicians, singers and artists. Classes on offer at the five day event include fiddle, pipes and charter, accordion, guitar, mandolin, Gaelic singing, tin whistle, clarsach, keyboard, percussion, drama, art and storytelling.

To mark the twenty-fifth summer week organisers are planning a special birthday concert on Wednesday 9th July in Golspie High School to which the whole community is warmly invited.

To b'fhàilte chridheil ron choimhearsnachd air fad.

FÈIS CHATAIBH A’ COMHARRACHD 25 BLIADHNA

FÉIS LOCHABAIR

’S e seachdain mhiorbhaileach a bh’ aig Fèis Lochabhair am bliadhna. Bha tòrr chlasaichean a’ ruith tron t-seachdain bho meur-clàr gu iomair gu clàrsach. Bha cothrom aig an fhèis is a’ phoibh is an Alba.

Agus gus a’ bhliadhna chudromach seo a chomharrachadh thèid cuirm-cùil shòranraichte a chumail Dicaidain 9mh den luchar ann an Árd-sgoil Ghoillspidh is bidh fàilte chridheil ron chomhhearsnachd air fad.

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FÉIS LOCHABAIR

FÈIS MHOIREIBH

Fèis Mhoireibh celebrated another sunny Fèis weekend in Elgin with over 75 participants attending its annual Maytime Fèis event.

A top quality team of tutors led the jam-packed weekend for children and, in a new departure, a separate and well-attended senior Fèis for S1-6 pupils offered advanced instrumental tuition in the morning with group music-making workshops in the afternoon.

Fèis Mhoireibh is now turning its attention to its continuing class programme of chanter, clarsach and tin whistle lessons: you can find out more by contacting Steph Christie on 01343 842223 / fèis_mhoireibh@yahoo.co.uk or by visiting www.fesmhoireibh.co.uk.
CÒIG LATHA AIR LETH SOIRBHEACHAIL

Abair gun robh seachdain dhòigheil, spòrsail againn a-rithist am bliadhna aig 5 Latha 2014. Eadar an 7-12 chruinnich 20 duine òg airson son pàirt a ghabhail san tachartas, a’ fuireach anns na taighean-dubha sna Gearrannan ann an Carlabhagh, Eilean Leòdhais.

Rè na seachdain fhuair na compàirtichean cothrom pàirt a ghabhail ann an grunn chur-seachadan is ghnìomhan tràidiseanta. Thòisich sinn Dimàirt le bhith a’ cur seachad latha còmhla ri Dòmhnall MacSuain air a lot shuas ann an Nis. Chuidich a’ bhuidheann Dómhnall le na ceacan, na caoraich agus thog iad iad raon ùr dha airson tunnagan a bha gu bhith a’ ruighinn Nis air an ath-seachdain.

Dh’ionnsaich a’ chlann mu bhiadh traidiseanta agus fhuaidh iad fhèin cothrom aran, duff agus ceann cropaig a dhèanamh. Ged a chòrd an t-aran ‘s an duff riutha cha robh cuid buileach cho cinnteach mun cheann cropaig!

A bharrachd air a bhith a’ dol am measg na coimhearsnachd agus agusonnasdh mu na h-obraichean tràidiseanta fhuair na compàirtichean teagasg ciùil bho Norrie Maclomhair agus Ailean MacEanraig. Chòrd seo riutha gu mòr agus chuir iad ceithir órain agus tri seataichean ciùil a dhèanamh.

Dh’ionnsaich a’ chlann mu bhiadh traidiseanta agus fhuaidh iad fhèin cothrom aran, duff agus ceann cropaig a dhèanamh. Ged a chòrd an t-aran ‘s an duff riutha cha robh cuid buileach cho cinnteach mun cheann cropaig!

This year’s 5 Latha event took place between 7-12 April at the Gearrannan Blackhouse in Carloway, Isle of Lewis. Participants had the opportunity to take part in a range of traditional activities from crofting and fishing to cooking some traditional recipes including the delicacy Ceann Cropaig. Only a handful of participants managed to sample this treat!

