TIME TO SECURE A PLACE AT GAELIC DRAMA SUMMER SCHOOL

Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Gaelic Drama Summer School provides an excellent platform for teenagers with Gaelic interested in developing acting skills for stage and screen.

Based in Portree on the Isle of Skye, the residential school will take place between Monday 4th and Saturday 16th of July 2016. The school is open to teenagers with Gaelic between 14 and 18 years of age with an interest in drama. No previous drama or acting experience is necessary to apply.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal are currently accepting applications and more information about the Gaelic Drama Summer School and a link to the application form can be found on the following webpage: www.feisean.org/ssd

The Gaelic Drama Summer School is supported by The Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll and Bute Council.

FUNDS FOR TRAD ARTS

Funds for Trad Arts

Tha an sgeama Tasgadh, a chaidh a chruthachadh airson tabhartasan beaga a thuirt seachad gus taic a chumail ris na h-ealain thraidiseanta, air tighinn gu ceann air tighinn gu ceann 2015-16. Coltach ri iomadh sgeama de leithid bha iarrtasan ann airson fad a bharrachd den stòras ach chaidh taic a chumail ri 64 pròiseactan.

£31,500 was available in the financial year 2015-16 through the Tasgadh Traditional Arts Small Grants scheme, designed to be fast turnaround and ‘light touch’.

Over the year there were three deadlines for applications. A panel was invited to assess and advise on Tasgadh grants. Minutes from the meetings of the panel along with all decisions on grants are available on our website at feisean.org/tasgadh.

116 applications were received seeking funding of £113,155. 64 grants were approved totalling £31,500, with the breakdown as follows: Traditional Music - 43, Traditional Dance - 4, Traditional Storytelling - 9 and Multi (more than one of the qualifying art forms) - 8.

We await a decision from Creative Scotland as to whether Tasgadh will continue in 2016-17.
NEW PROJECTS AT FÉIS NA H-ÒIGE
Féis Inbhir Narainn have had a busy start to the new year with the launch of two new projects in January (Club-G and Taigh an Dualchais) and the expansion of their Saturday workshop programme.

The Saturday workshops include a range of instrumental classes, Gaelic song, groupwork and a very successful Féis Bheag. Club-G also runs on a monthly basis and allows children who are participating in local mods and music festivals to access advice and tuition to help them learn the required material for their competitions. This is particularly useful for children who don’t have Gaelic at home.

Taigh an Dualchais is a project which connects Féis participants with the older generation. Singers from Féis na h-Òige have been entertaining some of the residents in local Care Homes and are now embarking on a series of visits to these same Care Homes to chat to Gaelic-speaking residents.

FÉIS AN IAR THUATH CELEBRATE SUCCESS OF ANNUAL EVENT
Tha Féis an Iar Thuath a’ dèanamh subhachais às dèidh fèis shoirbheachail eile le dà latha sa Ghearran chaidh an fhèis a chumail le cha mhòr 40 clann a’ gabhail pàirt ann am bùthan-obrach.

Fèis an Iar Thuath are celebrating another successful annual Féis in Scourie in north-west Sutherland.

The Féis was held over two days in February and attracted nearly 40 children to workshops in percussion, fiddle, guitar, accordion, tin whistle, drama and groupwork. A Féis Bheag or ‘Wee Féis’ meanwhile gave younger children the opportunity to join in the fun with sessions in music, singing, drama and art.

The Féis cèilidh was well attended and supported by the community and top class music from the tutors provided everyone with an opportunity for a dance. Finally the Féis came to a close with an informal concert where participants showed parents and families their new skills, including a special performance from the Féis Bheag children.

Féis an Iar Thuath are now looking forward to a series of percussion and drama workshops in Scourie this spring. You can find out more about these and all Féis an Iar Thuath events at www.feisean.org/event/feis-an-iar-thuath.

FÉIS INBHIR NARAINN HOSTS FANTASTIC PIPING DAY
Féis Inbhir Narainn were delighted to welcome twenty-six children along to their first Latha Pibaireachd on 27th February. The piping instructors for the day were Gold Medallist Donald MacPhee, local schools piping tutor Jim MacGregor and F.I.N’s weekly class tutor Brian Yates.

Instruction was split into Novice, Intermediate and Advanced and also included a unique reed-making demonstration by Donald. The day concluded with a well-attended evening piping recital by Donald who was joined by all of the participants. The project was funded through the Féisean nan Gàidheal Development Fund.

