

BikeBytes

The Magazine of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

Welcome...

To this special edition of BikeBytes, featuring details of this year's annual Challenge consisting of 16 unique lighthouses spread across mainland Scotland. As in previous years there are awards up for grabs based on the number of lighthouses visited, so gear up and lets ride.

The Lighthouse Challenge, the 7th Challenge organised by the Club, is offered to give members an opportunity to take part in a Club activity without a fixed date, so that you can decide where to go and when to go, but still be able to share in the experience with other members.

We have chosen sixteen sites scattered around Scotland, each with a shining interest and an interesting location for us bikers.



The website forum includes an Introduction to the Lighthouse Challenge, which summarises the details, and contains the topics for the individual sites, which provide some useful information and links where possible. The Challenge is to visit eight or more of the sites during the 2016 calendar year, record your visit with a photograph showing your motorcycle and the site, and submit the photo to record the visit on the website gallery. Eight visits qualifies you for a Bronze award, twelve for Silver and the full sixteen for Gold.

The criterion to score a "visit" is to submit a photograph showing your bike and its number plate with a recognisable feature of the site - normally the Lighthouse site itself or an identifying signpost, if you cannot park close enough for a photo of bike and site. If access or safety makes it difficult to get the picture, you in biking gear at the site will be OK. A spreadsheet recording visits made will be maintained on the Club website so you can check how everyone is doing. The marker

(R) will be added to the photograph title when the visit has been recorded.

You are encouraged to submit a post to discuss your own visit and to leave comments in the site's forum topic.

If you plan to go somewhere, why not post an invitation for others to join you, either for the run or once you get there? Use the "Join me for a Lighthouse visit" topic found on the forum.

Challenge Guidelines...

1. **Photograph your face** beside your bike's number plate (don't use a flash!). If possible reduce the picture to 1000 pixels wide.
2. **Upload your register picture** to Photo gallery / SMC Annual Challenges category / 2016 Lighthouse Challenge sub-category / MEMBER REGISTER. It will be labelled with the name of the account uploading the pic so make sure it is you who does the upload or make a note of your name in the Comments box if not. (You need to have your picture in the Lighthouse Challenge register, even if you had one last year in the Heritage Sites register).
3. **Plan your visit**; invite others using the Join me for a Lighthouse visit topic in the Forum; go.
4. **Photograph your bike** at the site showing its legible number plate and the building or monument. Again, don't use a flash or the letters will disappear?
5. **Upload your visit picture** to the Lighthouse's sub-category in the Gallery by clicking on the *User Panel* then *Upload* buttons.
6. **Record your first name and the date of the visit in the Title area**. e.g. steve 12/03. The full name of the account uploading the picture will appear as Author. The name of the Lighthouse is not needed, it is shown in the topic title in the heading of the page.
7. **Post any remarks**, advice, guidance etc. to the site's topic in the Lighthouse Challenge 2016 category of the Forum.
8. **Repeat 3. - 7.** for as many sites as possible.

Member Register Upload...

1. On the website click Gallery > Club Challenges > 2016 Lighthouse Challenge > MEMBER REGISTER 2016. (you may need to scroll down to see it)
2. Click on User Panel (top right corner above the galleries)
3. Click on Upload
4. Click on the Category drop down list, and select MEMBER REGISTER 2016
5. In the Generic Title box type your name and bike e.g. Joe Bloggs BMW1200RT
6. At Published make sure that the rightmost radio button is checked
7. Click Browse. Select photo from your PC
8. Click Upload
9. You should see an 'Upload successful!' message and your photo should now be in the MEMBER REGISTER 2016 gallery

Upload photos of your visits:

Follow the same process for registering, but at the Category drop-down list, pick the title of the lighthouse site you have visited.

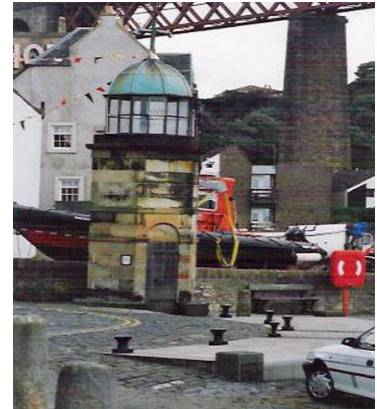
Lighthouse Locations



Starting from **North Queensferry** in a **Clockwise** direction around the coast.

