



Fèisean nan Gàidheal

A' toirt ar dualchais do ar n-òigridh

Annual Report 2006

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Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a company limited by guarantee, registration number SC130071, recognised as a Scottish Charity and gratefully acknowledges the support of its main funders
Scottish Arts Council, The Highland Council, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands & Islands Enterprise



INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Annual Report 2005–06. Over the last twelve months, the organisation has continued to go from strength to strength, building on the strong foundations provided by community Fèisean and volunteers across the length and breadth of Scotland. This, along with a clear sense of shared values, vision and enthusiasm shown by all sectors of the movement, makes it a privilege for me to serve as Chair of Fèisean nan Gàidheal. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the other members of the Board for their work this year, and I know that over the coming year we will continue to assist with the strategic direction and focus of the organisation.

One of the particular highlights for me over the last twelve months has been the implementation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Gaelic policy, which is having a positive impact across the organisation, including at Board level where we have held a number of meetings through the medium of Gaelic. In addition to this, continued funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig has allowed us to provide greater Gaelic language support to member Fèisean. This is particularly important in a wider context with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act having passed through the Scottish Parliament on 21 April 2005, and now being implemented. This Act seeks to give Gaelic equal respect with English, and we must try follow that through within the Fèisean also.

I was also pleased with developments in the field of Gaelic drama within Fèisean this year. Fèis na h-Òige and Fèis a' Bhaile both participated in the highly successful *Taigh Màiri Anndra* at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness in May 2005. Fèis Rois, in conjunction with Eden Court Theatre, staged the first *Fèis Drama Òigridh* in Ullapool in February 2006, and Christine MacIntyre organised a Gaelic drama festival in Oban during June 2006.

July 2005 saw the 25th Fèis Bharraigh, and this was marked in grand style with a number of special events, including a reunion and series of concerts in a marquee on Tangusdale Machair. These celebrations will continue this year with the publication of a book *Fèis: the first twenty-five years of the Fèis movement* looking back over that period in the development of the Fèis movement in Scotland, which I would recommend to anyone with an interest in our work.

One of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's main funders, the Scottish Arts Council, has been undergoing a series of reforms in recent times and this will continue into 2007 when it merges with Scottish Screen to become Creative Scotland. As part of this process, the former core-funded status no longer exists, but Fèisean nan Gàidheal, along with Fèis Rois, is to be one of around 50 Foundation organisations, which recognises the key role that both play in the artistic well-being of Scotland. This is significant for us, and hopefully will allow us to further develop our work.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to the staff of Fèisean nan Gàidheal for their hard work and dedication over the last twelve months, and I am convinced that they share the Board's values, vision and enthusiasm for the development of traditional Gaelic culture across Scotland.

I would also like to thank the membership of Fèisean nan Gàidheal for their hard work and dedication over the last year, and indeed for the previous 25! Our primary aim as an organisation is to support you, and members should feel free to get in touch if they require any support or advice from the Board or staff.

Finally, I would like to formally thank the large number of organisations that support our work financially. There are too many to go through here, but they are all acknowledged within the body of this report. Our principal funders are the Scottish Arts Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and our grateful thanks goes to them.

Katie Adam
Fèisean nan Gàidheal Chair

Statistical Summary

FÈIS FACTS 2005-06

Total number of Fèisean
Highland Council Area *
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Argyll and Bute
Edinburgh City
Aberdeen City
North Lanarkshire
Glasgow City
West Dunbartonshire
East Dunbartonshire
North Ayrshire
Inverclyde, Renfrewshire
& East Renfrewshire
Strirlingshire

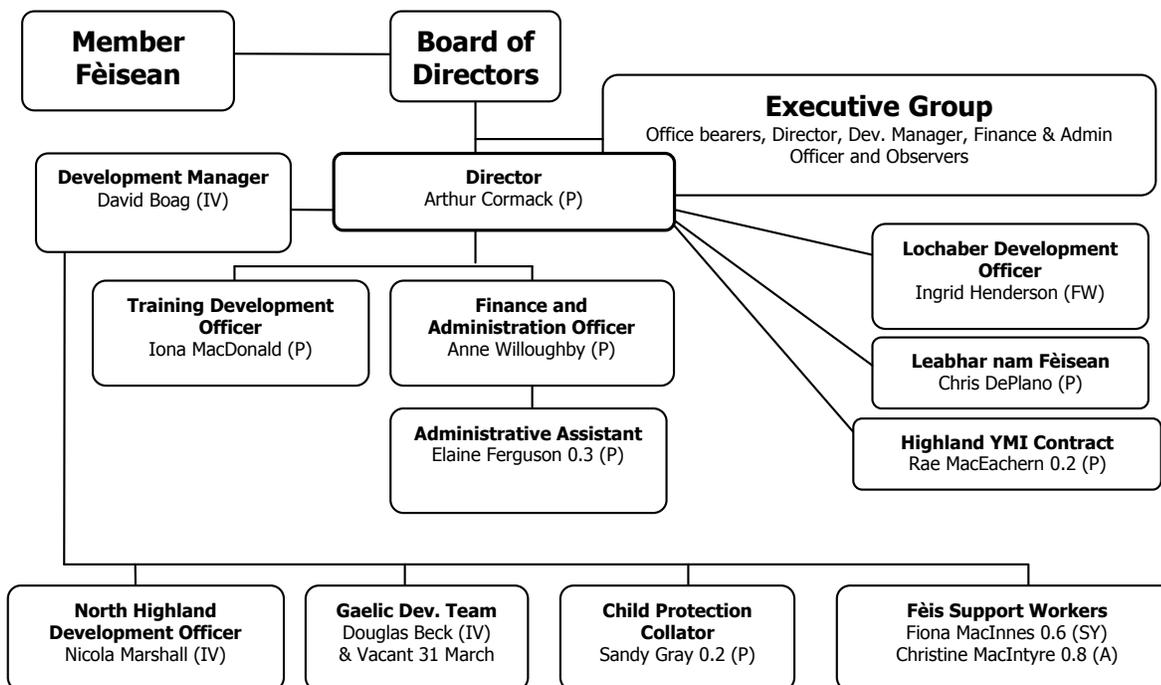
	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN FnG ACTIVITIES	11,528
42	Main Fèisean	
21	Total number of individual participants	3,796
6	Total Granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£104,680
5	Total Expenditure by Fèisean	£352,465
1	Year-round Activities	
1	Total number of individual participants	1,423
1	Total Granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£48,695
2	Total Expenditure by Fèisean	£121,735
1	Annualised Hours	
1	Full-time equivalent posts	2.6
1	Total Granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£25,524
1	Feis Development Fund	
	Total value of Activities	£50,452
1	Total Granted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£15,000
	Other Activities	
	YMI: Number of Participants	5,237
	Meanbh-Chuileag: Number of Attendees	1,072
	TOTAL GRANTS PLEDGED IN 2005-06	£193,899

*(Includes Fèis Rois Òigridh, Fèis Rois nan Deugairean & Fèis Rois Inbhich and Fèis Alba)



2. Staffing

The table below shows the current staff structure (at 31st March 2006), and its relationship with the wider membership of Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Once again the organisation has benefited from low staff turnover and now directly supports 10.9 FTE posts within the Highlands and Islands Enterprise area.



In September we were joined by Chris DePlano from Skye as part of the Comunn na Gàidhlig Graduate Placement Scheme, to provide research support on the preparation of Fèisean nan Gàidheal 25th Anniversary book.

Rae MacEachern has been engaged on a 1 day a week basis to lead the management and development of the Highland Council, and other, Youth Music Initiative contracts.

Mairi Kidd left her post with the organisation in February 2006 to take up post as the new Chief Executive of Stòrlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba, and with her departure there is no longer a need for the office based within the Gracemount Youth Centre, Edinburgh. Douglas Beck now works from the Inverness office.

The main office is at Meall House in Portree 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 the Fèis Support Worker for Argyll and Glasgow based at home in Ardrishaig (A).

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

3. Board of Directors

During the course of 2005-06, the Board of Fèisean nan Gàidheal met four times - on 17 May, 22 September, and 5 December 2005 and 7 March 2006 - all in Inverness. In addition, the Executive Group of the Board met three times - on 4 May, 1 September and 22 February. The Executive Group is made up of the three office bearers, observers and three staff members. The aim of this group is to allow for more detailed scrutiny of matters such as finance, leaving the full board meetings to consider the strategic planning of the organisation.