FÉIS AN EARRAICH
4 - 8 Giblean 2016
Tha Fèis an Earraich gu bhith air ais sa Phloc am bliadhna le beartas de luaidh-teagaisg a tha a’ Chunan airson a bhith a’ cluich ann am bùth shùilean-cuirlí clìuideach, le Angus MacKenzie (Dàimh), Ewan Robertson agus Megan Henderson (Breabach) agus Ewen Henderson (Battlefield Band agus Mànran) nam measg.

Féis an Earraich will be returning to Plockton this year with a host of well-known tutors from successful bands such as Angus MacKenzie (Dàimh), Ewan Robertson and Megan Henderson (Breabach) and Ewen Henderson (Battlefield Band and Mànran). Participants will be offered tuition in a wide range of instruments as well as dancing, music sessions, shinty, singing, Gaelic Drama and arts & crafts.

Ceilear will be running a cèilidh trail across the Isle of Skye and Lochalsh again this year and will be searching for musicians to audition on Wednesday 6 April.

For more information about Féis an Earraich or Ceilear, please contact Kirsteen Graham on feiseanearraich@gmail.com.

FÉIS TAIGH DHONNCHAIDH
11 - 15 Giblean 2016
Bidh Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh a’ gabhail aite tro shaoir-štìleann na Càisge. Gheibh na compar-tichean cothrom iomadach ionnsgramaideach ionnsachadh, a’ chaithrean a’ ghabhail leis a’ chailleadh a’ choinnseachadh a bhith a’ cluich ann am buidhnean-luchd-teagaisg a tha ainmeil airson sa Phloc am bliadhna le beartas de bhòidh an fhèis a bhith air.”

Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh will be taking place during the Easter holidays. Participants will get the chance to learn a multitude of different instruments, spending half an hour in each class each day and in the afternoon they will work on drama and singing. They will also be doing Highland dancing and creating arts and crafts.

There will be a children’s concert on Saturday 16 April where the participants will showcase their new skills in front of their families and the community.

For more information about Féis Taigh Dhonnchaidh, please get in touch with Mary Duff on duff865@btinternet.com.
Air Disathairne 20 Gearran chaidh trèanadh luchd-teagaig a chumail aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Bha Mhàiri Hall air làimh airson trèanadh a libhrigeadh, agus i a’ bruidhinn mun eolas aice fhèin air a bhith a’ teagasg aig Fèis agus dè thachair nuair fhaur i a’ chriad chuireadh gu bhith teagasg aig Fèis, dè am fiosrachadh a bha a dhith oirre, dè an t-ullachadh a bh’ aice ri dhèhanamh agus gnothaichean eile den t-seòrsa seo.

Fhaur iad trèanadh ann an dion cloinne le Gillian Pincock. Bha seisean goird ann còmhla ri Ruairidh Greumach, a bha a’ sealtainn dhaibh geamannan Gàidhlig a b’ urrainn dhaibh a cleachdadh anns na clasaichean. Thàinig Rae NicEachairne a-steach airson bruidhinn riutha air smachd a chumail air clasaichean agus a bhith a’ cumail ùidh na cloinne. Bha i fhèin agus Mhàiri ag obair còmhla agus a’ freagairt cheistean a bh’ aig na compàirtichean mun chuspair agus gam brosnachadh gu bhith a’ freagairt cheistean air dè dhèhanadh iad ann an suidheachaidh eadar-dhhealaichte. Dh’fhalladh iad an uair sin airson seiseanan Gàidhlig còmhla ri Ruairidh Greumach agus Màiri Sìne Chaimbeul.

Fhaur iad fios mu na Fèisean san roinn aca fhèin agus ann an Duaisean Ealain bho Shona Nic a’ Mhaoilein. Bhathar den bheachd gum biodh seo feumail nam biodh iad a’ teagasg aig Fèis no a’ gabhail pàirt ann an céilidh air chúraid. Thàinig cìusean gu crioich le cheistean cùil shuas san talla mhòr, leis an duine a bha a’ trèanadh an lathair agus cuid de dh’oileanaiche eile a thàinig len cud ionnsramaidean agus guthan seinn.

On Saturday 20th January, Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s tutor training was held in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Professional musician Mhàiri Hall was on hand to deliver the training, speaking about her own experience of teaching at Fèisean and what information she was given before the Fèis started and what preparations she had to make. They were asked to split up into pairs to teach one another a tune on their instrument, which the other had never picked up before. This showed them how difficult it was to teach and also reminded them of what it was like when they first started learning.

