FÈISTV TO BRING OUR CULTURE TO A WIDER AUDIENCE

Le taic bho Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig, tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal air leth toilichte an t-seirbheis ùr – FèisTV – fhoillseachadh a bheir cothrom do dhaoine air feadh an t-saoghail tacharasan fhacinn beò air an eadar-lion cho math ri ceòl traidiseanta agus òrain Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh air-loidhne.

'S e Oide an t-ainm a bhios air an earrainn de FèisTV a bhios a’ toirt seachad seirbheis teagaisg. As a’ chiad dol a-mach bidh seo ri fhoatainn mar sréathan de leasanan a tha air an ro-chlùradh, ach that thàinig a bàis mar a bhios meud bann-leathainn air a leasachadh, thathas an dòchas gum bi e comasach leasanan beò a shruthadh. Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal an-dràsta a' sìreach thagairdhean bhò luchd-teagaisg a dh’aodadh na ciad leasanan a chur ri chèile airson FèisTV. Gheibhinn barrachd fiosrachaidh aig www.feisean.org/feistv-oide.

With the support of Creative Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Bòrd na Gàidhlig Fèisean nan Gàidheal are excited to be establishing FèisTV - a new service that will allow people across the world to enjoy events streamed from Fèisean, the Blas Festival and other performances in which we are involved.

In addition to this a brand new tuition service ‘Oide’ will be developed, offering a range of online traditional music and Gaelic song courses, delivered in the learner’s choice of Gaelic or English. These will be recorded initially but, as broadband speeds improve, it is hoped that live online lessons will be offered in the future.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal are currently looking for contractors to submit proposals to offer the initial lessons through the Oide service. More information can be found at www.feisean.org/feistv-oide

There will also be a range of additional opportunities for people to get involved with FèisTV. Fèisean nan Gàidheal are keen to hear from individuals, both on a voluntary and professional basis, who have relevant skills and who are interested in working with them to deliver FèisTV services. For more information send an email to tv@feisean.org.

TASGADH FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

Rè 2016-17 bha Fèisean nan Gàidheal ag obair le Alba Chruthachail gus tabhartasan beaga a thoirt seachad do phróiseactan ealan dúbhchasach.

Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi stòras againn airson 2017-18 cuideachd ged a tha sinn fhathast a’ feitheamh air dearbhadh.

The Tasgadh small traditional arts grants scheme has been running again throughout 2016-17.

In the final round, grants totaling £12,533 were awarded to 23 projects.

During the year there were 77 applications with request totalling £65,261 for the £31,500 available.

There were 5 applications for dance projects, 11 for storytelling, 47 for music and 14 for multi-artform projects.

Once we have confirmation that Tasgadh is to continue we will publish guidelines and deadline dates for 2017-18.
When Fèis participant numbers fall, what can you do? This is the question many Fèis committees face at some point, and the question on the minds of Fèis Inbhir Narainn ahead of their main February Fèis.

Ma tha àireamhan compàirtiche na feis e a’ lughadhachd, dè ’s urrainn dhuit a dhèanamh? B’e sin a’ cheist a bh’ air Fèis Inbhir Narainn air thoiseach air a’ phríomh fhèis aca sa Ghearann 2017, ’s iad mothaichail gun robh crionadh air an àireamh de chloinn a bha a’ frithealadh na feis e a chionn ghoidir. Am faugadh? Clas ur a’ stèidheachadh a bha a’ lìbhrigebaidh dràma agus ealain do chloinn aos 7-10.

When Fèis participant numbers fall, what can you do? This is the question many Fèis committees face at some point, and the question on the minds of Fèis Inbhir Narainn ahead of their main February Fèis.

Their solution to help boost numbers again came in the form of a new class – Cleas is Cèoil – giving 7-10 year olds the chance to engage in a full afternoon of dràma and art with tutor Calum Barker. While the Fèis has a full programme of instrumental classes running throughout the year, the addition of drama attracted new kids, many of whom had never been to the Fèis before. The class proved very popular with all 15 spaces taken before the main Fèis day.

