

Committee Report for year ending December 2019

Dear FoHM member

The end of another year's business for FoHM!



Committee Members

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jean Fleetwood | Secretary |
| Dave Greer | Vice Convener and Website Manager |
| Kathreen Hunter | Grants Secretary |
| Moira Leslie | Convener and Interim Treasurer |
| Rhona Macdonald | Social Media Manager |
| Oona Sim | Membership Secretary |

You will see from the AGM agenda that 3 committee members are stepping down and, therefore, a minimum of 4 new members are needed if FoHM is to continue.

Membership: Our membership remains stable at around 70.

Grants: This year we have awarded the following grants.

| NAME | TYPE OF ACTIVITY | AMOUNT |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| George Livingstone | Tuition for youngsters at Ardersier Folk Festival | £250.00 |
| Bridhge Campbell | Tour of Australia. Help with visas | £500.00 |
| Alison Mackenzie | Clava and Cairdean trip to Donegal | £1500.00 |
| Kyle Cameron | Competing at Oban Games | £500.00 |
| <i>Taigh Dhonnchaich</i> | Taking children to National Mod. | £735.90 |
| Hamish Drennan | Piping Tuition. | £500.00 |
| Ruaridh Drennan | Piping & Drumming Course. | £250.00 |

Youth Fund

This year we launched our new Youth Fund to encourage applications for specific new Highland Music related projects. Grants were awarded to:

- Fèis Oigridh na Mara for a weekend masterclass
- Fèis Inbhir Narainn for youth ceilidh band tuition
- A young piper for small pipes tuition
- A young music developer for staging a week- long multi- cultural event

Inverness Music Festival

This year we increased our support to this festival by sponsoring 6 sections and a full- page advert in the programme.

Instruments

When FoHM initially created our instrument bank there was a great demand from youngsters who wanted to hire as opposed to buy an instrument. Over the years this demand has steadily decreased and now only a very small number are hired. The committee has taken the decision therefore to make the remaining instruments available for Come and Try sessions as required.

Events: The Gathering & Belladrum - 'Come & Try' tent 2019

Friends of Highland Music, along with Fèisean nan Gàidheal organised the 'Come & Try' Tent again this year. This is a tent in which musical instruments are made available for children, adults and families to come together to play with the help of a tutor or one of our volunteers. We have a selection of instruments available to try - chanters, whistles, accordions, guitars, clarsachs, fiddles and we also have a number of fun shakers for our younger visitors to play with.

We were invited to run two sessions at the new music event 'The Gathering' - this was held on Saturday 1st June at the Northern Meeting Park in Inverness. We were given use of a beautiful rainbow coloured bell tent, where we held the sessions over two time slots, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. We had an amazing turn out - welcoming over 100 children/adults at each session.

The Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival has continued to be a fantastic meeting point for welcoming children and adults that we have had the pleasure of meeting each year - and many new visitors too. We were offered three sessions at Belladrum over 1st, 2nd and 3rd August. Again, we had a great number of visitors to the music tent this year - with lots of spontaneous sessions happening over the three days.

We hugely appreciate the help and support from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, The Highland Branch of the Clarsach Society (who attend each year with a tutor and clarsachs), Musicians/tutors David Godden and Jeff Collins, the young musicians from Fèis Inbhir Narainn Ceilidh Trail and all our special volunteers.

We are delighted to support both festivals and have been invited back!

Tune for You

Once again, we have been extremely grateful to Eric and Helen Allan (below) for their tremendous support through their Tune for You scheme. To date they have raised in excess of £17,000. They have however decided that the scheme should now come to an end as, apparently, they claim that they are “quite elderly” – not that any of us has noticed any decrease in their boundless energy, enthusiasm and support. Their contributions to FoHM and to Highland culture have been truly exceptional and on behalf of the hundreds of youngsters who have benefitted from their support we thank them and wish them both well in their retirement but we can't imagine for one minute that they will be sitting down and taking it easy!



Slow Jam

Another of Eric's ventures which we continue to support is his Slow Jam – fortnightly sessions in Ness Bank Church open to all ages and instruments playing traditional music at a leisurely pace – all welcome!

We are once again greatly indebted to our Independent Examiner Anne Maciver for her invaluable, expert advice and prompt examination of our accounts and to all our members whose support is greatly appreciated.

December 2019

www.friendsofhighlandmusic.org

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhighlandmusic/>