



ISLAND EMIGRANTS

An important 3-day conference on Emigration from the Outer Hebrides

Thursday 10th –Saturday 12th September 2009

Leverburgh Community Hall, Harris

Organised by The Islands Book Trust

www.theislandsbooktrust.com



ISLAND EMIGRANTS – EMIGRATION FROM THE OUTER HEBRIDES

The Island Book Trust's big event of 2009, to mark Scotland's Year of Homecoming, will be a 3-day conference from Thursday 10th – Saturday 12th September at Leverburgh Community Hall in South Harris. This follows a number of very successful conferences organised by The Book Trust which have brought together knowledgeable speakers from different backgrounds to further understanding and enjoyment of the history of Scottish islands in their wider context – see www.theislandsbooktrust.com for more details.

This year's conference will bring together outstanding speakers, local people, visitors to the islands, and descendants of families who left the Outer Hebrides over the last 250 years to consider the remarkable story of emigration from the islands to places such as Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Patagonia. Set in the beautiful surroundings of Harris, the event will include, in addition to the more formal programme, films of emigration, a major exhibition on emigration by the internationally-known genealogist Bill Lawson, a session with short contributions by emigrants or their descendants, after-dinner sessions featuring a ceilidh and songs and recordings of emigration, visits to places in Harris from which emigrants left, and a competition for local school-children on the theme of emigration. There will also be an opportunity for a limited number of those attending the conference – on a first come, first served basis – to visit St Kilda following the conference on 14 or 15 September. The main venue for the conference will be Leverburgh Community Hall, with sessions also in the Rodel Hotel and the Seallam! Visitor Centre, Northton.

The keynote address to start the conference will be given by Professor Tom Devine of Edinburgh University, an eminent authority on Scottish emigration. He will be followed by an array of other excellent speakers covering different aspects of Hebridean emigration. A wider context will be provided by a contribution from the West of Ireland. An exhibition and new publication drawing on a unique emigration database compiled by Bill Lawson and owned by the Northton Heritage Trust will coincide with the conference. The conference will be closed by Michael Russell, Minister for Culture in the Scottish Government.

Like all Book Trust events, the aim is to bring people together from widely different backgrounds in a community setting to ensure an enjoyable and instructive occasion. Meals and accommodation will be arranged as part of the conference fee for those who require this. A booking form is attached. For further details please phone 01851 820946 or email Alayne Barton at alayne@theislandsbooktrust.com





PROGRAMME

Community Hall, Leverburgh

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

12.30 – 2.0pm Registration and Buffet Lunch

2.00pm Welcome and Introduction to Conference: JOHN RANDALL, Chairman of The Islands Book Trust

2.10pm Keynote Address: 'Human Selection, Clearance and Emigration: the Western Highlands and Islands in the Nineteenth Century': TOM DEVINE, University of Edinburgh

3.00pm 'Emigration from the West of Ireland – a Case Study of the Blasket Islands': MICHEAL DE MORDHA, Great Blasket Centre, Ireland

3.45 - 4.15pm Tea

4.15pm 'Emigration from the Outer Hebrides – an Overview': BILL LAWSON, Harris

5.00 – 5.45pm Films of Emigration

5.45 – 6.15pm General Discussion

7.30 – 8.45pm Dinner (at the Rodel Hotel)

8.45pm 'Emigration to the Mainland – Songs and Recordings': MORAG MACLEOD, Scalpay

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

9.30am 'Quebec and the Eastern Townships of Canada': MARGARET BENNETT, Perthshire

10.15am 'Gaelic Emigrants to Canada': CHRIS LAWSON, Harris

11.00 – 11.30am Coffee

11.30am 'Emigration to Australia - the Highlands and Islands Emigration Society': RODERICK BALFOUR, Inverness-shire

12.15pm 'Why Patagonia?': GRETA MACKENZIE, Lewis

1.00 – 2.15pm Lunch

2.15pm 'Destination Detroit': KENNY MACIVER, Lewis

3.00 – 3.30pm 'Return of the Emigrants': An open session for short contributions by emigrants from the Outer Hebrides or their descendants

3.30 – 4.00pm Tea

4.00pm Visit to Seallam! exhibition and guided tour of places affected by emigration in Harris

7.30- 8.45pm Dinner (at the Rodel Hotel)

8.45pm 'Songs of Emigration' Ceilidh featuring young musicians from Harris

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

9.30am 'Emigration from Barra': CALUM MACNEIL, Barra

10.15 –10.45am Coffee

10.45am 'Some Final Thoughts – Enigmas in Hebridean Emigration': MARJORY HARPER, University of Aberdeen

11.30am Final Discussion and Conclusions

12 noon Results of Children's Competition and Official Close of Conference: MICHAEL RUSSELL, Minister of Culture, Scottish Government

12.15 - 1.00pm Buffet Lunch

Supplementary event for a limited number of people attending the conference – on a first come, first served basis (weather permitting): Boat trip to St Kilda from Leverburgh on Monday 14 or Tuesday 15 September





SIGN-UP FORM

ISLAND EMIGRANTS – 3 day conference

Name

Address

Tel

Email

I wish to book for the conference as follows (please complete as appropriate and indicate whether single room supplement should apply):

	Members	Non-members
	£	£
3 days (all inclusive)*	200	230
3 days (excl. accommodation)	150	180
3 days (excl. accom. and evening meals)	100	130
Half-day sessions (excl. accom. and meals)	12	18
TOTAL		

*all sessions, meals, plus 2 nights B and B Single room supp yes/no

Full-time students: Reduction of £30 on 3 day prices above, or half-price for half-day sessions

Supplementary event not included in prices above: Boat trip to St Kilda from Leverburgh (weather permitting) on 14 or 15 September: £160 per person (limited number of places allocated on first come, first served basis – details from Alayne Barton as below)

PLEASE BOOK ASAP: PRICES ABOVE APPLY ONLY FOR BOOKINGS RECEIVED BY 31 AUGUST 2009 (from 1 September a 10% supplement will apply)

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ‘THE ISLANDS BOOK TRUST’ AND RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH CHEQUE TO:

Alayne Barton, Sealladh na Mara, Coll, Back, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0JR

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT ALAYNE BARTON AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE 01851 820946, email alayne@theislandsbooktrust.com