BLAS FESTIVAL 2016 HITS THE HIGH NOTES

Thàinig Blas 2016 gu crìoch le consairt sònraichte ann an Talla-chluich Cùirt Eden ann ann an Inbhir Nis le sàr neach-cùil na h-Èireann Sharon Shannon a’ nochdadh cuide ri Nuallan à Ceap Bretainn agus an còmhlan ùr Albannach Tidelines.

Chaidh fèis na bliadhna a chumail eadar 2-10 Sultain le prògram loma-lànn de chèilidhean, cuirmean, tachartasan sgoile, ceòl ann an ospadalan is dachaighean-cùraim, dràma, tachartas teaghlach, cuairtean is eile.

Thòisich an fhèis le òidhche sònraichte a’ comharrachadh do cheòl Gàidhlig le sàr Sgitheanach, Eòin Dòmhnallach.

Airson an 11mh uair ann an 12 bliadhna, chaidh pios ciùil úr fhoillseachadh le Blas agus an coimisean ùr fhoillseachadh le Blas agus an coimisean ùr fhoillseachadh le Blas gu Camhanaich (Mouth of the Night to First Light) by Mary Ann Kennedy and Nick Turner. Bha 4 taisbeanaidhean ann den choimisean a bha stèidhichte air an fhéil is de shàr luchd-ciùil is dachaighean-cùraim, dràma, tachartas teaghlach, cuairtean is eile.

B’ i fèis air leth a bh’ innte le aireamhan fallain aig na cuirmean - cuid dhiubh gun tiogaidean idir air fhàgail. Bidh sinn a’ tarraina ar n-anail airson greiseag mus tòisich plaighneachan airson Blas 2017!

The 2016 Blas Festival came to a close with a fantastic concert featuring Irish superstar Sharon Shannon, Cape Breton piping outfit Nuallan and rising stars Tide Lines.

This year’s festival was held between 2 and 10 September featuring an exciting programme of cèilidhs, concerts, school visits, music in hospitals, performances in care homes, drama performances and a series of family events.

A special concert took place at the start of the festival to celebrate Rona Lightfoot’s 80th Birthday and a cèilidh was held in Kilmuir to celebrate the contribution of Jonathan MacDonald to Gaelic Music. The 11th Blas commission Beul na h-Oidhche gu Camhannaich (Mouth of the Night to First Light) by Mary Ann Kennedy and Nick Turner took audiences on a journey through the skies with songs, stories and music related to the sun, moon, stars and the northern lights.

Over the 9 days of the festival a host of leading traditional musicians and Gaelic singers appeared at venues throughout the Highlands and Argyll. Among them were The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Trail West, Fergie MacDonald, Margaret Stewart, Paul MacCallum and Linda Macleod. Youn people were again at the heart of the festival with the Cèilidh Trails, Guth na nGael (an Irish exchange project), Graham MacKenzie, Brighde Campbell and O Chruinneag E Chruinneag – a new group featuring Ellen MacDonald, Ceitlin Smith, Eilidh Cormack and Innes White, all taking part in concerts throughout Blas.
BIG INCREASE IN NUMBERS AT FÈIS EILEAN NA HEARADH

Bhò 27 An t-Ògmhios gu 1 An t-luchair bha clann na Heardadh air an cumail trang. Chunnaic Fèis Eilean na Hearadh an Hearadh sior tèadhadh anns na h-aireamhan bhon uirlidh le 123 pàiste a’ taomadh a-steach gu Sgoil Sir E Scott. Bha seachdadh shoirbheachail aca, le sàr-oideachadh ann an iomadh ionnsramaidd ga thabhann a bharrachd air seinn agus obair a’ Chòl Heareaich. Chaidh clås sònraichte a ruith do na deugairean aig an Fhèis, agus ràinig iad taobh a-muigh criochan na sgoile a’ sprean nam beann, a’ déanamh air an luch aig an kayak agus a’ falbh air baidseagal tron Ghearradh Chuaidh ann an Stèòrnabhagh. Fhuair iad cothrom film a chlòrachadh, fo stiùir Dòl Eoin MacKinnon, airson Film 6.