So successful was the Cleas & Cèoil session, the Fèis is now planning a further session later this year and hope to include it at next year’s main Fèis (3rd March 2018.) For updates on this and all other Fèis Inbhir Narainn news, visit http://www.nairnfeis.co.uk.

The Angus Nicolson Trio hosted an ensemble workshop at the college in Benbecula on Saturday 4th March which was run in partnership with Fèis Tir an Eòrna and Fèis Tir a’ Mhurain. 13 participants were treated to a day of intensive tutoring with Angus Nicolson, Murdo Cameron and Andrew MacPherson in piping, chanter, bodhran, guitar and accordion and college students Alìis Sutherland and Iona Kennedy were on hand to assist and teach pipes and fiddle.

Anna-Wendy Stevenson, who runs the music course in Benbecula and was involved in organising the event, said: “Lews Castle College were delighted to host the Angus Nicolson Trio Ensemble workshop. Angus is an alumni of the HNC music course in Benbecula and it is wonderful to welcome him back to the island in a teaching capacity. This workshop gave BA Applied Music students, fiddler Ilona Kennedy and piper Alìis Sutherland, the chance to work alongside experienced and inspirational workshop leaders and performers whilst getting to know other talented young musicians in Uist.

This workshop provided opportunities to develop performance skills, try something new, such as bodhran as well as arranging well-known Gaelic music repertoire. This was the first ensemble workshop event in partnership with Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and we look forward to offering more at the college in the future.”

Chaidh bùth-obrach a chumail leis an Angus Nicolson Trio ann an Colaiste Bheinn na Faoghla Disathairne 4 Màrt air a ruith leis a’ cholaiste ann an compàirtreachas le Fèis Tir an Eòrna agus Fèis Tir a’ Mhurain. Chaidh sàr-oideachadh a lìbhrigebadh do 13 compàirtiche le Angus Nicolson, Murdo Cameron agus Andrew MacPherson ann am piobaireachd, bodhran, giotar agus bogs-a-cuiil agus bha Alìis Sutherland agus Ilona Kennedy, dithis de dh’oilseanaich ciuil na colaiste, ri làimh airson feadan agus fidheal a theagasc.

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ANGUS NICOLSON TRIO LEAD UIST WORKSHOPS

FÈIS CHATAIBH LAUNCH NEW CD

Fèis Chataibh recently launched a new Cèilidh Trail CD with support from the Kilbraur Windfarm Community Benefit Trust.

The Cèilidh Trail is a cultural heritage project which gives young traditional musicians and singers the opportunity to take part in a professional summer tour. Fèis Chataibh is one of eight fèis Cèilidh Trail projects running in Scotland each year with support from Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

There were seven members in this the 2016 Fèis Chataibh Cèilidh Trail and the group spent a very busy three weeks touring Sutherland and Caithness performing at ceilidhs, concerts, sessions and even appeared at the Belladrum festival.

After their tour ended the group set up a portable studio in the Fountain Road Church Halls in Golspie where they recorded a five track CD with acclaimed musician and sound engineer Gordon Gunn at the helm. Amongst the tracks are a Gàidhlig song by the famous Sutherland bard Rob Donn Mackay and a Scots song by Robert Burns.

Fèis Chataibh Cèilidh Trail Co-ordinator Mhairi Mackinnon said, “We’re delighted with our young band and all the hard work and effort they’ve put in to this project and I think these efforts are evident in the high quality CD they’ve produced. The Cèilidh Trail is a great opportunity to develop musical and performance skills with help and training from professionals, and I think recording a CD enhances these skills even further, giving the group even more of an idea of what it is like to be a member of professional band.

We are very grateful to the Kilbraur Windfarm Community Benefit Trust for their support with the CD, to Fèisean nan Gàidheal for their help with the scheme and to Gordon Gunn who made the recording a rewarding experience for all involved.”