A North Queensferry

Nearest Town:
North Queensferry
Location:
On Pier
Description of Tower:
Hexagonal Stone Tower
Date Established: **1812**
Operational Status:
This light is not operational



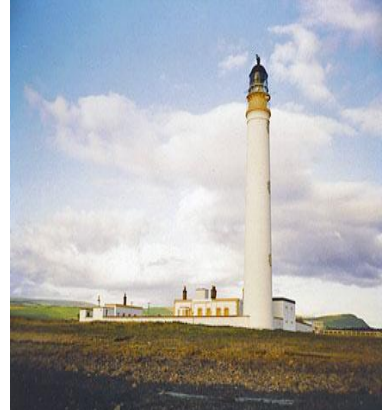
B Newhaven

Nearest City:
Edinburgh
Location:
Newhaven Harbour
Description of Tower:
Octagonal Cast Iron Tower
Date Established: **1869**
Operational Status:
This light is not operational



C Barns Ness

Nearest Town:
Dunbar
Location:
East Lothian
Description of Tower:
White Conical Tower
Date Established: **1901**
Operational Status:
This light is not operational



D Southernness

Nearest Town:
Dumfries
Location:
Solway Firth
Description of Tower: **Square Brick Tower**
Date Established: **1748**
Operational Status:
This light is not operational



E Killantringan

Nearest Town:
Portpatrick
Location:
Near south-western tip
Description of Tower:
White Conical Tower
Date Established: **1900**
Operational Status:
This light is not operational



F Toward Point

Nearest Town:
Dunoon
Location:
Cowal Peninsula
Description of Tower:
White Conical Tower
Date Established: **1812**
Operational Status:
This light is operational



G Ardrishaig

Nearest Town:
Ardrishaig
Location:
Entrance to Loch Fyne
Description of Tower:
White Conical Tower
Date Established: **?**
Operational Status:
This light is operational



H Crinan

Nearest Town:
Lochgilphead
Location:
Crinan (Argyll)
Description of Tower:
Hexagonal White Tower
Date Established: **?**
Operational Status:
This light is operational



I Fort Augustus

Nearest Town:

Fort Augustus

Location:

SW end of Loch Ness

Description of Tower: **White, Cylindrical Tower**

Date Established: ?

Operational Status:

This light is operational



J Eilean Ban

Nearest Town:

Kyleakin

Location:

Island in Kyle Akin

Description of Tower: **White Cylindrical Tower** Date Established: **1857**

Operational Status:

This light is operational



K Rua Reidh

Nearest Town:

Melvaig

Location:

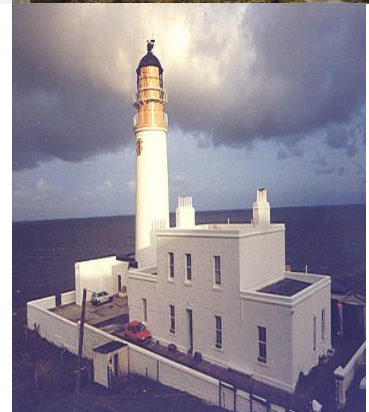
Wester-Ross

Description of Tower: **White Conical Tower**

Date Established: **1910**

Operational Status:

This light is operational



L Noss Head

Nearest Town or City:

Wick

Location:

Caithness

Description of Tower: **White Conical Tower**

Date Established: **1849**

Operational Status:

This light is operational



M Cromarty

Nearest Town:

Cromarty

Location:

Moray Firth

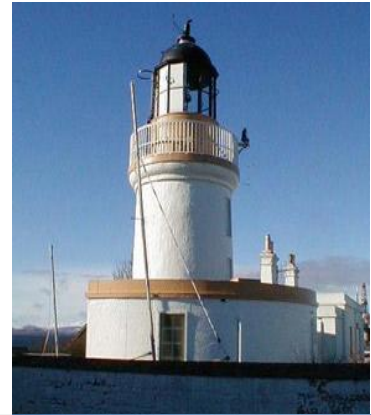
Description of Tower:

White Conical Tower

Date Established: **1846**

Operational Status:

This light is not operational



N Kinnaird Head

Nearest Town:

Fraserburgh

Location:

Fraserburgh Harbour

Description of Tower:

Conical White Tower

Date Established: **1787**

Operational Status:

This light is not operational



**O Montrose
Rear Range**

Nearest Town:

Montrose

Location:

River South Esk

Description of Tower:

White Tower / Red Lantern

Date Established: **?**

Operational Status:

This light is operational



**P Arbroath
East Pier**

Nearest Town:

Arbroath

Location:

Breakwater Pier at Arbroath

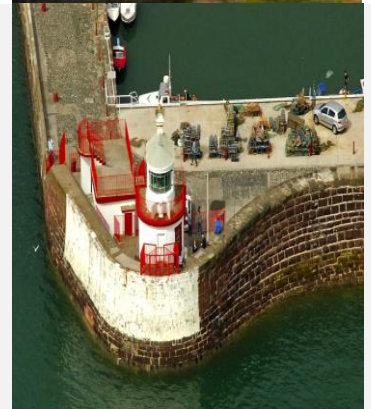
Description of Tower:

White Building on Pierhead

Date Established: **1826**

Operational Status:

This light is operational



A Message from the Chairman

I thought that it was appropriate that I wrote to you all at the start of the new season to tell you about some of the things that have been happening recently.

The last social event of the 2015 season was the Awards Night in February. It was again held at the Mercat Bar in Edinburgh and those that attended enjoyed another good evening. See below for the list of award winners.

Moving swiftly into March, we held the Club AGM which kicks off the new season. The minutes of the AGM can be found on the website, but I wanted to let you know some of the main points.

Firstly I am pleased to say that all the Committee Members are continuing in their posts. Half the Committee were new last year, so now that they have learnt the ropes, I think we will continue to see the benefit of their new ideas while maintaining the stability from the others.

You will also be pleased to hear that the annual subscription remains the same as last year, at £15, reduced to £12 for early payment by end of April. In addition, paid up Members can collect, for free, their new Club logo sticker when they turn up for an event.

There was one important change to the Club Rules and Constitution agreed. This was to allow learner riders in to our Club and to take part in Club runs. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all Members, whilst allowing learners on specific runs, we have made some changes to the "Club Runs - Protocol & the Drop-Off System". Please read and understand this document, a copy of which is included in this edition of Bikebytes. It can also be found on the website.

The Committee's aim is to provide as wide a variety of runs as possible during the season so that there should be runs to suit all. But remember, it needs you as Members to come forward with your ideas for runs. You don't have to lead the run, just make your ideas known to somebody on the Committee.

There are already a number of runs on the Events calendar, and you will see a list of the forthcoming ones elsewhere in Bikebytes.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the runs this year, for what should be another busy and successful year of events.

Wishing you all a fun, but above all, safe year biking with the Club.

John Hill
Chairman 2016

Committee 2016

The SMC Committee for 2016-17 is as follows:

Chairperson: John Hill
Membership Secretary: Gordon Robertson
Events Secretary: John Nicol
Meetings Secretary: Kenny Anderson
Treasurer: Alex Muir
Webmaster: Alasdair Wood
Merchandising Officer: Peter Johnson
BikeBytes Editor: Sarah Eddie

Awards Night

The awards night was held at the Mercat Bar in Edinburgh in February and the following Club members all won awards:

- Most club runs attended by a non-committee member: Ian Jones
- Most club runs organised: John Nicol
- Most TEC's by a non-committee member: John Moss
- Longest journeys to join club runs: Tommy Taylor
- Members favourite photo on club website: John Hill
- Landmarks Challenge certificates: Gold : Sarah Eddie, Ken Eddie, Janet Moss, John Moss, John Hill, Tommy Taylor, John Nicol, Steve Middleton. Bronze : Peter Johnson, Alex Muir
- Merit Shield: Alex Muir

Riding Protocol

After the AGM there have been some changes made to riding protocol on Club runs. Please see below:

INTRODUCTION

Riding on the road should be a safe, sometimes instructive and always enjoyable experience - if you, your bike and any pillion are fit and well-prepared. This applies whether you're taking a 5-minute run to the local shops, spending a Sunday with your fellow Club members or heading off for an extended foreign trip.

So, before you set out from home, check the bike (brakes, chain, electrics, tyres, fluids, security) and yourselves (waterproofs, sunglasses (ha!), etc.). When you arrive at the departure point for a Club run, please ensure your bike has a full fuel tank and you have an empty bladder ("FT&EB"!) - and take advantage of organised fuel stops as necessary during the day.

On your first run with the Club you should make yourself known to the organisers so they can welcome you, introduce you to other members and ensure you are confident of the arrangements.