Chaidh cèilidh luchd-teagaisg a chumail an clòrachadh le Tigh mo Sheanair far an d’ fhuair Clò Hearaich a thabhann do chuid, leis an teagasg an fhèinidh, luchd-teagaisg a thaisbeanadh don t-sluagh. Chaidh cuirm na croine air adhart Dihaoine agus nochd ann an t-uabhas airson an fhèinidh bheaga fhiaicinn air an árd-ùrlar. Thàinig cuisean gu ceann leis a h-uile duine a’ seinn Chì Mi’n Tir. Dé eile?

Fèis Eilean na Hearadh in Tarbert attracted a large increase in numbers with 123 participants this summer. With a multitude of talented and enthusiastic tutors on hand, tuition in several instruments was offered alongside shinty, singing and Harris Tweed craft.

Teenagers were given the chance to go outwith the boundaries of the school and climb hills, go kayaking and ride a bike through the castle grounds in Stornoway. They also filmed and directed a film to be heard throughout the school. Art classes were also offered, the results of which were displayed at the final concert.

Everyone is looking forward to the new school and a new home for Fèis Tìr an Eòrna!

NEW TIME OF YEAR TO A NEW VENUE AND A NEW TIME OF YEAR

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna Bids Farewell to Bayhead School

Chaidh Fèis Tìr an Eòrna a chumail ann an Sgoil Phàibil ann an Uibhist a Tuath, san t-sèann sgoil, airson an turas mu dheireadh. Bha 59 an láthair gus sgìlen ùil ur ionnsachadh air iomadh dìofar ionnsramaidd cho math ri dràma, seinn agus iomain.

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna took place between 27th June and 1st July for the very last time in the old Bayhead Primary School, North Uist before its demolition. 59 participants turned up to learn new musical skills, drama, singing and shinty. Under very enthusiastic tuition, the music was soon to be heard throughout the school. Art classes were also offered, the results of which were displayed at the final concert.

Fèis Lochabair Moves to a New Venue and a New Time of Year

Fèis Lochabair was held in Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abair in Caol from 1 to 5 August - a new home for the Fèis and a new time of year. With around 120 young people participating in the extensive programme of classes and workshops, It was an extremely busy week.

As well as the usual classes, there was a range of workshops and drop-in events for younger children, with sessions for ages 0-3, 3-5 and 5-7 year olds. It was the first year that Fèis Lochabair had decided to pilot their Pàrant is Pàiste (“Parent and Child”) group for ages 0-3 and it was clear from parents’ feedback that it had been a resounding success.

Fèis Lochabair are now looking forward to continuing their support of community music-making with term-time weekly lessons.

For more information see the Fèis Lochabair Facebook page.
An open-air piping night was held at the Castle of Kisimul which was unfortunately prevented due to the weather. A Change of venue was this year due to the castle’s availability. A midweek Tutors’ Cèilidh was hosted on Wednesday night, a family cèilidh on the next evening as well.

The Tutors’ Concert was held on the Friday afternoon. A final concert rounded off Fèis Bharraigh on the final night, with a musical extravaganza to bring Fèis Bharraigh to a close on the final night, with the playing of the Fèis participants having worked on them during the Fèis week.

Booking forms for this year’s Fèis, which takes place between 10th and 14th October, can be found on the Fèis a’ Bhail website.

Tickets for the 25th anniversary event can be purchased on the Eden Court website: eden-court.co.uk/whats-on/shows/feis-a-bhailie-s-25th-anniversary-concert.

**FÉIS BHAILIE**

**A’ COMHARRACHADH 25 BLIADHNA**

Bidh Fèis a’ Bhaile a’ comharrachadh còig bliadhna fichhead aig consairst sònraichte far am bi com-pàirtichean na Fèise, sean is òg, an às. Am maasg na bhios a’ chluich aig a’ chonsairst, bidh an fidhlear a’innseil Adam Sutherland - a bháth féin a’ frithshealadh na Fèise na òige - agus an seinneadair Hamish Napier a thá le chéile sa chomhlan ‘Nae Plans’. Bidh na ceoladairainn cuideachd a’ stiùireadh clás obair-còmhlaireach air seachdain na Fèise a bhios a’ ruth eadar 10mh agus 14mh An Dàmhair.