The table below shows the current Board membership, numbered 1 – 10. The asterisks (*) show members who served part of the year, until either their term of office came to an end, or they resigned. The **Term** heading shows how many years they have left to serve. **Attendance** shows the actual attendance at meetings of the total possible.

	Western Isles	Notes	Term	Attendance	Fèis
1	Joan Robertson		2	2 of 4	Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain
2	Jane MacNeil		3	1 of 2	Fèis Bharraigh
*	John Joe MacNeil	Resigned Sept 05	n/a	0 of 2	Fèis Bharraigh
Highland					
3	Ken Houston (Secretary)		1	3 of 4	Fèis Chataibh
4	Peggy Nicolson (Vice Chair)		2	4 of 4	Fèis an Earraich
5	Katie Adam (Chair)		2	4 of 4	Fèis a' Bhaile
6	Alasdair MacDonald		3	2 of 2	Fèis Lochabair
*	Catriona MacIntyre	3 year term ended	n/a	3 of 3	
Argyll & Bute					
7	Ken MacKenzie		1	0 of 4	Fèis Latharna
Other Areas					
8	Kate Kerr		1	1 of 4	Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar
9	George Stoddart		3	2 of 2	Fèis sa Mheadhan
10	Jessie Newton		3	1 of 2	Fèis Dhùn Èideann
*	Fiona Johnston	Resigned Sept 05	n/a	1 of 2	Fèis Obar Dheathain
Observers					
	Scottish Arts Council	Rep: Carolyn Paterson (left early 06)		1 of 4	
	Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Rep: A. MacLeod		2 of 4	
	Highland Council	Rep: M.A. MacLeod		2 of 4	
	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Rep: Cllr D J MacSween		3 of 4	
Staff Members					
	Arthur Cormack	Director		4 of 4	
	David Boag	Development Manager		4 of 4	
	Anne Willoughby	Finance & Admin. Officer		3 of 4	

The meeting of the board on 4 May 2005 was held through the medium of Gaelic, as all present were Gaelic speakers. The following meeting on 1 September was also held through the medium of Gaelic, with simultaneous translation. The Board resolved that as part of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Gaelic policy, all meetings from May 2006 onwards would be held through the medium of Gaelic, making use of the simultaneous translation equipment available through Comunn na Gàidhlig.

4. Core Activities

4.1 Introduction

This section of the report deals with the core activities undertaken by Fèisean nan Gàidheal on behalf of its membership. In 2005-06 the cost to each Fèis for annual membership of Fèisean nan Gàidheal was £100.

4.2 Core Staff and Premises

Fèisean nan Gàidheal receives funds from the Scottish Arts Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and the Highland Council towards the essential costs of the organisation's key staff wages, expenses, 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.

In addition to some funds from the core grants, Argyll and Bute Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Sgeama Gàidhlig sa Choinhearsnachd in the Argyll and the Islands Enterprise area provided additional finance to support the worker in their area.

4.3 Grants Scheme for Fèisean

In the current year, Fèisean nan Gàidheal continued to provide support to member Fèisean for their main Fèis and year-round activities.

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 Percentages were increased in 2005-06, and Fèisean are able to apply for up to 25% of their total eligible expenditure in undertaking a Main Fèis. Additional support from the Highland Council, gives all Main Fèisean in that area a further 12.5% of funding. Those in Argyll and Bute Council area each receive an additional £1,500 per Fèis and Fèisean in the Western Isles receive a fixed sum 'top-up' from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. In 2005-06 Fèisean nan Gàidheal committed £104,680 in financial support towards these Fèisean.

Year-round Fèis Activity

Grants of up to 40% of eligible costs are available for Fèisean which undertake the running 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 2005-06, Fèisean nan Gàidheal committed £48,695 in support of these classes.

4.3 Annualised Hours

This has proven to be an extremely useful scheme for Fèisean, allowing them to employ locally based administrators to undertake some key tasks on a paid basis, ranging from 30 to nearly 400 hours depending on the range of activity. A total of £25,524 or approximately 4,254 (2.6 FTE) hours was committed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal in support of this project. Specific funds to support this project were secured from the Scottish Arts Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

4.4 Development Fund

This was the second year that the Development Fund was in operation, offering member Fèisean the opportunity to undertake new projects, through a simple application process. In total, 22 Fèisean successfully applied to the scheme, with all of the £15,000 committed. This resulted in £50,452 of new activity across Scotland. This scheme was made possible through additional support from the Scottish Arts Council, Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

4.5 Annual General Meeting and Conference

Each year Fèisean nan Gàidheal holds a conference to coincide with the organisation's Annual General Meeting. Funding is made available for one representative from each member Fèis to attend the event, including all travel and accommodation expenses. The 2005 AGM and Conference was held at the Thistle Altens Hotel in Aberdeen on 23 and 24 September. This was the first time the conference had been held in the North East and it began with the AGM on the Friday evening, plus a dinner, where attendees were treated to performances by

young people from Fèis Obar Dheathain. The following day saw the annual conference, with a presentation by the RSAMD of the findings from the Tracking Exercise.

4.6 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. Further information is given in the section 5.

4.7 Publishing

Fèisean nan Gàidheal published *Oideachadh nam Fèis – Scottish Fiddle Music for Beginners* compiled by Alpha Munro. Alpha has been teaching at Fèisean for many years and her book has around 30 tunes all with background notes in Gaelic and English, as well as information on scales, caring for the fiddle, and sections on how to handle the instrument, with background to different styles of tunes. It is a valuable resource for teaching at Fèisean, but also in other settings, and is also a good source of Gaelic musical vocabulary for people of all ages. The book runs to 68 pages, is illustrated throughout by Geordie MacDonald Haig, with Gaelic text by Keith Scammell.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal have also been busily working on a special 25th Anniversary book, jointly edited by Kate Martin and Cailean MacLean and assisted by Chris DePlano. This book has been Fèisean nan Gàidheal's largest publishing project to date and will be ready for publication in Summer 2006.

4.8 Child Protection & Disclosure Checking

As part of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's continued commitment to ensuring that young people are allowed to undertake Fèis activities within a safe and supportive environment, the organisation continues to carry out disclosure checks on behalf of member Fèisean, with Sandy Gray acting as collator. We are now entering the phase where many of the people originally checked are now going through their second check, as the initial 3 years had now passed. In the 2005-06, Fèisean nan Gàidheal spent £7,500 undertaking Disclosure checks on behalf of the Fèis movement, and to date over 1,000 checks have been carried out.

4.9 Insurance

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is currently insured by the Ansvar insurance company and cover is available to all paid up members of the association. During the last twelve months, this cover has been enhanced and now provides a higher limit of insurance against damage to instruments at a Fèis. As well as cover for normal Fèis activities, the policy provides cover for the company and employees from eventualities such as personal injury, which extends to Fèis tutors and volunteers. This continues to be a fantastic saving for member Fèisean, affording them, and their equipment, an excellent level of protection.

4.10 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) support

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to provide member Fèisean with a range of ICT equipment support, including computers, scanners, printers etc, e-mail addresses and a web-site with self contribution facilities. Plans are in hand to revamp the website in 2006-07, with the aim of making greater use of new techniques such as podcasting. All members of staff are now linked to Broadband, which has made the sending and receiving of large files a great deal easier. This technology now opens up greater possibilities for web conferencing.

4.11 Advocacy

Staff and Directors 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.

4.12 Database of Fèis Tutors

The Database of Fèis Tutors continues to be a valuable resource for member Fèisean and other organisations, and is held electronically. This is continually updated, as new names are submitted to the office for inclusion, and it is hoped that it can go online as part of the website renewal.

4.13 Faileas - Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter

Only one issue of *Faileas* was produced in July 2005. It is hoped that in 2006-07, 3 editions can be produced and we are actively exploring new formats for this e.g. via podcast or web streaming.

4.14 Information

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

4.15 Funding opportunities

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.

4.16 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. This continues to be a very important resource for the Fèisean.

