



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

The National Association of Gaelic Arts Youth Tuition Festivals

Aithisg Bhliadhnail 2004

Annual Report 2004

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"When heads of state visit this country I'm proud to show them our architectural heritage whether it's a castle, a cottage, or a House for an Art Lover. I'm delighted they can hear young musicians from this Academy (RSAMD), and from the Fèis movement, play the music of our country."

Jack McConnell MSP, First Minister, St Andrew's Day Speech, November 2003

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

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Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a company limited by guarantee, registration number SC 130071, and gratefully acknowledges the support of its core-funders Scottish Arts Council, The Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise



FACAL BHON CHATHRAICHE

Thòisich mi mar Chathraiche Fèisean nan Gàidheal anns an Dùbhlachd an uiridh, a' leantainn Iain MacDhòmhnaill, a thug seachad mòran bhliadhnaichean gu math soirbheachail anns an dreuchd. Tha e na thoileachadh dhomh Aithisg Bhliadhna Fèisean nan Gàidheal 2004 a chur fo ur comhair, ann am bliadhna far an robh iomairt nam Fèisean a' sìor-fhàs agus a' leudachadh mar nach robh riamh roimhe.

Ged a tha, agus a bhitheas, obair na buidhne stèidhichte air taic a thoirt do na Fèisean, tha an aithne air obair nam Fèisean gar toirt air adhart ann am iomadh dòigh inntinneach agus soirbheachail.

Aig Coinneimh Bhliadhna Fèisean nan Gàidheal an-uiridh, dh'fhoillsich Bruce Robasdan, Stiùiriche an Fhoghlaim aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, gum bitheamaid a' faighinn cothrom ceòl traidiseanta a theagasg anns na sgoiltean air a' Ghàidhealtachd mar phàirt den Iomairt Ciùil Òigridh. Thèid am prògram air adhart anns a h-uile sgoil air a' Ghàidhealtachd bhon Lùnastal am bliadhna. Ged a tha an obair seo air buaidh a thoirt air luchd-obrach na buidhne, 's e obair fìor chudromach a tha seo, agus tha e math gu bheil sinn an sàs ann.

An dèidh dhuinn co-labhairt a chur air dòigh aig toiseach na bliadhna, tha sinn ag obair air Fèis Ciùil ùr a chur air bonn, stèidhichte air na Fèisean, a thig gu buil mar Fhèis mhòr air feadh na Gàidhealtachd mar phàirt de Bhliadhna Cultar na Gàidhealtachd ann an 2007.

An dèidh do sgrùdadh mionaideach a dheanamh air maoinachadh airgid Comhairle Ealain na h-Alba o chionn dà bhliadhna, fhuair sinn taic a bharrachd bhuapa. Le ionmhas ùr bho Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd agus àrdachadh bho Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, tha suidheachadh ionmhais Fèisean nan Gàidheal fada nas cinntiche. Tha seo air barrachd ùine a thoirt don luchd-obrach, saor bho bhith a' sgrìobhadh iarrtasan agus aithisgean, glè thrì airson suimean beag airgid. Ged a tha seo fhathast mar phàirt den obair aca, tha comas agus saorsa air a bhith aca pròiseactan ùra, tlachdmhor a leasachadh gu maith nam Fèisean.

Le grunnan dhuisèan mòra de mhaoineachadh tro airgead a' Chrannchuir Nàiseanta aig Comhairle Ealain na h-Alba, bha an cothrom againn prògram trèanaidh a thabhainn do luchd-teagasg agus luchd-riaghlaidh nam Fèisean le cùrsaichean Gàidhlig nam measg; siostam computair agus seòladh post-d a thabhainn dhan a h-uile Fèis fon ainm 'fèisean.org'; leudachadh air ar Banca Innealan-ciùil; agus Meanbh-Chuileag fhasdadh. Cha robh a' bhuidheann a-riamh cho trang.

Meala-naidheachd air a h-uile duine a ghabh pàirt ann an cuirm-ciùil 'Harvest' aig an fhèis Celtic Connections am bliadhna. Air a chur air dòigh le Fèis Rois, fo stiùir Dhòmhnaill Sheathaich à Capercaillie, ghabh mu 75 pàirt, bho Fèisean thall 'sa bhos, anns a' chuirm seo, le mòran molaidh anns na meadhanan. Chan eil teagamh nach do thog seo deasbad gu leòr aig toiseach na bliadhna agus fhuair na Fèisean moladh mòr às. Taing do Rita Nic an t-Sealgair agus a sgioba aig Fèis Rois a rinn an t-uabhas obrach air seo.

A' leantainn air a' chuirm shoirbheachail sin, bha cothrom air leth eile aig cuid a tha air a bhith an sàs anns na Fèisean, pàirt a ghabhail ann an t-sreath phrògraman telebhisein 'Bèolach', air a dheanamh le Media nan Eilean le maoinachadh bho Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig. Thèid seo a chraobh-sgoileadh a dh'aithghearr, ach a-rèir coltais, bha sgilean na h-òigridh aig ìre gu math àrd.

Tha am Bòrd-stiùiridh ùr, air a thaghadh le na Fèisean air fad airson a' chiad uair riamh, air coinneachadh trì tursan thairis air a' bhliadhna a chaidh seachad. Chaidh Buidheann-ghnìomh a stèidheachadh cuideachd, a tha air coinneachadh ro gach coinneimh shlàn, airson sùil gheur a chumail air ionmhas na buidhne. Tha seo a' toirt barrachd chothrom do na buill eile, ùine a chur seachad a' còmhradh air cuspairean nas inntinniche aig coinneamhan a' Bhùird. Ann an ùrachadh a' Bhùird, thug sinn soraidh slàn do Nan Nic a' Ghobhainn, Moira Dunlop, Alasdair Mac a' Bheithe agus Mòrag NicillFhinnein. Tha sinn gu mòr nan comain airson na rinn iad thairis air iomadh bliadhna. Chuir sinn fàilte air buill ùra: Coinneach Houston, Coinneach MacCoinnich, Fionnaghal Niclain, Iain Iòseph MacNèill agus Cèit NicilleChiar.

Dh'fhàg Iain MacDhòmhnaill cuideachd, a bha na Chathraiche airson iomadh bliadhna, agus a bha os cionn mòran leasachaidh ann an obair Fèisean nan Gàidheal fhads a bha e anns an dreuchd sin. Dh'obraich e air a shocair, air cùl ghnòthaichean glè thrì, agus bha e gu mòr air cùl gu leòr de na pròiseactan as soirbheachaile anns a bheil sinn an sàs an-dràsta.

A' coimhead air adhart beagan, cailidh sinn buill eile a thug mòran do dh'obair a' Bhùird, le Rita Nic an t-Sealgair, Nanac Skivington, Càiristiona Ghreumach, agus Seasaidh Newton uile gar fàgail am bliadhna. Thug iad an t-uamhas dhuinn thairis air mòran bhliadhnaichean, agus ged a bhitheas sinn gan ionndrainn, tha sinn an dòchas gum bi iad fhathast an sàs ann an obair Fèisean nan Gàidheal, agus anns na Fèisean ionadail aca fhèin.

Ged a tha an siostam bhòtaidh ùr ag aobharachadh atharrachaidhean, 's e siostam fìor mhath a th' ann a nì cinnteach gu bheil na Fèisean air an riochdachadh, agus gu bheil daoine ùra a' faighinn cothroim a bhith ag obair nar measg. Tha mi 'n dòchas gun gabh a h-uile Fèis pàirt anns an taghadh a bhios ann an dèidh na coinneimh bliadhnaile am bliadhna. Bu mhath leam cuideachd taing a thoirt do bhuill a' Bhùird a tha air a bhith ag obair gu math dìcheallach fad na bliadhna a' sior-leudachadh obair na buidhne.

Bu mhath leam taing shònraichte a thoirt dhan luchd-taic saor-thoileach air fad ann an iomadh coimhearsnachd air feadh na dùthcha a tha ag obair gun sguir do mhaith iomairt nam Fèisean. Chan e 's gu bheil iad dìreach a' ruith na Fèise aca fhèin, ach feumaidh iad barrachd is barrachd ùine a chur seachad a' tuigsinn agus a' coileanadh laghan is riaghailtean ùra. Mar bhuidheann, 's e fear de na prìomh amasan againn taic a thoirt do ar luchd-obrach saor-thoileach, agus ged a tha sinn an còmhnaidh a' feuchainn ris an cuid obrach a lughdachadh, tha daoine saor-thoileach fhathast a' toirt an taic as motha do na Fèisean ionadail, agus tha sinn gu math taingeil airson sin.

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal gu mòr an comain nam buidhnean a tha a' toirt airgid dhuinn agus bu mhath leam taing shònraichte a thoirt do Chomhairle Ealain na h-Alba airson taic leantainneach a chumail dhuinn, a bharrachd air Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean. Tha maoinachadh phròiseactan a' tighinn bho iomadh àite agus tha na buidhnean air fad a tha air airgead a thabhainn do Fhèisean nan Gàidheal air ainmeachadh anns an aithisg, ach bu mhath leam taing a thoirt dhaibh uile gu foirmeil an-seo.

Chuir sinn fàilte chridheil air Bòrd na Gàidhlig an-uiridh, agus tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ris a' phlana aca airson na Gàidhlig, a bharrachd air gu bheil sinn làn dòchais gum bi Bile na Gàidhlig gu math nas treasa nuair a thèid i fa chomhair Pàrlamaid na h-Alba. Taing don a h-uile duine a sgrìobh a-steach le am beachdan air an dreach bhile a chaidh fhoillseachadh anns an Damhair an-uiridh.

Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ri cothrom a ghabhail obair nam Fèisean a thoirt gu aire a' Choimisein Chultarail a chaidh a stèidheachadh o chionn greis, fhad 's a tha iad a' dol tro àm conaltraidh anns an ùine air thoiseach oirnn.

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal an sàs an-dràsta a' cur ri chèile plana-leasachaidh ùr airson na coig bliadhna a tha romhainn, agus tha sinn an dùil beachdan a h-uile Fèis a ghabhail os làimh, ann an dòchas gum bi na Fèisean air fad deònach gabhail ris a' phlana nuair a bhios e air fhoillseachadh. Fhad 's a tha sinn ga ullachadh, bidh sinn gu math mothachail air na tha a' dol air adhart timcheall oirnn ann an leasachaidhean cultarail – agus nach beag sin – airson dèanamh cinnteach gum bi ar plana-sa a' freagairt air feumalachdan nam Fèisean anns na bliadhnaichean a tha romhainn.

Bu mhath leam taing a thoirt do luchd-obrach na buidhne a tha ag obair gu cùramach agus gu dìcheallach do Fhèisean nan Gàidheal. Cha bhiodh a' bhuidheann cho soirbheachail às an aonais. Chuir sinn fàilte am bliadhna air Nicola Marshall, a fhuair dreuchd ùr mar Oifigear Leasachaidh lan-thìde, agus bha e comasach dhuinn cuideachd, barrachd uairean a thoirt do Chàiristiona Nic an t-Saoir ann an Earra-Ghàidheal le taic ùr bho Sgeama Gàidhlig 's a' Choimhearsnachd.

Tha, agus bidh, Fèisean nan Gàidheal an urra ri ar buill. 'S e ar prìomh amas taic a thoirt dha na Fèisean, agus mas urrainn dhuinn cuideachadh no taic sam bith a thoirt seachad, bhitheamaid toilichte sin a dhèanamh.

Catriona Nic an t-Saoir
Cathraiche Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Sultain 2004

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

I took over as Chair of Fèisean nan Gàidheal in December last year, following in the footsteps of John MacDonald, who filled the post over a number of years with considerable success. It is my pleasure, therefore, to present Fèisean nan Gàidheal's 2004 Annual Report, which recounts a year of unprecedented activity within the Fèis movement.

