FÀILTE AIR FÈISEAN ÙRA

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal gu math toilichte gu bheil dà Fhèis ùr air ballrachd a thoirt a-mach: Fèis Phàislig ann an Siòrachd Rinn Friù agus Fèis na h-Apâinne ann an Earra-Ghàidheal.

Tha Fèis Phàislig air tachartas samhraidh a chur air bhonn a bhios a’ taighse ceithir latha de dh’oideachadh anns na h-ealain thraidiseanta do dh’oiridh Shiòrachd Rinn Friù. ’S ann bhon 21mh chun 24mh den luchar a bhios an Fhèis ga cumail le measgachadh abhaisteach de dh’ionnsramaidean is cuspair. ’S i seachdain loma-làn a bhios innte gun teagamh agus guairgead a thogail, tha a’ chomataidh ùr a’ cumail cèilidh Disathairne 25mh den Ghi bhéan ann an Talla Eaglais Sherwood ann am Pàislig.

Agus ann an Earra-Ghàidheal, chaidh a’ chiasd a h-Fhèis a chumail anns an Apainn air an Disathairne mu dheireadh den Ghearran. Tha 40 neach-ciùil òg dha Fhèis seo agus bhà latha air leth aca! Leis cho sobhreachail ’s a bha iad, bidh Fèis na h-Apâinne a’ taighse latha-ciùil gach mìos tro sheirn na goille ann am Bun-Goil Strath na h-Apâinne. Thathar a' tabhann bhùthan-obrach ann an raon farsaing de chuspaisrean agus bidh Fèis Bheag a' dol agh am an aon am le geamannan, òrain agus ealain do chloinn nas òige na 8 bliadhna is pàrant còmhla riutha.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is delighted to announce the membership of two brand new Fèisean: Fèis Phàislig in Renfrewshire and Fèis na h-Apâinne in Argyll.

Fèis Phàislig will establish an annual four day summer Fèis in Paisley this July (21st-24th) for children aged 8-18 across Renfrewshire. For their first year, the Fèis will offer 8 different subjects: accordion, chanter and pipes, clarsach, drama, drumming, fiddle, guitar and singing. The new committee is busy preparing for this jam-packed musical bonanza and will hold a cèilidh dance on Saturday 25th April in Sherwood Church in Paisley to raise funds towards the summer week. To find out more or to join Fèis Phàislig’s mailing list please visit the Fèis website at www.feisphaislig.com. Alternatively, contact chairperson Grant McFarlane on grant@feisphaislig.com or give the Fèis a ‘like’ on Facebook/fèisphàislig.

Meanwhile in Argyll, the first ever Appin Fèis was held on the last Saturday of February and what a Fèis it was! Over 40 children turned up to learn and play different instruments. Fèis na h-Apâinne’s pilot project proved a runaway success and they will now offer a series of Saturday music days in Strath of Appin Primary School. Workshops will run for young people aged 8 to 18 with a huge array of subjects on offer. A Fèis Bheag will also offer music, games and song for children under 8 accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to book your place at Fèis na h-Apâinne please contact Vicky Maclean, Development Officer at Fèisean nan Gàidheal on vicky@feisean.org or visit the Fèis’ Facebook page at Facebook/feisnahapainne.

TRADITIONAL ARTS SMALL GRANTS FUND

Bidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a’ rithg seama thabhachasan a leith Alba Chruthachail air a bhliadhna a th a romhainn. Bidh seo gu sònraichte ag amas air suimeannan beaga a thoirt do dhaoine agus do bhuidhean an sàs anns an h-ealain thradhiseanta agus gheibhean barrachd fiosrachaidh air lírach lín Fèisean nan Gàidheal aon uair ’s gum tèid a chur gu seò a dh’aitheaghir.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is pleased to be operating a Traditional Arts Small Grants scheme on behalf of, and with funding from, Creative Scotland. Details will be available on Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s website and in social media once it is launched.

