

# faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 65 • An Dùbhlachd 2017 • December 2017

## FÈIS PHÀISLIG TAKES TRAD MUSIC AWARDS BY STORM



Fèis Phàislig has been highly praised for its excellent performance at the recent Trad Awards 2017 held in Paisley.

Always a glittering event, the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards, held on the 2nd of December, saw well-renowned traditional musicians recognised for their contribution to the world of traditional Scottish music. Held this year in the Lagoon Leisure Centre, Paisley, this prestigious awards ceremony provided spectators and nominees with an evening of wonderful music, with performances from acts such as: The Shee Big Band, Elephant Sessions, Siobhan Miller, BBC Radio Scotland Young Trad Musician of the Year 2017, Charlie Stewart and, of course, Fèis Phàislig!

With an ensemble of participants assembled from Fèis Phàislig's extensive programme of tuition, the stage was jam-packed as 40 musicians and singers represented their fèis with a show-stopping performance – a testimony to the huge amount of work and effort that Fèis Phàislig put into delivering their year-round programme.

The evening was greatly enjoyed by Fèis Phàislig participants as they listened to exclusive performances and met stars of the traditional music scene in this fun and informal setting. Hopefully it won't be long before these young musicians return once again to the stage, to collect their very own awards!

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## 'S E NOLLAIG A TH' ANN! - ÒRAN ÙR BHO LÀN CHOMAIS

**'S e Nollaig a th' ann! (It's Christmas!)  
- tiotal òrain ùir aig Làn Chomais:  
còmhlan rock a chaidh a stèidheachadh  
le sgoilearan Gàidhlig bho Àrd-sgoil  
Greenfaulds ann an Comar nan Allt.  
Fhuair Làn Chomais taic bho mhìle  
sgoilear à Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath  
a sheinn air dà rann.**

**B' ann aig Fèis Lannraig a Tuath a  
thòisich buill Làn Chomais a' cluich.  
Thàinig iad ri chèile anns a' Mhàrt  
2017 agus bha e soilleir bhon chiad dol  
a-mach gur ann làn chomais a bha iad!**

**Cho math ris a' còmhlan, tha  
sgoilearan bho Àrd-sgoil Greenfaulds,  
Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat agus Bun-  
sgoil Baird a' seinn air a chlàr – fuaim  
èireachdail le guthan binn, gun teagamh  
sam bith.**

**Tha 'S e Nollaig a' th' ann! ri fhaighinn  
air iTunes, Amazon, Google agus  
Spotify.**

'S e Nollaig a th' ann! (It's Christmas!) is the title of the new Gaelic Christmas song recorded by Làn Chomais, a rock band of pupils from Greenfaulds High School in Cumbernauld with the backing of almost 1,000 young voices from North Lanarkshire.

Làn Chomais, all of whom are the product of tuition from Fèis Lannraig a Tuath, was formed in March 2017 this year and very soon displayed talents that were deserving of a showcase beyond their own school concerts.

Kevin Rodgers who is a Gaelic teacher at the school, has been mentoring the young musicians and, with support from North Lanarkshire Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, helped them make their first recording in time for the Christmas market.

Kevin says: "We have been searching for a way to make the North Lanarkshire community more aware of the fact that Gaelic is alive and well in our area and we hope this song does that."

The song is available for download on iTunes, Amazon, Google and Spotify.



# CD ÙR AIG FÈIS DHÙN ÈIDEANN

B' e latha sònraichte a bh' ann dha Fèis Dhùn Èideann air an dara latha den Dùbhlachd 's iad air CD ùr a chur air bhog.

Tha Fèis Dhùn Èideann air a bhith ag obair gu cruaidh thairis air na beagan mhiosan a dh'fhalbh a' clàradh an CD ùr aca, "Spionnadh", le taic-airgid bho Sgeama-Leasachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Chaidh an clàr ùr a chur air bhog aig cuirm-ciùil deireadh an teirm aca ann an Dùn Èideann. Le ceòl bho chòm-pàirtichean na fèise - inbhich òga agus luchd-ciùil air leth tàlantach - tha an clàr seo a' còmharrachadh bhliadhnaichean de dh'obair chruaidh aig Fèis Dhùn Èideann ann a bhith a' toirt brosnachadh do cheòl tràidiseanta a bhrosnachadh san sgìre.