While the core work of the organisation is - and always will be - to support the local Fèisean, the recognition given to the work of the Fèis movement is leading us in all sorts of interesting and fruitful directions.

As announced by Bruce Robertson, Highland Council's Director Education, at last year's AGM, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been offered the opportunity to deliver traditional music tuition in the Highland Council schools, as part of the national Youth Music Initiative. The programme is being delivered as of August in all schools throughout Highland. While this has had resource implications for the organisation in terms of staff time, it is nonetheless an extremely rewarding contract in which to be involved.

Following a seminar organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal at the turn of the year, we have begun work on establishing a new music festival, based around the Fèis movement, which should result in a pan-Highland festival as part of Highland 2007 – Scottish Year of Highland Culture.

The last major review by the Scottish Arts Council of its core funded organisations two years ago, and a new funding package from Highlands & Islands Enterprise, along with enhanced funding from the Highland Council, has put Fèisean nan Gàidheal's finances on a much surer footing. This has also freed up staff time from the constant need to make applications for small amounts of funding. While this is still, and always will be, a feature of their work, the stability enjoyed over the last year has allowed development of new, exciting projects for the benefit of the Fèisean.

With several SAC lottery funding projects ongoing, with which we have been able to offer each Fèis a computer system, a training programme for Fèis tutors and organizers including a range of Gaelic language courses, the expansion of our Musical Instrument Bank, and the employment of Meanbh-Chuileag, the organisation has never been so busy.

Congratulations to those who took part in the highly successful 'Harvest' concert at this year's Celtic Connections festival. Coordinated by Fèis Rois, and under the direction of Capercaillie's Donald Shaw, around 75 Fèis participants took part in the work to critical acclaim. There is no doubt that this concert engendered a lot of debate at the start of the 2004, and the Fèis movement was again highly praised. Thanks to Rita Hunter and her team for their valuable work on this event.

Following the success of 'Harvest', Fèis participants then had the chance to work alongside their favourite professionals in a television series entitled 'Beòlach', made by MnE with funding from Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig. This is to be broadcast soon, and by all accounts, the standard of musicianship is very high indeed.

The new Board, elected by all the Fèisean for the very first time, has met 3 times over the past year, and a new Executive Group has met prior to each Board meeting to look at the day-to-day running and finances of the company in detail, freeing up time at Board meetings for more discussion. In the re-organisation, we said goodbye to Nan Smith, Moira Dunlop, Alasdair Beattie and Morag MacLennan, to whom we are very grateful for their input over a number of years, and welcomed Ken Houston, Ken MacKenzie, Fiona Johnston, John Joe MacNeil and Kate Kerr.

We also lost our Chairman of many years, John MacDonald, who did an enormous amount to build up Fèisean nan Gàidheal during his time in that position. He worked quietly behind the scenes and many of the projects we are now involved in are due, in no small measure, to John's influence.

Looking ahead, we are about to lose considerable experience from our Board, with Rita Hunter, Nanac Skivington, Kirtseen Graham and Jessie Newton all due to stand down. Their input over a great many years has been invaluable, and while we will miss them, we hope they will continue to be involved in the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and their own local Fèisean.

The new election procedure, while resulting in change, is a healthy and democratic way of ensuring Fèis representation and turnover of people, and I would encourage all Fèisean to participate in this year's election, when the papers arrive soon after the AGM. I would like to thank the Board members who have served with dedication over the past year, and presided over the development of the organisation.

I would like to pay particular tribute to all the volunteer organisers and helpers in the many communities throughout the country who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the Fèis movement. That effort is not simply confined to running their local Fèis but more and more time has to be spent understanding and complying with new legislation and regulations. As an organisation one of our key roles is to support the volunteers, and while we always try to reduce the burden as much as possible, volunteers still make the most significant impact on the Fèisean locally, and we cannot thank them enough for their continued involvement.

We are grateful for the funding granted to the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and I would like to thank the Scottish Arts Council for its continuing support, as well as The Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise. Project funding comes from many sources, and all the organisations who have offered funding to Fèisean nan Gàidheal in its development work are credited within the body of the report, but I would like to formally record our thanks here.

We welcomed the establishment of Bòrd na Gàidhlig last year, and look forward to its plan for Gaelic, as well as the introduction of what we hope will be a considerably strengthened Gaelic Bill to the Scottish Parliament. Thanks to those of you who took the time to write to the Scottish Executive with your thoughts on the draft bill, published last October.

We look forward to making a submission to the newly formed Cultural Commission, and to ensuring that the interests of the Fèis movement are highlighted during their consultation period.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is currently preparing its own 5 year plan, and we hope that all Fèisean will have an input into that, and can agree its implementation once published. While preparing it, we will have regard to what is going on around us in terms of Gaelic and Cultural development - and there is a lot going on – so that our plan can reflect the needs of the Fèisean in the years ahead.

I would like to thank all the staff of the organisation whose commitment to Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and the Fèisean, is one of the key factors in our success. This year we welcomed Nicola Marshall as a full-time Development Officer, and have been able to increase the working hours of Christine MacIntyre in Argyll, with additional assistance from Sgeama Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd.

Finally, Fèisean nan Gàidheal is, and will remain, a membership-led and membership-run organisation, whose primary aim is to support the Fèisean. Members should always get in touch if they need support or advice.

Catriona MacIntyre
Fèisean nan Gàidheal Chair
September 2004

I FÈISEAN ANN AN ALBA & FÈIS FACTS 2003-04



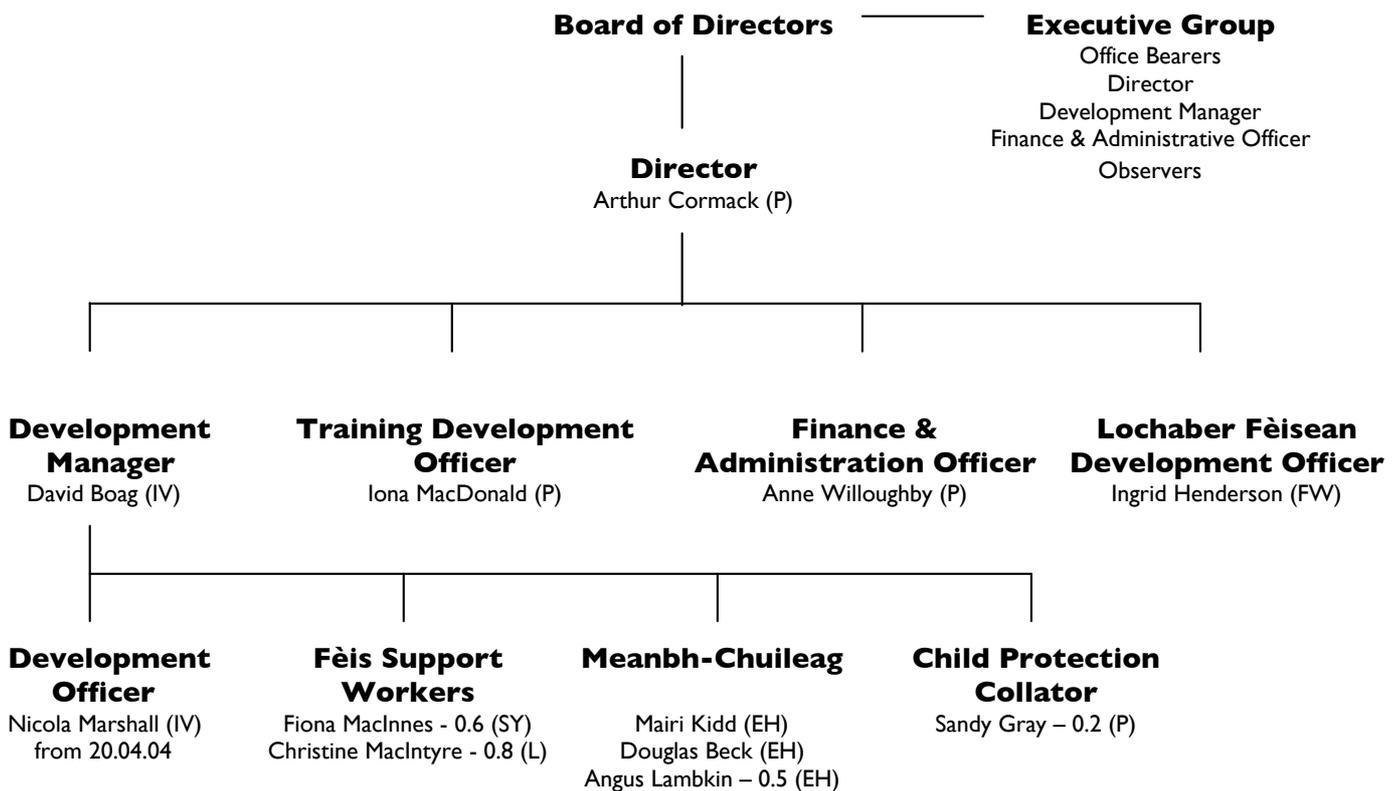
FÈIS FACTS 2003-04		TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	4,491
Total number of Fèisean	36	Main Fèisean	
Highland Council Area *	18	Total no. of individual participants	2,562
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	6	Total Granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£62,818
Argyll & Bute	4	Total Costs	£235,263
Edinburgh City	1	Year Round Classes and Workshops	
North Lanarkshire	1	Total no. of individual participants	1,929
Glasgow City	1	Total Granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£28,046
West Dunbartonshire	1	Total Costs	£83,832
East Dunbartonshire	1	Annualised Hours	
North Ayrshire	1	Total number of hours granted	4,382
Inverclyde, Renfrewshire & E. Renfrewshire	1	Full-time Equivalent Posts (FTEs)	2.7 FTE
		Total Granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£26,046
		Total Fèisean nan Gàidheal Grants	£126,094

*(Includes Fèis Ròis Òigridh, nan Deugairean & Inbhich plus Fèis Alba)

2 STAFFING

There have been a number of changes in staffing over the last twelve months. Support worker for the North Highlands, Rachel Stevenson left Fèisean nan Gàidheal in July 2003 to take up a full-time post with Lochaber College in Fort William. Ingrid Henderson who had been the support worker for the Southern Highlands, was successful in securing the full-time Lochaber Fèisean Development Officer post. Since then, the number of Fèis Support Worker posts has been reduced from four to two, as it was decided to replace Rachel and Ingrid's posts with one full-time officer.

The staffing structure is illustrated below, with all posts full-time unless otherwise stated. In 2003 / 4 the total staffing compliment was 8 full-time and 5 part-time posts or an equivalent of 10.1 FTE posts.



The main office is at Meall House, Portree, Isle of Skye and staff based there are indicated with a (P) next to their name. Fèisean nan Gàidheal has satellite offices in Inverness (IV), Fort William (FW) and Stornoway (SY), with Fèis Support Worker for Argyll and Glasgow based at home in Lochgilphead (L). The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education company are based at the Gracemount Youth Centre in South Edinburgh (EH).

Our Training Officer is employed half time to look after the training needs of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with the other half time devoted to providing development and administrative support for the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN).

From November 2003 to end March 2004, Fèisean nan Gàidheal employed the services of Stuart Brownlee of SBworks to provide temporary developmental support to Fèisean in the North Highland Area until a permanent full-time employee could be found.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal hosts An Drochaid – Skye and Lochalsh Traditional Music Project, and carries out certain managerial tasks on behalf of Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise, with the Project Coordinator based in Meall House. In addition, Comunn na Gàidhlig's Youth Projects Officer shares space in our Portree office.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal achieved Investors in People status in 2000 and has continued to maintain this standard through an on-going system of staff appraisals and personal development.