The Fèis Chataibh Cèilidh Trail CD 2016 is now on sale in local shops for £6, or directly from the Fèis through their Facebook page or email: feischataibh@yahoo.co.uk.

FÀS AIR FÈIS INBHIR NARAINN

NEW EP ON SALE NOW
We are delighted that, despite doubts due to budget constraints, The Highland Council confirmed its funding would be available to run the Blas Festival as normal in 2017. The Blas programming group is now working hard to pull together a programme of concerts, cèilidhs, schools and community events with the aim of launching the festival programme in June.

After the 2016 festival Donna Macrae, who had worked on Blas since its inception through her company Firefly Productions, decided she wanted to pursue other interests. We are hugely grateful for all that Donna did to bring Blas to fruition each year. Her energy and efficiency was boundless.

Following a tender process, Chrissie Macrae from Lewis has been contracted to take on some of the administrative work required to pull the festival programme together and will be working closely with the Programming Group.


Our Fuaran singers enjoyed a successful trip to Glasgow this January with a performance at the world-renowned festival Celtic Connections. Eight singers took to the stage in a packed Strathclyde Suite for a top quality and well-received showcase of the Gaelic songs researched during the Fuaran project.

Fuaran will be again be performing live at Tradfest in Edinburgh on Thursday 27th April – for tickets and information please visit http://www.tracscotland.org/festivals/tradfest.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to register your view, please contact Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Officer Rachel Harris on 01463 225559 / rachel@feisean.org.
BLASAD GÀIDHLIG TRO FÈISGOIL

An teirmis, chaidh ceathrar a-mach gu seachd sgòitean is sgòitean-àraich ann an sgire na h-Eaglaise Brice airson seiseanach Blasad Gàidhlig a lìbhrigheadh do sgòilearan is luchd-teagaisg. Thòisich Blasad Gàidhlig san sgire bho chionn faiseach an bhliadhna is tha cuid de na sgòitean a’ cur ris na sgilean Gàidhlig aca is cuid eile aig an fhior thoiseach.

Tha Blasad Gàidhlig a’ ruith ann an dòigh an eadar-dhhealaithe a rèir an iarrtait ionadail. Mar eisimheir, ann an Lannraig a Tuath thadhail oide air na sgòilearan is luchd-teagaisg airson latha slàn dà thuras mar-thà, le latha eile fhathast air fàire. Tha an sgol fhein a’ taghadh chuspairain – an Nollaig agus aodach chun na h-ire-sa agus biadh an òr ath theirm.

Aig deireadh a’ Mhàirt thèd Linda NicLeòid, prìomh oide Fèisgoil, do na còig bunsgòitean ann an lè is Dùrra airson taic Gàidhlig a thòirt don chloinn is an luchd-teagaisg.

Tha Blasad Gàidhlig ga leasachadh ann an iomadh sgire comhairleir air fhèadh na dùthcha is tha sinn daonnan a’ lorg dhaoine ùra le sgilean freagarrach airson an t-seirbheis a lìbhrigheadh.

It was really interesting learning all the names for clothes. It was fun learning the song about clothes and I liked playing games in Gaelic.

Rachel P5

I thought it was very interesting and we learned lots of Gaelic vocabulary. I am really looking forward to the next time Fèisgoil visit.

Thomas P7

We learned a new song about clothes. We hope to sing it at assembly.

Reilly P7

I thought it was really good. Eidith was very interesting and told us all about the island of Skye and speaking Gaelic.

Cameron P5

Mrs Neilly

FÉISGOIL AGUS ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Tha Fèisgoil an sàs le dà phróiseact sònraichte aig Caisteal Dhùn Èideann, co-iomairt eadar Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus Arainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba a’ deiligeadh ri eachdraidh Gàidhlig a’ chaisteil. Tha Àilean (Og) Dòmhnallach agus an sgéudlaiche diditeach, Emily Dodd, ag obair còmhla ri sgòilearan ann am P5 aig Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce ag obair le Gàidhlig agus cèile mhèdhan na Gàidhlig agus cèile mhèdhan a tha direach a’ tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh tron sgeama càinán 1+2.

