

Stornoway



War Memorial

1 STORNOWAY is the main town on the Isle of Lewis and was founded by Vikings in the 9th Century. This settlement grew around a sheltered harbour and over the years became a hub for people from all over the island. Following the trade wars in the early 1600's, Lewis was transferred to the MacKenzies of Seaforth. In 1844, the MacKenzies sold Stornoway and The Isle of Lewis to Sir James Matheson, who built Lewis Castle. In 1918, Matheson sold the island to William Lever, 1st Viscount Leverhulme. However, his economic plans overstretched his finances so Stornoway was given to the people of the town. Today, Stornoway is a vibrant town with independent retailers, coffee shops, restaurants, bars, an art centre, fishmongers, butchers, delis and much more.

HERRING GIRLS
For almost 100 years from around 1850 until World War II, 3000 island women were employed as Herring Girls. The girls worked locally then followed the fish through the summer season travelling the length and breadth of Scotland for work. Stornoway was once recognised as the principal herring port in Great Britain, if not Europe, shaped by the vast wealth that the herring industry offered. In the summer months, the harbour would have up to 1000 fishing boats docked.



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