



# SCHOOLS HEBRIDEAN SOCIETY



*Go on an expedition that's different . . .*

## ***What is an expedition ?***

An expedition means many things. Going somewhere different, where your first objective is to come to terms with a challenging and unfamiliar environment. Then taking the opportunities that your new surroundings offer—joining in activities that are exciting and stimulating, and meeting new people, making new friends, so that the expedition becomes a self-sufficient, tightly-knit community with its own particular spirit and atmosphere.

The Schools Hebridean Society believes that its expeditions to the Hebrides offer a uniquely different balance of these vital ingredients. A balance which makes each expedition an unforgettable experience



## ***What is the Society ?***

The idea of the Society was born from an expedition to the island of Rhum, organised by a group of students in 1959. Out of this experience rose the Schools Hebridean Society which since its inception in 1962 has run 87 expeditions to many different sites in the Hebrides and North-West Scotland.



The Society is a registered charity and is run on an entirely voluntary basis by its more senior members who give freely of their time and effort over the year to organise the summer expeditions.

So by going on an expedition you are also joining a Society whose annual conference, report and newsletters form a link between its members throughout the year. This is one reason why many who go on an expedition return again the following year.

## ***Why the Hebrides ?***

The Hebrides are quite unlike anywhere else. They are remote—Stornoway is further away from London than Zurich and much more difficult to get to. The area combines a sense of grandeur and isolation with a beauty that is harsh, wild and compelling—rugged mountains and empty moorlands, peat-stained burns and silent lochs, unexpected wooded glens. And of course the sea—sometimes peaceful, and sometimes stormy, when tremendous waves pound against the shores of the islands.

The conditions are hard, and much of the area has been depopulated to such an extent that it is now completely uninhabited. Those who remain are a hardy people whose native tongue is often Gaelic. These same conditions make the Hebrides an ideal site for an expedition.



## ***How is an expedition run ?***

When your expedition arrives on site you will have with you all the equipment needed for your stay. Everything from tents, marquees, canoes and boats, to cooking, equipment, food and medical supplies, is provided by the Society. So your first objective will be to get the camp site organised.

During this time you will get to know the other members of the expedition - one of the advantages of the Society's expeditions is that you will meet people from all over the country coming from varying types of schools.



Your expedition will be in the overall charge of a leader, who together with a number of assistant leaders will be responsible for the running of the expedition and organisation of the activities. Your leaders and assistant leaders will be chosen for their experience and skills in outdoor activities and field studies and for the contribution they can make to expedition life. However there will be plenty of opportunity for you to follow any particular interests of your own. The emphasis is on informality and there are no rules except for a very comprehensive set of safety rules which must be followed at all times.

## ***What activities take place on an expedition?***

These will vary depending on where your expedition is sited and the particular interests of your leaders. As a general guide some of them are described below.

**ON FOOT**—Exploring the area around the camp site on foot forms an important part of every expedition. Climbing to the top of nearby mountains, exploring deserted bays and lochs, tramping across heather-clad moors or wandering through an abandoned village—all this brings you a taste of new and different surroundings. Sometimes you'll go out for two or three days at a time, taking small tents, to reach objectives further afield, whilst closer to the camp there may be activities such as orienteering and rock climbing.

**ON THE WATER**—Canoeing and boating are activities for which your expedition will normally be equipped—and don't worry if you've never been on the water before. You'll be introduced to the basics gradually.



**IN THE FIELD**—The Hebrides are rich in scope and variety for field study activity. Past expeditions have carried out projects in bird watching, sea-shore ecology, botany, surveying, geology, archaeology and many more. Perhaps your expedition will be involved in carrying out work for some outside body such as the Nature Conservancy.

## ***What do I do now ?***

An expedition with the Schools Hebridean Society is different. Something you've not done before, an experience to be remembered. Above all it is a challenge and it is fun. If you would like to go on an expedition in 1980 then first of all look through the sheet describing the individual expeditions. Then select the one in which you are interested and for which you are eligible, discuss it with your parents and send off the application form.

## ***What about assistant leaders ?***

If you have the appropriate qualifications and interests and would like to go on an expedition as an assistant leader, you should write to the Society's Director i/c Assistant Leader Appointments, Dr. M. Hayward. Further details are given overleaf.

# **Information**

## **The Schools Hebridean Society**

The Schools **Hebridean** Society is a registered charity, wholly owned by the Schools **Hebridean** Company Limited.

## **Application to go on an Expedition**

Fill in the application form and send it together with a deposit of £10.00 to Mrs. M. Jones, Station Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5HW. Cheques should be made payable to the Schools Hebridean Company Limited. Once your application form has **been** processed you will be put in touch with your expedition leader.

## **Expedition Fees**

The cost of each expedition is shown on the information sheet for the expeditions. However the fee simply reflects the costs of running the expeditions, and at the time of printing it is impossible to accurately forecast these costs next summer. So the Company must reserve the right to impose a surcharge in the event of costs rising more than anticipated. The balance of the fee will be requested not later than twelve weeks before the expedition departure date. If you apply less than twelve weeks before the departure date, the balance of your fee will be requested at the same time as you are notified that a place on the expedition has been reserved for you.