FÉISGOIL DRAMA SUPPORT FOR UIST SCHOOLS

Four schools in the Uists benefited from Gaelic-medium drama workshops co-ordinated by the Fèisgoil service in the four weeks leading up to Fèis Dhrama Ulbhist. Prior to the Fèis, held on the 8th and 9th of March, support and direction were provided by freelance drama worker and actor Calum MacDonald, who was employed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver drama support for participating primary schools through the Fèisgoil Gaelic arts and education service.

Fèis Dhrama Ulbhist is a festival of Gaelic plays performed and produced by local primary schools. This year Sgoil Dhalabroig, Sgoil an Iochdair and Sgoil Bhail’ a’ Mhanaich participated in the festival. Their work in developing and rehearsing their plays culminated in two public performances at Sgoil Lionacleit Theatre.

In addition, Calum was able to deliver Gaelic-medium drama skills workshops with groups from Sgoil Ulbhist a Tuath in Bayhead.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Fèisgoil service regularly co-ordinates the provision of Gaelic-medium drama support for primary schools for a wide variety of projects.

For more information contact Angus Macleod at the Inverness office on 01463 225 559 or email angus@feisean.org

Blasad Gàidhlig, our Gaelic language and culture sessions being run through our Fèisgoil service, continue to develop in Falkirk with seven schools now receiving weekly sessions from our team of tutors Linda Macleod, Eilidh Cormack, Maeve Mackinnon and Annabel Maclean. This term we have been concentrating on early years in particular.

The geography of Scotland means that Blasad Gàidhlig runs in different formats for different local authorities.

In Gartcosh Primary in North Lanark we have run three separate full days as tasters, packed with vocabulary acquisition and Gaelic confidence through topic-based songs and games for children in P5-7. Linda Macleod and Eilidh Cormack have visited the school and the children really enjoyed these visits as you can see from the photos and quotes they sent us. Next term Norrie Maciver will be our guest tutor.

At the end of this month, we are running a week of classes with our tutor, Linda Macleod in Islay and Jura. Linda will spend full days with staff and pupils in each of the five schools.

These developments are taking place throughout the country, in different local authorities and we are delighted to announce that we will be working alongside The Highland Council in April to deliver similar sessions to children in schools within the Highlands who have chosen Gaelic as their L2 in the language 1+2 initiative.

If you are interested in delivering Blasad Gàidhlig sessions, please get in touch with Eilidh Mackenzie, our Fèisgoil Manager, on 01463 225559 or email eilidh@feisean.org and look out for upcoming Blasad Gàidhlig training day for potential new tutors.

Don’t just take our word for it... here are some views from Gartcosh Primary School:

For more information contact Angus Macleod at the Inverness office on 01463 225 559 or email angus@feisean.org

Two of Skye and speaking Gaelic. I told us all about the island of Skye and speaking Gaelic.

Mackenzie, our Fèisgoil Manager, on 01463 225559 or email eilidh@feisean.org and look out for an upcoming Blasad Gàidhlig training day for potential new tutors.

Don’t just take our word for it... here are some views from Gartcosh Primary School:

It was really interesting learning all the names for clothes. It was fun learning the song about clothes and I liked playing games in Gaelic.

Rachel P5

It was entertaining and fun.

Adam P7

The pupils were really excited about the Fèisgoil workshop. There was a great mix of music, games and new vocabulary. Pupils were able to consolidate prior learning while building upon existing knowledge.

Mrs Neilly

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For more information contact Angus Macleod at the Inverness office on 01463 225 559 or email angus@feisean.org
This year’s Gaelic Drama Summer School will take place in Portree between Monday 3rd and Saturday 15th of July. Gaelic speaking teenagers aged between 13 and 18 at the time of the School are welcome to apply.

New format:
There are two options available to this year’s applicants – 6 days or 12 days.
• The 6 day option will begin on the afternoon of Monday 3rd July and finish on the morning of Sunday 9th July. It will cost £100.
• The 12 day option will also begin on Monday 3rd July but will finish on the morning of Saturday 15th July. It will cost £150.

