

## **Flags for Benbecula, Eriskay & North Uist: Competition & Vote**

Flags are an ancient art form that developed especially to clearly display allegiance and identity. They have subsequently become the premier medium for expressing social pride, indeed it is difficult to imagine events as diverse as sports matches, military parades or musical festivals without a wide range of flags being flown.

A flag for each island will be a free, public symbol for all to use that will:

- Raise recognition and awareness of the area nation-wide
- Express the pride in our local community
- Celebrate the heritage and culture of our corner of the country

### **The Competition**

Individuals, schools and other groups are invited to create proposals in-line with the competition terms and conditions (below) and bearing in mind the Flag Institute design guidelines. The deadline for submissions is 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

An assessment panel - including representatives from the community councils, Lord Lieutenancy, local schools and community care as well as the Flag Institute and the Lyon Court - will then choose a final set of designs to be put to a public vote. The designs will all be drawn to the same standard.

The public vote will be held through a combination on physical, postal and online voting in July 2019. The winner will be announced once registered in the Lyon Court's Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland and the Flag Institute's UK Flag Registry.

### **Contact**

Further information, downloadable competition packs can be found via:

Website: <https://www.flaginstitute.org/wp/2019/05/3-hebridean-flag-competitions>

Email: [uist.flags@gmail.com](mailto:uist.flags@gmail.com)

Social Media: Facebook Page '[Hebridean Flag Competitions](#)'

### **Useful Links**

In addition to the information provided in this pack these links will be helpful:

- Court of the Lord Lyon: <http://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/>
- Flag Institute: <http://www.flaginstitute.org>
- Heraldry Society of Scotland: <http://www.heraldry-scotland.co.uk/>
- Am Paipear: <http://www.ampaipear.org.uk/>
- Claddach Kirkibost: <http://www.claddach-kirkibost.org/>
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar: <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/>
- Storas Uibhist: <http://storasuibhist.com/>
- Tagsa Uibhist: <https://www.tagsauibhist.co.uk/>
- Taigh Chearsabhagh: <https://www.taigh-chearsabhagh.org/>
- Uist Council of Voluntary Organisations: <https://www.ucvo.org.uk/>

## **Brief Background of Benbecula, Eriskay & North Uist**

### **Benbecula**

Benbecula lies at the heart of the Uist group of islands, between North and South Uist. Now linked to its neighbours by causeways, historically the island's beaches allowed crossings to be made and is the likely to be the origin for the "- of the fords" meaning of the name Benbecula.

There are a number of theories as to the rest of the meaning of the name Benbecula. One suggests it may come from a 'pennyland' land division used for taxation, whilst another theory proposes it means 'hill', though the island is largely flat it does have once hill – Rueval, also known as the 'Hill of Miracles'.

Poetically Benbecula is known as 'The Dark Isle' derived from the famous song about returning to the island. Another famous song, the 'Skye Boat Song' records the famous flight of Bonnie Prince Charlie to Skye from Benbecula. As well as music and history Benbecula is home to the legend of a mermaid!

### **Eriskay**

Eriskay has a connection with the Young Pretender for it was on the beautiful white strand at 'Coilleag a Phrionnsa' that Bonnie Prince Charlie first set foot on Scottish soil on July 23rd 1745 before raising his army for the abortive Jacobite rebellion which ended so disastrously at the Battle of Culloden.

When the Prince stepped ashore on Eriskay he scattered some seeds very close to shore. The rare flowers of Pink Convolvulus (a type of sea bindweed) grow in that same area every July to this day. It has been noted that when anyone tries to plant these seeds/flowers in another location they never flourish.

Eriskay is also famous for the iconic Eriskay Pony who was no doubt put to work recovering the precious cargo of Whisky from the SS Politician when she ran aground just off the Island in 1941. This famous incident was the inspiration for the Ealing film "Whisky Galore"!

### **North Uist**

Throughout much history the island was an important focus for the dynastic contests of the MacDonalds of Clanranald, particularly between the local MacGorrie and MacMurchie families.

The island has legends of buried treasure. One marked by marram grass near Loch Grogary and the other around Trinity Temple. Trinity Temple, as a monastery and college, was a major centre of learning sometimes called Scotland's first university.

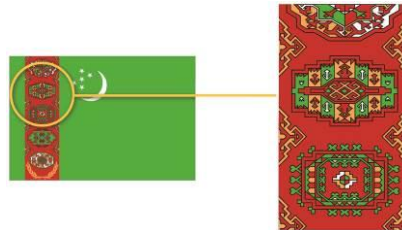
As its name suggests North Uist is the largest northernmost island in the Uists. It is noted for its peat bogs and lochs. Indeed it has been estimated that more than half of its surface area is covered by water!

## Flag Design Guidelines

Below are some basic principle of flag design. Further information can be found in the Flag Institute Guiding Principles of Flag Design, available as a free download at: <http://www.flaginstitute.org/wp/product/guiding-principles-flag-design/>

### Keep it Simple

The flag should be simple enough that a child can draw it from memory; else it will be too hard for people remember and reproduce.



### Use Meaningful Symbolism

The flag's elements, colours, or patterns should relate to what it will represent. The flag should symbolise the area as a whole rather than any other entities which are better served by having their own flags (i.e. try not to symbolise specific towns or the country)

### Try to Use Two to Three Basic Colours

Limit the number of colours on the flag to three, which contrast well and come from the standard colour set: red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue, purple, black and white. Dark and light colours will contrast well against each other, in particular yellow or white will work well on any of the other colours and vice versa.

