MAOIN ÓR AIRSON FÉISGOIL

Chaidh Coinnearnmh Bhliadhnull agus Co-labhairt Fèisean nan Gàidheal a chumail san t-Sultain ann an Taigh-ósta MhicDhòmhnail san Aghaidh Mhòir. Chuir sinn faíhte bhlàth air Leas Phriomh Mhinispeair na h-Alba, lainn Swinney BPA, aig a bheil deastanas airson na Gàidhlig, agus a thug leis naoidheachd mhath gun roth Riaghaltas na h-Alba a’ toirt taic a bharrachd don t seirbheis Fèisgoil aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal. 

A bharrachd air Mgr Swinney, bha Shona NicIllinnein, Ceannard Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ bruidhinn aig a’ cho-labhairt madainn Disathairne air obair a’ Bhùird. 

Bha còrr is ceithir fichead duine an làthair, a’ mhòr-chuid dhìubh bho na Fèisean, a ghabh na teathrom bliadhnaile a tha seo a bhith cruinn còmha airson cómhraidhean mun obair ann a bheil iad an sàs anns na Fèisean aca fhèin.

Bha sinn toilichte fàilte a chur air Catrìona Nic an t-Saoir agus Katie Adam, dithis a bha nan cathraichean air Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus a rinn obair mhòr dhuinn tro na bliadhnaichean. Bha ceòl againn bho òigridh Fèis Inbhir Narainn agus bhon chòmhlan aig Sìleas Nic na Ceàrdach.

Bha trèanadh ann madainn Disathairne le roghainn ann an cuid de bhùithean-obrach le leithid Art MacCarmaig, Sìleas Nic na Cèardaich, Fiona Dalgetty, Rachael Duff, Raonaid Harris, Monica Neeling, Alig ‘Bhaltois’ Dòmhnallach, Dòmhnall MacNèill agus Eilin Logan os cionn nan seiseanan eadar-dhealaichte.

The Scottish Government has provided £33,000 to Fèisean nan Gàidheal to support Gaelic learning. The new funding will go towards the production of a new Gaelic music, drama and dance show involving children from two Gaelic primary schools – one in the Highlands and one in the central belt. It will also allow the organisation to offer its Fèisgoil Gaelic language lessons to local authorities that have not yet experienced them.

Deputy First Minister John Swinney made the announcement at the Fèisean nan Gàidheal AGM in Aviemore, where he was guest speaker. The AGM and Conference was attended by around 80 people, the majority of whom were representatives of Fèisean from across Scotland.

He said: “Gaelic is an integral part of Scottish culture and the Scottish Government recognises the cultural, economic and social value of the language to our whole country. “Fèisean nan Gàidheal has made an immense contribution to both traditional music and the Gaelic language throughout Scotland through their support and promotion of the language, especially their work with young people and schools.” “I’m delighted we can provide further funding for their work so they can reach even more young people across the country and give them the opportunity to learn more about the Gaelic language and culture.”

Fèisean nan Gàidheal Chief Executive, Arthur Cormack, welcomed the additional funding, saying: “We were delighted to welcome the Deputy First Minister as guest speaker at our AGM and we are extremely grateful for the additional funding that will enable us to provide arts activities for pupils in Gaelic-medium education.

Through our Fèisgoil service, we have assisted a number of local authorities to deliver commitments in their Gaelic Language Plans in a cost-effective manner. This additional funding will enable more local authorities to offer starter Gaelic lessons and to sample what Fèisgoil can offer.”

NEW INVERNESS OFFICE FOR FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL

Tha sgioba Fèisean nan Gàidheal ann an Inbhir Nis air imrich gu oifis úr sa bhaile. Bídhe iad a’ fàgail soraith slàn le 111 Sràid na h-Acadamaidh aig às na Nollaige agus a’ gluasad gu taobh eile na h-aibhne.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Inverness base is moving! Bidding farewell to 111 Academy Street at Christmas, the team will be setting up base at 2 Ardross Terrace, Inverness, IV3 5NQ. The phone number will remain the same - 01463 225559.

Féis representatives (or interested parties) are free to visit our office in Inverness or Portree at any time. The new office in Inverness offers better access on the ground floor and better facilities for the staff and visitors.
Ta e cumanta aig an àm seo dhèn bhliadhna a bhith a’ meòrachadh air a’ bhliadhna a chaidh seachad. Do chomataidhean nam Fèisean, ’s e chothrom a th’ ann coimeadh air na tachartasan a chaidh a chumail agus beadhachadh air dè bu thoil leotha a dhèanamh an ath bhliadhn’. ’S mòr an t-atharrachadh air Fèis Obar Dheathain am-bliadhna: às dèidh co-dhiù ochd bliadhna de shàmhchuir, rinneadh comataidh ur agus chaidh a’ chìad seat de tachartasan a chumail às ur.

Bhid Anna Thirkell a’ stiùireadh Fèis Obar Dheathain agus bhruidhinn Feileas rithe mu dhèidhinn cuid dhe na rudan a dh’ionnsaich i anns na miosan a d’fhalbh. “S e an rud as cudromaiche dhòmhsha mun fhèis, gu bheil i a’ toirt chothrom don chloinn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn agus a chluinninn taobh a-muighe na goile. Far a bheil sinne ann an Fèis Obar Dheathain, chan eil mòran ann aig a bheil Gàidhlig ged a tha buidhnean ann mar Club Gàidhlig Obar Dheathain a tha gu math fallain.

Tha mi a’ smaoiintinn gur e margaidheachd aon dhe na dùblain as motha a th’oirnn. Bhid sinn a’ sanasachd anns na sgoilean, Cròileagain agus buidhnean Gàidhlig a’ chuid eadachadh am aig was air daoine a taobh a-muigh nam buidhnean sin agus bho sgirean taobh a-muigh beile Obar Dheathain. Bu mhath leinng togal air an àireamh dh chloinn nach eil ann aig was hoghlan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ach gum faigh iad eolas air a’ chànan ann an suidheachadh gu math spòrrail.

Tha sinn cuideachadh taingiel airson gach taic a’ chuid eadhadh an fhèis a bhith sin bhon Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Thèid an ath thachartas: Fèis Obar Dheathain a chumail air 11-13mh den Ghearran 2017. Cumaibh sùil air an duilleig Facebook aca neo cuir brath thuca – feisobardheathain@feisean.org airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh.

BUTH-OBRACH FÈIS BHARRAIGH & CÒMHLAN- PÌOBA SGOIL LIONACLEIT

Air Disathairne 3 Dùbhlachd chaidh gseollearan a Barraigh a-nuill a Bheinn na Faoghla airson pàirt a ghabhail ann am bùth-obrach le sàr luchd-na Faoghla airson pàirt a ghabhail sgollean a Barraigh a-null a Bheinn Air Disathairne 3 Dùbhlachd.

Bha seo mar phàirt de phróiseact a tha Fèis Bharragha a’ ruith airson co-obrachadh ann an ceòl a bhrosnachadh eadar na h-Eileanan agus cothroman a thoir do chloinn na Fèise oideachadh fhaghinn aig ard ire.

Chaidh bùth-obrach a chumail ann an Taigh-Osta a Eilean Dhorchaidhe, far an d’fhuair an ceannstràr a Barraigh cothrom a dhul an sàs còmhla ris a’ chòmhlan-pìoba. Bha Allan Craig, Dòmhnall ‘Bàn’ MacDhomhnaill, Donnchadh agus Dòmhnall Padruig MacNeacail agus Robert Sharp aig an stiùr, le clasaichean ann am feadan, piob agus dràmaireachd gan lìbhriidgead.

Aig deireadh cùise chaidh čèilidh a chumail san taigh-òsta airson airgead a thogail agus bha e soireachadh dhairireabh.
MAGAIDH NIC SCRAGAIDH AIG FÈIS CHATAIBH

Chuir Fèis Chataibh fàilte air sgioba de dh’aoighean sònraichte as t-Samhain aig a’ chriad tachartas ac a riamh do chlòinn bheag is iad air an sgeuladh a thòirt beò ann an doigh ionmhalta, draoidheil.

Òrain Magaidh NicScragain agus a càirdellean Izzie MacFrizzy, Arty Mac a’ Phartaidh, Jeannie the Queenie, Brownie MacFrownie, Witchie NicRisnadh agus Nansaidh Nic a’ Phranais a Bhrùra airson cèilidh air a’ chloinn.

’S ann a bha iad air cluinninn gun robh taigeis bheò ma sgaol ann an sgoil, agus còmhla ris a’ chloinn a chaidh iad air turas miobhailleach timcheall an togail eachdraidheil gà lorg. Bha an sgoil fo gheasaibh air choreògin le coille dhraoidheil, eas-guide, bord-cuirm agus taighn bana-bhuidhisdh na bhroinn seach sèimhrichean teagaisg àbhaisteach. Anns gach àite bha cararach eadar-dhealaichte a’ toirt seachad rann, pòbgh, geama, pios chuí, òran na pios ealain a chuireadh ri sgeuladh na taigeise agus a bheireadh taic dhan chloinn le bhith ga lorg.

Mu dheireadh thall leis a’ chomhairel agus a’ chuideachadh seò, agus as dèidh latha gu math trang, fhuaras long air dà thaigegie – mura biodh aonan gu leòr! Bha cothrom aig a’ chloinn am faicinn aghaidh ri aghaidh agus thuig iad gur e creutairean gu math càirdeil, dòighil a bh’ ann. An uair sin, mus deach a h-uile duine dhachaigh, chaidh iad a dhànnsadh còmhla ri Nansaidh Nic a’ Phransaidh san tala mhòr.

B’e neach-oidheachd Fèis Chataibh Mhairi NicSìonhain a chruthaich ag sgeuladh seò, ‘Maige MacScraggie and the Haggis Hunters’, is thatar an dochas gun till Magaidh dhan fhìos a-rithist ann air an uine nach bi fada airson iomairt dhraoidheil eile. Cumaibh sùil a-mach air duilleag Facebook Fèis Chataibh airson naidheachd dan as ùire!

Fèis Chataibh normally works with young people aged 8 to 18 but this November the Fèis welcomed a team of slightly unusual guests to Brora for their first ever Fèis Bheag event for children aged 5 to 7.

Maggie MacScraggie and her friends Izzie MacFrizzy, Arty MacFarty, Jeannie the Queenie, Brownie MacFrownie, Witchie MacRitchie and Nancy MacPrancie visited Brora after hearing that there was a haggis on the loose in the school. The school was under some sort of spell, with an enchanted forest, a wishing waterfall, feast table and a witch’s house where there were once ordinary boring classrooms and Maggie MacScraggie and her friends took the children on a magical tour of all these places to find the haggis. Each character had a verse, game, trick, song, piece of music or artwork which helped to unlock the story of the haggis and gave clues as to its whereabouts.

Finally, after a very busy day, not one but two haggis were found! The children each got to meet the haggis, and found out that they are really very gentle, friendly creatures. To celebrate, everyone learnt a new dance in the main hall with Nancy MacPrancie before heading home.

‘Maggie MacScraggie and the Haggis Hunters’ is an original story event created by Mhairi MacKinnon, a regular Fèis Chataibh tutor, and the Fèis hopes to host another magical adventure with Maggie in the not too distant future. Keep an eye out on the Fèis Chataibh Facebook page for news!

FUARAN NAN EILEAN PERFORM IN CAPE BRETON

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was delighted to showcase flagship heritage project Fuaran at this year’s Celtic Colours International Festival in Cape Breton.

Four of our Fuaran singers crossed the Atlantic in October as part of Fuaran nan Eilean, ‘Spring of the Islands’ – a collaborative group representing Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Fuaran project and the innovative BA in Applied Music at Lewis Castle College UHI.

Together the talented team showcased and celebrated Gaelic song and instrumental music from the islands – old and new – at a range of venues and concerts in Cape Breton. As well as performing with a host of professional musicians of all different styles and repertoires, the group also had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with young people from local Gaelic groups Fèis Mhabù and Brìgh, and students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The group also visited Bayview Academy in Port Hood as part of the Celtic Colours outreach programme, performing music and song to a busy hall of students.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Development Officer Rachel Harris said:

“We’d like to thank all at Celtic Colours for their kind hospitality and for the opportunity to visit and spend time in the Canadian Gaelic community. Our participants certainly got a lot out of the trip – they loved hearing the Cape Breton fiddling and piping and were struck by the strong dancing tradition here. It was great too to hear Cape Breton Gaelic spoken and sung, and to learn about the stories behind the tunes and songs.”

The full Fuaran team will be reunited for a special concert of Gaelic song and music at Celtic Connections in Glasgow on Saturday 28th January 2017. You can find out more and reserve your ticket at www.celticconnections.com.

In the meantime the Fuaran resource can be accessed online for free at www.faisean.org/fuaran.
MEANBH-CHUILEAG – LE MEAS

A six-week national tour of “Le Meas”, a Gaelic play with theatre-in-education project Meanbh-chuileag began in August.

“Le Meas” is based on a play originally written by Mairi Kidd and was toured through the Meanbh-chuileag project in 2007. The original was concerned with Afghanistan; this year the play was re-interpreted to set it in the context of the Syrian conflict. It 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. During the play the impact of the Syrian Civil War on Maram is highlighted and Eilidh’s misconceptions about life in Syria are challenged. Through Eilidh’s interactions with the audience, ways to support those affected by the crisis in Syria are explored.

During two three-week blocks, the play toured Gaelic-medium primaries and was aimed at pupils in the upper school. The first leg of the tour took place between the 29th of August and 16th of September. The Highland leg of the tour featured as part of the Blas Festival’s School Events programme. The second leg of the tour took place between the 24th of October and 11th November. The play was performed 50 times and 1554 pupils saw the play. The director was Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Drama Officer, Angus Macleod.
DUASEAN GU LEòR – AWARDS GALORE!

The awards season has seen many people connected with the Fèisean being honoured. Fèisean nan Gàidheal sponsors the Traditional Music Hall of Fame and we were delighted that the following performers were inducted this year: Andy M Stewart, Arthur Argo, Barbara MacDonell, Michael Marra, Mirk and Murray Henderson.

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Fèisean nan Gàidheal is supplying a copy of the Errogie Collection - Volume 1 is available now and in recognition of Adam’s long association with the Fèis movement, Fèisean nan Gàidheal is supplying a copy to each of the Fèisean.

LAST CHANCE IN 2016-17 FOR A TASGADH GRANT

Tràth sa bhliadh’ ur bith an Cheannard Risgadh, a chaidh a chumas ris na h-ealain thraidiseanta, a’ tighinn gu ceann airson 2016-17. Tha aon chothrom air fhàgail ge-tà airson iarras a chur thuigainn.

Tasgadh is designed to be a fast turnaround and ‘light touch’ grant scheme offering up to £1,000 for traditional arts projects. In 2015-16, £31,500 was distributed across 64 projects worth a total of £174,000.

Following rounds one and two, in 2016-17 we have granted a total of £18,967, leaving £12,533 to be distributed following the third and final round, the deadline for which is 3 February 2017.

Don’t miss the opportunity. Guidelines and application forms are available at feisean.org/tasgadh.

SALTIRE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BURSARY

A’ comharrachadh 80 bliadhna bhon a chaideachadh, thuig Comunn Càimh Òran Mòr. A leas iomairt a chaideachadh do dh’fhèisean nan Gàidheal neach-chuil no seinneadar òg air leth tàlantach a lorg, a shealladh mar a leudadhadh cothrom eadar-nàiseanta adhartas agus eòlas ann an ceòl.

Chaidh bursaird a mhaoinachadh le Comhairle Bhreatainn (Alba) a leas iomairt a chaideachadh do dh’fhèisean nan Gàidheal neach-chuil no seinneadar òg air leth tàlantach a lorg, a shealladh mar a leudadhadh cothrom eadar-nàiseanta adhartas agus eòlas ann an ceòl.

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A collaborative initiative between the Saltire Society, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and British Council Scotland resulted in Brìghde Chaimbeul picking up an International Travel Bursary at the recent Saltire Celebrates event in Glasgow’s Oran Mòr.

Celebrating its 80th year, the Saltire Society invited Fèisean nan Gàidheal to identify a young musician or singer with exceptional potential who could demonstrate how an international experience would add enhance musical development. After an open process, and consideration of a number of applications, Brìghde was selected and hopes to travel to Bulgaria to experience, first hand, the music of the Balkans and the amazing sound of the Bulgarian gaita.

ADAM’S FIRST MUSICAL COLLECTION PUBLISHED

A collection of contemporary Scottish folk melodies from the pen of Loch Ness fiddler, Féis tutor and composer, Adam Sutherland, has been published by Skye-based music publishers Taigh na Teud. Adam comes from Errogie on the south shores of Loch Ness and is one of Scotland’s most exciting composers, teachers and fiddle players appearing with The Treacherous Orchestra, Session A9, Peatbog Faeries, Babelfish and Croft no. Five. He has also played with a host of other well-known acts including Salsa Celtica and Mànran.

The Errogie Collection - Volume 1 is available now and in recognition of Adam’s long association with the Fèis movement, Fèisean nan Gàidheal is supplying a copy to each of the Fèisean.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a company limited by guarantee number SC130071, a Scottish Charity number SC002040, funded by Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Bord na Gaidhlig, The Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Sùr