The scheme will complement Creative Scotland’s own Open Project Funding and will support traditional artists and related organisations to create, tour and present work as well as professional development projects.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal will appoint a panel of advisers who will make decisions on the applications and will publish details of all successful projects on its website, as well as some case studies.
CÈILIDH TEAGHLAICH ROUNDS OFF FÈIS INBHIR NARAINN

Fèis Inbhir Narainn held its 11th annual Fèis Day in the seaside town of Nairn in February – a day of non-stop traditional music with nearly 90 participants and some amazing tutors including Gordon Gunn, Sandy Brechin, Findlay Napier, Rua Macmillan, Suzanne Houston, Alison MacKenzie, Rachel Campbell, Graeme Mackay, Abi Hay, Sandra Mackay and Dave Martin.

Groupwork, masterclasses and mini workshops including Gaelic Song, Song Writing, Percussion, Step Dance, Scots Song, Jam Session and a Fèis Bheag for under 8s all featured.

The successful day finished with everyone dancing at a Cèilidh Teaglaich – with an amazing tutor band!

Fèis Inbhir Narainn also offers weekly classes in Accordion, Fiddle, Guitar, Chanter, Whistle and Keyboard – for more info please contact Rhona on 07825 415887 or email feisinbhirnarainn@feisean.org

LATHA FÈIS AN RUBHA

Chaidh bùth-obrach a chumail air 27mh den Ghearran aig Sgoil an Rubha fo stùir Norrie MhicIomhair agus Màiri NicLeòid, luchd-ciuil soirbhreachail, a thug cothrom do na bha an lathair òran Ghàidhlig agus fuinn ùr ionnsachadh còmhla. Fhuair iad cuideachd eòlas air cluich mar chòmhlan. Dh'fhéuch duine no dhithis an giotàr airson a’ chiaid turais agus chòrd sin riutha cho math ’s gu bheil iad airson ’s gum biodh clasaichean ann tron bhliadhna.

Fhuair an fheadhainn a bu shine sa bhuidheann fiosrachadh mu dheidhinn beatha ann an sgòiltean ciùil, leis gun roth Norrie agus Màiri an sàs san leithid ann an diofar a’tieachan.

On 27th February Fèis an Rubha ran a workshop at Sgoil an Rubha which was delivered by Norrie MacIver and Màiri MacLeod, two very well-established musicians. The participants got the chance to learn a song and some new tunes together, as well as learning how to play as a group. Some picked up the guitar for the first time and enjoyed it so much they enquired about follow-on classes throughout the year.

The older participants were able to question Norrie and Màiri about life in a music school as both attended different ones. Fèis an Rubha hope to run classes from now on – keep an eye out for more information.

FÈIS MHUILE AIR URACHADH

Thill Fèis Mhuile gu ruige Bun Easain anns a’ Ghearran agus thàinig barrachd air 20 pàiste bhao air fedadh an eilean dhan Fhèis. Chaidh clasaichean a chumail ann am fidheall, bogsá, meur-chlár, giotar, a’ phhiobh, seinn agus bha an Sgìoba G ann cuideachd airson taic a thoirt le Gàidhlig. Chùm an Fhèis tòrr thacharsan air an oidhche cuideachd agus bha fealla-dhà gu leor a’ dol le danna-saichean, cèilidheadh agus oidhche sgeulachdán. Rinn a’ chomataidh ur an ann Bun Easain flor mhart agus tha sin a’ deanaich fhughair ri Fèis eile air anath bhliadhna.

CHANGING LANDSCAPES IN IONA

A group of Oban High School pupils, 5 of whom were involved in Fèis Latharna’s Cèilidh Trail last year, have been taking part in a Changing Landscapes project on the Isle of Iona run by the National Trust for Scotland. The pupils have been working with Musician and Composer Donald Shaw, Writer Jan Sutch Pickard and National Trust Ranger Emily Wilkins.

They met in Oban where they started their journey learning about the environment and history of Iona. Working hard during their two-day visit to the island they created a performance of music and words to share with others. Iona is known for its special ambience, light, fertility and colours of the landscape as well and peace and tranquility and the pupils have worked to create a performance to reflect those qualities.

Visit www.nts.org.uk/Site/Iona-changing-landscapes/Changing-Landscapes/ for more information, to listen to songs and see a video from the project.

EASTER FÈISEAN

During the Easter holidays, from the 6th to the 10th of April, there will be four Fèisean taking place offering tuition in various instruments, as well as Gaelic singing, drama and different forms of dancing - amongst lots of other activities.

This year Fèis an Earraich will be in Portree and will welcome two tutors from Cape Breton – David Rankin and Kenneth MacKenzie – who will show the participants how to step dance and play fiddle the way it’s done on the other side of the Atlantic!

Auditions will be held for Ceilear, the Fèis an Earraich Cèilidh Trail, on Wednesday 8th April while the Fèis is underway.

As well as their usual activities, Fèis Taigh Dhomhnaich in Lewis will again offer a mini-Fèis for a couple of hours every morning of the week at the Ness Historical Society for those aged 5-7, who will be able to participate in arts and crafts, Gaelic singing, games and dancing.

Fèis Lochbail will take place in Banavie Primary School, Fort William. The Fèis offers a range of subjects and even has a Fèis Bheag to keep the little ones entertained. There is a tutors’ concert on the Wednesday evening which always proves to be a good night for all the family. With a range of local and national talent teaching at the Fèis, it’s one that shouldn’t be missed!

Fèis Latharna will also be in full swing taking place in Rockfield Primary School, Oban. The Fèis caters for young and old offering a Fèis Bheag for the wee ones and many classes to suit the older Fèis-goers such as music composition and groupwork. For the seniors there is a breakfast club and common room. There are also many evening activities to keep Fèis participants and families entertained.

For more information about the Fèisean, visit their Fèis pages on our website www.feisean.org or contact them directly:

Fèis an Earraich – Kirsteen Graham feisanearraich@gmail.com
Fèis Taigh Dhomhnaich - Mary Duff duff665@btinternet.com
Fèis Lochbail – Deirdre Beck feislochbail2014@hotmail.co.uk
Fèis Latharna – Ewen MacPherson ewen.macpherson@homecall.co.uk
Blasad Gàidhlig Le Fèisgoil

Thea clann spoilte aig tri sgòiltean ann am Peairt an-dràsta a’ faighinn cothrom beagan Gàidhlig Ionnasachad mar phàirt de phróiseact air a lìbhreagadh tron t-seirbhais Fèisgoil aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal ann an co-bhonn ri Comhairle Pheairt is Cinn Rois. A bharrachd air sin bidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a’ lìbhreagadh seachdain de dhràma spòrsail aig deireadh a’ Mhaírt ann an 8 sgòiltean a tha an-dràsta a’ toirt seachad oideachadh GLPS.

Pupils at three primary schools in Perth are currently receiving Gaelic tuition through a new Fèisgoil project as part of a partnership between Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Perth and Kinross Council. Over 10 weeks pupils in Balbeggie Primary, Collace Primary and Goodlyburn Primary, will receive tuition from a fluent Gaelic tutor. The sessions will involve a range of interactive activities, games and songs to provide pupils with an increased awareness of the language and basic conversation skills.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal will also be delivering a series of fun drama workshops at the end of March to 8 schools in rural Perthshire who currently learn Gaelic through GLPS.

Ceòl nam Fèis at Celtic Connections

Celtic Connections is a wonderful time of year, a chance to soak up and be inspired by superb music from around the globe. As well as trying to see as much different music as possible, I was part of a few different performances at the festival, including Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Ceòl nam Fèis concert- a showcase of the music produced by the numerous Fèisean which operate across Scotland. The concert featured performances from these different Fèis groups before a finale where the participants, numbering well over 100, came together to perform music arranged by Angus MacKenzie and Murdo ‘Yogi’ Cameron- the musical directors of Ceòl nam Fèis.