Fèis Dhùn Èideann have released their first ever groupwork CD "Spionnadh" featuring five tracks from Fèis Dhùn Èideann's weekly groupwork class participants.

You can read more about Fèis Dhùn Èideann and its activities at [www.feisean.org/en/feisean-en/feisdhuneideann](http://www.feisean.org/en/feisean-en/feisdhuneideann) and you can obtain a copy of the CD by contacting [feisdhuneideann@feisean.org](mailto:feisdhuneideann@feisean.org) or via Coda Music, Edinburgh's website [www.codamusic.co.uk](http://www.codamusic.co.uk)

## FÈIS MHOIREIBH 2017

This October, Fèis Mhoireibh had its first event in a new venue, Gordonstoun Music School. Forty children enjoyed a busy weekend filled with Gaelic music, song and dance. Long-standing tutors Jim Hunter, Andy Thorburn, Steph Christie, Lizzie McDougall, Hugh Marwick and Ben Mortimer were joined by some new faces this year: Addie Harper, Sophie Simpson, Chris Henderson and Carrie Afrin. As well as their classes the children enjoyed live music from their tutors to accompany dancing, lots of fun Gaelic games with Carrie and stories with Lizzie each afternoon.

On Sunday, the children and tutors put together a presentation for friends and families. Each class demonstrated a little of what they learned. Alongside the fantastic music and song, some of the children created their own beautiful costumes and performed a play about the birth of Ossian under Lizzie's guidance. Having practised throughout the weekend with Carrie, Fèis Mhoireibh was brought to a close with all the children, tutors and volunteers singing 'Thoir a-nall Ailean Thugam'. Here's to a busy 2018!

Article by Katie Ferguson – Fèis Mhoireibh



## GAELIC AWARD FOR FEIS MOVEMENT

**Chaidh 'Duais Eaconamach na Gàidhlig' a bhuileachadh air Fèisean nan Gàidheal aig na Duaisean Gàidhlig bho chionn ghoirid.**

**'S e prìomh obair Fèisean nan Gàidheal taic a chumail ris na Fèisean agus tha a h-uile càil a tha sinn a' dèanamh stèidhichte air cothrom a chruthachadh do dh'òigridh, luchd-ciùil, cleasaichean agus oidean Gàidhlig.**

**Ged a thog sgioba Fèisean nan Gàidheal an duais, b' ann do na ceudan dhaoine a bhios ag obair gu saor-thoileach bho aon cheann gu ceann eile den bhliadhna a' cumail obair nam Fèisean ionadail a' dol a tha an duais seo. Tha iadsan gu sònraichte airidh air urram agus moladh.**

With thanks to Thorntons Investments who sponsored the category, we were delighted to receive the 'Gaelic as an Economic Asset' award at the recent Daily Record and Bòrd na Gàidhlig Gaelic Awards.

Although Fèisean nan Gàidheal's team picked up the award, it is for the hundreds of volunteers who work from one end of the year to the other keeping the activities of the local Fèisean going. They are the people worthy of an award.

Thanks to them, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's team and board, the hundreds of tutors with whom we work and the thousands of young people who engage in our activities, our collective programme supports around 97 FTE posts generating at least £3m for the Scottish economy. It is important we acknowledge that but more important for us is the way the Fèisean develop the skills of young people and the pride they take in participating in Gaelic culture.

## GÀIRDEACHAIS RI TAIC A' CHO-OP

Tha sia fèisean bho air feadh na h-Alba a' dèanamh gairdeachas ri duaisean taic-airgid bho Urras Coimhearsnachd a' Cho-op.

Tha Urras Coimhearsnachd a' Cho-op a' roinn 1% den airgead a thèid a chosg air bathar agus seirbheisean a' Cho-op fhèin - le cisean nam bagaichean plastaig air a chur ris cuideachd – eadar buidhnean carthannais ionadail. 'S iad buill a' Cho-op a bhios a' taghadh nam buidhnean as fheàrr leotha mach à trì buidhnean anns gach sgìre agus tha an sgeama air còrr is £20 millean a thoirt seachad bhon t-Sultain 2016.

Anns an roinn mu dheireadh chaidh cha mhòr £15,000 a thoirt seachad eadar Fèis Chataibh, Fèis Inbhir Narainn, Fèis Tìr an Eòrna agus Fèis Latharna. A bharrachd air sin tha dà fhèis eile san ath roinn airson taic nam ball a ghleidheadh: Fèis Arainn agus Fèis an Tairbeirt (Earra-Ghàidheal).