4.17 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, Mairi Kidd and Douglas Beck produced Gaelic resource packs for each Fèis. Within each of these are a range of materials such as door and other bilingual signs e.g. for windows and fire extinguishers to give the whole Fèis a Gaelic environment.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has now adopted a Gaelic language policy, which Fèisean will be expected to implement, in addition to the organisation itself, with support from staff. A full copy of the policy is available for download from www.feisean.org

4.18 Crannchur nam Fèisean – National Raffle

The second Crannchur nam Fèisean – National Raffle was drawn at Meall House, Portree, Isle of Skye on Friday 9 September 2005. The top prize of £2,500 was won by Alasdair Morrison from Ness in Lewis, with a range of other prizewinners from across Scotland. Fèisean sold 10,454 tickets, raising a total of £5,227. Fèisean retained 80% of this total (£4,181.60) locally with the remaining 20% going to Fèisean nan Gàidheal to partly offset the running costs. An additional prize of £500 to the Fèis that sold most tickets was won by Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich. Sales for the 2006 draw are on-going and it is hoped that Fèisean can once again benefit from this relatively new initiative.

5. Development Projects 2005–06

In addition to a wide range of “core” activities, Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to develop a wide range of projects. In the case of the Blas festival and the Youth Music Initiative, these are contracts on behalf of other organisations, but both have clearly beneficial outcomes for the development of Fèisean.

5.1 Training Officer and Programme

Iona MacDonald is employed as Training Development Officer, based within the office in Portree. This role is part-time, and is combined with the role of developing the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network (TMTTN), meaning that Iona is employed full-time. The original three-year package of support for the Fèisean nan Gàidheal training plan has now come to an end, but additional support from the European Social Fund (ESF) has been secured for the calendar year 2006. Training over the year 2005-6 has been wide and varied, including classes in tutoring in Barra, Skye and Inverness, regionally based Fèis organiser training in Lewis, Inverness, Lochaber and Glasgow, plus a variety of more specialised sessions in Gaelic language, Special Needs, Dance, Supervising, Venue Management and various staff training days.

As part of the funding agreements, an evaluation of the first 3 years of the project was undertaken by Stuart Brownlee. The overall results were very positive, with 98% of attendees saying that the course they had attended met their expectations. As well as this, some areas for improving the programme of training on offer were suggested by respondents to the survey. These included:

- finding ways of encouraging higher levels of uptake of training courses, especially amongst Fèis volunteers, supervisors and committee members;
- providing more specific training opportunities on areas such as Gaelic language, IT (generic and specific), technical and tutoring skills;
- structuring future training opportunities to match skills levels of trainees, e.g. beginner, intermediate, advanced, refresher;
- providing a suite of training routes to enable trainees to pick ones that match their availability of time and can be accessed around their other life and work commitments.

All of these comments have been taken on board and will be incorporated into future training programmes.

Iona has also worked closely with other members of staff in the delivery of training to support the implementation of the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) contract in the Highland Council area.

In terms of progress with the TMTTN, plans are well in hand for the development of the Advanced Certificate in Music tuition, which will be a direct follow-up to the Professional Development Award in Music tuition launched last year.

5.2 Meanbh-Chuileag and Gaelic Development

The Meanbh-Chuileag team has had another very busy year, made more difficult by the fact that they were working on a very tight budget. Funding for their theatre-in-education (TIE) work was made available through Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Arts Council, with additional funds raised through pieces of work undertaken in schools and for other organisations. Over the course of the year, Meanbh-Chuileag ran 30 workshops for 500 children, and 35 schools performances for 572 children. The successful partnership with the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Scotland has gone from strength to strength, and additionally work has been carried out with other organisations including Comunn na Gàidhlig.

In addition, Douglas Beck and Mairi Kidd produced the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Gaelic policy, which has now been adopted by the Board. This will see a marked difference in the level of Gaelic being used within Fèisean nan Gàidheal and there will be more support for local Fèisean to implement the policy in a practical fashion.

With this in mind, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been gradually developing the *Sgioba-G* programme, whereby teams of Gaelic speakers deliver Gaelic activities at Fèisean. These are specially tailored to meet the needs of the local Fèisean, and can be delivered to beginners, improvers or fluent speakers and at a range of ages.

During the course of 2005-06 the decision was taken to concentrate Gaelic resources primarily on supporting Fèisean and the implementation of the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Gaelic policy. Quite simply the money was not available to do this and support the Meanbh-Chuileag TIE programme. Therefore the approved contractor bid to Bòrd na Gàidhlig removed this element from our proposed programme for 2006-07, and this will allow us to employ two officers from April 2006 to concentrate on the needs of Fèisean.

However, extra funding has been secured to allow us to deliver a 10-week programme of Gaelic medium TIE in 2006-07, which will be led by Douglas Beck. He will be working closely with a number of other organisations to build up a network of drama Fèisean in 2006-07, building on the success of Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu, the Ross-shire Gaelic drama festival held in Ullapool in February, and the Argyll drama festival staged in June.

Mairi Kidd has now left Fèisean nan Gàidheal to take up post as Chief Executive of Stòrlann and we wish her every success in this. Her replacement Gaelic officer post was advertised, with the aim of appointing in early summer 2006. This officer will be developing the *Sgioba-G* project and assisting Fèisean implement the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Gaelic policy locally.

5.3 Lochaber Development Officer

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to employ a full-time development officer's post to develop Fèisean in the Lochaber area. Funding for this post came from additional funds granted to Fèisean nan Gàidheal by the Highland Council, plus grants from Lochaber Enterprise and the WHELK Leader+ programme. A summary report of the work undertaken by Lochaber Development Officer, Ingrid Henderson, is contained within section 7.1 of this report.



5.4 Blas – Celebrating Highland Music

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to enjoy an excellent partnership with the Highland Council and the Promoters Art Network in the staging and delivery of the Blas festival. Over the last twelve months a great deal of work has been put in by all involved, firstly in running the first large scale event, 2 - 10 September 2005, in five areas covered the Highland Council: Caithness, Sutherland, Ross-shire, Skye & Lochalsh and Lochaber. In all, there were 37 events, of which 3 were free, and 2 were part of Celtic Chaos, run by An Drochaid in Skye. Around 200 volunteers were involved between Fèisean, members of PAN and other promoters. The overall attendance was 2,633, or 64.79% of capacity.

Barely had the 2005 event come to end when planning began in earnest for the 2006 event, 1-9 September. This year the festival will grow to cover 43 events in 7 out of the 8 Highland Council areas, with Nairn and Badenoch & Strathspey being added to the programme. In addition, a great deal of work has been done to market the festival and advance ticket sales, particularly through the online ticket agency *The Booth*.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has ensured that Gaelic and youth are given a central place in all the events, and the Fèisean Cèilidh Trails will take part in the 2006 festival, sharing the stage with some of the best known names in traditional music today.

5.5 Youth Music Initiative (YMI)

This continues to be a successful partnership with the Highland Council, delivering up to 12 weeks per year of traditional music lessons in all 196 primary schools in the area. In the academic year 2005-06 it is expected that 5,237 pupils in Highland will have participated in this scheme.

Over the last 12 months, Rae McEachern has taken on the responsibility of coordinating the project on behalf of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and she is in regular contact with Fèisean, tutors and the schools to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as it should. In addition, tutor training sessions have been organised and new teaching materials developed.

Feedback from schools and pupils has been very positive indeed and it appears that the project is going from strength-to-strength. Of particular significance is the employment this scheme offers to musicians in the Highlands, and many are choosing to settle in the area, given the regular supply of work.

5.6 25th Fèis Bharraigh Events

Summer 2005 was a highly significant milestone both for Fèis Bharraigh and the Fèis movement, as the local committee staged their 25th successive event. To mark this special occasion Fèisean nan Gàidheal worked closely with the local committee to stage three nights of special commemorative events. These were made possible through additional funding from the Scottish Arts Council, Western Isles Enterprise and the Community Economic Development Fund in the Western Isles.

Thursday 28th July

This was the end of Fèis concert and attracted a capacity audience of 320 parents, friends and supporters turning out to support the young people. The marquee proved to be an excellent venue for this special event, along with the professional quality stage, lights and PA system. The standard of performance was exceptionally high and many commented that this had been the best Fèis concert ever. If ever there was to be a fitting celebration of the 25th Fèis Bharraigh, this was it.

