

## Stay in the Castle

The Castle have agreed to hold all the rooms for us until the end of September 2017.

All the rooms are either double or twin. They have all been restored to a very high standard. Most have self-catering facilities, but breakfast is available in the Castle itself. The rooms are mostly grouped in apartments. All the rooms are priced differently, depending on size and view. See the attached information sheet.

## Accommodation

Attached is a separate leaflet giving details of all Stornoway accommodation.

1. Stay in the castle Castle itself.
2. Stay in the Caladh Inn, a short walk from the ferry.
3. Stay in a private hotel, b & b, or air bnb

**We strongly advise booking as soon as you have confirmation of a place on the weekend.**

## What to see and do

1. Museum nan Eilean is located beside the Castle and gives a good background to life on the island. See some of the world-famous Lewis Chessmen on loan from the British Museum. Closed Sunday and Monday.
2. An Lanntair Gallery and café bar in the centre of town.
3. A trip to the West Side of the island to see the famous Callanish Standing Stones and visitor centre, the Carloway Broch, and the Gearrannan Blackhouse village.
4. The Loom Centre with Harris Tweed for sale and the Harris Tweed shop, both in Stornoway.
5. The incredible beaches of Uig, Bosta and Luskentyre.
6. A trip down to Harris along the Golden Road to visit the 16th century St Clement's Church at Rodel, ancient burial ground of Macleod Chiefs, and the new Harris Distillery in Tarbert – seaweed-flavoured gin!
7. Endless opportunities for hill-walking, fly-fishing and bird-watching.
8. Boat trips to watch dolphins and whales or to visit the Shiant Islands or St Kilda.

## Programme

### Friday 15th June

15.00 – 19.00	Registration
19.00	Drinks Reception in the Bar
19.30	Social Dance in the Ballroom

### Saturday 16th June

10.00 – 12.30	Class in the Ballroom
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Afternoon free to explore the island

6.30 – 8.00	3-course Dinner (wine included) in the Dining Room
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8.00	Ball in the Ballroom
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### Sunday 17th June

10.30 – 12.00	Informal Class in the Ballroom
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## Non-dancers

Your non-dancing partner or friend is welcome. The cost for non-dancers includes the drinks reception, the 3-course dinner on the Saturday and tea/coffee during dances. There is an excellent 18-hole golf course in the Castle Grounds (and a famous 9-hole course in Harris). There are many sightseeing opportunities, including boat trips round the coast and to St Kilda.

## Booking

Attached is an application form.

Email it, or all your details, to [macleodhill@mac.com](mailto:macleodhill@mac.com) or post it to: Stornoway Weekend, 6 Upper Dean Terrace, Edinburgh, EH4 1NU.

# Stornoway Weekend of Scottish Country Dancing Fri 15th – Sun 17th June 2018

**Lews Castle, Stornoway,  
Isle of Lewis HS2 0XS**



**Teacher: Gary Coull (Keith)**  
**Music: Maureen Rutherford and  
Neil Copland (Perth)**

## Lews Castle

Lews Castle was built by Sir James Matheson in the middle of the 19th Century. Matheson of Jardine Matheson fame made his money from the opium trade in the Far East. The building was modernised in the early 20th Century by Lord Leverhulme, the industrialist who bought the island in 1918. In 1939 Leverhulme bequeathed the Castle and its grounds to the people of Stornoway. During the war it was used as a naval hospital; in 1953 it was acquired by the County Council who turned it into Lews Castle College – a residential technical school, now part of the University of the Highlands and Islands. By 1997 the Castle was falling into disrepair. It stood unused until 2016, when, after a very extensive restoration, it was re-opened with a new museum building and café. The Castle recently featured in the Channel Four National Restoration Awards programme.



Overlooking Stornoway bay, the ballroom with its new grand piano is a magnificent space for dancing. You will never dance with better views! In June on Lewis, the sun does not set until after 10.30 at night! The Castle is set in acres of wonderful grounds with an extensive area of paths and mature woodland skirting the bay.

## Lewis and Harris

Lewis and Harris together form the largest island in the Hebrides – the Long Island. Stornoway is a bustling historic town, serving the whole area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar from the Southern Isles of Barra and the Uists right up to the Butt of Lewis in the north. Lewis has evidence of civilisation going back thousands of years. It is one of the few remaining parts of Scotland where Gaelic is in daily use in school, in church, shops, at work, and in the home. Crofting is still alive and peat is still cut and burned in people's homes. The Outer Hebrides are very different from mainland Scotland. If you have never visited Lewis or Harris before, it may come as a surprise that Sunday is observed. Predominantly Presbyterian, Lewis has a very high level of church attendance. All shops close on Sundays – including Tesco. Restaurants which are open on Sundays will be listed in your welcome pack.

## The Weekend

The weekend begins with a drinks reception in the bar adjoining the ballroom. We then have an informal social dance in the ballroom to the music of husband and wife team, Neil Copland and Maureen Rutherford, former RSCDS Music Director. Saturday begins with a morning class with one of the North East's talented young teachers, Gary Coull. Saturday afternoon is for exploring Stornoway and the island. A guided tour can be arranged if there is demand. We begin Saturday evening with a formal dinner in the grand dining room, followed by a ball. The weekend finishes with a more informal class on Sunday morning.

## The Weather

One of the first questions people ask about Lewis is what will the weather be like? The weather is Atlantic! In June it might be 20 degrees and wall to wall sunshine. It might be 10 degrees and blowing a gale! Check the forecast before you pack! One of the best sites is [xcweather.co.uk](http://xcweather.co.uk)

## Getting to Stornoway

**If you are coming with friends, the cheapest way to travel is by car, but booking is essential on all ferries.**

### 1. Calmac Ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway

There are two ferries a day in each direction. The journey takes just over two and a half hours. The ferry can carry 143 cars. Cars must be pre-booked on [calmac.co.uk](http://calmac.co.uk). 45-minute check-in time. In 2017 an adult return cost £18.40 and a car return £99.00. Return tickets are simply double the single, so you can mix and match routes easily. There is a Sunday afternoon ferry back to Ullapool. Buses run from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth etc connecting with a bus from Inverness to the ferry.

### 2. Calmac Ferry from Uig, Skye, to Tarbert, Harris

A shorter crossing taking about 90 minutes. Tarbert is 36 miles from Stornoway and takes about an hour to drive. In 2017 an adult return cost £12.20 and a car return £60.00. There is a Sunday afternoon ferry back to Uig.

### 3. Flights from Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness.

FlyBE operate daily flights. Book early for the best prices! Taxi in from the airport. Car hire at the airport.

### 4. Make a holiday of it!

The Outer Hebrides is a long string of islands connected by ferries and causeways. You can sail from Oban to Castlebay on Barra, from Mallaig to Lochboisdale in South Uist, from Uig to Lochmaddy in North Uist and to Tarbert, Harris. For the experience of a lifetime, fly from Glasgow in a Twin Otter and land on the beach on Barra, then hitchhike and/or take the bus up the whole way!

If you come via Ullapool, you can leave via Tarbert or vice versa. Visit the [calmac](http://calmac.co.uk) website to see all the possibilities.

## Crossing the Minch

The Minch is the stretch of water between the mainland and Lewis. Leaving Ullapool, you sail down Loch Broom for over 30 minutes before you are in the open sea. The crossing can be flat calm or there can be a noticeable swell. The Loch Seaforth is the largest and most modern in the Calmac fleet with a licensed restaurant, café and shop. On a calm day you can be lucky and see dolphins and whales.