## **Travel**

The expedition fee does not include travel costs. However the Society will arrange your travel, taking advantage of special party rates offered by British Rail and the ferry companies, provided that your requirements are known not later than six weeks before your expedition departure date. Travel costs vary between expeditions, but in 1979 the return rail fare for an under 18 year old travelling from London to Mallaig was £26, including sleepers. Ferry and coach costs are additional and vary according to the site. Travel bills and any surcharge necessary will be sent out with the tickets.

## **Society Membership**

All expedition members are required to become members of the Society. The fee for this is £5.00 for three years, and if you are not already a member you will be invoiced for this sum with the request for the balance of your fee. Members receive the Annual Report, Prospectus, details of the annual conference and occasional newsletters. Even if you have decided not to go on an expedition you will still be very welcome to join the Society as a member. Simply send off a cheque made payable to the Schools Hebridean Company Ltd. to Mrs. M. Jones at the address above.

## **Grants**

In the past certain Local Education Authorities have helped with the cost of expeditions. If you consider that you may be able to qualify for this help you should contact your Head-teacher or L.E.A. In addition the Society's own Discretionary Fund can offer limited financial assistance for one or two members every year. Applications should be made to Mrs. Jones at the address above.

## **Cancellation**

In the event of a member cancelling his or her place on an expedition/the following charges will apply :

More than 12 weeks before the expedition departure date'	Deposit (£10.00 )
8—12 weeks before the expedition departure date .....	£30.00*
4—8 weeks before the expedition departure date .....	£55.00*
4 weeks or less before the expedition departure date .....	Full Fee*

\*These amounts include the deposit and must be paid in full even if at the time you cancel you have not submitted the balance of your fee, and the deposit cannot be transferred to a membership fee. In the event of cancellation the membership fee cannot be refunded. Cancellation should be made to Mrs. Jones of the above address and charges will be based on the date it is received. Mrs. Jones will confirm that she has received your cancellation and will notify you of the appropriate cancellation charge as soon as possible. If you do not hear from her you should contact her immediately.

## **Assistant Leaders**

People who have been on Society expeditions before as assistant leaders who would like to go on one -of this year's expeditions should write to Dr. Michael Hayward, [REDACTED] Long Common, Claverley, Nr. Wolverhampton, WV5 7AX, stating their expedition preferences. Members who wish to be considered for assistant leaderships should write to the above address to request an application form. Non-members who think they would like to go on an expedition as an assistant leader should write to Dr. Hayward for details of what this entails. **Please mark all envelopes containing letters about assistant leader positions 'A1 in the top left hand corner.**

## **Insurance**

As well as arranging comprehensive insurance for itself, the Company arranges the insurance of the personal belongings of all expedition members against damage by accident or misfortune for the duration of the expedition. The limit of cover is £100 for members and £200 for leaders, and is subject to the exclusion of the first £5 of each and every loss or damage, and certain other exclusions.

## **Further Information and Publicity**

Further information about the Society and its expeditions can be obtained from Mrs. A. L. Crawford, Tile Kiln, Chelmsford, Essex [REDACTED]. If you would like someone to come and give a talk at your school/youth club etc. about the Society please inform Mrs. Crawford. This can normally be arranged if a Society member lives close at hand.

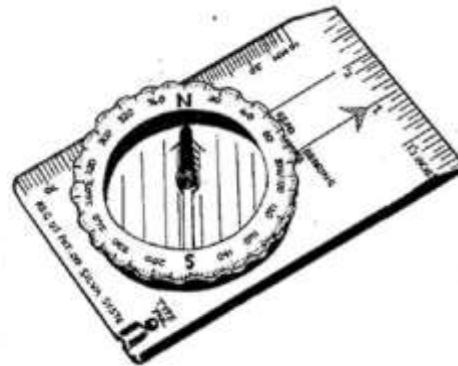
## **Alterations**

The Company reserves the right to alter in whole or in part at any time all plans and arrangements of whatsoever nature contained in this or any other publication.



# *Expeditions*

## '80



### COLONSAY EXPEDITION

Measuring eight miles by two, Colonsay offers the expeditioner the delights of sandy beaches, rocky headlands, quiet pastures and wild moorland. Whether you like canoeing or rock climbing, beach combing or walking, medieval priories or ornithology, football against the islanders or ocean watching, it is all there. No other island in the Hebrides offers such an enormous variety within such a small area. The pastoral beauty of Colonsay House is sharply contrasted by the pounding surf of Kilmoray Bay only half a mile distant. The site of Tobar Fuar ("Clear Spring") is only two miles from the capital village of Scalasaig.

### MINGULAY EXPEDITION

Completely uninhabited for many years, Mingulay is one of the most Southerly in the chain of islands that forms the Outer Hebrides and forms a remarkable site for an expedition. Although small, the island's varied character affords almost unlimited scope for all kinds of activity. A green grazed bowl, sand blown ruins, and a shingle sheltered bay at the centre of a semicircle of barren hills which soon end in superb precipitous cliffs and the Atlantic. Above all the lingering sense of its history of violence, poverty and disease - of man fighting a losing battle against the elements - that is Mingulay.