Fèis a’ Bhaile will be celebrating 25 years with a concert featuring participants old and new. Local fiddler Adam Sutherland alongside singer-songwriter Hamish Napier - who together make up ‘Nae Plans’ - will be performing pieces with Fèis participants having worked on them during the Fèis week.

Booking forms for this year’s Fèis, which takes place between 10th and 14th October, can be found on the Fèis a’ Bhail website.

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**FÉIS NAN GARBH CHRÌOCHAN FILLS THE EVENINGS IN ACHARACLE**

Fèis nan Garbh Chriorchan in Acharacle was once again a success this year, with great numbers of participants and a full programme of musical events. It was a busy week, with lots happening in the evenings as well.

The Tutors’ Concert was held on the Wednesday night, a family cèilidh the next night and a musical extravaganza to bring the Fèis to a close on the final night, with music from special guests Fèis Lochabair Cèilidh Trail, Cast Ewe Cèilidh Band and Doc Livingstone. A Fèis participants’ concert was also held giving the youngsters an opportunity to show off the skills they had learned. The week was enjoyed by all and it is hoped the next Fèis will be as successful.

**FÉIS Thròndairnis brightens up the North of Skye**

Ann an Stafainn, an ceann a tuath an Eilein Sgitheanaich, chaidh Fèis Thròndairnis a’ cumhail airson seachdain lèin cùil agus fealladh. Fo stiùr a leithid John Carmichael agus Addie Harper, fuair a’ chlann eòlas air obair còmhla, le dreach eadar-dhealaichte agus úr air gach fonn, agus bha aig a h-uile neach ri oran na Fèise ionnseachadh a ghabhadh iad uile còmhla aig deireadh chuísean.

Bha caeil agus dannsa gu leòr a’ dol tron t-seachdain, chan ann a-mhàn gan maasg na clòinne ach air na h-oidheannan cuideachd, le cèilidh air a chumail ann an Tàlta Coimhearsnachd Stafainn oidche Mhàirt. Ann an sùidh-seachadh gu math mi-fhòirmeil fhual an luchd-teagaig cothrom fòs a ghabhail mus taisgn Dìhaoine nuair a bha a h-uile duine còmhla gus na sgilean úr a thaisbeannadh air beulaibh na coimhearsnachd.

**FÉIS BHARRAIGH**

Fèis Bharraigh was held in Castlebay Community School this year between 4th and 8th July. 100 children attended and were able to choose four subjects which consisted of different instruments, step dancing, singing, shinty and drama, in which they received a high level of tuition all week from accomplished tutors.

A children’s cèilidh was held on Tuesday night and a group of youngsters from Fèis Thiriodh came over on the ferry to a warm welcome. Wednesday hosted a midweek Tutors’ Cèilidh with a change of venue this year due to the weather which prevented it from being held in Kisimul Castle. A piping night was held in Northbay on Thursday where the young pipers and drummers and their tutors were on hand to provide the entertainment. They were all highly successful thanks to the support of the Barra community.

A final concert rounded off Fèis Bharraigh on the Friday afternoon.

**FÆLT BHÌth AIR FÆIS AN FHRAOICH IN STORNOWAY**

Nochd 137 com-pàirtiche airson Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich am-bliadhna. Bha a’ chlann deiseil agus deònach am bogadh fhèin ann an oideachadh bho luchd-teagaig a bha air a bhith an às aig an Fèis fad iomadh bliadhna leithid Andy Yearley, Lynn NicIlleathain, Noel Eadie agus Iain ‘Costello’ MacÌomhair. Bha ceol agus ceòl air a bhith ann uile sean iomran, agus eòlas ann uile còmhla.

This year, Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich welcomed back a group of Irish youngsters from Club Óige Luraigh in County Derry, who were in Lewis on an exchange programme with Comunn na Gàidhlig. They readily took part in the classes for singing, drama and music, and started preparing their own play in Scottish Gaelic!

At the end of the week the final concert displayed the talent of the participants, and the play by the Irish youngsters brought the hall to its feet. Everyone who had been involved in the Fèis took to the stage at the end to sing Eilean Fraoich.
Chaidh Fèis Arainn air adhart eadar 25 agus 29 An t-luchair ann an Eilean Molaise, le com-pàirtichean a’ tighinn a sgirean cho fada air fialbh ri Glaschuir a’r son seachdain a bha lán ciúil is spòrs. Bha aireamh ann ard am bhandhna, le cô-dhiù 55 com-pàirtichean an làthair.