We are now looking forward to 5 Latha 2015 which will be held between 6-11 April.

FÈISGOIL: LOCH ABAR IS AN CEANN A TUATH

Eadar am Faoilleach agus toiseach a’ Ghiblein chuirst ann seachadh deich seachdainean a’ teagasg Gàidhlig ann an seachadh sgoltean deug ann an Gallaibh, Dùthaich MhicAoidh agus Loch Abar.

Thug seo cothrom do chòrr is sia ceud sgollean air a’ Ghàidhealtachd beagan Gàidhlig ionnsachadh tro chur-seachadan, gamaichean is òrain, air an cruthachadh le Fèisgan nan Gàidheal. Bha na leasanach sporsail is tarraingeach, ach aig an anoi am, glè feumail a thaobh cànain. Chaidh na claisteach a lìbhregaidh le Anna Mhàrtainn, Anna Stiùbhart is Catrìona NicLeòid, agus is cinnteach gun robh buaidh aig na comasan ciùil aca air na claisteach an ann an robh iad an sàs!

Between January and April over 600 pupils in Lochaber, Sutherland and Caithness received tuition in Gaelic through our Fèisgoil initiative, with tutors delivering Fèisean nan Gàidheal-conceived workshops in 16 schools over 10 weeks. Feedback was excellent, with pupils and teachers indicating they would like more!

We were delighted to attend the Highland Council Area Committee meeting in Lochaber, where Dougie Beck gave a presentation on the work carried out and councillors had the chance to chat to pupils from Upper Achintore Primary school about how much they enjoyed the sessions.

The pupils were given certificates in recognition of the effort they had put in to learn Gaelic. We were pleased to hear that the Council, who generously supported the project, is keen to keep going with Fèisgoil in the area.

CÈILIDH TRAILS 2014

Bidh seachd buidhean Cèilidh air Chuairst an ghabhail ris an rathad mhòr as t-samhadh agus a’ chuich thail’ s a bhos aird feadh na Gàidhealtachd, Earra-Ghàidheal agus sgìre Sruighlea agus na Tròisichean ann an barrachd is 200 tachartas. Abair doigh soar-làithean an t-samhadh a chur seachad agus airgead a chosnadh aig an aon am!

The highly successful Fèis Cèilidh Trails will be taking to the road during the summer months offering locals and visitors an opportunity to sample Highland culture in the shape of performances of traditional music by great young musicians. In all they will be appearing at more than 200 events across the Highlands, Argyll and the Stirling & Trossachs areas.

Some of them will be appearing at a Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme event at Glasgow Green in the afternoon of 28 July where they could play to up to 12,000 people in an hour-long showcase of Fèis musicians with guest Gaelic singer, Linda Macleod. That evening a special concert has also been organised by Fèis Fhoir in collaboration with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park featuring some of the Cèilidh Trail groups along with very special guests Breabach, several members of which are themselves former Fèis participants.

Details of all Cèilidh Trail events are available at www.feisean.org/ceilidh. Catch them if you can!
as part of the Argyll and Lochaber Dràma Fèis. With a play put together with FnG assistance won by Roinn-sgoile Ghàidhlig a’ Ghearasdain out of three in the competition, which was school, Banavie’s pupils took second place.

Although not a Gaelic-medium, Lochaber’s entry for the Commonwealth Games. Although not a Gaelic-medium primary schools, will look at the life of a young soldier from Garve who went to France in 1914.

Two plays will be on the road after the summer: a Gaelic two-person play will visit secondary schools to give pupils a few pointers on how to separate the wheat from the chaff when it comes to making their point. The Referendum, set to play a big part in Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s drama output this year, with the Referendum, Scotland’s three major markers of 2014 are WAR QUESTIONS, SPORT & Islands Enterprise, Bòrd na Gaidhlig, The Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Sumburgh.

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