The challenges of managing a staff compliment spread thinly across Scotland can at times be difficult. Whilst e-mail, written and telephone communication is regular, Fèisean nan Gàidheal aims to gather the 'team' together at least four times a year, not only to share progress and learn from each other, but also to interact socially.



'Harvest' participants gather in Fort William for a rehearsal.

Photo courtesy of Fèis Rois

3 GENERAL FINANCE



3.1 Background

The audited Financial Statement for 2003-04, has been prepared by Mann Judd Gordon, who were appointed as auditors at last year's AGM, and the Profit & Loss Account, and Balance Sheet, form part of this Annual Report. The project finances are described here in two distinct areas: Core Funding and Development & Project Funds.

3.2 Core Funding

Core funding is allocated on the basis that it supports the costs (wages, employers contributions and expenses) of the core staff, Fèisean insurance, office rental, electricity, post, telephone, fax etc and key elements of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Plan such as the Annual General Meeting and Conference.

On 21 August 2003, Jim Wallace MSP, Deputy First Minister announced that Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) were providing £180,000 to Fèisean nan Gàidheal, to help them deliver a wider range of services. This package was to match funding already provided by the Scottish Arts Council, The Highland Council and the European Social Fund. After the announcement, the Minister was treated to some Gaelic song and instrumental sets from Deirdre Graham, Fiona MacAskill and Isebail Strachan of Fèis an Earraich.

Scottish Arts Council	£90,000
Scottish Arts Council - National Cultural Strategy Funds	£25,000
Highland Council - Revenue	£13,150
Highland Council – Equalisation Fund	£25,000
Highlands and Islands Enterprise through HI-Arts	£30,000

Total 'core' funding **£183,150**

3.3 Grants to Fèisean

In 2003–04 Fèisean nan Gàidheal operated one consolidated Grants Scheme, offering funding over four headings for which member Fèisean could apply.

3.3.1 Main Fèis Grants

Member Fèisean that run concentrated periods of Fèis activity e.g. for a weekend, or week, qualify for Main Fèis Grants. Part of the core funding which Fèisean nan Gàidheal receives goes directly into this scheme. All member Fèisean are able to apply for up to 20% of their total eligible expenditure in undertaking this Main Fèis. However, due to additional support from the Highland Council, all Main Fèisean in that area are eligible for a further 12.5% of funding, and those in Argyll and Bute Council area each receive an additional £1,500 per Fèis. In 2003–04 Fèisean nan Gàidheal committed £62,818 in financial support towards these Fèisean.

3.3.2 Year-round Fèis Activity

Grants of up to 30% of eligible costs are available for Fèisean who undertake to run a series of regular classes. In some cases, Fèisean will operate this programme in addition to their Main Fèis, and others will only run year-round classes. In 2003–04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal committed £28,046 in support for these classes. Funding for this scheme was made available through grants secured through the Scottish Arts Council Music Department and an allocation from our Highland Council funding.

3.3.3 Annualised Hours

At the AGM in Edinburgh in September 2002, findings into a study of the first two years of the Fèis Support Workers' posts were presented by report author, Stuart Brownlee. One of the main findings identified was the need for more localised administrative support for Fèisean. As a result of this, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with financial support from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, established a fund that Fèisean could bid into for a set number of administrative hours per year, called 'Annualised Hours.' This fund was available for the first time in 2003–04, with Fèisean receiving funds to support from 30 up to 400 hours per year. A total of £26,292 was committed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal in administrative support for the Fèisean.

3.3.4 Development Fund

For the first time in 2003-04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to offer member Fèisean some developmental funding to let them try out new projects. This fund was made possible with support from the Highland Council's Equalisation fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and part of the core grant from the Scottish Arts Council. Guidelines were drawn up with the express intention of making this funding easy to access for the Fèisean. However, since the fund was only established late in the year, only a small part of it was allocated in 2003-04, but in this current year, we expect the fund to be spent in its entirety.

3.4 Training Officer and Programme

Iona MacDonald, our Training Development Officer, shares her time equally between Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN). The Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Officer post and plan is financed by a wide range of partner organisations including Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Scottish Arts Council, The Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund, The European Social Fund, The Highland Council, Western Isles Enterprise, Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise and Comunn na Gàidhlig.

3.5 Fèis Support Workers

In addition to the allocation of funding from our core grants, given by the Scottish Arts Council, Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council also provided finance to support the worker in their area.

3.6 Meanbh-Chuileag

In the pilot year of the Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education project, funding came from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund, Sgeama Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd and Tosg (in-kind Drama development support). In the second year of the project, additional funds were drawn in from Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, Iomairt Chalum Chille, Lloyds TSB and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. In addition, the group themselves raised funds through performances fees, plus sales of their book, 'Biorachan Beag, Biorachan Mòr.'

3.7 Lochaber Development Officer

During 2003-04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to secure funds to establish a full-time Development Officer post to develop the three Fèisean in the Lochaber area – Fèis Eige, Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan and Fèis Lochabair. Funding from this post came from additional funds granted to Fèisean nan Gàidheal by the Highland Council through their Equalisation Fund, plus grants from Lochaber Enterprise and the WHELK Leader+ programme. In all, enough funding was raised to keep the programme going for an initial period of 3 years, and the project is overseen by a Steering Group made up of representatives of the Lochaber Fèisean, who meet regularly to monitor progress.

3.8 Information and Communication Technology Project

Although the funding for this project was secured last year, most of the spend took place in the year 2003-04. The project involved the purchase of internet ready computers for all those Fèisean that wanted them, new e-mail addresses for each Fèis, a re-vamped www.feisean.org website, easy to use web software and a range of audio visual equipment for Fèisean nan Gàidheal. The project was jointly funded with support from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

3.9 Musical Instrument Bank

In 2003-04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was able to add to their instrument bank, with the purchase of new instruments including Clàrsaich, Fiddles and Accordions to boost the Fèisean nan Gàidheal instrument bank. Included in this were eight hard cases for Clàrsaich to ensure that their travels around Scotland were safer! Partner funders were the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

4 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the course of 2003-04, the Board of Fèisean nan Gàidheal underwent a major re-structuring, with a new Board elected prior to the meeting on 2 December 2003. The re-structure involved the adoption of a revised version of the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association which was adopted at the AGM in Fort William last September.

This gave the Board the power to devise an appropriate election procedure, which they did, and for the first time, candidates for the Board had to be nominated by their Fèis and each had to write up a Personal Statement outlining why they thought they were suitable for election. These statements, along with the ballot papers were then sent out to all member Fèisean who were able to cast up to 10 votes for candidates on the list. To ensure that the Board membership reflects the geographical spread of Fèisean, a number of places on the Board were allocated to each area i.e. 2 places for the Western Isles, 4 from the Highland Council area, 1 from the Argyll and Bute area and 3 from Fèisean based outwith these named areas. After the votes had been cast, the nominees from each area who had the highest number of votes were given places on the Board to match the number of places available from that area. For example, the four nominees from the Highland Council area with most votes were given the four available places.

In addition, the new voting system allows for a turnover of personnel on the Board. Each new member is elected for a maximum three-year term, before they have to stand down for at least 1 year. However, if the elected nominee was a member of the current Board, their term of office was reduced, depending on how long they had already served on the Board, to ensure that the desired turnover came into operation as quickly as possible.

The new Board also allowed for a trimming down of the number of Co-opted Members and Observers.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE RECORD March 2003 - September 2003

The number in brackets indicates the actual attendance/possible attendance. Meetings were held on 27 May and 5 September 2003.

1	John MacDonald	Chairperson	1/2	Co-opted
2	Rita Hunter	Company Secretary	2/2	Fèis Rois
3	Nanac Skivington	Treasurer	1/2	Fèis Tir an Eòrna
4	Catriona MacIntyre		2/2	Fèis Lochabair
5	Alasdair Beattie		1/2	Fèis Dhùn Bhreatuinn an Iar
6	Moira Dunlop		2/2	Fèis Latharna
7	Morag MacLennan		2/2	Fèis Eilean na Hearadh
8	Jessie Newton		1/2	Fèis Dhùn Èideann
9	Nan Smith		2/2	Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich
10	Kirsteen Graham		2/2	Fèis an Earraich
11	Ronnie MacKay		0/2	Co-opted - resigned Summer 2004
12	John Joe MacNeil		1/2	Co-opted Youth Representative
13	Kristine Kennedy		2/2	Observer - Comunn na Gàidhlig
14	Marisa MacDonald		1/2	Observer - Pròiseact nan Ealan
15	Cllr Katy M MacKenzie		1/2	Observer - Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
16	Robert Livingstone		1/2	Observer – HIE/Hi-Arts
17	Carolyn Paterson		1/2	Observer - Scottish Arts Council
18	Murdo Morrison		0/2	Observer – Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail

19	Morag Anna MacLeod		0/2	Observer - Highland Council
20	Arthur Cormack	Director	2/2	
21	David Boag	Development Officer	2/2	

NEW BOARD MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE RECORD

As a result of the election described above, the following individuals were elected to serve on the new Board, which met twice in 2003-04 on 2 December 2003 and 24 February 2004.

The number in brackets indicates the actual attendance/possible attendance. Also indicated is the length of their appointment.

	Western Isles	Office	Term	Att	Fèis
1	John Joe MacNeil		3	1/2	Fèis Bharraigh
2	Nanac Skivington	Treasurer	1	2/2	Fèis Tir an Eòrna
	Highland				
3	Catriona MacIntyre	Chairperson	2	2/2	Fèis Lochabair
4	Rita Hunter	Company Secretary	1	2/2	Fèis Rois
5	Kirsteen Graham		1	2/2	Fèis an Earraich
6	Ken Houston		3	2/2	Fèis Chataibh
	Argyll & Bute				
	Moira Dunlop		2	0/1	Fèis Latharna – resigned Dec 03
7	Ken MacKenzie		3	1/1	Fèis Latharna
	Other Areas			1/2	
8	Jessie Newton		1	2/2	Fèis Dhùn Eideann
9	Fiona Johnston		3	2/2	Fèis Obar Dheathain
10	Kate Kerr		3	1/2	Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar
	Observers				
11	Carolyn Paterson			0/2	Scottish Arts Council
12	David Smillie			1/2	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
13	Morag Anna MacLeod			2/2	The Highland Council
14	Cllr Donald J MacSween			1/2	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
15	Kristine Kennedy			2/2	Comunn na Gàidhlig
	Staff Members				
16	Arthur Cormack	Director		2/2	
17	David Boag	Development Officer		2/2	
18	Anne Willoughby	Finance Officer		2/2	

* Shortly after the election, Moira Dunlop resigned from the Board, as she had stood down from the Fèis Latharna Committee and was no longer eligible for membership. A new ballot for the Argyll and Bute area was held, and Ken MacKenzie was duly elected.

Office Bearers

The meeting on 2 December was chaired by out-going Chairperson John MacDonald. At that meeting, the following office bearers were elected:

Chairperson	Catriona MacIntyre
Secretary	Rita Hunter
Treasurer	Nanac Skivington

Executive Committee

In addition to the establishment of the new Board, an Executive Group, made up of the three office bearers, observers and senior staff members who attend Board meetings, was established. The aim of this group is to allow detailed scrutiny of matters such as the finance, leaving the full meetings to consider the strategic planning of the organisation. These meetings take place two weeks prior to the full Board meetings, with minutes circulated in the full Board papers.

5 CORE ACTIVITIES and MEMBER SERVICES

5.1 Financial and Project Management

The staff of Fèisean nan Gàidheal deal with a wide range of core and project activities. Over the years the organisation has grown, and with that comes greater responsibilities in terms of financial and project management.