Thuir Co-òrdanaiche Fèis Inbhir Narainn Rhona Dhòmhnallach, "Tha an sgeama mìorbhaileach seo a' dèanamh diofar air leth air feadh na dùthcha agus bha sinn air ar dòigh fhaighinn a-staigh dhan roinn mu dheireadh. Chuir meud na duais againn iongnadh mòr oirnn agus bu thoil leinn taing mhòr, mhòr a thoirt dhan Cho-op agus na buill a thug taic dhuinn agus meala-naidheachd a chur air na buidhnean ionadail eile a fhuair taic-airgid."

Tha an t-urras gu bhith a' fosgladh a-rithist airson iarrtasan as t-Earrach 2018 – tadhailibh air [www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund) gus barrachd fhaighinn a-mach mun sgeama. San eadar-àma, tha bhòtadh a' dol san roinn as ùire – nach toir sibh suil air na buidhnean sna sgìrean agaibh fhèin?





## BLASAD GÀIDHLIG ANN AM FÌOBHA IS LANNRAIG A TUATH

Thòisich Norrie MacIomhair is Lindsey Charnley Gàidhlig a theagasg tron sgeama Fèisgoil, Blasad Gàidhlig, ann am Fìobha. Thèid iad gu trì bun-sgoiltean sa sgìre, Pittencrieff, Parkhill agus Denbeath a' libhrigeadh 130 seiseanan le timcheall air 340 sgoilearan na lùib. Choisinn Buidheann Leasachaidh Gàidhlig Fhìobha duais Chòimhearsnachd, Dualchais is Turasachd aig na duaisean Gàidhlig o chionn ghoirid is tha sinne aig Fèisgoil air ar dòigh glan a bhith ag obair còmhla riuthasan a' toirt taic dha na sgoilearan is luchd-teagaisg anns na sgoiltean.

Bha latha bogaidh aig bun-sgoil Ghartcosh ann an Lannraig a Tuath air an 6mh latha den Dùbhlachd an uair a thadhail oide Fèisgoil air na sgoilearan P5-7 le poca làn stuth Nollaig. Bha cothrom aig na sgoilearan Gàidhlig a chleachdadh is dh'ionnsaich iad facail shònraichte, ceangailte ris an àm seo den bhliadhna. Òrain, geamannan, beagan cluich mas fhìor agus spòrs gu leòr - cò dh'iarraidh an còrr?

Congratulations to Fife Gaelic Development Group for picking up the Community, Heritage and Tourism award at last month's Daily Record/Bòrd na Gàidhlig Gaelic Awards in Glasgow and we are delighted to be supporting them in their re-engagement with the Gaelic language and culture through our Fèisgoil service.

## SEINN, SEINN, SEINN

Children throughout the country have the opportunity to sing Gaelic songs, including Fèis events, Blasad Gàidhlig, Mòd Academy, YMI and the project Seinn itself. Seinn takes place on the Isle of Skye where schoolchildren and their teachers are busy learning songs for end-of-year performances with a little help from Fèisgoil.

FnG is working on a new resource, available as of next year – a Christmas Gaelic Song Pack. Keep an eye out on our website for updates in the coming weeks.

## YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE

YMI classes in Highland are split into 6 'areas' – Ross, Skye & Lochalsh, Sutherland, Spey, Lochaber and Nairn and across these areas we deliver 8 weeks of YMI tuition to almost all of the region's 170 primary schools. This year, most areas will have completed by now their block of YMI and we have had very positive feedback from many of the schools involved. Here are some of our favourite quotes this term:

***Our tutor was fantastic with the children. She was full of knowledge and allowed the children time to delve deeper through the use of questioning. We would welcome any extra sessions going!***

*Our tutor was outstanding and had such a super relationship with the students. She was very motivational and a credit to the initiative.*

***A great cultural and musical opportunity for the pupils. Everyone was more than willing to engage and we will continue to keep singing and trying out percussion across the various themes we have planned. It has raised awareness for the pupils to the Gaelic language opportunities too. Thank you***

*We thoroughly enjoyed our sessions. We even started our own tin whistle school club after her visits. Thanks so much!*

***Pupils (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the visits. Our tutor's enthusiasm was infectious and the pupils were totally focussed and engaged throughout the sessions.***

*It's fun! We all love the sessions, eagerly look forward to them and only wish they ran throughout the session.*

## COINNEACH ODHAR AIR CHUAIRT



Annas an t-Sultain, chaidh 'Coinneach Odhar', pròiseact tèatar-oideachaidh airson luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, air chuairt ann an siorrachd Rois agus sgìre Inbhir Nis. Bha an turas mar phàirt de phrògram foghlaim Fèis Blas.