Friday 29th July

Cathy Ann MacPhee and Friends took part in a concert in the marquee at Tangasdal Machair. One of Barra's most famous and accomplished performers, Cathy Ann was a tutor at the first Fèis Bharraigh and has been a keen supporter of the movement since then. This concert featured Cathy Ann, with Louise Mackenzie, John Martin, Billy Ross and Angus MacPhail and again attracted a full house of 320. This was followed by a dance, performed by Angus, Billy and John.

Saturday 30th July

A special *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert featured 70 young people from Barra, Lewis, Harris and Uist, alongside representatives of Fèis Rois (Ross-shire), Fèis Lochabair and Fèis an Earraich (Skye and Lochalsh).

The mainland based groups gathered in Oban the night before, staying at the Kilbowie Hostel and taking part in a youth concert organised by the International Celtic Congress. The group then boarded the Cal-Mac boat, MV Lord of the Isles, for the five hour crossing to Lochboisdale and onto Eriskay, where they met up with the Lewis, Harris and Uist groups. Then it was on to Barra, with dinner at Northbay Hall, before making for the marquee and a short sound check/rehearsal.

The concert itself was an outstanding success, with just under 300 people in the audience and all groups and individuals performed brilliantly. Unfortunately all of the accommodation in Barra was already taken, and all the non-Barra based young people had to return to Uist on a specially chartered Cal-Mac ferry. Although this was a costly option, there was no other way to make this event work, as accommodation and ferry timetables conspired against us.

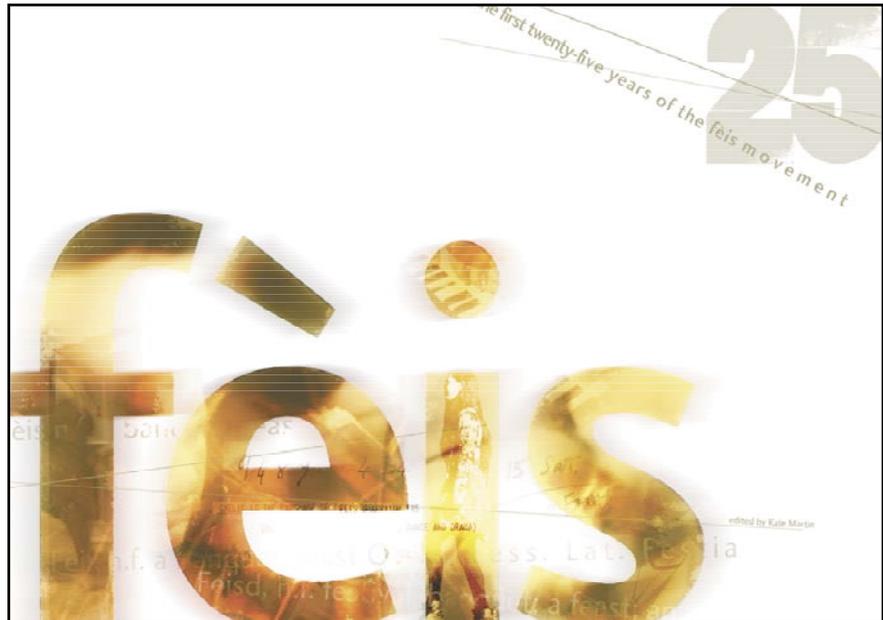
The journey for the mainland kids continued on Sunday with the ferry to Uig, Skye and the Lewis young people returned home in Monday morning – for the start of Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich!

Overall the three events were very successful indeed, with over 900 people attending all of the events. There were three high quality events celebrating the 25th staging of Fèis Bharraigh, a real sense of coming together

by the wider Fèis movement in the Western Isles and beyond, and perhaps most importantly, renewed momentum for the Fèis and its activities in Barra. Since then there has been an increase in the number of, and participation in, Fèis Bharraigh classes and if this project has been in any way responsible for this, then that is a legacy to be proud of.

5.7 25th Anniversary book

The gathering of information for, and writing of, the 25th Anniversary *Leabhar nam Fèisean* has been a major project in 2005-06, and the book will be published in September 2006. This book is being jointly edited by Kate Martin and Cailean MacLean who are concentrating on the English and Gaelic texts respectively. They have been assisted by Chris DePlano who has undertaken a good deal of the collection of materials, including face-to-face and telephone interviews. The finished publication will be over 200 pages, full colour and in hardback and paperback versions.



5.8 Fèisean Radio Project

This took place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig from 19 to 21 September 2005, with a total of 10 young people from Skye and Lochalsh, Argyll, Ross & Cromarty and Lochaber taking part. In addition, three adult trainees/supervisors took part in the course, led by Cailean MacLean entirely through the medium of Gaelic. Funding was been secured from Sgeama Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd and the Highlands and Islands Community Broadcast Federation to pay for the course and equipment. Four recording set-ups were purchased, including a hard disk recorder and quality microphone which will be useful for other projects in the future. The course was rounded off with an hour-long live broadcast on Cuillin FM, and feedback from audience and participants was extremely positive. It is hoped that projects of this kind can be repeated in the future, where teenagers make use of technology while honing their Gaelic skills.

6. Advocacy and Collaboration

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 promoting the excellent work and important place of the Fèis movement within modern Scottish society.

6.1 Scottish Arts Council

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Scottish Arts Council (SAC), both as a key funder and development partner in a number of projects. As Carolyn Paterson left SAC in early 2006 to take up a new post, their new Head of Music, Ian Smith, is now Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Lead Officer within SAC.

The SAC has seen quite a number of changes over the last few months, partially as a result of the findings of the Cultural Commission. As part of this, they have been reviewing the number of organisations for which they provide 'core' funding. Under the new arrangements, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has achieved 'foundation' status which means that it is recognised as a key part in the cultural life of Scotland.

Additionally, the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen will merge to form a new body "Creative Scotland" from April 2007. As part of this transition, it is hoped that new 5 year funding packages will be established for Foundation organisations.

6.2 Local Authorities

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to work in close partnership with members and staff of a wide range of Local Authorities. In particular, the organisation now has Service Level Agreements with The Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and is moving towards one with Argyll & Bute Council. In addition, we have several local authority contracts, including Blas and YMI with The Highland Council, and a YMI contract with East Lothian Council. The help of all the local authorities with which we work, whether direct or in-kind, is of vital importance to the continued success and growth of the Fèis movement in Scotland.

6.3 Highlands and 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 helped fund a number of key projects including the purchase of ICT equipment, musical instruments and the undertaking of a Fèis participant 'tracking' exercise. This package came to an end in March 2006 and discussions are ongoing to ensure that a new package of support can be agreed.

6.4 Local Enterprise Companies

As well as working with HIE, Fèisean nan Gàidheal works with a wide range of Local Enterprise Companies, particularly with regard to supporting locally based projects. This is an extremely valuable partnership and one which is highly valued with the Fèis movement.

6.5 Traditional Music Tutor Training Network - 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, the Scottish Arts Council, Strathclyde University, the Scots Music Group, TMSA and Lauder College are represented.

6.6 GASD

The Gaelic Arts Strategic Development Group (GASD) comprises representatives of Pròiseact nan Ealan, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Tosg, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, An Comunn Gàidhealach and Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig.

The Scottish Arts Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig has jointly funded a programme of development, with the aim of enhancing the profile for Gaelic arts and artists, increasing audiences and building support in the

wider community for the Gaelic language. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is responsible for devising the Development of skills part of the programme, which aims to:

- Support young people to pursue a career in the Gaelic arts through a training and talent development programme of traineeships
- Assist those working in the Gaelic arts sector sustain employment within the sector through a group based professional development programme
- Broaden the experience of those working within the Gaelic arts sector and focus upon the fostering of interest in Gaelic arts and language in communities through a programme of residencies.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal successfully applied to the GASD trainee scheme to support the post of a trainee marketing officer, starting in September 2006. The aim of this post is to offer a 12-month traineeship to assist Fèisean nan Gàidheal and member Fèisean to increase their profile at the local, national and international level.

This will include the collection of a range of relevant information for publication on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website, and the trainee as part of the wider team, will have responsibility for updating the site over the period of the traineeship. In addition, the trainee will be expected to assist with marketing of the Blas festival and again, would have overall responsibility for the regular updating of the site for the duration of the traineeship.

6.7 Bòrd na Gàidhlig

This has been a very exciting year with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act passing through the Scottish Parliament on 21st April 2005, and gaining Royal Assent on 1st June 2005. This Act gives official recognition to the language and within it, gives official responsibility to Bòrd na Gàidhlig to develop the language in Scotland.