Chaidh cèilidh teaghlach a chumail air oidhche Chiadain ann an Talla a’ Bhàigh le ceòl bhon luchd-oidheachd a’r son a bh’ aca. Bha an talla loma-làn agus bha an t-ùrlar trang fad a h-oidhche le muintir na coimhreasachd a’ d’annsa.

Thàinnig cùisean gu ceann feasgar Dihaoine le faisneachd nan com-pàrtichean, nuair a fhuaire a’ chlann cothrom a chluich agus a sheinn air an ard-ùrlar air beul a bh’ a chluich. Chun com-pàrtichean órain a bha co-ceangailte ri cuspair na Fèise: Faidhdir an t-Seasgainn - an aon ainm a bh’ air òran na Fèise, a sheinn a h-ùile duine aig deireadh an faisneachd le stiùireadh bhon t-ùr feannadair Màiri NicAonghais a bha a’ teagasc seinn tron t-seachdain.

Fèis Arainn took place this year at Arran High School in Lamlash, Arran, with participants coming from as far away as Glasgow for the week-long celebration of Gaelic and music. Numbers were high this year, with at least 55 children participating in the week’s workshops. The Fèis came to a close on Friday afternoon with the participants’ concert. Participants performed songs that were connected to the Fèis theme, “Faidhdir an t-Seasgainn” or Shiskine Cruise: a musical voyage where people are encouraged to bring along their instruments and learn and perform tunes together.

Fèis Eige was delighted to celebrate its 20th anniversary this July. With three days of fun activities, Fèis Eige once again provided children with the opportunity to participate in music and Gaelic classes. Fèis Eige is particularly special to those who were children living on the island when it was first established. Today, these very children are now teaching at the Fèis or are committee members themselves, such as Tasha McVarish, the Fèis secretary. Through participating at the Fèis, children are becoming more knowledgeable about important traditions that can still be found on the Isle of Eigg. It increases young people’s awareness of Gaelic and provides them with opportunities to hear traditional music at sessions and at the end-of-week cèilidh.

The Fèis has been paramount in strengthening the island’s community, and following its success, it is hoped that Fèis Eige shall run for many more years to come.

Fèis Eige @ 20

Fèis Thiriodh was held once again this year in Tiree High School where there were plenty of exciting activities for youngsters of all ages.

There was a break mid-week as participants, parents and committee members departed on a ferry to Barra for the annual Muse Cruise: a musical voyage where people are encouraged to bring along their instruments for a six-hour session. Poor weather was unable to dampen spirits and the day was a success.

An evening of film was held on the Thursday night, with two short films by Jack Lockhart which depicted a “now and then” insight of life on Tiree and history of the island. The week came to a close with the participants’ concert and Fèis dance on the Friday evening. With music provided by some of the Fèis tutors, there was plenty of music and craic.

Fèis Arainn attracts participants from far afield.

Fèis Thiriodh takes to the sea.

Fèis Spè Air Chuairet

Fhuair buidheann de dh’òighridh a Fèis Spè an cothrom eòlas faighinn air cànán agus dualchas ar caraidhean air taobh thall Sruth na Maolaise ’s iad an sàs ann an iomlaid le buidheann a sgire Dùn nan Gall.

Às dèidh samhradh trang air chuaireachta an Sruth Sphé, thadhallach bho Ceàillidh air Chuaire a’ Mhonnaidh Raulídh air Inis Eoghlain, mar phàirt de phròiseact a tha agh amas aig òighridh a’ rannsachadh nan ceanglaichean cultarail eadar Alba agus Èirinn.

‘S’e seo an ceathramh turas a tha a h-omlaid - bhios a faighinn taic bho mhaoin Cholm Cille aig Bord na Gàidhligh – air a bhith gu rith.

Ghabh iad pàirt ann am bùitheadh-obrach air an stiùireadh le Charlie Mackerron, Roisin McGrory agus Úna Ní Bhriain agus Grace Toland bho Tasglann Ceòl Dùthchasach na h-Èirinn. Fhuair iad an cothrom cuideachd a bhith ag ionnsachadh puirt ûra agus a bhith a’ cluich an iomadach àite leithid Fèis Lughnasa.

