BLAS 2018 TO CELEBRATE
THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Ged a tha òigridh daonnan a’ nochdadh aig tachartasan Blas, tha barrachd smachd gu bhith aca air fèis na bliadhna-sa leis gu bheil Alba a’ comharrachadh Bladhna na h-Òigridh. A bharrachd air cothroman air an árd-úrlar gheibh iad eòlas air mar a ghabhas fèis den t-seòrsa seo a chur air dóigh agus bidh iad an sàs ga ruith.

The Northern Meeting Park in Inverness will be transformed into a concert venue on Saturday 15 September when the Blas Festival will culminate in a largescale showcase of young talent - Òran Mòr - with over 1,000 young musicians and singers expected to perform alongside Skipinnish, Trail West, Breabach and Brìghde Chaimbeul in a special event to mark Scotland’s Year of Young People 2018.

Blas has also offered a commission to young Gaelic singer, Mischa Macpherson, which will guarantee performances of her new music at Blas. With sponsorship from Thorntons Investments, she will have the opportunity to record the work after the festival to bring it to a wider audience.

There will be a Ceòl nam Fèis showcase concert at Strathpeffer’s Spa Pavilion, involving around 150 young people from local Fèisean, on the eve of the finale Òran Mòr event.

Arthur Cormack of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which organises the Blas Festival in partnership with The Highland Council, explained: “Blas has always involved young people as performers at events. This year their involvement will be even more widespread as young people take on a key role in creating, organising and running events, offering them a range of experiences in the process.”

Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland’s Director of Events, said: “We are delighted to be supporting the Blas Festival through dedicated Year of Young People funding. Now in its 14th year, the festival, which is a wonderful celebration of Highland and Gaelic culture shines a spotlight on Scotland’s traditions and indeed the region itself for both visitors and locals to enjoy.”

“Events such as the Blas Festival further reinforce Scotland’s capability in staging major events of this calibre, whilst enabling us to focus on the younger generation by providing a range of opportunities and exciting activity during this special year.”

Councillor Alister Mackinnon, Chair of Corporate Resources and Chair of the Gaelic Strategy and Implementation Group, said: “The Highland Council is delighted to be supporting this signature event to celebrate the Year of Young People in the Highland area. The young people of the Highlands are our future as we rely on them to be the tradition bearers of our language and culture.”

Arthur Cormack concluded: “Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful to The Highland Council for continuing to fund the Blas Festival which offers a platform to work in partnership with EventScotland, adding a valuable and meaningful Gaelic language dimension to the Year of Young People and attracting a larger scale event to the Highlands.

We are also grateful to all our regular funders and partners and look forward to a great celebration of the involvement of young people in traditional music at this year’s festival.”

Tickets for Òran Mòr will be on sale early in July when the rest of the 2018 Blas Festival programme is launched.
FÉIS CHATAIBH AND FÉIS AIR AN OIR CÈILIDH BAND

The Fèis Chataibh & Fèis Air an Oir Cèilidh Band is a collaboration project being put together featuring musicians from each Féis. It is an alternative for young musicians too young to go for the Cèilidh Trail so they can nevertheless display their talent, get a taste of what the Cèilidh Trail is like and how it is run. All from Sutherland and Caithness, the members are aged 14-18 and following this there are two paths the participants can pursue. They may take a music performance route, such as next year’s Cèilidh Trail, or they may take a more organisational role for either the Cèilidh Trail or running another Cèilidh Band next year.

Ross Ceill of Féis Chataibh said: “As a member of the cèilidh band and the coordinator, I know that I must put a lot of work into making sure everything runs smoothly. I know the importance of commitment to the band. If you are committed this opportunity is very rewarding as you get tutored by very accomplished musicians and a taste of what it would be like to be on the trail next year.”

FÉIS NÀN GARBH CHRIOCHAN AWARDED PHILANTHROPY PRIZE

Chaidh dualis luach £3,000 a thoirt do Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan tro chathrannas ògdiridh, Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), às deidh inmaithe a sgilearan Àird nam Murchan.

Thathas an dùil gun dèan an Fhèis feum dhen dualis ann an iomadach doigh, leithid a bhith a’ cheannach ionnsramaidean agus uilidheadach agus a bhith a’ stèidheadach chlasaichean ciùil ùra.

Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan has been awarded £3,000 by the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), thanks to the efforts of Ardnamurchan students.

Rachel Ford, Frances MacDonald, Mary Ann MacPherson and Seamus Buchanan, all 53 pupils of Ardnamurchan High School, secured the award for the Fèis following their presentation to YPI judges on the work the Fèis does to tackle local social issues.

The Initiative operates in schools around the world and is designed to help increase young people’s understanding of local social issues in their community and identify charities that are helping to combat inequalities.

Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan Chairperson, Sarah-Jayne Shankland, said:

“We are delighted to receive the award from the Youth Philanthropy Initiative.

We would like to extend enormous thanks to the team of students who nominated Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan and put together a very informative presentation highlighting the benefit and importance of the work of the Fèis in our local community.”

FÉIS PHÀISLIG AIR CHUAIRT

Tha Fèis Phàislig gu bhith air chuairit as t-Samhradh an dèidh taic-maoineachaidh fhaighinn bhon sgeama Festival 2018 - stòras a chaidh a chruthachadh mar phàirt de na Geamannan Eòrpach a thaighdhean am-bliadhna ann an Glaschu.

Théid buidheann de shianar, uile à Pàislig fhèin, a-mach a chèilidh air sgilean ionadail, a’ cluich iomadh cuirm-ciùil, a’ toirt cothrom dhaibh úine a chur seachad ag obair mar luchd-ciùil proifeasanta thairis air comhaider

Fèis Phàislig will be hitting the road this summer after successfully securing a grant from Festival 2018.

This generous donation means that Fèis Phàislig will be able to establish a Cèilidh Trail.

The group of six teenagers, all hailing from Paisley, itself, will visit their local areas to play a number of concerts – giving the youngsters the opportunity to experience two weeks of touring and working as professional musicians.

The addition of this new group brings the total number of Cèilidh Trails in Scotland up to ten – meaning that there will be plenty of opportunities to hear a Cèilidh Trail near you this Summer!

The Fèis Phàislig Cèilidh Trail will be on the road from the 1st-12th of August with more information at www.fesean.org/ceilidh.

NEW QUALIFICATION FOR CÈILIDH TRAIL PARTICIPANTS

For almost 20 years the Fèisean Aig Cèilteach Innse Gall has provided opportunities for young musicians to develop their skills and talents through training and performance. This year, participants will have the opportunity to complete a National Progression Award in Music Performance and Live Sound production at SCQA Level 6 during the course of their employment on the Cèilidh Trail.

In the Year of Young People, Féisean nan Gàidheal is delighted to be working with Rachel Walker and the staff at West Highland College UHI to facilitate this course. It will include elements of live performance, working with a PA and a creative project (planning a performance) all of which Cèilidh Trail participants engage in during their training weeks, rehearsals and tours. Additional work will involve recording and collating evidence to show that a certain level of knowledge and skill has been achieved and staff, tutors and Cèilidh Trail Co-ordinators will be on hand to offer help and support.
The seventh 5 Latha was held between 2-7 April at the Garrannan Blackhouses, Isle of Lewis with 12 participants taking part in a wide choice of activities, all delivered through the medium of Gaelic.

The group visited Harris Tweed weaver Rebecca Hutton, in Northton, Isle of Harris, where they learned about the industry and the various stages of her business: design, manufacturing and selling. The participants then had the opportunity to use some of Rebecca’s tweeds as part of craft activities where they made a variety of cushions, hearts, keyrings and pouches for music equipment.

The group visited Donald Macsween, Air an Lot, in Ness and worked on a variety of crafting tasks, including preparing the barn for the imminent spell of lambing, and met his 9 two-day old piglets.

As the end of the week approached, the participants went on a trip out of Miavig, Uig with Seatrek. They saw a number of different seabirds and were able to land on Pabbay and walk around the island learning about the history of the local area.

The annual 5 Latha cèilidh was held in the Carloway Community Hall on Thursday 5th April with over 90 in attendance with performances from participants, tutors, supervisors and members of the local community.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful to Bòrd na Gàidhlig which funds 5 Latha and is indebted to the Carloway community who give a great deal of support to the event.