Leasaich agus libhrig Oifigear Dràma Aonghas MacLeòid a' bhùth-obrach eadar-obrachail mu bheatha an fhiosaiche, a bha ag amas air sgoilearan bun-sgoile eadar P5-P7 a tha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig mar chànan a bharrachd.

Rè 11 latha, thadhail Aonghas air 14 bun-sgoiltean far an deach a' bhùth-obrach a libhrigeadh do 34 buidhnean. Bha mu 880 sgoilear an làthair aig na bùthan-obrach seo.

In September 'Coinneach Odhar' a theatre-in-education project for Gaelic Learners was toured in Ross-shire and the Inverness area as part of the Blas Festival's education programme.

Drama Officer Angus MacLeod developed and delivered the interactive workshop about the life of the Brahan Seer, which was aimed at primary school pupils between P5-P7 learning Gaelic as an additional language.

Over an 11 days period between the 4th and 21st of September 2017 Angus visited 14 schools, delivering the workshop to a total of 34 groups. Around 880 pupils attended these workshops.

## WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY FOR TEENAGERS

'Feasgar Dihaoine' will offer secondary school pupils the opportunity to work with Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff in our Inverness office while being supported through the process of undertaking either a Saltire Award or a Silver Arts Award. Participants will be involved in helping us to plan and organise our core events celebrating the Year of Young People 2018 but they will also get an insight into our day to day work.

The opportunity, which has received very positive support from teaching staff and Skills Development Scotland will initially be offered to Gaelic-medium pupils attending Inverness Royal Academy but if successful the scheme will be extended to include a wider group.

The project will take advantage of Highland Council's school timetabling arrangement which sees secondary schools in the region closing early on a Friday afternoon. Participants, who will be selected through an application process, will take part in the project on a voluntary basis and will join us for three to four hours a week on a Friday afternoon starting in early January.

For more information on the project email [nicola@feisean.org](mailto:nicola@feisean.org)

## BOOK NOW FOR 5 LATHA 2018

Thèid 5 Latha 2018 a chumail eadar 2-7 Giblean sna Gearrannan, Eilean Leòdhais le taghadh farsaing, tarraingeach de chur-seachadan a bhios mar phàirt de sheachdan thrang ghniomhach. Fosgailte do chlann àrd-sgoile a tha fileanta sa Ghàidhlig, tha 5 Latha a' toirt cothrom do chom-pàirtichean fuireach ann an àite eachdraidheil, stèidhichte ann an coimhearsnachd shònraichte far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast aig cridhe beatha làitheil na sgìre.

Gheibh com-pàirtichean an cothrom ùine a chur seachad ag obair air cròit, a' buain na mòna, iasgach, turas air bàta, ionnsachadh mu obair a' Chlò Hearaich agus còcaireachd is bèicearachd a bharrachd air a bhith ag obair air puirt is òrain bho sgioba thàlantach de luchd-teagaisg, nam measg: Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn (Trailwest), Ellen NicDhòmhnaill (Dàimh) agus Norrie MacIomhair (Skipinnish).

Gheibhear tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu 5 Latha 2018 agus foirmean iarrais aig [www.feisean.org/5latha](http://www.feisean.org/5latha) no cuiribh fios gu Calum Ailig MacMhaoilein air 01463 225559 no [calum@feisean.org](mailto:calum@feisean.org)

## ANNA BHEAG A' CHÒTA DHEIRG

Photograph by Gordon Willoughby Photography



Aig deireadh na Samhna thòisich turas nàiseanta den dealbh-chluich Nollaig ùr "Anna Bheag a' Chòta Dheirg" le Calum Dòmhnallach, MJ Deans agus Ellen NicDhòmhnaill ri cleasachd ann.

Chaidh an turas a chumail eadar 27 Samhain agus 15 Dùbhlachd agus fhuair còrr is 2,500 sgoilear Gàidhlig bho air feadh na dùthcha cothrom a bhith ga fhaicinn, a' gabhail a-steach tòrr sgoiltean anns na h-eileanan.