If financial assistance is required for the School fee we will contact your parent/guardian directly to discuss possibilities. Your information will be treated confidentially.

The timetable for the first week of workshops and activities will be the same for all participants. Those taking part in the 12-day-programme will participate in at least one public performance at the end of the School, showcasing the pieces they’ve developed.

If residential places available at the School become limited, priority will be given to applicants registering for the 12 day option.

Application form:
To apply for a place at this year’s Gaelic Drama Summer School simply fill in the online application form which can be found at www.feisean.org/ssd

For more information about the Summer School contact Angus MacLeod our Drama Officer on 01463 225 559 or email angus@feisean.org.
Ann’s ‘Mhàrt, chaidh an dealbh-chluich ùr ‘Cumaidhean Ceòlmhor’ air chuir airson tri làithean deug ann an sgire Erara-Ghàidheal agus sa Chrios Mheadhanach. Fregarrach do chlann òga ann an sgolitean-àrach agus sgòilearan òga sa bhun-sgoill, tha na caractaran san dealbh-chluich, Hùb agus HÀb, a’ cur eòlas air cumaidhean eadar-dhealaichte tro òrain, ceòl agus spùinneadhair cairedeil dom b’ ainne Neonaidh.

Bha an turas a’ rith air Dìluain 13 agus Dìdacain 29 Màrt le taisbeanadh ùr ag sgoliteanaidh aig sgolitean-àrach agus bun-sgoiltean ann an Grianaig, Dùn Omhaimh, Ile, An t-Òban, Apann, Glaschu, Comar nan Àlta, Drochaid an Easbaig, Cille Brìghde an Ear, Cille Mheàrmaig, Dùn Èideann agus san Eilgeals Bhric. Thathar an dòil comhotha fhìaghinn a thaisbeanadh ann an sgirean eile san dùthaich nas fhaise air adhart sa bhliadhna.

Ged a bha a’ mhòr-chuid de thaisbeanadhaidh airson clann le Gàidhlig, fhuair sgolitearan a tha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig cogtaich air dealbh-chluich fhacinn nuair a chaidh a thaisbeanadh ann an sgolitean ann an Àlta agus san Eilgeals Bhric. Tha sgolitean sna sgirean seo ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig tron iomairt ‘Blasad Gàidhlig’ an Fèisean.

’S e pròiseact taistair a tha ag amas air clann anns na tràth-bhliadhnaichean a th’ann an Hùb HÀb a th’air a ligheanadh tron t-seirbheis Feòsogail aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Tha sinn gu mòr airson aonthairn mothaich fhàchar a thaisbeannadh ann an sgolitean ann an Àlta agus san Eilgeals Bhric. Tha sgolitean sna sgirean seo ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig tron iomairt ‘Blasad Gàidhlig’ air Fèisean.

In March, a thirteen-day tour of Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Gaelic language play ‘Cumaidhean Ceòlmhor’ (Musical Shapes) took place in Argyll and the Central Belt.

Suitable for young children of nursery and lower primary age, the two characters in the play, Hùb and HÀb, introduce the children to shapes using Gaelic song, music and a friendly pirate called Seonaidh.

This tour took place between Monday 13th and Wednesday 29th March with performances at schools and nurseries in Greenock, Dunoon, Islay, Oban, Appin, Glasgow, Cumbernauld, Bishopbriggs, East Kilbride, Kilmarnock, Edinburgh and Falkirk. It is hoped that the play will be toured to other regions of the country later on in the year.

Although most of the performances were for Gaelic speakers, children learning Gaelic through the Fèisgòil Gaelic Taster project ‘Blasad Gàidhlig’ also had the opportunity to enjoy the show when it visited several primary schools in Islay and Falkirk.

The Hùb HÀb early years years theatre-in-education project is delivered through Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Fèisgòil service and is made possible by funding received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland.