

# faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 54 • Am Màrt 2015 • March 2015

## 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 Siorrachd Rinn Friù agus Fèis na h-Apaine ann an Earra-Ghàidheal.

Tha Fèis Phàislig air tachartas samhraidh a chur air bhonn a bhios a' tairgse ceithir latha de dh'oidheachadh anns na h-ealain thraidiseanta do dh'òigridh Shiorrachd Rinn Friù. 'S ann bhon 21mh chun 24mh den Iuchar a bhios an Fhèis ga cumail le measgachadh àbhaisteach de dh'ionnsramaidean is cuspair. 'S i seachdain loma-làn a bhios innte gun teagamh agus gus airgead a thogail, tha a' chomataidh ùr a' cumail cèilidh Disathairne 25mh den Ghiblean ann an Talla Eaglais Sherwood ann am Pàislig.

Agus ann an Earra-Ghàidheal, chaidh a' chiad Fhèis a chumail anns an Apainn air an Disathairne mu dheireadh den Ghearran. Thàinig 40 neach-ciùil òg dhan Fhèis seo agus bha latha air leth aca! Leis cho soirbheachail 's a bha iad, bidh Fèis na h-Apaine a' tairgse latha-ciùil gach mìos tro thearm na sgoile ann am Bun-sgoil Srath na h-Apaine. Thathar a' tabhann bhùthan-obrach ann an raon farsaing de chuspairean agus bidh Fèis Bheag a' dol aig an aon àm 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-Apaine 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](http://www.feisphaislig.com). Alternatively, contact chairperson Grant McFarlane on [grant@feisphaislig.com](mailto:grant@feisphaislig.com) or give the Fèis a 'like' on Facebook/[feisphaislig](https://www.facebook.com/feisphaislig).

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-Apaine'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-Apaine please contact Vicky Maclean, Development Officer at Fèisean nan Gàidheal on [vicky@feisean.org](mailto:vicky@feisean.org) or visit the Fèis' Facebook page at Facebook/[feisnahapaine](https://www.facebook.com/feisnahapaine).

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## TRADITIONAL ARTS SMALL GRANTS FUND

Bidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a' ruith sgeama thabhartasan às leth Alba Chruthachail air a' bhliadhna a tha romhainn. Bidh seo gu sònraichte ag amas air suimeannan beaga a thoirt do dhaoine agus do bhuidhnean an sàs ann an h-ealain thraidiseanta agus gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh air làrach lìn Fèisean nan Gàidheal aon uair 's gun tèid a chur gu seòla dh'aithghearr.

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 Teaghlaich – 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 feisinhbirnarainn@feisean.org

## LATHA FÈIS AN RUBHA

Chaidh bùth-obrach a chumail air 27mh den Ghearran aig Sgoil an Rubha fo stiùir Norrie MhicIomhair agus Màiri NicLeòid, luchd-ciùil soirbheachail, a thug cothrom do na bha an làthair òrain Ghàidhlig agus fuinn ùr ionnsachadh còmhla. Fhuair iad cuideachd eòlas air cluich mar chòmhlan. Dh'fheuch duine no dhithis an giotar airson a' chiad 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 sgoiltean ciùil, leis gun robh Norrie agus Màiri an sàs san leithid ann an diofar àiteachan.

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 ÙRACHADH

Thill Fèis Mhuile gu ruige Bun Easain anns a' Ghearran agus thàinig barrachd air 20 pàiste bho air feadh an eilein dhan Fhèis. Chaidh clasaichean a chumail ann am fìdheall, bogsa, meur-chlàr, giotar, a' phiob, seinn agus bha an Sgioba G ann cuideachd airson taic a thoirt le Gàidhlig. Chùm an Fhèis tòrr thachartsan air an oidhche cuideachd agus bha fealla-dhà gu leòr a' dol le dannsaichean, cèilidhean agus oidhche sgeulachdan. Rinn a' chomataidh ùr ann am Bun Easain fìor mhath agus tha sinn a' dèanamh fiughair ri Fèis eile an ath 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 as 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/](http://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 Dhonnchaidh 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 Lochabair 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](http://www.feisean.org) or contact them directly:

Fèis an Earraich – Kirsteen Graham  
[feisnearraich@gmail.com](mailto:feisnearraich@gmail.com)

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# TRÈANADH LUCHD-TEAGAISG 2015



Chruinnich sgioba de luchd-teagaisg ann an Sabhal Mòr Ostaig eadar 21mh agus 22mh den Ghearran airson trèanadh fo stiùir Andy Thorburn agus Valerie Bryan. Chaidh sgilean nan compàirtichean a leasachadh, an dà chuid ann an conaltradh agus ann an teagasg ciùil. Dh'ionnsaich iad mu theagasg òrain agus fuinn do chlann a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig diofar ìrean, le bhith a' toirt pàirt eadar-dhealaichte do gach neach a-rèir comais, gan tarraing còmhla.