The result of this was that the existing Bòrd was dissolved and a new Bòrd installed in early 2006, with Matthew MacIver in the Chair. This sequence of events will eventually see the publication of the draft *Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig* in late summer 2006 for public consultation.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal made a successful application for funding to Bòrd na Gàidhlig which will see us take further steps in implementing our Gaelic policy, with greater language support across the organisation, but particularly for Fèisean. We were also successful, along with support from the Scottish Arts Council, in applying to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for a 10 week Gaelic medium theatre-in-education tour in the coming year.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal welcomes the progress that has been made in Gaelic language development in 2005-06 and looks forward to working closely with Bòrd na Gàidhlig in the implementation of the National Plan for Gaelic – *Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig*.

6.8 The Traditional Music Forum

The Scottish Arts Council facilitated the formation of a Traditional Music Forum which met several times throughout the year. It is made up of representatives of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Fèis Rois, the TMSA, RSAMD, Hands Up for TRAD, SAC, the Scots Music Group and the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music among others, and has proved to be a useful collaboration. The forum is currently looking at providing teaching resources in traditional music, suitable for use in formal education, as well as a promotional DVD which will be used in a variety of ways.

6.9 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 are key themes, and the Fèisean will be offered as part of the *Highland Promise*. Blas has received funding from Highland 2007.

6.10 Youth Music Reference Group

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Director is a member of the reference group set up to oversee the spending of the YMI funds, as well as to agree a strategy for the development of Youth Music provision in Scotland.

6.11 Cultural Commission

The Cultural Commission published their final report on 23 June 2005. Running to a weighty 539 pages with 124 recommendations, this was a substantial piece of work. Fèisean nan Gàidheal was one of the many organisations that made a submission to the commission, and the Fèis movement was highlighted as a case study within the report. One of key outcomes from the process will be the amalgamation of the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen into a new body called Creative Scotland.

7. Fèis News

This section gives a brief summary of the activities of member Fèisean over the year 2005-06. 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 Fèis Support Worker for that particular group of Fèisean.

7.1 Lochaber

With additional funding from the Highland Council, Fèisean nan Gàidheal employs Ingrid Henderson as Development Officer for the Lochaber area Fèisean. Ingrid is based in Fort William. Her work is directed by the Lochaber Fèisean Steering Group. The following is a summary of the Lochaber-wide projects that Ingrid has been involved with in the last year, followed by a brief summary of each of the local Fèisean.

YMI School Visits

For the second year, under the guidance of Ingrid Henderson, assisted by Fiona Ironside, the Lochaber area was involved in delivery of the Youth Music Initiative traditional music lessons in local primary schools. This involved four weeks of lessons per term in Gaelic song, whistle and group work, focusing on the P5/6 age group or wider if the school roll is small. A Gaelic Song Resource, to accompany the song tuition was developed, which eventually will be used throughout the area. The pack includes song words and a CD with a basic vocabulary list for English-medium and additional work sheets for Gaelic-medium pupils. Kathleen Graham, Anne Martin and Ingrid Henderson put the CD and words together, with Mary Ann Kennedy and Kenna Campbell involved in the word exercises.

Cèilidh Trail

The Summer tour of the Cèilidh Trail was successfully completed, coordinated by Toni Russell and assisted by student Sarah Hughes. The 2005 performers were Andrew MacDonald, Ewen & Megan Henderson, Iain MacMaster, Robert Nairn, Johan McHale, Olivia Bridge & Lauren Tait and as a group they worked brilliantly together. After training as part of Fèis Alba in Plockton and performing around Lochaber for the month of July, the tour finished on a high at the 25th Fèis Celebrations in Barra on July 31st. The Lochaber Cèilidh Trail group were involved in the Blas festival, undertaking four gigs over the course of the week.

Trip to Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain

Seven youngsters from Acharacle and two from Fort William attended the Gaelic medium Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain during the last week of July. YMI worker Fiona Ironside and Ingrid Henderson accompanied the nine teenagers to Uist for the week which was to help and encourage their use of Gaelic outwith the school curriculum. The group were based at a house in Iochdar for the week and as well as daily classes they managed to fit in concerts, shows and a barbecue on the beach at Eriskay. The trip was a great success and helped develop our language provision for the younger teenage group.

Celtic Colours, Nova Scotia

Six Lochaber Cèilidh Trailers took part in a very successful trip to Cape Breton and the Celtic Colours Festival in October 2005, accompanied by Ingrid Henderson and Catriona MacIntyre, Early Education & Childcare Officer (Gaelic Medium) with The Highland Council. This trip was part of ongoing work, building on the unique connection that exists between the Gaelic speaking areas of the Highlands and Nova Scotia.

It was an extremely busy schedule for the six young performers who gave thirteen concert-type performances in five days. The majority of these performances also included workshops and question and answer sessions for school pupils of all ages. On some of their concert sets they were paired up with young local band *All Fired Up* who they got to know well over the week. A lot of time was spent in the Mabou area which has very strong links with families in the Lochaber region and Gaelic teacher Margie Beaton, a native of Eriskay, was delighted to have them talking to her pupils in Gaelic and about their language and culture. The biggest concert they were involved in was aptly named *The Young and the Restless* showcasing young talent from Ireland, Cape Breton and the UK. They were by far the youngest musicians in the programme but they put on a truly fantastic show of Gaelic song, music and step dance which went down a storm with the 400 strong audience.

While visiting Cape Breton the group attended Fèis Mhabou and met with Frances MacEachen, Gaelic Cultural Officer in Cape Breton, to discuss ways to develop Gaelic language and cultural projects in each of our areas. With her help, Catriona held workshops with pre-school children and parents interested in

Gaelic pre-school education and had very positive discussions on ways which a Gaelic programme for pre-school children and parents might be introduced, delivered and sustained in Cape Breton.

In all it was an extremely successful trip in terms of the youngsters experience, knowledge sharing and relationship building for the future.

Acharacle new school build

Ingrid has been actively involved in an initiative to provide additional facilities for the new school building at Acharacle to ensure that Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan are able to make best use of the new facility.

Northern Periphery Project

The Lochaber Fèisean are one of the key partners in this Scandinavian linked music project, and offer help and advice connected with Fèisean, Gaelic and local music plus generally sharing information on projects and events. A number of joint events are being planned for 2006-07 involving the different music organisations of Lochaber and the Scandinavian regions. A joint Music and Arts forum day took place on November 26th and helped raise the profile of arts in the area, with a strong Fèis and Blas presence. Some of the Cèilidh Trail youngsters performed in the foyer display area.

Lochaber Music Network – 2007

In the run up to Highland 2007, Ingrid Henderson has been involved in meetings with various different music providers in the Lochaber area to discuss our work and any plans for events in 2007. This has been extremely useful for making contact with school music teachers and finding out what provision exists within the area especially within the new YMI schemes. As suggested by the Highland Council Education and Culture Services the group has also been discussing possibilities of joint events in 2007 as well as creating a sensible programme of work spread throughout the year so events don't clash.

Individual Lochaber Fèisean

Fèis Òigridh na Mara	Mallaig, Morar and Arisaig	Fèis activities continue to develop for the Mallaig, Morar and Arisaig area. Ongoing classes set up last year are growing in numbers and through negotiations with Mallaig High School, Jim Hunter is teaching guitar during the school day with the school funding places for Standard Grade and Higher pupils. This is an important development in the area as the position of Music Teacher was vacant for most of last year and there has not been a history of visiting Highland Council Music Instructors at the school. They ran their main Fèis in the November long weekend, preceded by a programme of weekly classes and specialist classes. 25 attended the main Fèis with 20 under 8s coming along to do art, song, whistle and dance each morning.
Fèis Lochabair	Fort William	The Fèis committee held their annual main Fèis in Lochaber High School during the Easter holidays. 82 young people took part in the main Fèis and 48 in the 5-8 year old section. The close working relationship and dedication within the committee plays a large part in their continued success. In addition, Fèis Lochabair runs a very successful and busy programme of year round activities. Young people from Fèis Lochabair and the other Lochaber Fèisean, undertook the second year of their Cèilidh Trail, which once again, went down very well with tourist operators, tourists and local people. Plans are underway to produce a Cèilidh Trail CD for summer 2006. The Cèilidh Trailers also took part in Blas 2006, with a number of gigs throughout Lochaber.
Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan	Moidart, West Lochaber	Over the last year, Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan has been working closely with Mallaig based Fèis Òigridh na Mara to hand over some of their classes to this new Fèis. The local committee continue to run a number of classes in their own area, plus their main Fèis 18 – 22 July. 75 8–18 year olds attended the day activities at Ardnamurchan High School and 25 5-8 year olds attended workshops in Acharacle. The committee held a "come and try" day in an effort to resurrect some year round classes that had gone by the wayside. This was a successful initiative, supported in part by the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Development Fund.
Fèis Eige	Isle of Eigg	Fèis Eige were successful in securing an Awards for All grant to undertake a storytelling and drama project in the small isles, delivered by Meanbh-Chuileag

in January. Unfortunately, weather meant that only Canna and Rum could be reached at that time, but the tutors were able to visit Eigg and Muck shortly after that. The Fèis held their annual event on Eigg in July, attracting young people from the island and further afield.