Hearing the music played by all of the other Fèisean was lovely, and in some respects a bit of an eye-opener. Before the concert I don’t think I was aware of the scale of the programmes being run by Fèisean in other areas. Being part of such a big group of young musicians was a great feeling and a fantastic addition to this year’s Celtic Connections experience.

‘Pìobaireachd is Poppies’

Tha Fèis Air an Oir an sàs ann am próiseact ur air leith inntinneach ann an co-bhonn ri Taigh-tasgaidh Srath Nabhail a tha a’ rannsachadh agus a’ toirt am follais ciùil, agus gu h-àraid ceòl na pìobairean, a tha ceangalite ris a’ Chiad Chogadh ceud bliadhna bhò thoìsich e.

Le taic bho Mhàin Dualchais a’ Chranann Chuir agus Taightean-tasgaidh is Galaireadh in na h-Alba tha ‘Pìobaireachd is Poppies’ ag obair gu dìth le coimhearsnachd Dhùthaich MhicAoidh gu faighinn a’ mach mu na pùrit a chluich na pìobairean a bha an sàs ann a’ Chogadh, cho math ris an fhèisleadh a rinn iad às ùire agus na sgeulachd air an cùl.

Fèis Air an Oir is involved in a new cultural heritage project in partnership with Strathnaver Museum which will explore and document the musical legacy of World War One in Mackay Country. ‘Pìobaires and Poppies’, with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Museum Galleries Scotland, is working closely with the local community to research the music which Sutherland servicemen played and composed during World War One and will ultimately create a new commemorative piece of music in their honour.

Fèis Air an Oir youngsters are involved in the research and are finding out about the musical histories of their own families and neighbours. In addition a special ‘Tunes and Tales’ day in Tongue at the end of March invited community members to share their family stories and music connected with the war with Fèis Air an Oir participants, and the young musicians will also contribute to the new composition.

If you have a story to share, or if you’d like to find out more, please visit the project’s Facebook page at Facebook/pibrochsandpoppies or visit the Strathnaver Museum website at www.strathnavermuseum.org.uk.
A' pòsadh ri chéile beanchd a bh' aig Ellen 's i air greis-obrach aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal o chionn tri bliadhna, agus leasachadh a rinn Dougie mu choinneamh obair le pupaidean thar nam beagan bhliadhnaichean a dh'fhàil, chaidh taisbeanadh beag a chuir air dòigh a thug cothrom don theòirich bheaga beatha nan croitearan a rannsachadh.

Bha aig a’ chloinn ri fuasgladh fhaimhinn air rud no dhà a bha a’ deànamh dragh dha na cleasaichean: càite am faighheadh iad uise? Dè a b' fhèarr airson bracaist – seann bhroig a bh' ann, an dà chuid do chloinn agus do na h-inbhih. Thadhail Hùb Hàb air cròileagain is sgoiltean-àraich ann am Bal’ Ur ãn t-Sléibh, Baile Dhùthbhthaich, Inbhir Nis, Inbhir Pheofharain, Inbhir Narann, An Apainn agus anns a’ Ghearasdan, a’ tìthheadh an taisbeanadh déise tursan thar nan ceithir laithean a bha iad air an rathad.

Mar a thuirt Dougie: “Bha a’ chuairt agaimn gu math soirbhseachail, a’ dearbhadh duinn gu bheil iarrtas ann airson a leithid, is bha na fuair sinn de mheasadh as deigh na cuairt air leth fhabharach. Tha sinn a-nise a’ coimhead air an dà chuid a’ chloinn. Tha dh’fhéarr airson a dhòchas. Tha iarrtas ann airson a làsachadh a dh’fhéarr airson a leithid.”

Ma tha sibh airson gun tig sgoba Hùb Hàb a thadhal air a’ bhuidheann ro-sgoile agaibh nach cuir sibh brath gu calum@feisean.org.