### No Lettering or Seals

Avoid the use of writing of any kind or an organisation's badge, seal or coat of arms. Writing and other intricate detail is difficult to see at a distance and will likely be unrecognisable when the flag is flying in the wind. It is better to use elements from an appropriate coat of arms as symbols on the flag.



### Be Distinctive

Avoid duplicating other flags, if designs look too similar then the flags could be mis-identified.

### How Will it Fly in the Wind?

Remember, the design must be distinctive when flying on a high pole in a strong wind, and when hanging in windless conditions too. Also remember that it will almost always have ripples caused by the wind.

This pack is free to be duplicated for the purposes of the Benbecula, Eriskay & North Uist flag competitions but for uses elsewhere, permission should be sought from the Flag Institute

## Helpful Tips for Flag Design

Flag design expert, Philip Tibbetts, has much experience and working with local schools and communities. Here are his tips to help inspire budding designers.

### Getting Started

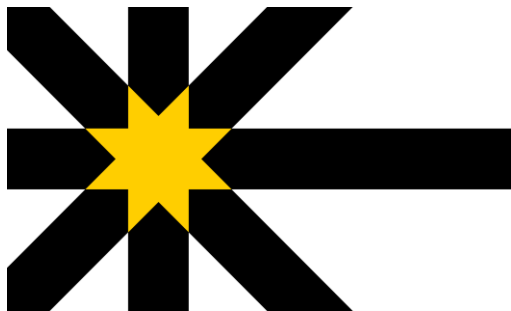
When looking to design a flag for a town or area begin by looking at a number of sources for inspiration to find something that is important and unique. Such elements include:

- Meaning of the areas name
- Legends and folklore
- Traditional emblems and colours
- Local people, achievements and industries

There are many traditional flag symbols that could be adapted to represent aspects of Sutherland such as the stars or wildcats.

### Examples of Best Practice

New symbols or adaptations of old symbols can be very powerful. For example:



#### Sutherland

The Sutherland uses colours from the former council coat of arms. The Nordic Cross and Saltire shapes represent that the county was the historic mainland border between Scotland and the Vikings. The golden sun represents the rising and setting sun of Sutherland's two coasts as well as the origins of its name as 'South Land' as the sun is highest in the south.

#### Tiree

The island's sobriquet as the 'Land of Barley' is referenced by the ears of barley, which also serve to recall the barley sheaf emblem used in the council's arms. Here they are arranged into a circular pattern to symbolise the rays of the sun as Tiree is famed for the highest amount of sunshine in Britain.



## **Terms & Conditions**

### **Eligibility**

- This is a community competition. It is open to individuals and groups
- For all entrants under the age of 16 an adult will be required to approve the entry and agree to these Terms and Conditions. The adult may be the entrant's parent, guardian or teacher. The adult must provide their own contact details (not the child's).

### **Requirements**

- Entries may be constructed in any medium and submitted in A4 size
- All entries must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not infringe the rights of any other party.
- By entering the competition you release your design into the public domain in order for it to become a freely useable symbol for all.
- You agree to allow your design to undergo professional manipulation to make it suitable for production.
- The competition organisers accept no responsibility if entrants ignore these Terms and Conditions and entrants agree to indemnify the organisers from any breach of these Terms and Conditions.

### **Submission**

- Entries can be sent electronically to the competition email address, or via post to each island. Addresses are detailed on the entry form page.
- Please package postal entry carefully to avoid damage in transit.
- Entries must be accompanied by a fully completed and signed entry form.
- Further copies of the entry form are available to be picked up from each island's submission address or electronically from the main webpage.
- Please ensure your name and contact details are clearly included.
- Entries cannot be returned, and may be archived or destroyed. Please remember to retain a copy of your designs.
- The personal data provided will only be used for the purposes of administering the competition and will be destroyed after its conclusion.
- Unsuccessful entrants will not be contacted in respect of their entry and no feedback on any entry will be provided.
- The decision of the assessment panel and the result of the public vote are final

### **Disclaimer**

- The organisers reserve the right to disqualify any entry which breaches any of the Terms and Conditions.

## Entry Form

<b>Instructions:</b> Please complete this form and either submit with your design electronically to <a href="mailto:uist.flags@gmail.com">uist.flags@gmail.com</a> or by post to the relevant island (addresses shown below).			
<b>Island:</b> (please tick the island you are submitting for)			
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>BENBECULA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>ERISKAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>NORTH UIST</u> (either address if posting)	
UCVO, 41 Airport Road, Balivanich, Benbecula, HS7 5LA	Eriskay Shop, Rubha Ban, Eriskay, HS8 5JJ	Taigh Chearsabhagh, Lochmaddy, North Uist, HS6 5AA	Claddach Kirkibost Centre, North Uist, HS6 5EP
<b>Name:</b> (please print)			
<b>Organisation</b> (if applicable):			
<b>Address:</b> (please provide contact details of a guardian or teacher if under 16)			
<b>Telephone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Rationale for your design:</b>			
<b>Declaration:</b> I hereby confirm [a] that I have read and agreed to the terms and conditions of the competition [b] that I am the originator and owner of the design/images submitted and that, to my knowledge, I am not infringing any copyright [c] that release these designs/images into the public domain, as set out in the terms and conditions.			
<b>Signature:</b> Name _____ Date _____			