7.2 Aberdeen, Central Scotland and Edinburgh

Fèisean in these areas of Scotland are not currently covered by a dedicated support worker or development officer, but plans are afoot to seek funds to put this in place. Currently they are supported by Arthur Cormack and David Boag and the following is a summary of the work that they undertook in 2005-06.

Fèis Obar Dheathain	Aberdeen	The committee held their annual Fèis 18 – 20 February with 85 young people taking part. Of these, 35 were fluent Gaelic speakers. Fèis Obar Dheathain chose to employ the Sgioba-G to assist with their Gaelic language input. This involved extracting participants from the other classes for a 45 minute session per day, the times determined both by their Gaelic ability and their age. In all, there were 5 classes, 2 for fluent speakers (older and younger) and 3 for learners (8 -10, 11 – 12 and 13+). The Fèis took place at Harlaw Academy, which proved to be an excellent venue, with lots of class spaces and a large assembly hall where the final concert was held
Fèis sa Mheadhan	Stirlingshire	The Fèis has had a very busy year, holding events in Stirling, Callander, Falkirk and Clackmannan. Over and above this, Fiona Johnston has been leading a groupwork class for teenagers and which brings in additional tutors on an occasional basis. This group has been working closely with the Tollbooth in Stirling on <i>The Blend</i> festival which ran during in the Easter holidays.
Fèis Dhùn Èideann	Edinburgh	Fèis Dhùn Èideann held their 11th annual Fèis in February 2006 and once again, this was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. In addition, the Fèis continued to run their programme of year round activity. The groupwork class in particular have been very busy indeed, working on their CD "Fèis the Music" which will be available in May 2006. This project received support from the Fèisean nan Gaidheal development fund. The Fèis also staged a successful Christmas concert.

7.3 North Highland Fèisean

Fèisean in this area are supported by North Highland Development officer, Nicola Marshall, who is based in Inverness. During the last twelve months, Fèisean in this area undertook some joint activities, namely a North Highland Fèisean organisers day in January, with 20 people in attendance and in early February, the Inverness area Fèisean held a joint fun-day in Drumnadrochit. The majority of Nicola's time is spent supporting volunteer committees, with more limited support offered to Fèis Rois, who themselves have a number of full-time staff. The following is a summary of the activities carried out by Fèisean in the North in 2005-06.

Fèis Air an Oir	North West Sutherland	The local committee continue to run an extensive series of fortnightly classes throughout the winter months. They have a committed team of tutors who ensure that the young people of the area receive an excellent programme of tuition.
Fèis Rois Òigridh	Ullapool	The Fèis Rois team continue to be extremely busy with a large programme of year round activities across Ross-Shire, master classes, drama sessions, Cèilidh Trail, organising Youth Music Initiative sessions in schools across the North, taking part in BLAS and Celtic Connections, organising the Traditional Musicians in Schools scheme across Scotland, and of course, three large Fèisean. The first of these was in Ullapool, 28 March - 1 April and in all, some 150 young people took part.
Fèis Rois nan Deugairean	Ullapool	The senior Fèis was held in Ullapool, 17 - 21 October with 170 young people from across Ross-shire and beyond taking part in the event. The standard of young players attending the Fèis continues to rise all the time, and is evidence of the great work that Fèis Rois has achieved over 20 years.

Fèis Rois Inbhich	Ullapool	The Adult Fèis continues to go from strength to strength and now draws a truly international audience to Ullapool for the May weekend. 2005 once again saw a record breaking number of participants, enjoying the workshops, cèilidhs, dances and sessions, whilst ploughing a great deal of money into the local economy.
Fèis Chataibh	Golspie	Fèis Chataibh had another very busy year, with their main Fèis taking place in Golspie High School, 4 - 8 July. In addition, the committee have been involved in delivering the Highland Council's Youth Music Initiative for traditional music to all the primary schools in Sutherland. They once again held their highly successful Cèilidh Trail across the North during the summer months, and they took a very active part in the BLAS festival in September. In addition to all this, the Fèis are active in running a number of year round classes and were successful in securing Highland 2007 funding for an Arts & Crafts project.
Fèis Throdairnis	Trotternish, North Skye	The committee ran their main Fèis in July, with a programme of follow-on classes in chanter, fiddle and cèilidh dancing on-going. As well as this, the Fèis hosted a night as part of the Fèis an Earraich Cèilidh Trail summer tour, which attracted a good audience of locals and visitors to Kilmuir Village Hall.
Fèis Ratharsaidh	Raasay	This year's Fèis took place 9 - 11 February, with the usual range of disciplines on offer. However, this year's Fèis will be remembered for the fact that travel to and from the pier to Raasay Hotel, the venue for the Fèis was by helicopter. Work on the main road meant that this was the only means of transport for the duration of the Fèis. In addition, the instruments were also helicoptered in especially for the event.
Fèis a' Bhealaich	Applecross	The committee held their Fèis on Friday 30th September and Saturday 1st October, with pupils from the local schools (Sheildaig and Applecross), taking part. The second day was purely young people from the local area that took part. Douglas Beck delivered a range of Gaelic activities as part of the Sgioba-G initiative, and was well received by both the youngsters and committee.
Fèis an Earraich	Skye and Lochalsh	This has been an exceptionally busy, but rewarding year for Fèis an Earraich, with their main Fèis taking place in Kyleakin during the Easter holidays, with 154 participants. The very high standards achieved by Fèis an Earraich were recognised by the Scottish Arts Council when Iain MacInnes, a member of the panel of advisors to SAC, made a visit to the Fèis as part of the evaluation process adopted by the SAC. The Fèis, which this year took place in Kyleakin, scored top marks. During the summer, the Fèis organised their first ever Cèilidh Trail under the name "Ceilear." This was made possible through successful applications to the Scottish Arts Council and North Highland LEADER+.
Fèis Alba	Plockton	This year's event was held at Plockton High School, 4 – 7 July, with the now familiar professional development training for the 16 to 25 year old group. The focus of this year's event was working in groups, and the Cèilidh Trailers from Lochaber and Skye and Lochalsh took part. The week was rounded off with a concert in Plockton Village Hall, where a crowd of approximately 70 were treated to an excellent programme from each of the groups.
Fèis Chille Mhòraig	Kilmorack, Beaully & Glen Urquhart	Fèis Chille Mhòraig took place on the 24th and 25th September in Glen Urquhart High School, with 66 participants. Like Fèis a' Bhaile participants benefited greatly from input from the G-Team. The main issue surrounding the Fèis was the cost of hiring the venue but these issues have now been resolved. Fèis Chille Mhòraig also took part in the joint Inverness area Fèis day in February.
Fèis Inbhir Narainn	Nairn	Fèis Inbhir Narann is the newest of the Fèisean in Highland area and has got off to a great start. In May interviews were held for the position of project coordinator and Shona Arthur took up position in mid-May. Although workshops had been running under the banner of Nairn Traditional Music Classes the first Fèis event took place in the first weekend in September and proved to be successful with waiting lists for follow-on classes continuing to increase.