Bha Gilleasbuig Fearghasdan a' cumail clas Gàidhlig leis an fheadhainn a bha air ìre 1, agus fhuair iad cuideachd trèanadh ann an dìon chloinne còmhla ri Gillian Pincock.

Air oidhche Shathairne thàinig a h-uile duine còmhla gus seisean ciùil a thòiseachadh anns an Tàlla Mhòr, far an robh fuinn agus òrain gu leòr a' dol. An ath latha chaidh an cur ann am buidhnean gus òran Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh agus a chluich dhan a' chòrr de na compàirtichean feasgar. Rinn Andy agus Valerie measadh air cho soirbheachail 's a bha gach buidheann.

On the 21st and 22nd of February, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's tutor training course took place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, with Andy Thorburn and Valerie Bryan at the helm. The participants were able to develop their skills, both in music and communication over three different levels of ability. In addition to the training on offer, the musicians had time to play together on the Saturday night with a session in the Talla Mhòr, where there was plenty of music and song to be heard.

## BLASAD GÀIDHLIG LE FÈISGOIL

Tha clann sgoile aig trì sgoiltean ann am Peairt an-dràsta a' faighinn cothrom beagan Gàidhlig ionnsachadh mar phàirt de phròiseact air a libhrigeadh tron t-seirbheis Fèisgoil aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal ann an co-bhonn ri Comhairle Pheairt is Cinn Rois.

A bharrachd air sin bidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a' libhrigeadh seachdain de dhràma spòrsail aig deireadh a' Mhàirt ann an 8 sgoiltean 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.



*Extract from a Blog by Joseph Peach (playing here on accordion) - Fèis Rois Cèilidh Trail Participant*

## 'PIÒBAIREACHD IS POPPIES'

Tha Fèis Air an Oir an sàs ann am pròiseact ùr air leth inntinneach ann an co-bhonn ri Taigh-tasgaidh Srath Nabhair a tha a' rannsachadh agus a' toirt am follais ciùil, agus gu h-àraid ceòl na pioba, a tha ceangailte ris a' Chiad Chogadh ceud bliadhna bho thòisich e.

Le taic bho Mhaoin Dualchais a' Chranncuir agus Taighean-tasgaidh is Gailearaidhean na h-Alba tha 'Piobaireachd is Poppies' ag obair gu dlùth le coimhearsnachd Dhùthaich MhicAoidh gus faighinn a-mach mu na puirt a chluich na piobairean a bha an sàs anns a' Chogadh, cho math ris an fheadhainn a rinn iad às ùire agus na sgeulachdan 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. 'Pibrochs 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](http://www.strathnavermuseum.org.uk).



## HÙB HÀB DO CHLANN FO AOIS SGOILE



Bha tòrr spòrs aig clann na Gàidhealtachd is Earra-Ghàidheal seachdain 19 Faoilleach an cuideachd Ellen NicDhòmhnaill, Dougie Beck agus Sineag a' phupaid agus iad air chuairt timcheall air sgoiltean-àraich is cròileagain Ghàidhlig air feadh a' chinn a tuath.

A' pòsadh ri chèile beachd a bh' aig Ellen 's i air greis-obrach aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal o chionn trì bliadhna, agus leasachadh a rinn Dougie mu choinneamh obair le pupaidean thar nam beagan bhliadhnaichean a dh'fhalbh, chaidh taisbeanadh beag a chur air dòigh a thug cothrom don fheadhainn bheaga beatha nan croitearan a rannsachadh.