Following a busy summer performing around Badenoch and Strathspey, a group of young people from Fèis Spè got the opportunity to learn about the cultural links between Scotland and Ireland in an exchange with young musicians from Donegal.

Eight Fèis Spè musicians took part in the project, now in its fourth year, which receives funding from Colmcille through Bord na Gàidhligh.

The week included workshops from Charlie Mackerron, Roisin McGrory and Úna Ní Bhriain as well as a talk by Grace Toland from the Irish Traditional Music Archive. All had the chance to learn and perform tunes together.
Some of the Cèilidh Trails also supported well-known musicians at Blas Festival concerts. The Fèis Rois National Cèilidh Trail was on tour across the country from Dumfries and Galloway to Orkney. In addition, the Fèis Rois National Cèilidh Trail was on tour across the Cairngorms National Park. Between the 8th of July and the 14th of August, locals and visitors were able to catch local musician Rachel Campbell, a special gig with guest musician Mike Vass in Nairn Community Centre on 30 July marked its re-establishment. This, and the Trail, met with great success. The most recent Fèis to undertake a Cèilidh Trail was Fèis Inbhir Narainn who launched the Hebridean Celtic Festival as well as at the brand new Eilean Dorcha Festival in Uist. This year's Cèilidh Trails kicked off once again with a fortnight of training at Fèis Alba which took place in Plockton from 4th – 8th and 11th – 15th July. The training was attended by eight Cèilidh Trail groups from across the Highlands and Islands while members of the Fèis Rois local Cèilidh Trail teamed up with participants of the National Cèilidh Trail in Cromarty for their training days. The Cèilidh Trails have now been running for seventeen years and in that time have offered hundreds of young musicians aged 16-25 the opportunity to develop their skills and get a taster of life as touring musicians for a few weeks during the summer. The Cèilidh Trails offer a unique experience and the skills participants learn can stand them in good stead for a future musical, or non-musical, career.

2015 saw the launch of the Western Isles Cèilidh Trail, which was a great success, and this year they were working in partnership with An Lanntair through funding support from the Bealach project and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. The Cèilidh Trail performed on the Island Stage at the Hebridean Celtic Festival in Uist and as well as the brand new Eilean Dhora Fesitival in Uist. The most recent Fèis to undertake a Cèilidh Trail was Fèis Inbhir Narainn who launched the newly reformed Caledonian Cèilidh Trail. Formerly run by The Highland Council, then local musician Rachel Campbell, a special gig with guest musician Mike Vass in Nairn Community Centre on 30 July marked its re-establishment. This, and the Trail, met with great success. Between the 8th of July and the 14th of August, locals and visitors were able to catch local Cèilidh Trail performances in a variety of locations from boats to castles, village halls to festival tents in the following areas: Sutherland & Caithness, Ross-shire, Nairn & Inverness-shire, Skye & Lochalsh, the Western Isles, Lochaber, Argyll & the Isles, Stirling & the Trossachs and the Cairngorms National Park. In addition, the Fèis Rois National Cèilidh Trail was on tour across the country from Dumfries and Galloway to Orkney.

Some of the Cèilidh Trails also supported well-known musicians at Blas Festival concerts.
Fèisean nan Gàidheal air iomlaid chulturach air leth inntinneach eadar òg and rhith le Gàidhlig ann an Alba agus Èirinn a thoirt gu ceann le sreath de thaisbeanaidhean sònraichte anns an dà dhùthaich.

Chaidh ‘Guth nan Gael’ a stèidheachadh ann an co-bhonn ris an Ionad Oirghialla ann an Dùn Dealgan, Èirinn, le taic bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus Foras na Gaeilge tron sgeama Colmcille. Bho thoiseach na bliadhna tha a pròiseact air córr is 15 óganach eadar 16 is 22 bliadhna a dh’aois a thoir còmhla airson bùthtean-obraich càinain, ciùil, seinn, dràma is dannsa. Bha Gàidhlig no Gaeilge aig a h-uile compàirtiche is neach-oidhe iad ag ionnsachadh còmhla mu chànan ag cultar Gàidhealach san dà dhùthaich.

