**SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

***(Registered Charity No. 1077455)***

**TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*First Circular – September 2017*

Our next Spring conference will be held at

**Best Western Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran, 6th to 9th April, 2018**

The 2018 SNSBI Spring conference is being organised by a small committee of members in Scotland, chaired by Dr Ellen Bramwell. Arran is an anglicisation of Arainn, the Scottish Gaelic name of the island. The Gaelic spoken forms [ɛrinˊ] and [arinˊ] were recorded by Nils M. Holmer, the Swedish scholar who published *The Gaelic of Arran* (1957) after a detailed investigation of the local Gaelic dialect in 1938–39. As for the island-name’s etymology, it is controversial, like so many of the island-names on Scotland’s western seaboard. Its short initial vowel suggests that it does not share an etymology with Árainn/Aran, County Galway, or Árainn Mhór, County Donegal, and most commentators are non-committal, highlighting the possibility of a pre-Celtic origin. Ian A. Fraser, whose *The Place-Names of Arran* (1999) is the authoritative local toponymic survey, proposes that the name pre-dates Gaelic speech and is most likely Indo-European.

The Kinloch Hotel, our venue, is located in the village of Blackwaterfoot, on the west side of Arran, 11 miles from the island’s main port of Brodick. The hotel is in a beautiful location, looking out directly onto a sandy beach and well-situated for walking. It also has an indoor swimming pool, sauna, squash court and lounge bar: <http://www.bw-kinlochhotel.co.uk>. The hotel will provide us with accommodation, conference facilities, meals and leisure facilities all within the one building.

Arran is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde, and is easily accessible by public transport, with Glasgow the main staging post for those coming by train or plane. The train from Glasgow Central Station to Ardrossan Harbour takes 45 minutes, followed by a 55 minute ferry journey to Brodick on Arran. Scotrail’s ‘Rail and Sail’ tickets from Glasgow to Brodick give a discounted, inclusive fare for both the train and ferry for around £21 return. Cars can be booked on the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry at [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk). More information on travel arrangements (including between Brodick and Blackwaterfoot) will be made available in the second circular.

Contributions are welcomed on any aspect of onomastics, and we have had an encouraging response to our call for papers. The deadline for abstracts has now been extended until 23rd October and if you are interested in giving a paper, please do submit an abstract (100-300 words) and title to ellen.bramwell@glasgow.ac.uk.

The cost of the conference, which will include full-board accommodation in twin, en-suite rooms with wi-fi, should come in at around £220 for the entire weekend, with an additional charge for the coach trip of around £10. As hotel rooms are shared, it would be helpful if you could indicate on the registration form whom you wish to share with. There are a very limited number of en-suite single rooms available at around £300 for the conference – if anyone has a specific reason for requiring one of these single rooms then please get in touch with Ellen. If anyone wishes to make their own accommodation arrangements, information is available at: <http://www.visitarran.com/where-to-stay/b-b-and-guesthouses>. The conference fee in this case would be reduced to around £150 (inclusive of all meals and refreshments, other than breakfast). For non-members, please add an additional £15 per day to all prices. Finalised fees will be sent out in the second circular.

To reserve a place please email or post your completed registration slip to the organising committee **by 20th November** and send a deposit of £30/€35 (per person) as follows, overleaf:

Payment by cheque from the UK

For those paying by Sterling cheque, cheques should be made payable to ‘Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland’ and sent to the conference organising committee at the address below the form, with your completed registration slip.

Payment by card via Paypal in either Sterling or Euro

Please email the treasurer for further information on payment (treasurer@snsbi.org.uk) and note that there may be a processing charge if using a credit card. For our Irish members paying in Euros we offer a free Paypal payment option. Please email the treasurer with your transaction fees to obtain a refund.

If paying by Paypal, please also email your completed registration form to the conference organising committee at ellen.bramwell@glasgow.ac.uk and indicate that you have paid by Paypal in the email.

The full cost of the conference will be payable in advance and is non-refundable (full details in second circular). It is advised that delegates take out their own travel insurance to cover any cancellation.

If you are a full-time student then SNSBI will be offering a limited number of bursaries to help attend the conference. Please ask your supervisor to email the treasurer confirming your eligibility. We will advise by email if you are successful or not.

It is expected that the conference will be preceded by a postgraduate workshop, details of which will be circulated separately. Please tick the box if you would like to receive details of the workshop in due course.

Registration form: SNSBI Spring conference 2018, Isle of Arran  **Please register by 20th November**

Name(s):

Address:

Email address:

Name of person you wish to share with (if left blank then organisers will pair delegates in twin rooms):

[ ]  Please tick box if you would like to receive details of the postgraduate workshop

[ ]  Please tick box if you have mobility problems and require lift access to bedroom

[ ]  Please tick box if you would like to attend, but wish to book your own accommodation

**Post to:** SNSBI Arran conference, c/o Prof. Carole Hough, English Language & Linguistics, School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

OR

**Email to:** ellen.bramwell@glasgow.ac.uk