Fèis a' Bhaile	Inverness	The main Fèis took place from 17th – 21st October at Charleston Academy. With 72 participants it was a very successful week, feedback from both tutors and participants was very positive. There was increased Gaelic input at this year's Fèis due to input from the G-Team and Gaelic-speaking committee members. Since the Fèis week there have been two group-work workshops and weekly Gaelic drama classes. Fèis a' Bhaile teamed up with the other Fèisean in the Inverness in holding a joint family Fèis day in February.
Fèis na h-Òige	Inverness	A teenage group-work weekend took place on the 7th and 8th of May with tutors Mhairi Hall and Angus Mackenzie. Although up-take was not as high as expected due to exams, the six participants who attended enjoyed it and the Cromarty Centre proved to be an ideal venue for this type of activity. Also in May a number of Fèis na h-Òige participants and parents were involved in the Gaelic Musical Taigh Màiri Anndra which was staged at Eden Court. After a well-deserved rest in June the main Fèis took place in the first week of the summer holidays.
Fèis Farr	Farr, Inverness-shire	Fèis Farr continue to run a programme of winter classes in the Farr Hall near Inverness. In addition, the committee are heavily involved in the programme of concerts which take place in the Hall throughout the year.
Fèis Ghlinn Albainn	Fort Augustus & Glengarry	Following on from an initial group-work workshop in April two more workshops were held in June with Iain MacFarlane as tutor. These were thoroughly enjoyed by participants. Following the success of last year a fundraising concert was held in July and it is hoped this will become a regular event. In August the main Fèis took place with around 40 participants. Following the success of the Fèis the committee ran another block of follow-on workshops and staged an adult Fèis weekend in February 2006. Plans are also well in hand for a folk festival as part of the Highland 2007 celebrations.
Fèis Spè	Badenoch & Strathspey	Fèis Spè have had a very busy year, and in April 2005, Judith Bullivant was appointed to a three year, part-time post to develop the Fèis further. The scheme, which received money from LEADER+ and the Scottish Arts Council Youth Music Initiative, Informal sector fund, will compliment and develop the existing work of Fèis Spè. This will focus on a range of new year round activities. In addition to this, the Fèis held their annual main event in October in Grantown Primary School and they held a teenage groupwork weekend, with Fèis Obar Dheathain in February.

7.4 Argyll and Glasgow area Fèisean

This area is covered by support worker Christine MacIntyre, who works from home in Ardrishaig. Her 0.8 FTE post is supported from the core costs of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with additional support from Sgeama Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd and Argyll & Bute Council.

Joint Activities

A band workshop featuring Session A9 was held in Oban in June 2005. Over 70 youngsters from Oban and Mull attended culminating in a public performance in the Corran Halls. A series of one day events took place in Mid Argyll. Argyll & Bute Council gave some funding which went towards a one-day workshop in Tarbert and Campbeltown and to a two-day event on Islay. The Kintyre workshops were such a success, that there have been requests to hold more! A sound recording workshop was also held at Watercolours Studio in Ardgour. Youngsters learned the basics involved in studio work and were able to leave with a CD of their own recording.

Fèis Drama

Over the last twelve months, Christine has been busy preparing for the staging of a one-day drama festival, scheduled to be held in Oban in June 2006. Prior to this, she has been coordinating a series of preparatory workshops across the area. Groups from Morar, Islay, Tiree, Mull, Lismor, Oban and Appin are expected to take part. This festival has been a long held ambition of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, as in previous years, this area had taken part in Fèis Òigridh Ghlaschu when Strathclyde Regional Council existed.

The following are short summaries of the activity of the Fèisean within the area in the last twelve months:

Fèis Thiriodh	Isle of Tiree	The main Fèis took place in July and once again, they were blessed with excellent weather. This Fèis is a firm favourite amongst tutors, as it is well organised, the venue is good and accommodation excellent
Fèis Mhuile	Isle of Mull	Fèis Mhuile has had a difficult couple of years, trying to find their feet and recruit a stable committee. A totally new committee has been appointed and they kicked off with a two day workshop in Tobermory in August. This was well attended with some children overcoming the islands' geographical difficulties and travelling from Bunessan to attend. In cooperation with Argyll & Bute Council, a piping tutor has been placed into the schools. The Fèis are now focussing on providing classes over the winter in both Tobermory and Bunessan. A teenage weekend workshop was held in Tobermory 2 - 4th November.
Fèis Latharna	Oban & District	This year's main Fèis took place in Oban, 10 - 14 April, running for 5 days for the first time with numbers continuing to grow. Some concerns have emerged that the current venue, Park Primary School may now be too small for the Fèis. It is thought that the on-going tuition in a variety of disciplines has led to this increase in interest and participation. Fèis Latharna has now reached the stage of being able to provide a pool of young people to be available for cèilidhs throughout the town next year. They are also in the process of providing tuition in group work as there is a small core of instrumentalists based in Oban.
Fèis Ìle	Isle of Islay	Fèis Ìle has been going through something of a revival in the last couple of years and the last twelve months have seen more developments. A two day Fèis was held in Islay in February 2005, and from that, a great deal of new enthusiasm has been generated and a new committee formed. A second two day Fèis, based at Ionad Chaluum Cille Ìle was held in February 2006 and year round classes in fiddle, guitar, whistle, pipes and chanter were organised. Most of the tutors are locally based and some of the classes extended to the neighbouring Island of Jura.
Fèis Ceann Loch Goibhle	Lochgoilhead	The committee had another busy year, running a series of workshops throughout the year, in and around the area. In addition, they organised a two-day Fèis in Strachur in March, which was very successful indeed. This involved most of the local primary schools and now the committee are looking to consolidate the work achieved over the last few years, and expand the range of classes on offer.
Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn	Dunbarton-shire	Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn deliver their main programme of activity through a series of workshops in the spring time. This year, this was 13th February to 24 th March, with a wide range of activities on offer. In addition, they run 10 week blocks of classes in bodhran, whistle, accordion, fiddle, clàrsach, Gaelic language and Gaelic song. Future plans include the proposed establishment of a Gaelic choir for children in the area.
Fèis Òigridh Glaschu	Glasgow	This year's Fèis was held on 12th May at the Woodside Halls, as the usual venue at Mitchell's Theatre was out of commission. As in previous years, the Fèis focuses wholly on drama, offering a series of workshops to Gaelic medium schools in Glasgow and central Scotland prior to a final performance night in a professional theatre.
Fèis Innis an Uillt	Bishopbriggs	A series of half day workshops, culminating in a full day workshop on Saturday May 7th at Meadowburn Primary School, Bishopbriggs. The Fèis is run by the local Comunn nam Parant, with all the children attending the Gaelic medium department at the school. During the year a number of new parents were elected to the committee and a few new ideas have begun to emerge, e.g. more after school Fèis activities and shinty coaching. Although a small committee, they are very enthusiastic.
Fèis Lannraig a Tuath	Condorrat, North Lanarkshire	Like many of the newer Fèisean in Central Scotland, this one offered a series of one day workshops, but this year saw them develop into a four-day long event. This has given the Fèis a new momentum, with 7 out of the 8 classes offered through the medium of Gaelic. Young people attended from all over the central belt. An open evening was held on 16th November, with more helpers recruited for the coming year. Plans include shinty coaching and a greater range of music classes.

Fèis Ghlaschu	Glasgow City	Now in its second year and progressing well. This year the venue was the Partick Burgh Halls in the west end. This proved a popular venue and the joined up thinking of accessing the cricket pitch across the road was a gem as the children loved letting off steam there during lunch! There was a variety of classes and again using youngsters from Hillpark School was another good idea as it not only provided assistance to the tutors, it encouraged those youngsters to gain confidence in their own teaching abilities.
Fèis Àrainn	Isle of Arran	The main Fèis was held during the last week of July and this year saw record numbers attending. This Fèis is going from strength to strength, and resulted in increased numbers of tutors being employed. Over the winter, new classes were held in fiddle and were well attended. Funding for this series of classes came from the Fèis Development Fund.
Fèis Naomh Conbhal	Inverclyde, Renfrewshire & East Renfrewshire	This Fèis covers a large area to the West of Glasgow, and they held their main event in Neilston, 1 - 5th August. On offer were classes in clàrsach, fiddle, Gaelic song and whistle. The scattered nature of the area covered makes it hard to promote this Fèis, but a series of school-based workshops are planned to raise the profile locally.

7.5 Western Isles Fèisean

Fèisean in the Western Isles are supported by Stornoway based Fiona MacInnes, who is employed on a 0.6 FTE basis. Based within the offices of Comunn na Gàidhlig, Fiona provides assistance to all Fèisean in the area. From August 2005, Fiona has been undertaking a 2-year, part-time secondary teacher-training course.

