

Innovative Scottish islands arts programme to aid cultural and economic recovery

An [ambitious multi-art form programme](#) funded by the Scottish Government and co-ordinated by Fèisean nan Gàidheal is launched this month, setting the wheels of rural recovery in motion with traditional arts as its vehicle. Treòir | Voar | Virr, meaning “a guide” or “energy, spring, vigour”, sees more than 50 creatives from more than 90 inhabited Scottish islands working with the community and the children of their local schools to learn about the area’s history and heritage through the arts. It will also provide employment and re-training opportunities for freelance creatives living in these islands following the loss of work for many due to Covid-19.

More than 80 island schools have taken up the opportunity to get involved in intensive multi-form art sessions, taking place between November 2021 and June 2022. These sessions will support various aspects of the curriculum based on Scottish culture, encompassing Scotland’s indigenous languages and dialects, music, drama, story, dance, and visual art, while also delivering accredited training for assistant tutors through West Highland College, University of the Highlands and Islands.

Whilst Fèisean nan Gàidheal supports Gaelic culture in all aspects of its work, this programme will promote all local language including Orcadian Scots and Shetland Dialect. Lost language and local stories are the twin pivot points of this project across island school communities, whilst making a nod to any shared

experiences between the islands such as Clann-nighean an Sgadain, the Herring Girls who travelled from their homes in the Western and Northern Isles to perform tough seasonal work gutting herring across Scotland and England’s coasts.

[Beairteas](#) is an existing [Fèisean nan Gàidheal](#) initiative which aims to bring back richness of language that is in danger of being lost to the present generation. Much the same way as [Robert MacFarlane](#) has captured [The Lost Words](#) in his book of the same name and [Spell Songs](#) have been woven around these precious words, Treòir would expand this theme of recapturing our lost traditions, stories, vocabulary, idiom and art forms while encouraging a modern response.

This feeds into 2022, which has been designated Scotland’s Year of Stories, a year in which stories inspired by, created, or written in Scotland will be showcased and celebrated. On the road to recovery, telling and listening to stories through different art-forms will surely provide children and their communities with a strong sense of belonging and connection. A love of stories is a shared human experience – stories are vital to every part of Scotland and every community has its own tales to tell.



Prògram ealain ùr-ghnàthach gu bhith a' cur taic ri ath-shlànachadh cultarail agus eaconamach

Thèid [prògram ioma-ealaineach adhartach](#) a chur air bhog an-diugh a th' air a mhaoineachadh le Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus air a cho-òrdanachadh le Fèisean nan Gàidheal, a' toirt toiseach tòiseachaidh air ath-shlànachadh dùthchail is na h-ealain aig a chridhe. Ann an Treòir | Voar | Virr, a' ciallachadh "stiùir" no "lùth, spionnadh", bidh còrr is 50 luchd-ealain bho chòrr is 90 eilean sluaghmhor ann an Alba ag obair còmhla ris a' choimhearsnachd agus an cuid sgoiltean ionadail gus ionnsachadh mu eachdraidh agus dualchas na sgìre tro na h-ealain. Bidh am program cuideachd a' tabhainn chothroman obrach agus ath-thrèanaidh do luchd-ealain neo-cheangailte a chaill am beòshlainte air sgàth buaidh a' Choròna-bhiorais.

Tha barrachd na 80 sgoil air feadh nan eilean air an cothrom a ghabhail a dhol an sàs ann an dian-sheiseanan ioma-ealaineach eadar an Samhain 2021 agus an t-Ògmhios 2022. Cuiridh na seiseanan seo taic ri roinnean a' churraicealam agus iad stèidhte air cultar na h-Alba, a' togail air cànan dhùthchasach na h-Alba, dual-chainntean, ceòl, dràma, sgeulachdan, dannsa agus ealain lèirsinneach, agus a' toirt seachad teisteanas trèanaidh do leas-oidean aig an aon àm tro Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean.

Ged a bhios Fèisean nan Gàidheal a' cur taic ri cultar na Gàidhlig na chuid obrach làitheil, bidh am prògram seo ag amas air taic a chumail ri cainnt ionadail a leithid Beurla Ghalta Arcach agus Dual-chainnt Shealtainneach. Is iad eòlas air cànan chailte agus sgeulachdan ionadail

dà phrìomh amas a' phròiseict seo air feadh choimhearsnachdan sgoile ar n-eileanan. Bidh sinn cuideachd a' brosnachadh ionnsachadh mun eòlas agus eachdraidh a th' againn ann an cumantas eadar sgìrean, a leithid Clann-nighean an Sgadain (na h-Eileanan an Iar agus Sealtainn).

Is e iomairt a th' againn mar tha aig [Fèisean nan Gàidheal](#) th' ann am [Beairteas](#), ag amas air beairteas cainnt a neartachadh a tha ann an cunnart a dhol à bith am measg a' ghinealaich as òige. Mar a ghlèidh [Raibeart MacPhàrlain](#) seann fhaclan anns an leabhar aige air a bheil [The Lost Words](#), agus mar a tha [Spell Songs](#) air am fighe mun cuairt air na faclan luachmhor sin, tha Treòir airson leudachadh air a' chuspair seo le bhith a' glèidheadh seann chleachdaidhean, sgeulachdan, briathrachas, gnàthasan-cainnte agus ealain agus a' brosnachadh freagairt nuadh orra aig an aon àm.

Bidh seo a' fighe a-steach do 2022, a chaidh ainmeachadh mar Bhliadhna nan Sgeulachdan ann an Alba, bliadhna anns an tèid sgeulachdan a tha air am brosnachadh, air an cruthachadh no air an sgrìobhadh ann an Alba a chomharrachadh agus a thaisbeanadh. Thathar an dùil, air an t-slighe ath-shlànachaidh, gun dèan innse agus èisteachd sgeulachdan tro mheadhan ealain eadar-dhealaichte ceangal làidir eadar a' chloinn agus an cuid choimhearsnachdan. Tha meas air sgeulachdan nàdarra do mhic an duine air fad – tha sgeulachdan air leth cudromach do gach sgìre de dh'Alba agus tha sgeulachdan aig a h-uile coimhearsnachd ri innse.