Bha aig a' chloinn ri fuasgladh fhaighinn air rud no dhà a bha a' dèanamh dragh dha na cleasaichean: càite am faigheadh iad uisge? Dè a b' fhèarr airson bracaist – seann bhròg no brochan? Dè am fuaim a bhios na h-uain a' dèanamh as t-earrach – mè mè no mùùù ... agus tòrr eile! A' cleachdadh òran a bha a' tarraing air gnìomhan a' chuspair (òran beag a chaidh a sgrìobhadh le Ellen nam measg) agus ceòl na fideige, 's e taisbeanadh beag air leth taitneach a bh' ann, an dà chuid don chloinn agus do na h-inbhich. Thadhail Hùb Hàb air cròileagain is sgoiltean-àraich ann am Bail' Ùr an t-Slèibh, Baile Dhùbhthaich, Inbhir Nis, Inbhir Pheofharain, Inbhir Narann, An Apainn agus anns a' Ghearasdan, a' libhrigeadh an taisbeanadh deich tursan thar nan ceithir làithean a bha iad air an rathad.

Mar a thuirt Dougie: "Bha a' chuairt againn gu math soirbheachail, a' dearbhadh dhuinn gu bheil iarrtas ann airson a leithid, is bha na fhuair sinn de mheasadh às dèidh na cuairt air leth fàbharach. Tha sinn a-nise a' coimhead air adhart ri cuairt eile, le taisbeanadh nas fhaide agus nas motha, a chur air dòigh san Ògmhios."

Tha an sgioba gus tòiseachadh air obair a dhèanamh mu choinneamh cuairt nàiseanta, a bhios a' tachairt ro shaor-làithean an t-samhraidh.

Cuideachd, leasaich Dougie tionndadh aon-neach de Hùb Hàb air a' Chroit don bhuidheann ro-sgoile Little Gaelic Voices, agus thadhail e orra Disathairne 7 Màrt. Thàinig dusan pàiste òg a dh'fhaicinn Dougie agus Sineag, agus abair gun robh spòrs aca uile, a dh'aindeoin droch shìde! Mar a thuirt Sineag, 's i ga tiormachadh fhèin ri taobh na teine ann an taigh Dougie: "Chòrd e rium gu mòr a bhith shìos ann am Meadhan Earra-Ghàidheal, ach b' fheàrr leam gun deach sinn ann an hovercraft seach càr Dougie!"

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

## SGOIL SHAMHRAIDH DRÀMA 2015 AIR FÀIRE

Ma tha ùidh agad ann an cleasachd, ma tha Gàidhlig agad 's ma bhios tu eadar 14-18 bliadhna a dh'aois as t-samhradh, dèan cinnteach gum faigh thu tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu Sgoil Shamhraidh Dhrama Fèisean nan Gàidheal ann am Port Rìgh, eadar 6-17 Iuchar. 'S e cothrom air leth a th' ann do dheugairean le Gàidhlig aig a tha ag iarraidh sgilean cleasachd a leasachadh airson an àrd-ùrlair agus fiolm. Bidh tòrr spòrs agus fealla-dhà a' dol cuideachd agus abair thusa gur e toiseach-tòiseachaidh fìor mhath a bhios ann airson làithean-saora an t-samhraidh.

Gheibh thu tuilleadh fiosrachaidh agus ceangal ri foirm-iarrtais air-loidhne air ar làrach-lìn aig [www.feisean.org/ssd](http://www.feisean.org/ssd) #ssd15

## CHANGES AT FEISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL



In January, we said goodbye to our Training and Policy Officer, Iona MacDonald. We would like to thank Iona for her long service with Fèisean nan Gàidheal and wish her well in the future.

Rowan Paterson took up a post as Marketing and Publicity Officer, a new position made possible through a ScotGrad graduate placement funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Rowan recently graduated from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye where she studied for an honours degree in Gaelic and Development.

Rowan said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be given this excellent opportunity and am very grateful that I will be working with such a brilliant team at Fèisean nan Gàidheal".

Calum Alex Macmillan, Fèisean nan Gàidheal development manager, said "We are delighted to welcome Rowan to the team and look forward to working with her over the next year. She will be developing and strengthening the methods we use to advertise our latest news and upcoming events."

Also, in February, Javen Houston from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was welcomed to Fèisean nan Gàidheal as part of a three-week work experience scheme the college runs to enable its students to gain knowledge of a Gaelic working environment. Javen is currently in his first year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Gaelic and Communication course. He enjoyed his time with us and has now returned to his studies in Skye.

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