As a Club, we have few rules, but those we do have are there for good reason. On Club runs there will often be a wide mix of riders and bikes, from relative newcomers to experienced (and often highly-trained) riders and single-cylinder bikes up to the Goldwing. If everyone on the run exercises their common sense, then we'll all have an enjoyable day.

To cater for riders with different levels of experience and expectations, the Club will endeavour to provide a varied programme of Club Runs. Riders are expected to select runs that are not beyond their level of experience. Learners will only be permitted to attend runs that are designated as "suitable for learner and less experienced riders" and should advise the leader of their learner status before the event. These runs will be ridden at a slower pace. A learner or novice should always make themselves known to the run leader at the start of the run. The run leader will endeavour to appoint an experienced Member as a "buddy" to ride behind the learner. If required, a novice will also ride with a buddy. The leader will brief the run members accordingly. If appropriate the run leader may decide to split the group in two, to accommodate different riding levels. The run leader's decision is final in these matters and all riders must respect this and act with common sense and courtesy for the safety of everybody.

Our Club runs often take us to parts of the country that are new to many of the riders. Since most people don't much like getting lost and abandoned, we do like to stay reasonably together so that the organiser can lead and the rest of us can follow safely to the coffee and lunch stops. For that reason we have an initial Briefing by the Run Leader that you should attend, and when there is any chance that riders could get lost we use the **"Drop Off" system** to mark turns from the straight ahead route.

THE "DROP OFF" SYSTEM

- The Run Leader and the Tail End Charlie (TEC) will wear SMC fluorescent reflective jackets and introduce themselves at the Briefing at the start of the run, so you will be able to see what they, their helmets and bikes look like.
- When a turn needs to be marked, the Run Leader will indicate to the immediately following rider by pointing down. That rider will choose a safe point to park and indicate to other following riders the route to follow.
- When the TEC arrives the marker will re-join in front of the TEC unless it is not safe to do so. In that event the marker will catch and overtake the TEC when possible.
- Riders will normally stay in order without overtaking, unless the rider in front positively invites the overtake.
- If you see a big gap opening up ahead and others are close behind, consider inviting them to pass and "make progress".

GROUP RIDING PROTOCOL

Of course, you may already be used to group riding, but members may like to be reminded of the following safety points about riding in a group with other bikers.

1. You are responsible for your own safety. Ride for your own safety and the safety of others.
2. Remember the "2 second rule" (Highway Code rule 126) and keep a safe distance from the bike in front. Stay alert. Ride in staggered formation where appropriate to give yourself a better view (it allows the rider in front to see you in the mirrors, and looks good, too).
3. Wait for the TEC to arrive, however long it takes. (- and make sure it is our TEC, not just another rider in a Hi-Viz jacket!)
4. No overtaking of other riders in the group unless invited. You can change your position within the group after the next stop.
5. Do not feel pressurised to ride in a way with which you are not comfortable. If you have any safety concerns, speak to the Run Leader or another member. Large outings can be split into smaller groups.

6. If you want to leave the run before its end please tell the Leader or TEC so we do not institute a search for a “lost” rider.

7. You alone (and not the SMC, its officials or organisers) are responsible for your own actions and the safety of your motorcycle, passenger and other baggage (!)

Club Merchandise

Why not treat yourself to some new club merchandise for the start of the season – we have a wide range of items including t-shirts, polo shirts, rugby shirts, long sleeve roll neck tops (ideal to keep you warm on the bike!) and fleeces as well as beanies, baseball caps and patches.

Merchandise is available exclusively to club members and can be ordered online and delivered to club natter nights / runs or to your home address for a small postage charge and 10% commission is paid back to club funds on all items purchased – so what are you waiting for?

To view the full range available, just go to the SMC Website at www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk then log in and click Merchandise Shop from the panel on the left hand side for further links direct to the dedicated web site.

If you have any queries then email myself or my wife Mandy as we run the merchandise shop as well as being active club members ourselves and we can be contacted on info@inch-embroidery.co.uk or speak to us at one of the club runs or natter nights.



Peter Johnson, Merchandising Officer

Upcoming Events

With the better weather coming in the calendar is starting to fill up. Check the website for full details but some of the upcoming events are as follows:

3rd April – Peebles, Lauder half day run
16th April – Borders and East Coast Run
23rd April – Stirlingshire half day run
7th May – 10 Lochs Run

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary

Gordon Robertson

E-mail: secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk