

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

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Tha mi an dòchas gu bheil sibh uile gu math. Dè bha sibh a' dèanamh airson Seachdain na Gàidhlig?

We had a wonderful two days in Cromarty on the 19th and 20th of February with teenage Gaelic learners from across the Highlands who had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language in a fun, creative setting outside of school time. This opportunity was organised by our Gaelic Officers. We were then hugely disappointed to hear news this week of The Scottish Government cutting Bòrd na Gàidhlig's funding by £354,000 for 2024/25, and Bòrd na Gàidhlig in turn having to end their Gaelic Officer Scheme. This will have a devastating impact on communities in the Highlands and Islands, and seems absurd at a time when The Scottish Languages Bill is going through Parliament.

We remain committed to supporting Gaelic speakers and learners, and we look forward to many of you joining us for our online Cearcall Còmhraidh call on Monday. You can read more about this below.

We will also have the chance for people to come together and speak Gaelic at Fèis Rois nan Inbheach. I know many of you will be pleased to hear that this event is now open for booking! I look forward to seeing you for songs and tunes in Ullapool very soon.

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# ADULT FÈIS



Booking for this year's Fèis Rois nan Inbheach (Adult Fèis) is now OPEN!

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.

We've also got some brand new workshop options including a very special Strings Ensemble led by Duncan Chisholm & Su-a Lee, where they will be teaching material from Duncan's award-winning album, Black Cuillin. There will also be a new Tenor Guitar class with Mike Vass and Ukulele for singers with Kim Richards.

Other tutors include Rona Lightfoot, Lauren MacColl, Margaret Stewart, Anna Massie, Hannah Rarity, Mike Vass, Mairearad Green, Ady Harper, John Carmichael, Roo Geddes, Louise Mackenzie, Gillian Frame, Bethany Reid, Dave Milligan, Corrina Hewat, Ingrid Henderson, John Sikorski, Jayne Macleod, Hamish Napier & Gordon Gunn. What a team!

As well as a great workshop programme, our Fringe events include a concert with Hannah Rarity and Anna Massie and a double-bill with RANT and Corrina Hewat and Dave Milligan, as well as the fantastic tutor concert. There will also be a special concert with Duncan Chisholm & Hamish Napier, which will be open to participants, and their family, so look out for more news about that coming soon!



Head to our website, [www.feisrois.org](http://www.feisrois.org), to find out more and to book!



# CEARCALL CÒMHRAIDH

Our next online Gaelic conversation class, Cearcall Còmhraidh, takes place on Monday 4th March and we have Màrtainn Mac A'Bhàillidh as our guest. He was a key contributor to getting Scottish Gaelic onto the Duolingo platform.

Email Sophie Stephenson, [sophie.stephenson@feisrois.org](mailto:sophie.stephenson@feisrois.org), to book a free place.

*Cearcall Còmhraidh*

Come along to our free monthly online sessions where we listen to exciting guest speakers before practicing our Gaelic by asking questions and discussing the subject. **Beginners welcome!**

**First Monday of the Month**  
6.30pm – 7.30pm

*fèis rois*



# EASTER FÈIS

Our Youth Easter Fèis takes place from 1st - 4th April in Dingwall, Ullapool and Tain, and there are still places left at each location. We have a fantastic tutor team lined up and there will also be a community ceilidh in each place, open to all! Find out more on our website.

## Community Ceilidhs

2nd April, Ullapool Village Hall,  
3rd April, Duthac Centre Tain  
4th April, National Hotel, Dingwall.

<p><b>Community Ceilidh</b></p> <p>Tuesday 2nd April, 7pm Duthac Centre, Tain</p>     <p>Carrie Forbes   Fraya Thomsen   Ruairidh Gollan   Arthur Donald</p>	<p><b>Community Ceilidh</b></p> <p>Wednesday 3rd April, 7pm Ullapool Village Hall</p>     <p>Mike Vass   Kim Richards   Rory Matheson   Sophie Stephenson</p>	<p><b>Community Ceilidh</b></p> <p>Thursday 4th April, 7pm National Hotel, Dingwall</p>     <p>TJ Bowden   Amy Henderson   Peter MacPherson   Irene Fraser</p>
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# SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC

In the same way that we have been highlighting the successes of our alumni in our newsletters, we have decided to introduce a section in our newsletter to let you know about live music events in the community. Every month, we will let you know about gigs and concerts you might like to attend. We would encourage everyone to support live music!

First up, there is a rare opportunity to hear members of the Fèis Rois staff team perform! Stepping away from writing funding applications for a while, Chief Executive, Fiona, is putting on a fundraising ceilidh in aid of Highland Hospice on Saturday 23rd March and Community Engagement Officer, Tj will be performing some of her own original material at the Inverness Acoustic Music Club on Wednesday 3rd April.



Supporting Jacqui Crawford in her Strictly Inverness journey

## Ceilidh Dance

*Strictly Inverness*

David Nisbet (accordion), Fiona Dalgetty (fiddle) and Andy Thorburn (piano)

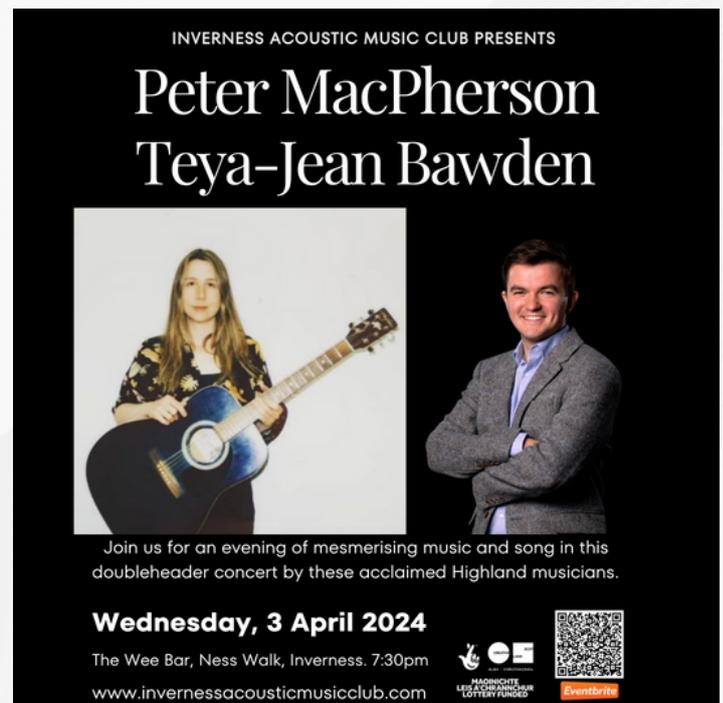
**Saturday 23rd March 2024**  
Culcabock and Drakies Community Hall  
Grebe Avenue, Inverness  
7.30pm - 10.30pm

Tickets: £10 (adults) and £5 (under 18s)  
Tickets available on the door or in advance from [fionainscotland@hotmail.com](mailto:fionainscotland@hotmail.com)  
All under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Tea, coffee and a raffle  
Bring your own additional refreshments.

All proceeds to  

Highland Hospice is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC010207  
Inverness Ice Centre is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC200363



INVERNESS ACOUSTIC MUSIC CLUB PRESENTS

## Peter MacPherson Teya-Jean Bawden



Join us for an evening of mesmerising music and song in this doubleheader concert by these acclaimed Highland musicians.

**Wednesday, 3 April 2024**  
The Wee Bar, Ness Walk, Inverness. 7:30pm  
[www.invernessacousticmusicclub.com](http://www.invernessacousticmusicclub.com)



If you are on Facebook, you might like to give the following local promoters a follow. They have some great gigs coming up!

[Dingwall Accordion and Fiddle Club](#), [Sutherland Sessions](#) & [Resolis Community Arts](#)

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This month we are shining a spotlight on three former Fèis Rois participants who, as well as being musicians, are also visual artists.



**Fiona Black**



**Mairearad Green**



**Somhairle Macdonald**

Fiona Black, from Evanton, is a musician, artist, writer, researcher. As well as being a member of The Outside Track, she creates art in various mediums but works mainly in linocut prints. Find out more at [www.fiona-black.com](http://www.fiona-black.com)

Mairearad is a musician and visual artist from Coigach. Her Hearth collection, five limited edition 12" singles inspired by the women and landscapes of Coigach, combines her music and art. Find out more at [www.mairearadgreen.co.uk](http://www.mairearadgreen.co.uk)

Somhairle Macdonald is an artist, photographer and graphic designer, as well as being a member of Croft No Five. He has designed album covers and websites for many Scottish musicians including Rachel Newton and Breabach, as well as our own Fèis Rois CDs. Find out more at [www.somhairle.co.uk](http://www.somhairle.co.uk)

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](http://www.feisrois.org) to find out more