2005-06 was a very busy year for Fèisean within the Western Isles, with an increased level of attendance at main Fèisean, and more and more year-round activity taking place. This year, of course, was extra special given that Fèis Bharraigh was celebrating its 25th staging of the event, and in the run up to that young people from across the Western Isles attended a series a groupwork sessions to prepare for the special *Ceòl nam Fèis* concert.

The Western Isles Fèisean met for their annual gathering in Stornoway on 27 and 28 January, discussing topics including new child protection legislation, committee skills, increasing the use of Gaelic, finance and book-keeping skills and a general discussion of local issues. A tutor-training day was also held in Barra, January 2006, with 8 local tutors in attendance. Feedback from this was very positive indeed, and it is hoped that more locally based tutor sessions can be held in the future.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by Fèisean in the Western Isles over the last twelve months:

Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh	Ness, Isle of Lewis	The Fèis runs a series of year round workshops, organised with support from administrator, Fiona Morrison. In addition, workshops are delivered as part of Ceòl Nis every July.
Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich	Stornoway, Isle of Lewis	Their main Fèis took place at the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway 1 - 5 August, with 170 youngsters taking part. In addition, the Fèis ran a series of teenage Groupwork sessions and took part in the Ceòl nam Fèis concert in Barra at the end of July. More and more of the tuition is being delivered through the medium of Gaelic.
Fèis Eilean na Hearadh	Isle of Harris	This year's main Fèis took place at Sir E Scott School, Tarbert from 11 - 15 July. Once again, a healthy number of young people from the local community took part in the range of activities on offer.
Fèis Tìr an Eòrna	North Uist	This was another busy year, with the main Fèis taking place 4 - 8 July in Paible School. During the course of the week, the Fèis CD <i>Barr an Eòrna</i> was launched, featuring a host of young musical talent from the local area. The CD was part-funded through Fèisean nan Gaidheal's Development Fund. Young people from the Fèis also took part in the Ceòl nam Fèis concert in Barra.

Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain	South Uist	This year's main Fèis was held 25 - 29 July, based within Daliburgh School. The Fèis is held entirely through the medium of Gaelic and as such, attracts young people from all over Scotland. As well as the main Fèis, the committee were involved with a range of year round activities, including teenage Groupwork alongside young people from Fèis Tir an Eòrna. This group took part as part of the Ceòl nam Fèis concert in Barra.
Fèis Bharraigh	Isle of Barra	This was an extra special year for Fèis Bharraigh, as it celebrated the 25th staging of the event. For the year, the Fèis reverted to it's original two week format, running from 15 - 30 July. Although this was hard work for the tutors and committee, the young people greatly benefited from this intense period of tuition. In addition to the daily programme, the evenings were filled with a range of cèilidhs, concerts and other fundraisers, plus special commemorative events including a re-union night, plus three nights of concerts in a specially erected marquee. This culminated in a <i>Ceòl nam Fèis</i> concert, where Fèis Bharraigh participants joined their colleagues from across Scotland in an unforgettable concert.

8. 25 years of the Fèisean

Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with financial support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise undertook a significant study to map out the story of people who have taken part in Fèisean, and to ascertain how their participation has influenced their life, their career, and crucially, their attitude to the Gaelic language.

The study was carried out by Stephen Broad and Jacqueline France from the RSAMD's National Centre for Research in the Performing Arts. A full copy of the study is available on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website www.feisean.org. However, the following is a summary of the key results.

Data was gathered from a survey of Fèis participants, plus from extended interviews undertaken with Fèis people. If respondents to the survey are representative of Fèis participants generally, then there seems little doubt that the Fèisean have provided a positive enriching experience for the majority of participants. The evidence from the surveys is overwhelming in this regard:

- 76% of respondents reported a positive influence on their motivation to learn Gaelic
- 79% of respondents reported a positive influence on their attitude to Gaelic
- 87% of respondents reported a positive influence on their motivation to play or learn a musical instrument or take part in Gaelic singing, drama or traditional dance
- 50% of respondents reported a positive influence on their choice of study or career
- 61% of respondents reported a positive influence on their intention to stay in, return or relocate to the Highlands and Islands
- 86% of respondents reported a positive influence on their attitude towards the arts in general.

The survey also indicates how the movement feeds and renews itself. According to the results of the survey, 1 in 5 learners go on to take part in the Fèisean in another role, a very positive indication for the continuing sustainability and growth of the movement.

Many of the findings of François Matarasso are confirmed, nearly 10 years after his study *Northern Lights: The Social Impact of the Fèisean (Gaelic Festivals)*. Increased confidence, interpersonal skills, community cohesion and economic benefits are all recurring themes.

Case study interviewees emphasise the importance of the movement in introducing young people to music – in some cases, introducing them to an instrument around which they would build a career. They also underline the role of the Fèisean in initiating and fostering friendships and, perhaps most strikingly, highlight the part that the Fèisean have played for them in encouraging and enabling an interest and pride in Gaelic, especially in families where the language has been lost by one generation, or where Fèisean were the first contact with the Gaelic language.

9 Financial Statement

9.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal trading account for the year to 31 March 2006

	31.3.06		31.3.05	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Grant income	320,771		356,028	
Membership fees	4,115		3,910	
Bank interest	7,434		5,150	
Management fees & other income	64,873		33,919	
Sale of books	3,424		2,087	
Instrument bank revenue	6,882		-	
Meanbh Chuileag	81,101		56,396	
Fèis Alba	<u>3,201</u>		<u>6,273</u>	
		491,801		463,763
Expenditure				
Rent, rates and water	12,774		11,239	
Insurance	6,736		3,700	
Light and heat	1,340		1,921	
Telephone and fax	6,240		5,315	
Youth music initiative	-		600	
Meanbh Chuileag	78,715		63,435	
Core salaries	112,540		125,353	
National Insurance	9,786		8,560	
Pensions	1,324		1,420	
Staff expenses	16,288		20,741	
Grants awarded	135,341		159,722	
Stationery and printing	19,025		11,989	
Publications	132		6,568	
Musical instrument bank	2,530		-	
Annual Conference	6,841		8,551	
Board expenses	3,862		3,298	
Other expenses	5,146		2,374	
Tracking project	5,000		5,473	
Child Protection costs	7,487		7,864	
Radio project	2,275		-	
25th Anniversary celebrations	24,191		-	
25th Anniversary book	6,380		-	
Auditors' remuneration	1,081		934	
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets				
Plant and machinery	-		2,545	
Fixtures and fittings	-		3,017	
Computer equipment	<u>799</u>		<u>799</u>	
		465,833		455,418
		25,968		8,345
Finance costs				
Bank charges		<u>299</u>		-
NET PROFIT		25,669		8,345

9.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal balance sheet as at 31 March 2006

	31.3.06		31.3.05
	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets		275	1,074
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	3,478		2,306
Debtors	87,728		70,171
Cash at bank	<u>137,669</u>		<u>267,650</u>
	228,875		340,127
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>82,372</u>		<u>132,793</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>146,503</u>	<u>207,334</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>146,778</u>	<u>208,408</u>
FUNDS			
ICT project		2,319	8,087
Training project		25,848	27,246
Lochaber development fund		(6,099)	(5,292)
Blas Festival		(15,638)	-
Schools project		89,026	152,714
General fund		<u>51,322</u>	<u>25,653</u>
		<u>146,778</u>	<u>£208,408</u>

Details of reserves

	General fund	ICT Project	Training Project	Lochaber dev. fund	Blas Festival	Schools project	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2005	25,653	8,086	27,246	(5,292)		152,714	208,407
Surplus for the year	25,669						25,669
Grants received	-	-	54,207	32,274	146,500	219,511	452,492
Earned income	-	-	10,182	-	18,505	-	28,687
Salaries and expenses	-	-	(30,356)	(33,081)	(33,615)	(142,220)	(239,272)
Administrative costs	-	(5,767)	-	-	(147,028)	(140,979)	(293,774)
Other costs	-	-	(35,431)	-	-	-	(35,431)
At 31 March 2006	51,322	2,319	25,848	(6,099)	(15,638)	89,026	146,778

A copy of the full audited accounts are available on request from the Fèisean nan Gàidheal

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Appendix 2

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