With every grant, either core or project, comes a great deal of administration work, including keeping accounts, setting and achieving agreed targets, collecting feedback and reporting to funding bodies. A great deal of 'core' staff time is spent dealing with these issues, but this is only proper, as the majority of the money we handle is from the public purse.

5.2 Project Development

As well as dealing with the established 'core' and 'project' activities, the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Staff, which includes the Development Manager, Development Officers and the Fèis Support Workers are constantly working to develop new projects that will be of benefit to member Fèisean.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been successful in obtaining project development funds in recent years, but not every project comes to fruition. In some cases, a great deal of time and effort can be put into presenting a case for funding that ultimately is unsuccessful for one reason or another.

5.3 Grant Schemes for Fèisean

As part of the core activity, Fèisean nan Gàidheal granted £62,818 to 28 Fèisean who held 'Main Fèisean' and £26,292 to Fèisean that ran year-round programmes of activity. As part of the scheme, Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff have to ensure that all Fèisean apply for the funds and report back in a such a way so as to satisfy our funders.

5.4 Development Fund

In 2003-04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal introduced a Development Fund for the first time. The scheme aims to allow Fèisean to access funds that will help them realise a project. As with other FnG grants, the project has to have a clear Gaelic element and be of benefit to the 8-18 age group. Over and above this, the project has to be new to the Fèis. The scheme also aims to make the application as clear and as simple as possible, with the hope that all Fèisean will be able to benefit from the scheme over the course of the year.

5.5 Annualised Hours

Again in 2003-04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal allowed Fèisean to bid into a fund to employ locally based administrators for a set number of hours per year. A study into the work of the Fèis Support Workers highlighted that a need still existed for more locally based help for Fèis committees to be available. In 2003-04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal granted £26,292 to employ locally based Fèis administrators for up to 4,382 hours.

5.6 Annual General Meeting and Conference

The 2003 AGM and Conference was held at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on 5 and 6 September. This event offers Fèis organisers and supporters from all over Scotland, their only opportunity to get together.

The Friday afternoon began with a meeting of the Board of Directors, followed by the formal AGM. Guest speaker was Bruce Robertson, Director of Education with Highland Council. In his speech he recognised the value of Fèisean in Highland and further afield, and announced that he was to give Fèisean nan Gàidheal the opportunity to deliver traditional music tuition in Highland schools as part of the newly-established Youth Music Initiative. There followed a reception hosted by the Lochaber Area committee of the Highland Council and the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Annual Dinner. A healthy audience of Fèis representatives and supporters enjoyed the evening's entertainment which was provided by youngsters from Fèis Lochabair and Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan.

The Saturday morning included a presentation by Alan Rodgeron from Highland E-com demonstrating the newly developed Breakfree software that would allow Fèisean to contribute to the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website remotely. This was followed by a presentation from Mairi Kidd and Douglas Beck on the Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education group, and the use of Gaelic at Fèisean. Then followed an excellent workshop session led by Professor Donnie Murdo MacLeod looking at the topic of Special Needs children and Fèisean. This was an inspiring workshop which many of the Fèis representatives found especially useful.

5.7 Training

The provision of training for Fèisean nan Gàidheal Staff, Fèis Organisers, Fèis Tutors and Fèis Participants is a core part of the organisation's work. However, with the appointment of a dedicated Training Officer, the funding granted towards the development of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Plan, and the work of the partnership work of the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN), this has gathered a great deal of momentum over the last twelve months. A summary of this is contained in the Projects section of this report.

5.8 Publishing

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has published two books, 'Ceòl nam Fèis' Volumes 1 and 2, compiled by Fèis tutor and supporter, Valerie Bryan. These publications have become popular resources at Fèisean and beyond, and sales in 2003-04 continued to be good. It is hoped that a 3rd volume may be possible within the coming few months. Fèisean nan Gàidheal has also been working, with Alpha Munro, on a bilingual Fiddle Tutor book, and continued to distribute our own Gaelic language course for Fèis participants 'Gàidhlig do luchd-tòiseachaidh'.

5.9 Disclosure Checking

As part of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's continued commitment to implementing its Child Protection Policy, the organisation has been steadily conducting 'Disclosure' checks on all Fèis tutors in 2003-04. Although some Fèis tutors have been slow to undertake the process required to have the check processed, the majority have now been done. Now that the bulk of the initial tutor checks have been completed, we are now working to ensure that as many volunteers as possible go through the checks. Sandy Gray continues to work with Fèisean nan Gàidheal in undertaking this work on behalf of member Fèisean with no cost to them.

5.10 Insurance

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is currently insured by the Ansvar insurance company and cover is available to all paid up members of the association. As well as cover for normal Fèis activities and instruments, the policy provides cover for the company and employees from eventualities such as personal injury. This continues to be a fantastic saving for member Fèisean, affording them, and their equipment, an excellent level of protection.

5.11 www.feisean.org

As part of its core operations, Fèisean nan Gàidheal maintains the site at www.feisean.org which is packed full of information and news about every member Fèis. This continues to draw a significant number of hits per day from interested parties throughout the world. The site also acts as a useful hub for those Fèisean which have their own site, and is linked to many of the Gaelic and Scottish cultural web-sites. The redeveloped site is bilingual and browsers can choose to view it in either Gaelic or English.

5.12 Advocacy

Staff and Board Members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal are regularly involved in promoting the Fèis movement to a wide range of organisations, including local and national politicians, local and national government, funding agencies and other interested parties such as private business.

5.13 Directory of Fèis Tutors

The database of Fèis Tutors continues to be a valuable resource for member Fèisean and other organisations. This is continually updated, with new names constantly coming into the office for inclusion.

5.14 *Faileas* - Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter

Three issues of *Faileas* were circulated in 2003-04. At present, we send more than 1,200 copies out each time it is published, and this remains an effective and popular means of communication with Fèis members and other interested parties. Increasingly, this goes directly to interested parties via e-mail, saving a great deal in terms of printing and postage, and is posted on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website as a PDF file.

5.15 Fios na Mios

In addition to 'Faileas' the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Newsletter, a new e-mail based monthly bulletin for Fèisean entitled 'Fios na Mios' was established. This is an attempt to pull together a range of information relevant to Fèisean, e.g. funding opportunities, details of up-coming events and any Fèis news, for distribution on a monthly basis. It has now been agreed that each edition of Fios na Mios will be collated by a different member of staff each month, in an attempt to keep the contents fresh and share the workload.

5.16 Information

In addition to Fios na Mios, Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff regularly send out paper copies of information leaflets and other publications sent from the main office, with details of meetings, conferences, events and news from other organisations. Over and above this, Fèisean nan Gàidheal regularly use the newly established e-mail system to distribute information quickly and cheaply.

5.17 Funding opportunities

Including with this regular dissemination of information, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has kept in touch with developments in funding over the past twelve months, and passed on relevant information to its members.

5.18 Musical Instrument Bank

The Fèisean nan Gàidheal instrument bank is still in very heavy demand from Fèisean and individuals alike, keen to make use of the opportunity to try out an instrument before they commit to the full cost of purchasing one. Last year a Scottish Arts Council National Lottery grant, with match funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise enabled us to expand the bank with the purchase of 15 new Clàraich, 8 hard Clàrsach cases, 12 Accordions and 24 Fiddles. Although the instrument bank now has more than 200 instruments available for use, very few of them are in the same place at any one time! For the majority of the year they are placed with individuals, but when main Fèisean are taking place, mostly during school holiday times, they are re-called and sent to wherever the Fèis is happening. Thereafter they are usually sent on the next Fèis on so on. Many of our clàrsaich spend the whole summer on the road, touring from Lewis to Arran. Once the Fèis season is over, most of the instruments will find their way back to individuals once again for a rest!

5.19 Gaelic resource materials

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to enhance and develop the range of Gaelic resource materials available to member Fèisean. In addition to the highly useful Gaelic resource booklet *Gàidhlig do Luchd-tòiseachaidh* and accompanying CD, funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig allowed Mairi Kidd and Douglas Beck to develop Gaelic resource packs for each Fèis. Within each of these are a range of materials such as door and other bilingual signs, and a book with suggested Gaelic activities and games, to enhance the Fèis as a Gaelic environment. The packs are tailored to each individual Fèis, and most have been rolled out in 2003-04, with a few still remaining to be distributed.

6 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS 2003-04

6.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Development Plan Project

It is encouraging to see the high regard in which Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training is held throughout the traditional music sector. The Level 1 and 2 Tutor Training Workshops are held up as an example of good practice, and are used as a model within other tuition-based organisations. The annual February workshops run at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are well-attended both by Fèis tutors and by tutors with other organisations.

Between 2002 and 2004, 14 students have registered on the Cùrsa Inntigidh (Access to Gaelic) course. This number is lower than expected. The cost of the course, even when subsidised (now in excess of £500) may be a deterrent, as may the number of personal study hours required for this intensive course.

In order to progress the acquisition of Gaelic language skills within the Fèisean, it was agreed that assistance would be made available to students wishing to take summer school classes or community education classes, and 7 further participants have taken advantage of this offer, with more expected to do so. A 'kick-start' weekend course for beginners is also offered in the current year's training programme.

Development of an SQA-validated Certificate in Music Tuition continued throughout 2003-04, with that hope that local FE colleges throughout Scotland will be encouraged to offer this professional development award, the design and implementation of which has been led by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

Discipline-specific workshops continued in various locations, providing existing tutors with additional repertoire and placing the material in context, as well as the chance of a "masterclass" experience from foremost performers in the Gaelic traditional genre. A programme of training events is widely publicised, covering a wide range of tutor, organiser and participant training, most of which is available to the general public.

The training programme also covered Fèis Alba, additional places at Fèis Rois nan Deugairean for teenagers outside Ross & Cromarty, and a series of Teenage Groupwork workshops held in various areas, including Sutherland and the Western Isles.

6.2 ICT

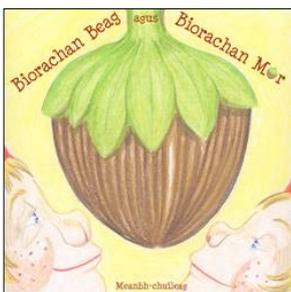
Over the course of the last twelve months, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has rolled out an ambitious plan to purchase a range of Information and Communication Technology equipment for use by member Fèisean and the Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff. This package includes computers for all Fèisean that needed one, with printers and scanners, appropriate software, including Breakfree which allows Fèisean to update their own information on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal web site, and new e-mail addresses for all Fèisean on the 'feisean.org' domain name.

Over and above this, the package allowed for the purchase of a digital projector and screen, two video cameras, Broadband connection (where available) and other new software for Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff.

The total project budget of £95,304 was funded to the tune of £66,713 from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund, with £28,591 pledged by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The provision of this equipment is already having a significant positive impact on the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, although some additional computer training delivered throughout our Training Development Plan will be required to ensure that maximum benefit is made by all from this investment.