### NORTH UIST EXPEDITION

North Uist is a bewildering labyrinth of fresh water-lochs behind a shattered seaboard. Over half of the island is water with superb trout and salmon fishing. The West coast is a beautiful stretch of white sand beaches. To the East it is more rugged with Eaval at 1139ft. dominating the "Croft House" where the expedition is based. An ancient Pictish fort is only a quarter of a mile away in a loch which offers superb swimming. The opportunities for canoeing and walking expeditions are endless. Red deer, sea otter, golden eagles and short-eared owls are to be found nearby.

### SOUTH UIST EXPEDITION

South Uist as a setting for a Hebridean expedition is perhaps ideal. Separated from the Island of Skye by the waters of the Minch, South Uist is remote and breathtakingly beautiful. To the East, Highland cattle graze the flat machair and the beaches are long and empty. However the campsite is on the shores of Loch Eynort on the West coast, and here the country is wild and untamed. Mountains such as Beinn Mhor and Stulaval dominate the landscape, whilst the loch offers opportunities for swimming and boating. South Uist's rich and varied terrain also lends considerable scope for those interested in field studies such as ornithology and seashore ecology.

### KNOYDART EXPEDITION

Knockdhu is a place of mountains and sea. The peninsula of Knockdhu is on the mainland overlooking the Sound of Sleat and the Cuillins of Skye beyond. It is bounded on the South by Loch Nevis and on the North by Loch Hourne. The Eastern side is guarded by Ladhar Bheinn, which rises to 3,343ft. within two miles of the sea. Here are mountains with superb climbing and walking, magnificent rivers with excellent fishing, and the sea for canoeing. The area is ideal for field studies, and ornithology or mapping the Invergusseran river are just two of the projects you could carry out. Knockdhu has become established as being one of the best and most popular sites we visit.

### HARRIS EXPEDITION

Harris is an island of dramatic contrasts. To the North, Harris borders Lewis in an area of wild and mountainous moorland. Here Clisham, the highest mountain in the Outer Isles, watches over Loch Seaforth and East and West Loch Tarbert. However to the South and West Harris is an island of lonely beaches of golden shale, the home of the curlew and oyster catcher. The 1980 Harris campsite has yet to be confirmed, but in the past it has been at Rhenigadale, an isolated crofting community which is seven miles from the nearest road along a footpath which at one point climbs a never-to-be-forgotten 800ft. in half a mile! Harris has all the ingredients for a remarkable expedition.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Expedition	Members		Dates		Cost
	Age (yrs. mo.)	Sex	From	To	
Colonsay	12-9—13-11	Boys only	12th August	—29th August	£85.50
Mingulay	14-0—15-11	Boys only	22nd July	—12th August	£85.50
North Uist	14-0—15-11	Boys, girls	21st July	—10th August	£85.50
South Uist	16-0—16-11	Boys, girls	6th August	—27th August	£92.50
Knockdhu	17-0—17-11	Boys, girls	20th July	—9th August	£92.50
Harris	16-0—17-11	Boys only	7th August	—28th August	£92.50

1. Ages relate to your age on 1/8/80.
2. Dates of the expeditions are the dates of departure and return to London and may be subject to revision on publication of the summer train and steamer timetables.

**SCHOOLS HEBRIDEAN SOCIETY  
EXPEDITIONS '80  
APPLICATION FORM**

**A To be completed by the applicant**

1. Surname (block capitals please) .....
2. Forenames (underline your usual name) .....
3. Home address .....
4. Home telephone number .....
5. School name and address .....
6. Father's or Guardian's name .....
7. Your date of birth ..... Age on 1/8/80 .....
8. Expedition for which you are applying .....
9. Name and address of Formteacher/Housemaster/Housemistress/Headteacher who has stated that he or she is willing to give you a reference. (This section need only be completed if you have not been on an expedition with the Society before):  
.....
10. Have you been on a Society expedition before ? .....  
If so, which ones ? .....
11. If you have not been on an expedition before, how did you hear about the Society ? .....
12. Please note below your interests and experiences :  
.....  
.....  
.....
13. Your signature .....

**B To be completed by Parent or Guardian**

1. Can your son/daughter or ward swim at least 50 metres ? .....
2. Please state below any medical information of which you think the expedition medical officer should be aware. Naturally any such information will be treated in confidence.  
.....
3. The Society strongly advises anti-tetanus injections for all expedition members and leaders. Has he/she had or will he/she have an anti-tetanus injection ? .....
4. I agree to my son/daughter/ward ..... taking part in the Schools Hebridean Society's .....expedition

Signed..... Date.....

This form when completed should be sent together with a deposit of £10.00 to Mrs. M. Jones, 'Altona', Station Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5HW.

**C For office use only**

Date received .....

Reference .....

Deposit .....

Accepted .....

Acknowledged .....

Circular 1 .....

Travel inf. rec'd .....

Circular 2 .....

Post exp. circ .....

Circular 3 .....