

A photograph of a group of musicians sitting in a circle, playing various instruments including banjos, guitars, and a trumpet. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.

FÈIS ROIS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

Fàilte!

Tha mi an dòchas gun robh deagh sheachdain agaibh uile! We have lots of activity taking place at the moment from our regular programme of weekly classes and schools' activities, to preparing for our Easter events and the Adult Fèis. We also have a fun weekend coming up for fluent Gaelic speaking young people to come together to make new friends and use the language in a creative, informal setting outside of school. Read all about the many events you can get involved in below.

Thank you so much to Càirdean, a band made up of some of our Fèis the Music adult players, who performed at the Victorian Market in Inverness recently to raise funds for Fèis Rois, and congratulations to The Machine, a band comprising of five young musicians from Dornoch Academy, Dingwall Academy and Invergordon Academy, who all met through Fèis Rois and who won first prize at the Inverness Music Festival in the open Trad Band section.

I'm very much looking forward to seeing you all at a gig, workshop or event soon!

ADULT FÈIS



Booking for this year's Fèis Rois nan Inbheach (Adult Fèis) is OPEN and you were all quick off the mark! We've had lots of registrations already so if you're still to book you might want to be quick so you don't miss out this year!

We are delighted to be welcoming an incredible tutor team, featuring some new and familiar faces, to our 2024 Adult Fèis which takes place in Ullapool from 3rd - 6th May. If you've ever fancied learning how to step dance or how to play a tune on the accordion now is the time! All abilities are catered for so whether you are a complete beginner on the whistle, have recently started learning bellows blown pipes or have been playing guitar for years, there is a class for you. Siuthad, gabh an cothrom!

More information, including tutors and class lists, can be found on our website, as well as details on how to book.



EASTER FÈIS

Our Youth Easter Fèis takes place from 1st - 4th April in Dingwall, Ullapool and Tain, and there are still a few places left in Dingwall and Ullapool. We've made a change to some of the workshop options so it is worth heading back to our website to find out whether there is something your child would like to try. We've also added a new Beginners/Improving Beginners guitar class, open to all ages. Find out more on our website. If you've got any questions, please email Christian.

GAELIC RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND

Our next Gaelic residential weekend for Gaelic speakers in P7 - S4 will be held from Friday 17th May - Sunday 19th May, at Fairburn Activity Centre, Muir of Ord.

Young people will get the chance to take part in a variety of workshops including Gaelic song, Group work, music recording, camera skills and video making, as well as orienteering and outdoor activities. Full details and booking will be available soon on our website so keep an eye on the website and our socials!



We are delighted to be included in the Edinburgh International Festival 2024 programme! Our Ceilidh Trail will be performing on Saturday 10th August. It will be a very special concert, celebrating 25 years since the very first Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail and we will be joined by some special guests, including Rachel Newton and Mairearad Green, who were on the first Ceilidh Trail, and former participants, Mischa Macpherson and Innes White. Thigibh ann!



fèis rois
www.feisrois.org

06/05/24
18:30

AOIGH NA MÌOSA
Dr Iain Mac a' Phearsain

CEARCALL CÒMHRAIDH
Online Gaelic Conversation Circle

CEARCALL CÒMHRAIDH

Our next online Gaelic conversation class, Cearcall Còmhraidh, will be on the 6th May with Iain Mac a'Phearsain. Please note that there is no class on 1st April. Check our website for more details.

Email Sophie Stephenson, sophie.stephenson@feisrois.org, to book a free place.

Support live music



You can catch two of our 2024 Ceilidh Trail musicians on the road this month! Ester Strachan, a fiddle player from Skye, and Magnus Turpie, a button box player from Edinburgh, are embarking on a tour of Skye this month to perform in a number of schools, day centres and village halls as part of Down's Syndrome Awareness week, which runs from 18th to 24th March. They will be accompanied by Ester's sister, accordionist Iseabail Strachan and guitarist Dominic Blaikie from Edinburgh, and together hope the music will raise awareness and promote inclusion. You can find the dates [here](#). If you're in Skye, please try and go along to support them!

Anne Wood, who teaches our weekly Fèis Club in Ullapool and on the Lullaby Project, is taking her When Mountains Meet project on tour this spring, including dates in Ullapool, Shetland, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Check out her [website](#) for more details.

We are so lucky to have an amazing venue, like [Eden Court](#), on our doorstep so let's make sure we get out to support the venue and the musicians who are lined up to play there over the coming weeks! With artists including Mànrán, Fara and Mike McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle, what's not to love?!

AND, don't forget you can catch Fiona at a fundraising ceilidh in aid of Highland Hospice on Saturday 23rd March and next month, Community Engagement Officer, Tj will be performing some of her own original material at the [Inverness Acoustic Music Club](#) on Wednesday 3rd April.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



fèis rois

Kari Macleod, originally from Tain, was a member of our Ceilidh Trail in 2010, and has a new single coming out next week. Kari is steadily carving out her own place in the UK Folk, Roots and Americana music scene as a captivating and original singer-songwriter, as well as a highly skilled fiddle player. Check out her music [here](#).

Widely regarded as one of the world's finest exponents of Scottish harp, **Rachel Hair** is a prominent performer in the traditional music scene and having toured extensively throughout Europe, the US and beyond, she has released five critically acclaimed albums. Rachel grew up attending Fèis Rois and has recently written a [great blog on volunteering for Traditional Music Forum](#). Do you volunteer? Are you passionate about traditional music? If so, [get in touch](#) with us to find out about volunteering at Fèis Rois events. We'd love to have you!

Rachel Walker is a singer, songwriter, arranger and educator based in the heart of Lochaber. Rachel, who grew up attending Fèis Rois, learning from the likes of Cathy Ann MacPhee, Eilidh MacKenzie and Ishbel MacAskill, was recently included on [Hands up for Trad's Women in Music and Culture 2024 list](#). You can listen to, and buy, Rachel's beautiful music [here](#).

If you would like to consider making a donation to help the ongoing work of Fèis Rois you can do so on our [Just Giving](#) page.

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at one of our classes or courses soon!

Please visit www.feisrois.org to find out more