6.3 The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre Company Project



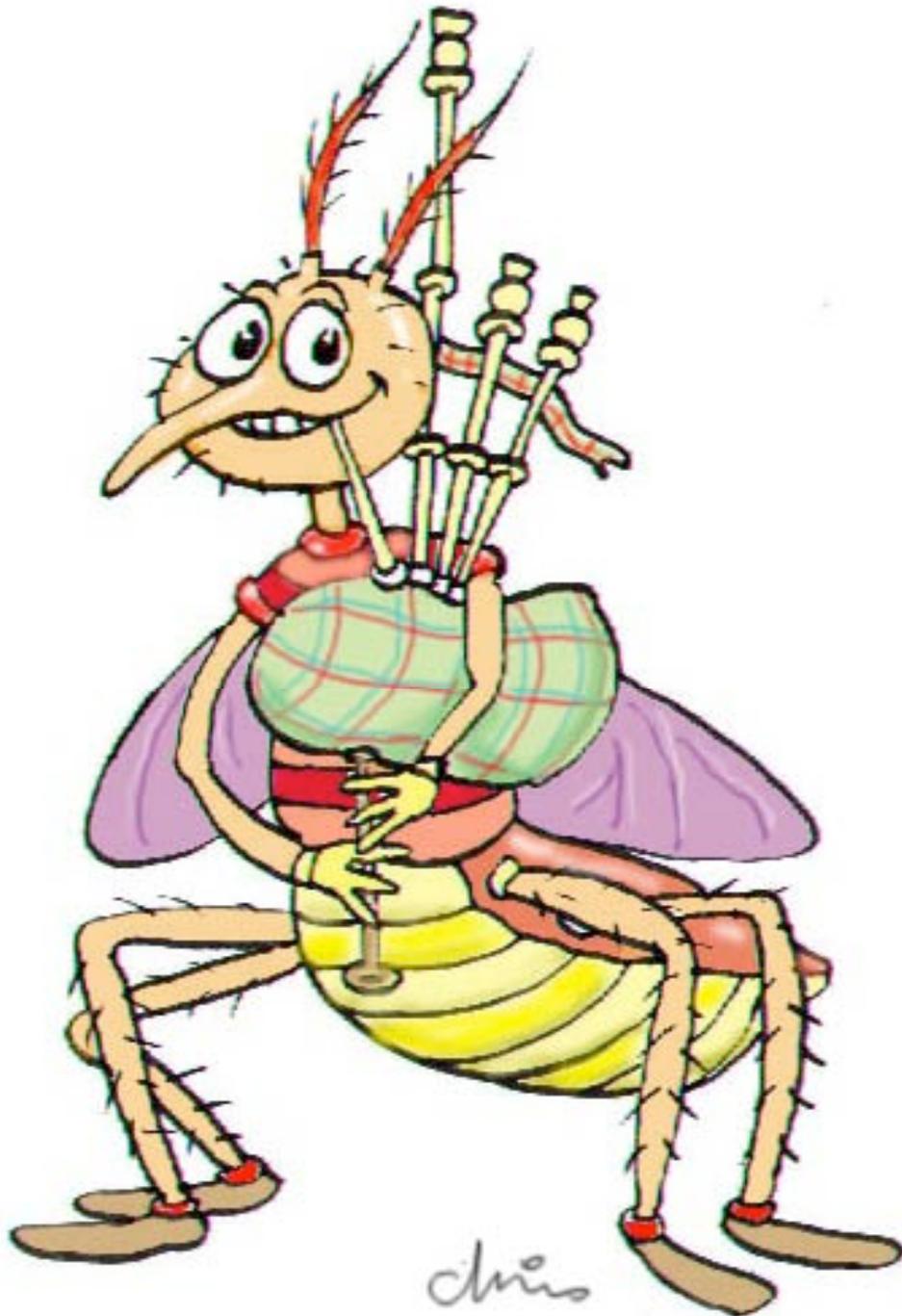
The last twelve months has seen a great deal of activity from the Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education company. Although based in Edinburgh, the group has been all over the country, working in schools, with Fèisean, Sradagan and other youth groups. The aim of the project is to deliver a programme of Gaelic cultural learning through Drama performances and in 2003-04 the group performed to close on 10,000 young people.

Funding for the initial one year pilot came to an end in July 2003, whereupon a grant from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, plus other money earned through partnerships with Iomairt

Chaluim Chille and Comhairle nan Leabhraichean enabled the project to continue to the end of March 2004. Applications to a number of funders were made in 2003-04 with a view to securing longer-term funds to keep the project going.

Meanbh-Chuileag published a Scottish and Irish Gaelic book called Biorachan Beag, Biorachan Mòr, to great acclaim, and this helped with earning some income for the project.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal recognises the valuable work that the group are doing, extending the remit of the Fèis movement into new areas of Scotland. One of the longer term aims of Fèisean nan Gàidheal is to provide additional support for the development of Gaelic Drama amongst young people in Scotland, and we very much see the Meanbh-Chuileag group as being a key part of that delivery.

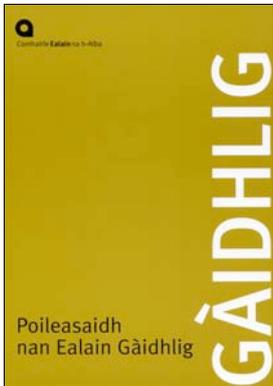


7 ADVOCACY and COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

7.1 Introduction

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to enjoy excellent working relationships with a wide number of agencies and groups. This is both in terms of developing the work of the Fèis movement through funding arrangements and service delivery, but also in advocating the excellent work and important place of the Fèis movement, and Gaelic language and culture in general, within modern Scottish society.

7.2 Scottish Arts Council



Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to enjoy a good relationship with the Scottish Arts Council (SAC), both as a key funder and development partner in a number of projects.

Carolyn Paterson, SAC's Music Officer, is Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Lead Officer, who attends our Board meetings as an Observer, when appropriate. Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff regularly liaise with a number of SAC staff, for example in the Drama Department, through our work with Meanbh-Chuileag.

Over the year 2003-04, we worked closely with SAC in drawing up their Gaelic Arts Policy, which was published at the City Arts Centre in Edinburgh in November, by Peter Peacock MSP, Minister with responsibility for Gaelic.

7.3 Local Authorities

Fèisean nan Gàidheal works in close partnership with members and staff of a wide range of Local Authorities; the Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Argyll and Bute Council, Glasgow City Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, Edinburgh City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, North Lanarkshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, Inverclyde Council, Renfrewshire Council and East Renfrewshire Council. Their help, either direct or in-kind, is of vital importance to the continued success and growth of the Fèis movement in Scotland.

7.3 TMTTN

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been a key player in the development of the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN) where individuals from a number of key traditional music agencies in Scotland, including Fèis Rois, are represented. Over the last twelve months, the group has made great leaps forward towards the establishment of a SQA approved tutor training certificate. It is hoped this will provide more opportunities for young people to make a living in traditional music, particularly if they can secure work as tutors.

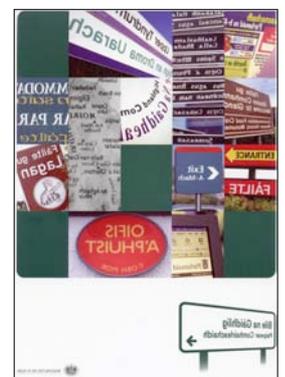
7.4 Highlands & Islands Enterprise

In 2003-04, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was successful in securing a substantial three year grant package from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. As well as providing 'core' support, the investment will help fund a number of key projects including the purchase of ICT equipment, musical instruments and the undertaking of a Fèis participant 'tracking' exercise.

7.5 Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been in discussion with the newly-established Bòrd na Gàidhlig on a number of occasions over the course of the year. In addition to successfully applying for project funding, the Bòrd has sought the opinion of Fèisean nan Gàidheal on a number of occasions as they have been developing their initial plan for Gaelic development.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal, along with other Gaelic bodies, was actively involved in the campaign to encourage as many people as possible to respond to the draft Gaelic Language Bill, published at the National Mòd in Oban. This resulted in an unprecedented number of submissions on the Bill – over 3,500 – and we hope the strength of opinion will result in a stronger Bill being introduced to the Scottish Parliament.



7.6 GASD

During the year the Gaelic Arts Strategic Development group (GASD) worked on developing a programme of strategic projects, and secured funding of £270k from the Scottish Arts Council and an initial £75k from Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Fèisean nan Gàidheal has taken the lead on the Development of Skills section of the project, and this

will involve traineeships and residencies, and the possible development of a Certificate in Gaelic Arts. The group consists of Pròiseact nan Ealan, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Tosg, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, An Comunn Gàidhealach and Seirbhis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig.

7.7 The Traditional Music Working Group

The Scottish Arts Council convened an initial meeting of a number of representatives of the main traditional music organisations in Scotland, to discuss common issues and to work towards an agreed submission to the Cultural Commission.

7.8 The Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Traditional Arts - START

This continued to meet, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal was represented at two of its meetings during the year. A wide range of issues were discussed at these meetings, including the need for more traditional arts to be taught as part of the school curriculum, and more traditional music to be played and promoted on BBC Radio Scotland. As well as MSPs, the group consists of members from various traditional arts bodies, and is chaired by Cathy Peattie MSP, herself a well-known traditional singer.

7.9 Highland 2007 - the Scottish Year of Highland Culture

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has contributed to a number of discussions with regard to the Scottish Year of Highland Culture in 2007. It is hoped that the Fèisean will play a significant part in these celebrations as youth, Gaelic and community appear to be emerging as key themes.

8 FÈIS NEWS

This section gives a brief summary of the activities of member Fèisean over the year 2002-03. This is by no means all of the activity, but is designed simply to give a flavour. The report is presented under the heading of the officer with responsibility for that particular group of Fèisean.

8.1 Lochaber Fèisean (Ingrid Henderson)

JOINT ACTIVITY

Fèisean nan Gàidheal were very pleased this year to be in a position to employ a full-time Development Officer for the Lochaber area. As part of this, it is hoped that a great deal of joint activity will be developed, over and above that which has already developed over the years. Ingrid organised and ran a teenage groupwork session on 22–23 November at Glenfinnan House Hotel. Tutors Anne Martin, Allan Henderson and Charlie McKerron led the workshop, with ten participants from all over Lochaber and beyond taking part. In addition to this, news came through that an application to the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery fund to help establish a Cèilidh Trail for Lochaber had been successful. Additional funds from the Whelk LEADER+ programme and Lochaber Enterprise will ensure that the trail gets underway in summer 2004.



FÈIS LOCHABAIR, Lochaber

The main Fèis took place in Lochaber High School, from 7–11 April 2003, with 95 young people taking part in the wide range of subjects on offer. A total of 17 tutors and 9 supervisors ensured that the Fèis ran smoothly. The classes in Gaelic Song, Celtic Art, Drama and Gaelic conversation were all offered through the medium of Gaelic. As well as the normal programme of concerts and cèilidhs, the Fèis hosted a performance by Blazin' Fiddles which drew a great crowd. Over the course of the week, some 850 people came out to support these events. Fèis Lochabair organised an extensive year-round programme of activities, with classes in Clàrsach, piping, Chanter, Accordion, Fiddle, Whistle and step-dance on offer throughout the year. The Fèis was successful in securing a grant to pay for up to 370 hours of administrative support over the year.

FÈIS EIGE, Island of Eigg

The annual Fèis weekend took place on the island during 16–19 July, with 31 young people taking part. Over the course of the year, a locally based tutor, Donna MacCulloch, delivered a programme of follow-on workshops in Dance, Tin Whistle and Chanter on the island. Over and above this, the Fèis committee were looking at ways that she could travel around the other small isles delivering tuition. All of the young people from Eigg attending secondary school have to do so on the mainland. Once again this year, many of them linked up with Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan and Fèis Lochabair year-round classes. The Fèis was awarded 25 hours from the 'Annualised Hours' scheme.

FÈIS NAN GARBH CHRÌOCHAN, West Lochaber

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan have had a very busy year, with two successful applications for funding from the local enterprise company, Lochaber Enterprise, coming through. The two projects, one to employ a part-time worker using the FnG 'Annualised Hours' grant as match-funding plus associated office set-up costs and the second to purchase instruments for a local instrument bank should help to further develop the Fèis locally. The main Fèis took place in and around the village of Acharacle, from 21–25 July, attracting approximately 100 participants. As well as this, the Fèis operates an extensive follow-on programme, including regular sessions in Acharacle, Morar and Arisaig primary schools.