FÉIS DHRÀMA A’ CHHINN A DEAS

A new drama festival featuring new Gaelic plays produced by Skye and Lochalsh primary school pupils was held recently at Talla Dhonaidh Chaimbeul, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Hosted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, over 60 pupils from five primary schools participated in the day-long event held on Tuesday 22nd May.

Preparation for three participating school groups from Sleat, Broadford and Plockton and Lochcarron primaries started at the beginning of the term. Each group received expert support and direction from writer and actor Catriona Lexy Campbell, employed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver a series of weekly drama workshops to assist in the production of each school’s play. A group from Mallaig Primary also performed on the day.
AITHRIS IS OIDEAS - A NEW GAELIC GAMES RESOURCE

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If your Féisean has any suitable material please get in touch. We will also be looking to visit different Féisean, schools and other community groups, we will look to add more songs with games in the months ahead. Féisean nan Gàidheal is grateful to Eden Court for providing the space free of charge for the recording.

BLASAD GÀIDHILG, SEINN & ACADAMAIDH A’ MHÒID

An teirm seo, làbhrig sinn seisean nan Gàidheal a bh’ ann am bun-sgoiltean air a’ Ghàidhealtachd, an ann an Ghlaschu, Lannraig a Tuath, Siorrachd Àir a Deas, air a’ Ghàidhealtachd, airson òrain chloinne a chlàradh air bhideo. Chuir na deugairean òrain ùra air clàr a chaidh a Ghàidheal, fuinm ùra ri rann no dhà.

HÚB HÀB: SEIRM NA SÌDE

The first regional tour of ‘Seirm na Sìde’, the latest production in the Hùb Hàb early years theatre-in-education service, took place between 23rd April and 4th May. The Gaelic language play focuses on the subject of the weather and the colours of the rainbow and helps children associate words with objects.

Authors Megan MacLellan and Catriona Nicolson were employed for the tour of the Central Belt, Perthshire and Argyllshire which included 22 performances for 19 Gaelic-medium primary school/Gaelic nursery groups. Over 700 pupils attended these performances and a second tour is currently scheduled to take place in the Highland Council area between 10th and 21st September.

OILEANAICH GAN SIREADH

Ma tha thu fileanta sa Ghàidhlig, a’ tòiseachadh air càrsa (no a’ tòiseachadh air ùrain) a bhiodh e feumail fiosrachadh a bhith fèin iarrtas a dhèanamh air bhùth a bha freagarrach do bhuidhean-lìbhrigeadh. Chaidh bùthan-obrach nan Gàidheal gus am pròiseact a bhàith le Fèisean Gàidhlig. Chaidh an t-eòlaiche dràma seòrsa sgil dràma tro mheadhan na h-Alba. Hùb Hàb: Seirm na Sìde

Luathainn Dràma do Thiriclich ’S Ilich Óga

Fhuair clann a’ lèile agus Tiriodh buannachd às a’ phròiseact ‘Seigrile Dràma’ a chaithd a thabhann don bhun-sgoiltean le ionadan Gàidhlig ann an ngiire Earra-Ghàidheal.

Thug am pròiseact toidhcathe mar gach goille a ghabh pàirt oideachadh fad latha fhaimhinn ann an ionadadach seòrsa sgil dràma tro mheadhan na h-Alba. Chaidh an t-eòlaiche dràma Artair Donald hachadh le Fèisean nan Gàidheal gus am pròiseact a lìbhreachadh. Chaidh bùthan-obrach a bhà a freachadh le bhuidhnean-sgoile a tha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig mar chànan a bha freagarrach agus sgilean gun Ghàidhlig a thabhann cuideachad.

Air Dhàhnoine 11mhdh an Chèitean chosnaidh Artair latha slàomh ùr ri 30 sgileanr air an Gòidh Mhòir agus Diluain 4mhdh den Oghmhios dh’obraich a e cuideachad còrr is 40 sgilean aig Bun-sgoil a’ Bhogha Mhòir. Fhuair clann-sgoile a bun-sgoiltean lie eile cothrom sgilean dràma a thogail cuideachad le seisean dràma as dèidh na goille a fhreagair air clann a bhà fileanta agus clann gun Ghàidhlig. Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal an comain ionad Chaluim Chille lie a thug cothrom dhùninn an togalach aca a chleachadh airson an t-seisein seo.

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