A bharrachd air bùthtean-obraich agus tachartasan foghlaim bha an sgioba cuideachd ri obair-còmhla is iad ag ullachadh taisbeanadh sònraichte de chiùil, órain agus dannsa thuig air na dh’ionnsach iad bho cheile. Am measg seann phuirt agus órain an t-seann nois dh’ullaich a’ bhuidheann pios ciùil sònraichte air a h-beul ‘Colmcille’ a rinne a clarsaigh Micheal Rooney a’ moladh Naomh Chaluim Chille, naomh Èireannach a thàinig a dh’Alba san t-siathamh linn agus a stèidhich a’ mhanachairn air Eilean I. Fhuair a’ bhuidheann cothrom an taisbeanadh seo a thoir gu Fleadh Cheoil na hÈireann san Lùnastal far an do nochd iad aig cuirm-ciùil eadar-nàiseanta na buidhne ealan.

‘Guth nan Gael’ was established earlier this year in partnership with the Oriel Centre in Dundalk Ireland and with support from the Colmcille scheme administered by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Foras na Gaeilge. Since Spring 2016 this project has brought over 15 young people aged 16 to 22 together from Ireland and Scotland to explore and share their Gaelic languages and culture through a series of Gaelic and Irish medium workshops and events.

As well as workshops and educational activities the group also prepared a showcase performance of traditional Irish and Scottish music, teaching each other tunes, songs and a dance step or two. The group also learnt and prepared a suite of music composed by Irish harpist Micheal Rooney, appropriately named ‘Colmcille’ and composed in honour of St Columba, the sixth century Irish saint who came to Scotland and established the now famous monastery in Iona.

The group then performed this showcase at a number of high profile festivals, including an international concert at Fleadh Cheoil na hÈireann in Ireland in August and a support slot for Sharon Shannon, Margaret Stewart and Nuallan at the Blas Festival at the beginning of September. Finally, and very fittingly, the group made for Iona where they performed a very special concert in the beautiful surroundings of Iona Abbey.

MAGGIE MACDONALD

Gaelic music lost one of its gems with the passing in July of Maggie Macdonald.

A teacher and Mòd Gold Medallist, Maggie travelled the world performing and teaching Gaelic songs with Ciar and Na Caimbeulaich as well as her beloved Inverness Gaelic Choir.

She took part in Pròiseact nan Ealan’s innovative 2007 opera ‘Hiort – Mac-talla nan Eun’ which involved her in a complex, multi-media production singing live via satellite from Hirta, the largest island of the St Kilda archipelago. In 2009, she was the female soloist in Blair Douglas’ ‘Afreann Ghàidhlig – Gaelic Mass’ performed at Blas and other events for the Year of Homecoming.

The Fèis movement benefited greatly from Maggie’s talents too. With her teaching abilities and fun attitude to learning, she made a wonderful Fèis tutor. She worked for the past few years teaching song in primary schools through the Youth Music Initiative delivered by Fèisean nan Gàidhlig, via local Fèisean, for The Highland Council. She served on the board of Fèis Rois for the past 6 years.

Our sincere condolences to Maggie’s husband, John; their children, Shona and Fraser, and their families.

Bidh sinn ag ionndrainn boireannach coibhneil, múirneach, gasta - agus ga caoidh - ach a’ cuimhneachadh oirre le spèis, gaol, gàire agus lachanaich.
Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s annual Gaelic Drama Summer School culminated with a mini tour of Skye and Lochalsh.

For the eleven participants, the Friday evening performance in Kilmuir was the result of a fortnight of drama skills’ workshops led by artistic director David Walker and tutors Artair Donald and Dougie Beck.

The residential school, held in Portree, is organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Drama Officer, Angus Macleod, who commented: “In previous years, participants have only had one opportunity to showcase their work. It was felt that having an extra performance would give them a greater appreciation for what they’d achieved, and the opportunity to hone and develop their performances, in addition to exposure to a wider audience. Having the performance in a different venue each night also gave the participants a taste of what touring a play can be like and how certain elements have to be adapted to suit the space.”

The School’s first performance at Plockton High School Hall, on Thursday 14th July, was part of Fèis Alba’s Family Cèilidh. Their final performance the following evening in a packed Kilmuir Hall, featured alongside performances from Clann Thròndairnis, Dannsairean an Eilein Sgitheanaich and a dance from the local Fèis an Earraich Cèilidh Trail group, Ceilear.

‘Cò thu?’ (Who are you?) was the title given to the showcase exploring the theme of identity which had fed into much of the work the participants had undertaken. In addition to individual performances, monologues and smaller group performances, the main focus was a devised ensemble piece based on Aonghas MacNeacail’s poem ‘Tha Gàidhlig Beò’ (Gaelic is Alive).

During the fortnight, participants also benefited from creative writing workshops delivered by Gaelic playwright and novelist Catriona Lexy Campbell, made a short film for FilmG 2017, with support from local film-maker Magnus Graham, and a dance from the local Fèis an Earraich Cèilidh Trail group, Ceilear.

For more information about an Sgoil Shamhraidh Dhràma, visit www.feisean.org/ssd
SEIRBHEIS FÈISGOIL

Tha Fèisgoil a’ toirt cothrom do sgoilearan ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a bhith an sàs ann an thaisbeanaidhean is bùthtean-obrach air feadh na dùthcha. Gach bliadhna, bidh sinn a’ lìbhrigeadh dràma spòrsail le Hùb Hàb do na tràth bhlàidhnaichean, dealbh-chluich chuspaisreil le Meanbh-chuileagd don fheadhaimh nas sine ann am bun-sgoiltean is fealla-dhà gu leor le dealbh-chluich na Nollaig don fhuile duine. A bharrachd air sin, tha Fèisgoil a’ toirt taic do sgoilearan agus tìdsearan ann an sgoiltean far nach eil a’ Ghàidhlig ga teagasg.

Tha Blasad Gàidhlig le Fèisgoil - clasaichean Gàidhlig, meanbh-chuileag, lìthean coimhearsnachd, trèanadh CPD agus tuigse air a’ Ghàidhlig a’ toirt cothrom do chomhairlichean agus buidhnean poblach cuid de gheallaidhean snà Planaichean Gàidhlig aca a choileannadh.

Fèisgoil gives opportunities to children in Gaelic-medium education through an extensive programme of performances and workshops. Every year we deliver a good dose of fun with our early years group, Hùb Hàb (just finishing a fourth week of touring), a topical performance for older primary age children through Meanbh-chuileag who are touring right now, and plenty nonsense for the whole family through our annual panto. In addition Fèisgoil also offers support to children and their teachers in schools where Gaelic is not taught.

We deliver a Taste of Gaelic through Fèisgoil - delivered as Gaelic classes, mini-Fèisean, community days and CPD training for instrumental instructors and music teachers. We offer Gaelic Awareness Training for Local Authorities and Public Bodies with Gaelic Language Plans. The new Fèisgoil promotional video explains things in a bit more depth youtube.com/watch?v=BvIwXID_56M

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LE MEAS AIR CHUAIRT

A national tour of Le Meas (Yours sincerely), a Gaelic play aimed at Gaelic-speaking children in upper primary, began at the end of August. The play, produced through Meanbh-chuileag, Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Theatre in Education project, will be toured over a six week period. Le Meas tells the story of an online friendship between two teenagers - a Scottish girl, Eilidh, played by Catriona Nicolson and a Syrian girl, Maram, played by Beth Frieden.

The Highland leg of the tour featured as part of the Blas Festival’s Schools Programme and is now touring other areas.

TASGADH FUND FOR TRADITIONAL ARTS PROJECTS

Make sure you consider Tasgadh if you have a traditional arts project in mind. The application form is simple to complete and grants of between £250 and £1,000 can be secured within a month of the deadline date, the next of which is Friday 30 September.

Tasgadh is funded by Creative Scotland and administered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

We received 24 applications in round one earlier this year and we have offered grants of £9,175 to 15 projects.

Guidelines and application form from www.feisean/tasgadh.

MEALA-NAIDHEACHD AGUS FÀILTE AIR KEIR BEAG

Congratulations to our Senior Development Officer, Nicola Simpson, and her husband Duncan following the recent birth of their son Keir Fraser Simpson - a wee baby brother for Isobel.

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