A session in child protection was delivered by Gillian Pincock. Ruairidh Graham taught them a variety of Gaelic games which they could use during classes in downtime. Rae MacEachran came in to speak to the participants about class control and how to keep children’s attention. She and Mhàiri worked together and answered questions on what to do in various situations. Gaelic sessions were then delivered both to the fluent speakers and the learners by Ruairidh Graham and Màiri Sìne Campbell.

Shona Macmillan from Fèisean nan Gàidheal provided information about the Fèisean in their own area and also about Arts Awards, which could be achieved by teaching at a Fèis or taking part in a cèilidh trail. To round off the training day there was a music session held in the Talla Mhòr where all the participants played music together and invited the students on the music course at the college to come along and join them.

For more information about future training, please get in touch with Shona Macmillan on shona@feisean.org.

**GAELIC LANGUAGE LESSONS**

As dèidh anam na Cáisge, bidh lucht-oideachadh a’ dol air feadh gosgnéean ann an Siorrachd Air an Ear is na h-Eaglaise Brìce. Bidh lucht-cìul Murray Willis agus Linda NicLeòid a’ libhrigeadh leasanadh fad deich seachdainean le òrain is geamannan, a’ toirt taic don lucht-teagaig is do na sgioileanr eain. Thàinig Murray és Linda gu Inbhir Nis airson moladh eanich stuth trèanadh fhaighinn bho lucht-obraich Fèisean nan Gàidheal is thug iad leasan seachad do sgioileanr aig Bun-sgoil a’ Mheadhain.

Nuair a thig na deich seachdainean gu ceann ann an Siorrachd Air an Ear, thèid cheilidh a chumail far am bi clann às na tri sgoltean a’ crùnneachadh ri cheile ann an Talla Baile Chille Mhèiramiag.

Fèis-gosgnéo roll out a programme of Gaelic language lessons in primary schools throughout East Ayrshire and Falkirk as soon as the easter holidays are over. Murray Willis and Linda Macleod will be delivering these fun, interactive sessions, supporting both the teachers and the children with their language learning.

**TAC AN TEINE SINGALONG**

Tac an Teine aims to encourage Gaelic singing and provide opportunities for singers to sing in a relaxed environment. The sessions are open to all ages with a range of traditional and newer songs been sung. They are held at The Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness between 2-4pm. The next sessions will be on Saturday 2nd April and Saturday 7th May.
CÒIG LATHA 2016 READY TO TAKE TO THE CROFT

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal a’ coimhead air adhart ri 5 Latha 2016 a bhios a’ gabhail àite a-rithist am-bliadhna aig Na Gearrannan, Eilean Leòdhais eadar 4 agus 9 Gìblean. Tha tagadh farsaing de chor seachadan air a chur air dòigh dha na com-pàirtichean am bliadhna ’s iad gu bhith trang ag ionsachadh agus a’ gabhail pàirt ann an grunn dhiofar ghniomhan eadar croitearachd, còcaireachd, obair a’ Chlò Hearaich agus iasgach a bharrachd air a bhith an sàs ann an ceòl is orain.

Seo an còigeach bliadhna den tachartas còmhnaidh seo, a tha fosgaite do chlann ard-sgoile aig a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig. Le bhith a’ fuireach ann an coimhearsnachd mar na Gearrannan tha com-pàirtichean a’ faighinn cothrom a dhol a-mach am measg dhaoine gu h-iondadail agus a’ leasachadh agus a’ neartachadh nan sgilean cânain aca, a bharrachd air a bhith ag ionsachadh mu obair dhaoinne agus a’ togalg sgilean ùra tron t-seachdain.

This year’s 5 Latha event will take place between 4-9 April at The Gearrannan Blackhouses in Carloway, Isle of Lewis.

Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a range of different activities and workshops as part of this year’s programme from learning about crofting, weaving, fishing and tradition cookery to learning songs and traditional music of the area.

The annual 5 Latha Cèilidh will be held in Carloway Community Centre on Friday 8th April at 7.30pm; featuring participants, 5 Latha tutors Norrie Maciver and Ellen Macdonald and local artists. For more information about this ceilidh and 5 Latha please contact Calum Alex Macmillan 730pm; featuring participants, 5 Latha tutors Norrie Maciver and Ellen Macdonald and local artists.

Other training sessions included using Video Cameras with Alasdair R MacLean and using Digital Cameras with Gordon Willoughby.

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