Chaidh an dealbh-chluich a thaisbeanadh aig còrr is 40 sgoil agus chaidh taisbeanaidhean poblach a chumail aig Bun-sgoil Bhaile Ùr an t-Slèibh air Dihaoine 8 Dùbhlachd agus aig an Ironworks, Inbhir Nis air Diardaoin 14 Dùbhlachd.

Chaidh an dealbh-chluich, a bh' air a mhaoineachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Alba Chruthachail agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean, a sgrìobhadh 's a stiùireadh le Aonghas MacLeòid, Oifigear Dràma Fhèisean nan Gàidheal. Dhealbhaich Coinneach MacLeòid dreach na stèidse agus dhealbhaich Laura Cowie na culaidhean. Bha Eilidh NicCoinnich na stiùiriche ciùil.

### FÈIS THÈATAR ÒIGRIDH

Bha cruth agus ainm ùr aig Fèis Thèatar Òigrìdh na Gàidhlig am bliadhna.

Chaidh 'An Lab' a chumail fad latha Diardaoin 2 agus Dihaoine 3 Samhain aig an One Touch Theatre, Eden Court agus ghabh 11 deugairean pàirt innte. Shoirbhich leis an fhòrmat ùr gu mòr le MJ Deans ga stiùireadh le taic bho Aonghas MacLeòid agus Catriona NicNeacail. Chaidh taisbeanadh poblach den obair aig na com-pàirtichean a chumail feasgar Dihaoine a bha stèidhichte air ath-innse den sgeulachd 'MacCodruim nan Ròn.

Fhuair An Lab taic bho Maoin Leasachaidh Dràma na Gàidhlig aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus Eden Court ag obair còmhla agus cothroman a bharrachd a thoirt do sgoilearan àrd-sgoile le Gàidhlig air a' Ghàidhealtachd sgìlean dràma ionnsachadh agus taisbeanaidhean dràma a dhèanamh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

### BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE

In October the Meanbh-chuileag drama project Teàrlach Fo Chasaid (Charles in the Dock) toured Gaelic-medium primary schools giving pupils the opportunity to learn about Prince Charles Edward Stewart and the Jacobite rebellion.

The interactive workshop aimed at P4 to P7 classes is based in a courtroom with pupils representing members of the jury. After listening to the judge and the testimony of four witnesses, pupils have to decide whether or not Prince Charlie is a hero.

The tour saw the workshop delivered a total of 29 times at 24 schools with a total of 872 in attendance. The second leg of the tour is planned for early 2018 for schools in Mallaig, Skye and Lochalsh and the Western Isles.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful to Newtonmore's Highland Folk Museum for the hire of a number of costumes used in the workshop.



## Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr Dhuibh

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Aig Coinneamh Fèisean nan Gàidheal san Dùbhlachd dh'fhàg sinn soraidh slàn air còignear a chuir seachad ùine mhòr air Bòrd-stiùiridh Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus chuir sinn fàilte chridheil air buill ùra a bhios a' riochdachadh nam Fèisean air a' Bhòrd san ùine a tha romhainn.

December's Board Meeting marked the departure of five of our longest standing Board members - our Chair, Duncan MacQuarrie, Seumas Campbell, Peigi MacLennan, Uisdean Robertson and Elaine Spence. We are extremely grateful for their considerable efforts and guidance over the years they were involved and were happy to mark the end of their tenure with a dinner and presentation.

Following an open nomination procedure we welcomed new Board members - Anne Macaulay (Fèis an Rubha), Anna Murray (Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich), Colin Sandilands (Fèis Rois), Sarah-Jayne Shankland (Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan) and George Stoddart (Fèis Fhoirt) - who will be representing the Fèisean on the Board along with Deirdre Beck, Kirsteen Graham, Elizabeth Bain and Bob Mackinnon.

2018 Board meetings will take place on Friday 28 February, Friday 18 May, Friday 28 September and Friday 7 December. As usual papers will be available online.



Duncan MacQuarrie, Retiring Chair of FhG

Fèisean nan Gàidheal  
Taigh a' Mhill  
Port-Rìgh  
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach  
IV51 9BZ  
Fòn 01478 613355  
Facs 01478 613399  
Post-d brath@feisean.org  
www.feisean.org