8.2 Aberdeen (David Boag) and Edinburgh (Arthur Cormack)

FÈIS OBAR DHEATHAIN, Aberdeen

Fèis Obar Dheathain held their main Fèis within Aberdeen Grammar school, between 14–16 February 2004. 80 young people took part in the range of activities on offer which included Fiddle, Pipes, Accordion, Clàrsach, Bodhran, Keyboard, Gaelic Drama, Gaelic Song and a mixed instruments class. In all some 15 separate disciplines were on offer, with the use of Gaelic encouraged in all of them. In addition to the main Fèis, a

weekend of Fiddle tuition was held, with Karl MacRae at the helm. Many of the young people attending the Fèis also attend the City's Gilcomston Primary School, where the Gaelic Department is doing a great job in ensuring that young people in Aberdeen get a chance to receive their primary education bilingually.

FÈIS DHÙN ÈIDEANN, Edinburgh

Fèis Dhùn Èideann had another very busy year, with their main Fèis taking place in James Gillespie's High School on February 16–19th 2004. Around 100 young people took part in the Fèis, including 10 with additional support needs. Over and above this, the Fèis organised and delivered a large programme of follow-on classes, including two 10 week blocks of Saturday classes in Tin Whistle (beginner and intermediate), Fiddle (beginner and intermediate), Percussion, Clàrsach (beginner and intermediate) Gaelic Song, Guitar (beginner and intermediate) and Step Dance. In addition, a class for 3–7 year olds entitled 'Cleas is Ceòl' was delivered entirely through the medium of Gaelic. As well as this, classes took place during the week in Fiddle and Band Work. It is estimated that the Fèis Dhùn Èideann follow-on programme had a total of 2792 attendances. The Fèis committee reported to Fèisean nan Gàidheal that the appointment of their 'Annualised Hours' worker, Keith Graham, had significantly eased the burden on the volunteer committee. Given the scale of the work undertaken by Fèis Dhùn Èideann, they were awarded a grant for up to 400 hours over the course of the year.

8.3 North Highland Fèisean (Nicola Marshall from 20.04.2004)

JOINT ACTIVITY

A teenage groupwork event was hosted by Fèis Chataibh at the Invershin Hotel on 27th and 28th March. This was funded by the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Training Programme, with additional support from the Kyle of Sutherland Partnership. As well as this, the Fèisean in the area were invited to attend a training day organised by Stuart Brownlee during March 2004.

FÈIS AN EARRAICH, Skye and Lochalsh



This was a very busy year for Fèis an Earraich, with their main Fèis taking place in Kyleakin, from 14–18 April 2003. In total, 150 young people took part in the event – their biggest yet! A total of 17 different disciplines were on offer, including Clàrsach, Gaelic Drama, Guitar, Gaelic Singing and Fiddle through the medium of Gaelic. During the course of the week, their Tutors' Concert drew in an audience of 165 and their Final Concert drew over 200 supporters. This was the first time that the Fèis had taken

place in Kyleakin. Many of the venues were spread out throughout the village, which if the weather had been bad, would have been a problem. However, as it turned out, it was one of the hottest Easters on record, and many classes were held outside in the sunshine. Over and above the main Fèis, follow-on workshops were delivered over a number of weeks in Accordion, Fiddle, Pipes, Clàrsach, Piano and Guitar, utilising the talents of the growing number of locally based tutors. The Fèis was awarded 240 administrative hours in 2003-04.

FÈIS SPÈ, Speyside

The Fèis Spè committee have been very active over the last year, with a wide range of activities throughout the course of the year. Their main Fèis was held at Loch Insh Watersports Centre between 13 and 17 October, with 76 young people from the local area taking part. The vast majority of these were residential, making use of the accommodation available at the centre. On offer was a wide range of activities, including a one-hour daily Gaelic language and a one-hour Gaelic Song session for all participants over the course of the week. Eight fluent speaking youngsters did a daily Gaelic Drama session. Their follow-on programme was spread over three months from January to March 2004, with sessions in Fiddle, Whistle, Dance, Percussion, Chanter and Gaelic Song on offer. The Fèis has plans to develop a Cèilidh Trail and as part of this they were able to secure a grant from the newly established Cairngorm National Park to run a short programme of events over the Christmas and New Year period. This was a great success and since then, the group has pushed forward with plans to appoint a part-time Development Officer locally, and to expand further its year-round activities.

FÈIS RATHARSAIDH, Isle of Raasay

The annual Fèis Ratharsaidh took place at the Isle of Raasay Hotel over the February weekend, 12–14 February 2004 with a total of 28 participants taking part. Classes were offered in Highland Dance, Pipes, Gaelic Song, Accordion, Clàrsach, Gaelic Drama, Gaelic Games, Art, Drums and Guitar. Drama, Fiddle and Song were offered through the medium of Gaelic. In addition to children from the island itself, the Fèis attracts a good number of participants from the surrounding Skye and Lochalsh area.

FÈIS THRÒDAIRNIS, Trotternish, North Skye

This year's main Fèis took place during the last week of July in 2003 with a total of 39 young people from all over the area taking part. This year, the Fèis was centred in Kilmuir, with daily transport laid on for those from the areas of Skeabost, Uig and Staffin. The Fèis offered classes in Gaelic Drama, Gaelic Song, Art, Fiddle, Piano/Keyboard, Whistle, Guitar, Chanter, Percussion and Dance. Of these, 6 subjects were offered through the medium of Gaelic. In addition, there was a lively programme of follow-on workshops throughout the year, covering Fiddle, Piano and Chanter which attracted participation from over 50 individuals.

FÈIS A' BHAILE, Inverness

A total of 65 participants took part in this year's main Fèis a' Bhaile, from 20-24 October 2003, held at Charleston Academy, Inverness. The Fèis was rounded off with a Final Concert attended by over 100 parents and supporters. Classes on offer at the Fèis included Gaelic Drama, Gaelic Song and Clàrsach all of which were available through the medium of Gaelic. In addition, Fèis a' Bhaile ran a successful series of Gaelic Drama workshops in conjunction with Fèis na h-Òige under the guidance of Ruairidh Nicolson of Eden Court Theatre's 'Out of Eden' programme. The group performed at a number of events throughout the course of the year, including Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhirnis's annual concert at Eden Court Theatre. The piece taken from the play 'Falachan Sithe' written by Seonag Monk, was very well received and it is obvious from the level of their performances that they are learning a great deal and enjoying themselves at the same time. The Fèis employed Maree Nicolson as their administrator, with a total of 150 hours offered under the 'Annualised Hours' scheme.

FÈIS CHILLE MHÒRAIG, Beauly, Strath Glass and Glen Urquhart area

Their main Fèis event was on 1-2 November 2003 at the Craigmorie Centre in the newly completed Glen Urquhart High School. In previous years, the Fèis has utilised a number of venues in and around the Beauly and Kilmorack areas. However, this has proved a problem, as this meant that participants had to travel between venues to go to different classes. The completion of the new school offered a solution to this problem and it proved to be a roaring success for all concerned. In addition to the main Fèis, there was a programme of follow-on activity in a range of activities in Tin Whistle, beginner and intermediate Fiddle. The Fèis appointed Jelica Gavrilovic in the post as administrator, utilising their grant from Fèisean nan Gàidheal for up to 200 'Annualised Hours.' Each child at the main Fèis undertook 30 minutes per day in Gaelic conversation, led by Maeve MacKinnon who also led a Gaelic Song class. The Fèis also organised and ran a series of Gaelic conversation classes in Glen Urquhart.

FÈIS NA COMRAICH, Applecross

Fèis na Comraich were again active in 2003-04, with a day of activities in the Wester Ross community on 18th October, with classes in Bodhran, Celtic Design, Pipes, Fiddle, Gaelic Song, Clàrsach, Guitar, Groupwork, Mandolin, Step Dance and Whistle on offer. In addition, one hour of Gaelic language tuition was integrated into the programme. The Fèis was attended by 15 local young people and with a total school roll of approximately 20, this represents participation by 75% of the target audience! The Fèis was rounded off with a concert and dance in the newly re-built village hall which offers superb facilities. In addition, the Fèis ran Clàrsach workshops led by Catriona MacKay.

FÈIS CHATAIBH, Sutherland



The main Fèis took place in Golspie High School from 7-11 July 2003, with 97 young people taking part in the wide range of activities on offer. The week was rounded off in great style with the Final Concert in the High School assembly hall, which attracted a full house of over 250 Fèis parents and supporters. Over and above this, the Fèis sustained an excellent follow-on programme of activities, including workshops in Accordion, Guitar, Clàrsach, Keyboard, Fiddle, Gaelic Song, Whistle and Groupwork. As if this wasn't enough, the committee undertook year two of their Cèilidh Trail, touring a group of young people across the whole of Sutherland over the course of the summer

holidays. Finally, the Fèis hosted their second teenage groupwork weekend at the Invershin Hotel near Lairg on 27th and 28th March 2004. In addition to the local young people, a group from North Uist under the auspices of Fèis Tir an Eòrna travelled to take part, helping to maintain this link which was established in 2003. The Fèis

Chataibh committee were awarded a grant from Fèisean nan Gàidheal to employ Lynne Houston for up to 240 hours under the 'Annualised Hours' scheme.

FÈIS NA H-ÒIGE, Inverness

The Fèis committee has once again been very active in 2003-04, with the staging of their main Fèis 7-11 July 2003 and a series of 6 Saturday Fèisean running from September to March. With an average attendance of 35 at each of these days, the Fèis, which is run entirely through the medium of Gaelic, has built up a loyal group of participants. All of the Fèis activities are held in Inverness High School, which offers ample classroom accommodation, a large assembly hall, games hall and outdoor pitches. This ensured that all Fèisean offered tuition in a wide range of activities covering Song, Music, Dance, Drama, Art and Shinty. Although the Fèis is based in Inverness, participants are drawn from a wide area of the North, with young people travelling on a regular basis from Dingwall, Ullapool, Lochcarron, Newtonmore and Tain to take part. Not only does the Fèis offer an excellent opportunity to learn new things, it also allows Gaelic-speaking pupils from a wide range of schools to come together and socialise using their Gaelic skills.

FÈIS ROIS, Ross-shire

Fèis Rois had a very busy year in 2003-04, with a huge range of activity from one end of the year to the other. Fèis Rois Òigridh took place in Ullapool from 7-11 April 2003, with 162 participants accommodated throughout the village. On offer were 24 separate classes in a wide range of disciplines, including Fiddle, Gaelic groupwork, Gaelic language, Drama, Step Dance, Whistle, Gaelic Song and Accordion all of which were available through the medium of Gaelic. In addition to the 18 tutors employed, the Fèis also required the services of 16 supervisors, all of whom ensured that the health and well-being of the participants was maintained over the week. Two concerts over the course of the week attracted more than 500 parents and supporters, including the final concert which was a total sell out.

This was followed a month later by Fèis Rois Inbhich, also in Ullapool over the May weekend. Described by some participants as "the best weekend of the year", the event continues to attract over 200 adults from all over Scotland and elsewhere to take part.

The summer months were occupied with the Fèis Rois Cèilidh trail, which is now a well established and much anticipated part of the summer tourist season across Ross and Cromarty. The Cèilidh Trail offers young people an excellent opportunity to develop their performance skills, whilst at the same time adding great value to the Cultural Tourism of the area.

Fèis Rois nan Deugairean, open to secondary pupils, took place from 20-24 October 2003 again in Ullapool. A total of 126 participants took part in the event, which again offered a wide range of classes across the traditional music, Song and dance spectrum, many through the medium of Gaelic. With very few opportunities for Gaelic-medium pupils at the Secondary level, this offers an important opportunity for teenagers to use the language with their peers. A team of 26 tutors and supervisors ensured the smooth running of the event.

The Fèis Rois follow-on programme continues to deliver a high quality and widespread programme of activities year-round in Ross and Cromarty. In excess of 300 individual young people participate in these activities, adding still further to the outstanding level of musical talent and ability that has emerged in Ross and Cromarty thanks to the tireless efforts of Rita Hunter and her team.



The proof of this was the stunning success of the 'Harvest' Concert at the Celtic Connections Concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in January 2004. The event, which was put together by the Fèis Rois team under the musical direction of Donald Shaw, drew together many of Europe's finest traditional music artists, who played alongside 70 young people drawn from Fèis Rois and other Fèisean. The concert received rave reviews in many of the national newspapers and many pointed to the skill of the young participants as a triumph for the Fèis movement.

Over and above this, the Fèis Rois team continued to deliver the Traditional Musicians in Schools Scheme across Scotland, and a programme of tuition in schools right across the Ross and Cromarty area.

FÈIS STRATH FHARRAGAIG, Farr, by Inverness

The Fèis, based in the community hall at Farr held 6 Friday evening workshops over the year, starting in November 2003 and continuing until early April 2004. Each workshop offers participants a good range of

activities to choose from, including Gaelic Song, Fiddle, Whistle, Chanter, Step Dance, Keyboard and Bodhran. As well as the Fèis, the committee are involved in a wide range of other activities including top quality traditional music concerts, featuring some of the top artists on the current scene. Any profits made from these concerts go towards supporting the work of the Fèis, which is an important part of the local community.

FÈIS GHLINN ALBAINN, Fort Augustus and district, Inverness-shire

This is a new Fèis based in and around Fort Augustus in the Great Glen. Although Fèisean already exist at either end of the Glen, this is the first time that a Fèis has formed in this particular area. The committee were initially successful in securing a New Opportunities Fund grant to run traditional music classes in the area, but now they are keen to secure the longer-term future of the Fèis, and have become members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal. It is great to see a new Fèis coming on board and we wish them the very best of success for the future.

8.4 Argyll and Glasgow area Fèisean (Christine MacIntyre)

JOINT ACTIVITIES

In a joint initiative primarily aimed at Argyll Fèisean, a Teenage Groupwork event was held in Dervaig, Isle of Mull on 20 and 21st June 2003. 24 young people took part, 9 of whom travelled from the mainland, with the remainder coming from Mull. Thanks to Petrea Cooney, Music teacher at Tobermory High School, and Toni Russell, Fèis Latharna's worker, for their hard work in helping pull this successful event together. Additional financial support for the weekend was granted by Argyll and Isles Enterprise. As a measure of success, the mainland-based young people had a session on the boat back to Oban!

FÈIS ARAINN, Isle of Arran

The Fèis committee held their annual Fèis in the summer holidays, and again attracted a good level of participation from children mainly from the island. Over the course of the year, the Fèis had been looking into the possibility of establishing a Drama and Art project to be based with primary schools across the island. In addition, as part of a new development, the Fèis has been looking into the possibilities for distance learning/video based tuition in subjects such as Accordion and Chanter. As with many Fèisean, particularly in island communities, the availability of tutors locally to sustain a year-round programme of activity can be problematic. This is further compounded by the cost and time involved in bringing someone onto the island from the mainland.

FÈIS DHÙN BHREATHUINN AN IAR, Dumbarton

The Fèis had another busy year, delivering Gaelic Music, Song and Dance tuition to young people across the area. Instead of a 'main' Fèis, this particular committee prefer to offer a series of workshops in locations across West Dunbartonshire over the course of a number of weeks. It is interesting that the Fèis movement not only covers a wide range of geographical areas across Scotland, but also operates right across the socio-economic sphere. In this particular area, which has regularly recorded high levels of multiple deprivation, it is great to see that the Fèis movement is offering access and inclusion.

FÈIS INNIS AN UILLT, Meadowburn Primary School, Bishopbriggs

This Gaelic-medium Fèis is centred around Meadowburn Primary School, Bishopbriggs. As with many other Fèisean associated with Gaelic-medium schools, the committee has opted for a series of workshops across a number of Saturdays through the academic year. This year the Fèis held workshops in May, February and March, with Clàrsach, Fiddle, Bodhran, Art and Drama offering young people participation in a programme of music, Song and dance activities whilst at the same time, strengthening their language skills. Many of the young people from this Fèis and others in the Glasgow and Central Scotland area regularly participate in Fèis Òigridh Glaschu, which culminates in a performance in the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow every May.

FÈIS LATHARNA, Oban

Fèis Latharna continues to do some excellent developmental work, and is now well into the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery funded project to develop their programme of year-round tuition and activity. As part of this, a local ex-Fèis participant, Toni Russell, was appointed on a 1.5 days per week basis to progress the project. In addition, the project provided funds to aid neighbouring Fèis Mhuile to expand its activities and embark on joint projects. The Fèis committee continue to run their highly successful main Fèis in the Easter holidays, as well as a series of pre-Fèis workshops in February and March.

FÈIS LANNRAIG A TUATH, Condorrat

Fèis Lannraig a Tuath held a one day workshop on 10 May 2003, with 35 young people taking part. The Fèis, which is organised by the local Comunn nam Pàrant group, is aimed at the young people attending the Gaelic-medium department at Condorrat Primary School, North Lanarkshire. On offer this time were classes in Singing, Whistle, Drama, Arts & Crafts, Clàrsach, Step Dance and Shinty, all of which were offered through the medium of Gaelic. The Meanbh-Chuileag Theatre-in-Education group led the workshops in Drama and Arts & Crafts.

FÈIS MHUILE, Isle of Mull

A great deal of change has taken place within the Fèis Mhuile committee over the course of 2003-04. In previous years the Fèis has been concentrated in and around Bunessan in the Southern part of the island. Given the sprawling geography of the island, this meant that the Northern part of the island had very little involvement with the Fèis. This was further compounded with the fact that young people from North and South rarely met as at secondary level they were schooled in Tobermory and Oban respectively. With the help of additional funds from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery funded project, the committee were, for the first time, able to contemplate island-wide provision. This was initiated with a series of Gaelic Song workshop in schools across the island and over the coming year, it is hoped that the variety of disciplines on offer can be expanded. This will be enhanced with a main Fèis which is scheduled to take place in February 2005.

FÈIS OIGRIDH ILE, Isle of Islay

Once again this year has seen no activity on the island of Islay, although rigorous efforts have been made to try and re-initiate a committee and activity. Although the Fèis movement is built on the hard work and good will of volunteers, the problems in Islay highlight the relative fragility of this structure. Without a group of volunteers to form a committee there simply is no Fèis. However, more encouraging signs have begun to emerge over the last twelve months with the establishment on the island by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig of the Columba Centre. Discussions with the centre Manager, Donald Angaidh MacLennan, and Christine MacIntyre have begun, with the aim of running a Fèis taster day for island youngsters to see if new interest can be sparked.

FÈIS OIGRIDH GLASCHU, Glasgow

Fèis Òigridh Glaschu focuses its activity entirely on a programme of Gaelic-medium Drama activities in and around the Glasgow and Central Scotland area. The activity begins with a programme of outreach visits by a Drama tutor to the participating schools. Each year a different theme is chosen and the various groups, with a great deal of help both from the tutor and their class teachers, put together a 10 minute performance based on that theme. As a climax to the activity, all the groups come together in the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow to perform these plays to a packed house. We should not underestimate the great work that is being done by this committee in bringing these young people together in such a positive and high quality way. Not only does it provide a great educational opportunity for the young people, it helps to strengthen the use of their language and meet other Gaelic-speaking young people.

FÈIS CHILLE CHONBHAIL, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire



This year, the Fèis took place over two separate weeks from 21–25th July in Greenock and 4–8th August respectively. On offer were classes in Clàrsach, Fiddle, Gaelic Song, Gaelic language, Step Dance and Whistle. In addition, all young people attending the Fèis were encouraged to fill out a Gaelic Diary, which they developed in



conjunction with the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Gaelic beginners booklet, *Gàidhlig do luchd-tòiseachaidh*. The Fèis is organised by Alasdair Law, who is the Gaelic Development Officer for the area in a partnership funded by Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire councils. The whole Inverclyde area was a magnet for Gaels at the height of shipbuilding on the Clyde and many stayed, and brought up families, there. It is great to see that the interest in Gaelic language and culture is still in the area and growing.

FÈIS THIRIODH, Isle of Tiree

As with most of the island Fèisean, the Fèis is a real high point in the calendar in Tiree. Not only is there a wide range of top quality classes for young people on offer, but there is the range of evening concerts, cèilidhs and dances which make this a real community effort. In all, approximately 60 young people take part in the Fèis, most from the island itself, but a sizeable contingent come from other parts to join in the fun.

8.5 Fèis Support Worker (Fiona MacInnes)

JOINT ACTIVITIES



This year saw the very first Teenage Groupwork weekend to be held in the Western Isles. Held in the historic and atmospheric Garrannan Blackhouse village near Carloway, Isle of Lewis, on 6th and 7th June, the event attracted 12 participants, mainly from Lewis and Harris, but with some making the journey from Uist. Tutors Julie Fowles, Kevin Rodgers and Fiona MacKenzie provided the tuition, and the feedback received was very positive. In addition to money from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund as part of our Training Development programme, support came from Western Isles Enterprise and Community Economic Development.

FÈIS BHARRAIGH, Isle of Barra

This year's Fèis took place between 19 and 26 July 2003, with classes running from the 22nd. Changes to the structure of the Fèis saw the introduction of an adult Fèis (Fèis Mhòr, Mhòr) catering for the many parents who travel with their youngsters to the island for the Fèis. Over and above this, the main Fèis was also re-structured to better reflect the wide age groups attending the Fèis; Fèis Bheag for the under 8s, Fèis Mheadhan for the remaining primary school aged children and Fèis Mhòr for teenagers. A total of 150 young people took part. As well as the classes during the day, Fèis Barraigh continues to run a lively and varied programme of evening activities which brings a real 'festival' atmosphere to the island. The Fèis utilised a grant offering 240 'Annualised Hours' to employ Ishbel Nicolson as Fèis administrator in the weeks before, during and after the Fèis.

FÈIS EILEAN AN FHRAOICH, Isle of Lewis

Fèis Eilean na Fhraoich held their main Fèis from 27 July – 1 August 2003, with a very healthy 178 children taking part. The event is held in Stornoway's Nicolson Institute and attracts young people from all over the island as well as some from the mainland. The school's excellent facilities provide ample room for the range of classes on offer, and the assembly hall is an ideal venue for the hundreds of family and friends who attend the final concert on the Friday evening.

FÈIS EILEAN NA HEARADH, Isle of Harris

The Fèis was held in Sir E Scott school in Tarbert, between 7 and 11 July with a total of 53 young people taking part, an increase of 4 from the previous year. The Fèis offered a programme of 10 different disciplines, including Drama, Shinty, Traditional Singing, Guitar and Keyboard through the medium of Gaelic. Concerts and other events over the course of the week attracted approximately 300 people in total. In addition to the main Fèis activities, a Cròileagan for younger children was held on one of the days and a traditional baking demonstration was also included in the programme.

