



2022 Soillse: International Conference

Useful Information / Fiosrachadh Feumail

Rooting Minority Language Policy in the Speaker Community



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean

2022 Soillse: International Conference Rooting Minority Language Policy in the Speaker Community Caladh Inn, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland

Welcome / Fàilte is Furan

The conference will be held between 29–31 August 2022 at Caladh Inn, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. Presentations will take place in three spacious rooms reserved for the occasion all of which are installed with up-to-date AV equipment. Please contact us at the address below if you have any queries with regard to specific technical requirements.

Travelling to Stornoway / A' Siubhal a Steòrnabhagh

Stornoway may be reached by ferry services run by Caledonian MacBrayne via Ullapool, Wester Ross, or via Uig, Isle of Skye, to Tarbert, Harris. Direct flights to Stornoway Airport Stornoway (SYY) are run by LoganAir, British Airways and KLM which are available from Glasgow (GLA), Edinburgh (EDI) and Inverness (INV) airports. Depending upon circumstances, and particularly during the summer months, ferries can be very busy and to avoid disappointment it is recommended to arrange an itinerary and book well in advance of actual travel.

Accommodation / Àiteachan-fuirich

Stornoway offers a wide range of places to stay suitable for all budgets and accommodation may be viewed and bookings made at Visit Outer Hebrides:

www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk

Stornoway / Steòrnabhagh

Of all the Outer Hebridean Islands, Lewis is by far the largest and contains the highest population (18500) with over a third (6953) staying in Stornoway and its environs. Deriving its name from 'Sjórnavágr', Norse for 'Steering Bay', reveals a linguistic heritage that stretches back to early Viking intrusion and settlement. Onomastic, and other evidence besides, shows a multilingual past where the populace was bilingual for several centuries before Norse eventually gave way to Gaelic. Only within the last few decades (particularly prominent from the second half of the twentieth century) has an ongoing language shift from English made Gaelic a minority language, which for many centuries before had been the island's predominant tongue and natural language of communication. Given its locality, Stornoway town itself seems to have attracted a fairly early and influential English-speaking enclave. From around the ninth century, the town, situated as it is in a natural harbour, grew over the centuries, and became increasingly important in terms of trade and commerce particularly from the seventeenth century onwards. Situated in the parish of Stornoway, the town is nestled by three other parishes namely Barvas (Barabhas), Lochs (Na Lochan) and Uig (Ùig). Other parts of the Isle of Lewis are known as Point (An Rubha), Ness (Nis), Lochs (Na Lochan) and the Westside (An Taobh Siar). As a reflection of its importance, Stornoway is the administrative centre for all of the Western Isles where Comhairle nan Eilean have their headquarters.

Top Attractions, Isle of Lewis / Àiteachan rim Faicinn, Eilean Leòdhais

Callanish Standing Stones; Lews Castle; Museum nan Eilean; Stornoway Harbour; Uig Sands; Butt of Lewis /Tiumpan Head Lighthouse; Iolaire Memorial; An Lanntair; Gearannan Blackhouses Village; St Kilda Centre.

Further Information / Tuilleadh Fiosrachaidh

A selection of links is here provided for further information:

An Lanntair: www.lanntair.com

Caladh Inn: www.caladhinn.co.uk

Caledonian MacBrayne: www.calmac.co.uk

Callanish Standing Stones & Visitor Centre: <https://calanais.org>

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar: www.cne-siar.gov.uk

Isle of Lewis: www.isle-of-lewis.com

Lews Castle College UHI: www.lews.uhi.ac.uk

Museum nan Eilean: www.cne-siar.gov.uk/museum

Outer Hebrides: www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk

University of the Highlands and Islands: www.uhi.ac.uk

Visit Scotland: www.visitscotland.com

Contact / Cuir Fios Thugainn

For more information or queries, please contact us at: conference2022@soillse.ac.uk