FÈIS TÌR A' MHURAIN, South Uist

Fèis Tir a' Mhurain took place in Sgoil Dhalabroig from 14-18 July 2003, with a total of 106 young people taking part, a huge increase on the previous year. The Fèis activities, entirely taught through the medium of Gaelic, have developed a nationwide reputation. The increase in numbers is testament to the hard work of the committee in running an excellent Fèis, that is providing valuable out of school language support for many young people attending Gaelic-medium schools throughout Scotland. Although the number of Gaelic speaking tutors are slowly rising, it can prove difficult at times to assemble the team. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is always on the look out for Gaelic speaking tutors to add to those already in our tutor database. Their follow-on programme included tuition in Accordion, Keyboard, Singing, Chanter, and Dancing.

FÈIS TÌR AN EÒRNA, North Uist

The main Fèis, based in Sgoil Phabail took place from 30 June to 4 July 2003, again attracted a record-breaking number of participants, with 145 signed up for the week, a huge increase on the 2002 figures. A total of 13 disciplines were on offer, including traditional sports and Shinty. Gaelic Song, Drama, Chanter and Piping were all offered through the medium of Gaelic. Over the course of the week, the Fèis staged a number of concerts, including the main one on the Friday night. The Fèis committee reported that all events had excellent turnouts, with the school assembly hall full.

FÈIS TAIGH DHONNCHaidH, Ness, Isle of Lewis

The Fèis undertook an extensive programme of year-round activities based in Taigh Dhonnchaidh in Ness. The programme ran throughout the whole year, with a different discipline on offer each night of the week. These included Dancing, Guitar, Singing, Piano, Accordion and Fiddle drawing on the tutoring skills of a range of local musicians. Participants from the Ness area also took the opportunity to attend Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich in Stornoway, making use of a bus that was laid on for the purpose.

8.6 Fèis Alba

Fèis Alba took place at Plockton High School between 4 and 7 July 2003. Again, this was aimed at 16–25 year olds, at the upper intermediate and advanced level. In addition to the lottery money already secured, additional support came from Western Isles, Skye & Lochalsh LEADER+ Programme for 1 year and from Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise for next three years. To help organise the event, Fèisean nan Gàidheal secured the services of Elaine Ferguson, a graduate from Mabou, Cape Breton, now living in Skye. She undertook all of the day-to-day matters connected with the event, and she is to be commended for all her hard work and support. A total of 15 young people took part, covering topics including composition, tutoring, recording and performance. Plockton High School turned out to be an excellent venue for the event, with all facilities, including accommodation, on the same site, due to the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music being part of the campus.

In addition, 22 young people from the local area came along on the Saturday afternoon to receive tuition from the Fèis Alba students, with support from the tutor team. This proved to be an excellent event and one from which the young people learned a great deal.

9 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2003-04

9.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal trading account for the year to 31 March 2004

	31.03.2004 £	31.03.2003 £
Income		
Grant income	547,019	332,110
Membership fees	2,430	3,245
Bank interest	242	203
Other income	8,452	2,784
Book sales	2,705	2,986
Instrument bank revenue	5,469	3,796
An Drochaid Management Fee	7,101	12,588
Fèis Alba	8,404	0
Box Office Income	0	4,105
Carnegie United Kingdom Trust	0	10,000
Sponsorship	0	2,500
Training	3,243	0
Meanbh-Chuileag	8,809	0
	-----	-----
Total Income	593,874	374,317
	-----	-----
Expenditure		
Wages	182,398	86,515
Employers' Contributions	5,991	8,887
Staff expenses	13,076	15,532
Grants paid out	127,022	66,978
Travel for Tutors	440	878
Stationery & printing	8,930	11,825
Music book fees	9,792	10,390
Annual Conference	6,037	4,976
Board Expenses	3,633	3,796
Other expenses	4,721	2,560
Auditor	1,074	737
Child Protection Costs	10,002	0
Professional Fees	176	4,100
Rent & Water	11,147	9,775
Insurance	3,746	2,659
Light & Heat	1,144	1,119
Telephone, Fax, E-mail	3,604	4,752
Projects:		
Lochaber Development Programme	5,520	0
Youth Music Initiative	881	0
Ceòl nam Fèis concerts	1,124	0
Meanbh-Chuileag	23,365	48,768
Training Programme	47,809	44,939
	-----	-----
	470,912	351,797
	-----	-----
	122,962	22,520
Depreciation:		
Office equipment	2,543	2,543
Musical instruments	6,529	1,428
Computer Equipment	267	306
	-----	-----
	9,339	4,277
	-----	-----
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	£113,623	£ 18,243
	-----	-----

9.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal balance sheet as at 31 March 2004

	2004 £	2003 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	7,435	11,512
Current Assets		
Stocks	2,571	3,024
Debtors	36,860	32,112
Cash in hand and at bank	167,427	38,444
	-----	-----
	206,858	73,580
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(69,484)	(53,906)
	-----	-----
Net Current Assets	137,374	19,674
	-----	-----
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	£ 144,809	£ 31,186
	-----	-----
Reserves		
Restricted Reserves	129,742	35,290
Unrestricted Reserves	15,067	(4,104)
	-----	-----
	£ 144,809	£ 31,186
	-----	-----

Appendix I Board Members and observers as of 31 March 2004

Elected Members

- 1 Catriona MacIntyre** - Chairperson
7 Camaghael Road, Caol, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 7HU
Tel. 01397 703180
- 2 Rita Hunter** – Company Secretary
9 Camden Street, Evanton, Ross-shire, IV16 9XU
Tel. 01349 862600
- 3 Nanac Skivington** - Treasurer
3 Grenitote, Sollas, North Uist, Western Isles, HS6 5BP
Tel. 01876 560247
- 4 Jessie Newton**
6 St Margaret's Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1AZ
Tel. 0131 447 1252
- 5 Kirsteen Graham**
14 Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8DA
Tel. 01471 822671
- 6 Ken MacKenzie**
Tigh a' Chaolais, Gallanach Road, Oban, Argyll
Tel. 01631 565264
- 7 John Joe MacNeil**
8 St Brendan's, Castlebay, Isle of Barra
Tel. 07919 153652
- 8 Ken Houston**
17 Ben Bhraggie Drive, Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6SX
Tel. 01408 633140
- 9 Fiona Johnson**
5 Warren Park, Durriss, Banchory, AB31 5BW
Tel. 01330 811874
- 10 Kate Kerr**
The Birches, Station Road, Cardross, Dumbarton, G82
Tel. 01389 841810

Observers

- 11 Comunn na Gàidhlig**
5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness IV2 3HQ
Tel. 01463 234138 Fax 01463 237470
- 12 Scottish Arts Council** (Carolyn Paterson)
12 Manor Place, Edinburgh EH3 7DD
Tel. 0131 226 6051 Fax 0131 225 9833
- 13 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar** (Cllr Donald J MacSween)
Sandwick Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Tel. 01851 703773
- 14 Highlands and Islands Enterprise** (David Smillie)
Cowan House, Inverness, IV2 7GF
Tel. 01463 234171 Fax 01463 244469
- 15 Highland Council** (Morag Anna MacLeod)
Tigh na Sgìre, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9GP
Tel. 01478 613835 Fax 01478 613828

Staff Members

I6 Arthur Cormack - Director

Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Meall House, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9BZ
Tel. 01478 613355 Fax 01478 613399

I7 David Boag - Development Manager

Fèisean nan Gàidheal, West Highland House, 5a Mitchell's Lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ
Tel. 01463 225559 Fax 01463 222816

I8 Anne Willoughby - Finance and Administration Officer

Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Meall House, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9BZ
Tel. 01478 613355 Fax 01478 613399

Appendix 2 Fèis Contacts 2003-04

Fèis Name
Contact Name and Address
Telephone

Fèis Air an Oir

Janette MacKay, Honeysuckle Cottage, Strathy West, Thurso
(01641) 541275

Fèis Arainn

Aileen McLaughlin, Taigh an Dora, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran, KA27 8RE
(01770) 700209

Fèis a' Bhaile

Katie Adam, Silema, Essich Road, Inverness, IV1 2AH
(01463) 222350

Fèis Bharraigh

John Joe MacNeil, St Brendan's Road, Castlebay, Barra
(07919) 153652

Fèis na Comraich

Derek MacLennan, Taigh Ruairidh, Toscaig, Applecross, Ross-Shire, IV54 8LY
(01520) 744480

Fèis Carmunnock

Sandy Devers, 9 Cameron Crescent, Carmunnock, Glasgow, G76 9DX
(0141) 6441663

Fèis Chataibh

Ken Houston, 17 Ben Bhraggie Drive, Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6SX
(01408) 633140

Fèis Chille Chonbhal

Alasdair Law, Highholm Avenue, Port Glasgow, PA14 5JN
(01475) 715450

Fèis Chille Mhòraig

Jelica Gavrilovic, Wellesbourne, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire, IV63 6UA
(01463) 741607

Fèis Dhùn Bhreatuinn

Kate Kerr, The Birches, Station Road, Cardross, Dumbarton, G82
(01389) 841810

Fèis Dhùn Eideann

Jessie Newton, 6 St. Margaret's Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1AZ
(0131) 447 1252

Fèis an Earraich

Peggy Nicolson, 5 Kilmore, Sleat, Isle of Skye
(01471) 844338

Fèis Eige

Camille Dressler, Cuagach, Isle of Eigg, Inverness-shire, PH42 4RL
(01687) 482410

Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich

Nan Smith, 14 Jamieson Drive, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles
(01851) 702520

Fèis Eilean na Hearadh

Mairi Campbell, 3a Eilean Abuich, Marbhaig, Isle of Harris, Western Isles
(01859) 511122

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan

Mary Lamont, The Barn, Salen, Acharacle, Argyll
(01967) 431766

Fèis Innis an Uillt

Robert Johnston, 8 Woodhead Avenue, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, G66 3DL
(0141) 775 2981

Fèis Latharna

Ken MacKenzie, Taigh a' Chaolais, Gallanach Road, Oban, Argyll
(01631) 565264

Fèis Lannraig a Tuath

Dianne Lawrie, Airdrie Area Office, 31 North Biggar Road, Airdrie, Lanarkshire ML6 6EJ
(01236) 751538

Fèis Lochabair

Marion MacDonald, 8 Lochy Road, Inverlochy, Fort William, PH33 6NJ
(01397) 701505

Fèis Mhuile

Elizabeth Wilson, Cul a' Bhaile, Knockvologan, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull
(01681) 700266

Fèis na h-Òige

Màiri Oakley, 108 Scorguie Drive, Inverness
(01463) 224654

Fèis Obar Dheathain

5 Warren Park, Durriss, Banchory, Aberdeen-shire AB31 5BW
(01330) 811874

Fèis Oigridh Glaschu

Mrs Jean Gillon, 289 Byres Road, Glasgow, G12
(0141) 3392817

Fèis Ratharsaidh

Rebecca MacKay, 6 Osgaig Park, Raasay
(01478) 660207

Fèis Rois

Rita Hunter, Library Building, Tulloch Street, Dingwall, Ross and Cromarty, IV15 9JZ
(01349) 862600

Fèis Spè

Judith Bullivant, Balcluaran, Inch, Kingussie, PH21 INT
(01540) 673436

Fèis Strath Fharragaig

Alasdair D L Forbes, Druim Sgitheach, Farr, Inverness-shire, IV1 2XB
(01808) 521333

Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh

Katie MacKenzie, 3 Eorodale, Ness, Isle of Lewis
(01851) 810528

Fèis Thiriodh

Kate England, Flat 4, Lower Square, Hynish, Isle of Tiree, Argyll, PA77
(01879) 220894

Fèis Thròdairnis

Anne Martin, 19 Linicro, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye
(01470) 542702 or 542414

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna

Kathleen MacLeod, Grianan, Lochmaddy, North Uist, Western Isles
(01876) 500243

Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain

Joan Robertson, Bainbhidh, 9 Liniclate, Benbecula, Western Isles
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