

## Scotia Challenge 2019

Welcome to another Scotia Challenge.

As usual, we offer a selection of checkpoints to encourage you to enjoy the wonderful scenery and roads in Scotland, and visit places and discover objects that you probably would never notice. After thirteen years of this event, it is getting harder to avoid repetition, but we have done our best to find new locations and unusual artefacts. Inevitably we will take some roads already travelled, but with a new purpose.

Entrants do not need to visit all 45 checkpoints. In 2017 and 2018 we had record numbers of entries and a high percentage of awards, many for visiting between 15 and 35 points. So this year we have again kept about 20 of the checkpoints within about 50 miles, as the crow flies, from our meeting place in Leuchars. This is to allow older machines, or those entrants with less time, to achieve at least the 15 checkpoint "hurdle" and gain an award. The checkpoints are not necessarily in any order, (but some may be!) It is your job to sort them out, and decide which checkpoints to visit. Plan any number of routes to suit your own preference and schedule. Some checkpoints may conveniently be visited in conjunction with the annual Club events or supported Shows. (Hint)

In keeping with tradition, we have included an island, actually two. In 2011 the Scotia Challenge took in Islay and Jura, but how many members actually went? This year you have an opportunity to visit, or revisit, Islay. While there, Jura is only a short non-bookable crossing if you have never been before. Ferries sail from Kennacraig on the Mull of Kintyre, to Port Askaig or Port Ellen, and should be pre-booked to avoid disappointment. Or you could choose a Calmac Island Hopper and sail from Oban via Colonsay, on certain days only.

The checkpoints this year include suggestions from a number of the Challenge's regular supporters, John H, Lena M, Don McL, Jake B, Peter Oram, plus two contributed in 2017 by Rod Richardson.

It is not a race. The aim is to enjoy the planning, take your time, visit the points of interest and take all season to do it. Your motorcycle should be in the photograph of the Scotia checkpoint. If it is closed or inaccessible then a sign nearby will suffice. Note there is a Scotia Challenge group on Facebook so please add any information to it that will help fellow riders coming behind you. That could include campsites, recommended B&B's, fuel availability ferry costs and times etc.

As always have a great time, enjoy yourself and ride safely in your adventures.

## **We start with some Bridge related checkpoints :**

**1 Deep Sea World at North Queensferry.** Follow the brown signs from junction 1 of the M90, and this educational attraction is right under the rail bridge. A photo at the big sign at the entrance will do, you don't have to take a visit or "dive with the sharks". While there, visit the public car park on Battery Road with great views of the bridges.

**2 Ladykirk and Norham Bridge.** This impressive Victorian structure (1885-1887 by Thomas Codrington and Cuthbert A Brereton) has 4 long spans, and replaces a previous timber trestle bridge. It carries the B6470 between the Scottish village of Ladykirk and the English village of Norham, over the Tweed some 10 miles west of Berwick. The central pier has a "refuge" for pedestrians, which is big enough to take a couple of bikes while you take a photograph of the plaque. While you are here, notice the 1887 Victorian drinking fountain ¼ mile north of the bridge, and perhaps visit the impressive historic Norham castle ¼ mile south. It has no facilities, but is open to visitors.

**3 Weak Bridge.** Strange name for a bridge! You will find this unusual steel deck, wooden railing, and iron link suspension bridge crossing the Teviot water half way between Kelso and Jedburgh (A698). It carries an unclassified single track road north from its junction with the A698. Look for the sign "Omiston Mains ½" at the junction, and the renovated "Old Toll Cottage" before the bridge.

**4 Entrance Arch, Kinkell Bridge.** Kinkell Bridge was built in 1793 and, like many bridges in Scotland was constructed to take a horse and cart yet now carries large trucks without structural problems – the engineers of the day really know how to build something that would last! On the northern side of the Bridge is a large arch which guards a once well used entrance to Millearn House and gardens. There is ample space to stop for a picture. Note - Looking south over the bridge is a building, now a house, that was originally a smiddy. But is well remembered for a different reason – in the 1960's and early '70s it was a small scrap yard. Many a day was spent there by local teenagers ferreting out bits of motorcycles and car parts. ( *Contributed by Rod 2017* )

## **And some War Memorials, and wartime artefacts :**

**5 Aberdalgie War Memorial.** This traditional Celtic cross war memorial honours those of the parish who fell in the Great War. It is located outside the still used Aberdalgie and Forteviot Parish church, a few hundred yards down the single track road off the B9112 Perth to Dunning road, which links to Craigend. Interestingly, the first two names on the monument are *William Craig, Sergeant, Motor Transport RASC* (One wonders if he learned his driving skills working for one of the big houses in the area before signing up?) and *Ian Ross MacGregor, Corporal, Motor Machine Gun Corps* (perhaps a chap with a pre-war interest in motorcycles and a keen volunteer for this specific unit?). Motor cycle despatch riders and armoured cars were used from the earliest days of the war. Army Order 480, dated 12 November 1914 and sanctioned in February 1915, approved the addition to each Division of a motor machine gun battery. They were designated to be units of the Royal Field Artillery and were collectively known as the Motor Machine Gun Service. Men were found from volunteers, or by special enlistment of men known to be actively interested in motorcycles (such as cycle club members). ( *Contributed by Rod 2017* )

**6 War Memorial, Furnace.** This is a traditional granite memorial surmounted with a stone cross. It stands at a cross roads in the village of Furnace, just off the A83. Close to the Village Store, the Furnace Inn, and the Primary School.

**7 Ukrainian POW Chapel, Hallmuir** near Lockerbie. The Hallmuir Prisoner of War Camp was built in 1942 to accommodate 450 German and Italian prisoners of war. After the end of World War II, the Italians and Germans were repatriated and by 1947 the camp stood empty. Later in that year, it became home to over 400 Ukrainian conscripts, who were not accepted back home. You can read the full sad story on <http://www.heritageandhistory.com> Admission is free. One of the huts was formerly used by the Italians as a place of worship, and was transformed by the displaced Ukrainian men into a colourful chapel, to allow them to celebrate their Greek Catholic faith. The Hallmuir chapel is one of only two remaining POW chapels constructed in Scotland during the Second World War, the other being the famous Italian Chapel in Orkney which we visited a few years ago. Exit the M74 at Junction 18 north bound, take the Lockerbie sign, and follow the brown sign at the first small roundabout. If coming from the north, go through Lockerbie town, to reach this small roundabout on the southern outskirts.

**8 The Great Polish Map of Scotland.** It's in the grounds of the Barony Castle Hotel, Eddleston near Peebles. This is the world's largest 3D terrain relief model ( 50m x 40m ) of a complete nation. It was started in 1975, neglected for years and restored from 2010 until reopened in 2017. But - what is the war time connection? Barony Castle was the main Polish Staff Officer training college, following the fall of Warsaw in 1939. During the war years up to 26,000 Polish troops were trained at bases from Montrose to the Borders, and deployed to defend the east coast of Scotland, many stayed. <http://www.mapascotland.org/story-of-the-map/the-polish-connection/> You will find it off the A703 at Eddleston, some 8km north of Peebles. Follow the brown signs and take a photo in the hotel car park, or at the brown tourist sign. It is worth a short walk to see the map, as you can't (i.e. shouldn't) ride the bike right up to it.

#### **Two Lighthouses :**

**9 Elie Ness Lighthouse.** Completed in 1908, to specifications of David Alan Stevenson, grandson of Robert Stevenson, electrified in 1959, fully modernised in 2010. Sits on a rocky promontory at the east side of Ruby Bay between Elie and Earlsferry. There is a car park, toilets, superb views over the Forth to North Berwick where the "Earl" was wont to take his "ferry" from the west side of Ruby Bay, hence "Earlsferry". Thousands of early Christians also made this crossing on their pilgrimage to St Andrews. The alternative routes were via Queensferry, or Stirling! A photo in the car park is fine.

**10 Saint Abb's Head Lighthouse,** A signal station operated on the cliffs here from before 1820, the lighthouse was built by David and Thomas Stephenson in 1862, electrified in 1966, and automated in 1993. Located in the St Abb's Head Nature Reserve, there is a small car park at the end of a 2km single track road. There are superb uninterrupted views of the North Sea.

### Three Boxes :

**11 AA Box # 723, St Mary's Loch** – On the A708 at Cappercleuch, half way along St Mary's Loch. Look for it near the junction of the unnamed road signed Tweedsmuir. The Glen Café legendary bikers' tea room, and the Tibbie Shiel's Inn, are about 3km south of here. Note the scenic hill road to Tweedsmuir runs past Meggat and Talla Reservoirs, and is popular with bikers and cyclists.

**12 Cream and Red Telephone Box, Rhynd.** Most Telephone Boxes in the UK were the familiar red K6 model, with around 50,000 made from 1935 to 1968. The first box, K1 type, was introduced in 1925. The cream one we seek here is a rare K3 model, introduced in 1929 and designed by Giles Gilbert Scott. It is similar to Scott's previous K2 design, but constructed from concrete not iron. The standard colour scheme for the K3 was cream, with red glazing bars. There are only two surviving examples, one at London Zoo and this one at Rhynd. To find out all about phone boxes, check out – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_telephone\\_box](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_telephone_box) Rhynd is on an unclassified loop road off the A912, just south of Perth. The phone box is in the front garden of the Post Office House, beside a RED Post Box, and close to the lane for Elcho Castle.

**13 Green Post Box,** This is an ex-GPO box, with King George G.R. crest, now in use as a private mailbox. It's on the outskirts of Logierait, next to a small white wooden shed, a few yards down a farm lane leading south off the A827 at the 40mph / Logierait signs. The lane leads to The Roost glamping site.

### Four Castles :

**14 Claypotts Castle.** This quirky historic building sits on Claypotts Rd (B978) at the busy east Dundee intersection of the A92 / Baldovie Road ( Michelin, Sainsburys etc ). If you turn up the side of the castle, in to the cul de sac of Claypotts Castle Gardens, you can park, read the information panel and take your photo. Built in the late 1500s, the remarkable state of preservation is down it having been lived in for nearly 500 years of its life. Only the grounds are open year round.

**15 Hermitage Castle.** This is a semi-ruined 13<sup>th</sup> century castle, now under the care of Historic Scotland. The castle has a reputation, both from its history and its appearance, as one of the most sinister and atmospheric in Scotland. It is said to be haunted by the familiar of William de Soulis, and by Mary Queen of Scots. From the north, it is brown signed off the B6399 about 13 miles from Hawick. (On the way look out for the impressive, now disused, 15 span Shankend Railway Viaduct on your right.) Coming from the south, the turn off is about 6 miles north of Newcastleton. Hermitage Castle is open April to September, but easily visible from the road all year round.

**16 Gilnockie Tower, Canonbie.** This is a 16th-century tower house, located at the hamlet of Hollows, about 4 miles south of Langholm (A7). The tower is situated on the west bank of the River Esk. It was built around 1520 by Johnnie Armstrong a famous borders outlaw, who was hanged with 50 of his mates by James V in 1530. The building was fully restored in 1978, and now houses the Clan Armstrong Centre. There may be a charge to enter, but you can park beside it for free!

**17 Lindisfarne Castle.** Holy Island is technically in England, although it's at the same latitude as Ayr, and it's only about 10 miles south of Berwick. Many of the aforementioned pilgrims heading for St Andrews will have stopped off at Lindisfarne Priory on their way north, using the historic St Cuthbert's Way or St Oswald's Way. There are a few cafes, BnBs and shops with opening times determined by the seasons and tides. The island is accessible from the mainland at low tide by means of a causeway. DO CHECK THE TIDE TABLES on line or at the car park before taking the causeway, and leave time to get back. Lindisfarne Castle is a 16th-century castle much altered and modernised by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1901. Now owned by the National Trust it has recently been reopened after considerable conservation work. The castle sits prominently at the south east of the island and you can take a picture from the small car park.

### **The obligatory Distillery :**

**18 Annandale distillery.** Annandale Distillery has a long and interesting history. Closed in 1918, rescued in 2007, this once derelict distillery sprang back into life on November 3rd, 2014. The product Came of age in 2017 and expensive first bottlings can be bought, tours taken, and their café visited (9-5, 10-5 Sunday) Located just north of the old market town of Annan, off the B722. Follow the plethora of brown tourist signs as you enter Annan from the A75, but don't be confused by those for "Annan Museum" and the intriguingly named "Porridge Museum".

### **Seven Churches, Abbeys and related religious places :**

**19 St Peter's Church, Invergowrie.** This site you see today is basically a graveyard of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century headstones, around the ruins of a 16<sup>th</sup> century church. The church was built on the site of a 7<sup>th</sup> century church founded by St Boniface, possibly the oldest ecclesiastical building north of the Tay. In the NW corner of the graveyard is a standing stone that is believed to pre-date all of the above Christian activity! Situated on Station Road in Invergowrie, off the beaten track, but you can park at the roadside and get some gravestones and a gable end in the picture.

**20 Yester Parish Church, Gifford.** The present church building dates to 1708, and stands towards the north of the village, at the main road junction B6369 and B6355, just behind the war memorial. It is painted white, and has a square tower. Incidentally, a certain John Witherspoon was born in the manse in 1723, emigrated, and became a major leader in the Presbyterian Church in America. He was the only clergyman to sign the US Declaration of Independence. There is a recommended café across the road, "Lanterne Rouge", popular with cyclists taking the climb up the Lammermuir Hills.

**21 Cranshaws Parish Church.** The present church dates from 1899, built on the site of at least two previous buildings. The original church was severely neglected after the Reformation, and a new building was erected in 1739, itself being replaced by the current building which is still in use. Down a wee lane just south of Cranshaws village, on the B6355. ( Yes, some of us visited this in 2009.)

**22 Foulden Tithe Barn.** This is a rare example of a tithe barn, where the Church stored their 10% of local agricultural production. Located in the village of Foulden 4 miles southeast of Chirnside on the A6105. Maintained by Historic Scotland, open and free to enter all year round.

**23 Dryburgh Abbey.** This medieval abbey dates from about 1150 and has been burned down, restored, and destroyed many times. Rescued in 1786 by the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Buchan, it has been preserved as a romantic ruin. Sir Walter Scott, who latterly lived at nearby Abbotsford, chose to be buried here. So did Douglas Haig (Field Marshall, commander of the British Expeditionary Forces WW1, 1st Earl Haig), and his wife. Their graves are marked by the same simple headstones to be found all over Europe in Military war cemeteries. It's brown-signed from St Boswells, is managed by Historic Scotland, and worth a walk around. There is an admission charge for non-members, so a photo in the car park will do, if you are in a hurry.

**24 Ancient Pictish Stone.** You will find this tall standing stone in a field by the roadside, opposite a farm track where you can safely pull in. It's on an unclassified single track road, "half-way-up-the-hill-side", which runs along the south side of the vale of Strathmore between the townlands of Auchtertyre and Leys. From the B954 in Newtyle, turn west into Coupar Angus Road, travel a mile then turn left at the crossroads. It's another mile on the right. Has fantastic views over the valley.

**25 Masonic Lodge, Thornhill near Stirling - Lodge Blairhoyle 792** is situated in the village of Thornhill near Stirling. The lodge is widely recognised as the smallest purpose built masonic temple in the United Kingdom, perhaps the world. From Stirling, pass Blair Drummond Safari Park, turn left on to A873 (signposted Aberfoyle) through Thornhill. The Lodge is at the end of Main Street, on a sharp right hand corner. Best to park on one of the side roads, eg the road to Kippen and take your photo back towards the Lodge.

#### **Eight Famous People, Statues and Memorials :**

**26 Brechin - Statue of Sir Robert Watson-Watt (1892-1973).** This modern statue of Sir Robert (the father of radar) holding a radar tower and a spitfire was unveiled in St Ninian's Square, Brechin in 2014. He was superintendent of the Bawdsey Research station in 1936, developing the radar stations along the south coast of England, which proved crucial in warning of Luftwaffe attacks.

**27 Vincenzo Lunardi Plaque.** This pioneer Italian aviator flew a balloon from Edinburgh to Fife in 1785. A commemorative plaque to "the first aerial voyage in Scotland" can be found near the village of Ceres, in Fife. Take the B940 south from Pitscottie, and after about 1km look for the small plaque at a field entrance on your right, just at a left hand corner. For more info on the life of this character, check him out on Wikipedia.

**28 Fox Boy Sculpture, Menstrie.** This public art work by internationally renowned sculptor Andy Scott, features a boy with a fox's head sitting on a water wheel. It was installed in Midtown Gardens, Main Street (A91) in 2008. Apparently, this is one of six sculptures by this artist in Clackmannanshire.

**29 Sir Walter Scott Statue, Selkirk.** You will find this large white statue in Market Place, in the town centre. It stands outside the Court House where he once presided. Conveniently there is a car park, another of those Victorian water fountains, and a recommended corner shop – "Grieves Snack Attack". (a cup of soup, buttered roll and a tea cost me all of £1.50 !)

**30 Traquair House - The Bear Gates.** Traquair House is Scotland's oldest inhabited house. Visited by 27 Scottish Kings and Queens, Traquair dates back to 1107 and has been lived in by the Stuart family since 1491. Originally a royal hunting lodge, Traquair played host to Mary Queen of Scots. Now hosts weddings, and various public and corporate events. Café, workshops, grounds, and a maze. Situated just south of Innerleithen, follow the brown signs to Traquair, and look for the statues of dancing bears atop the impressive former entrance gate posts, to the left of the current entrance. (B7062)

**31 Bronze Ram, Moffat.** This bronze sculpture (with drinking fountain!) was commissioned in 1875 by a local businessman William Colvin as a gift to his native town to commemorate its long association with sheep farming and the wool trade. The artist chosen was a prolific and celebrated Victorian Scottish sculptor named William Brodie, famous for the statue of Greyfriars Bobby in Edinburgh. According to legend, at the unveiling of the statue, a local farmer exclaimed, "It has nae lugs!" which was in fact quite right. Restored in 2004, it stands at the top of High Street, the A701. Across the road is a recommended eatery - the "Rumblin' Tum".

**32 Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument, Dalmally.** Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir (usually Duncan Ban MacIntyre in English) [20 March 1724 – 14 May 1812] is one of the most renowned of Scottish Gaelic poets and formed an integral part of one of the golden ages of Gaelic poetry in Scotland during the 18th century. He is buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard in Edinburgh, but this monument, designed by John Thomas Rothead, was erected to honour MacIntyre in the hills near Dalmally, overlooking Loch Awe. The monument was built following a public subscription in 1859, and is accessed up a single track road signposted a few hundred yards west of Dalmally Station.

**33 The Postie Stone.** This memorial is constructed of local whinstone and is about ten feet high. It was unveiled on September 20, 1931, more than a hundred years after the tragedy it commemorates. There is a granite plaque facing the road, topped with a representation of a mail guard's bugle. The inscription reads, "Near the head of this burn on 1st Feb, 1831, James McGeorge, guard, and John Goodfellow, driver of the Dumfries to Edinburgh Mail, lost their lives in the snow after carrying the bags thus far." The snow was 8 to 10 feet deep, and the whole story can be read on <http://skipcottage.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/the-story-behind-postie-stone.html> It sits on the east side of a straight section of the A701, some 9km north of Moffat, at a bridge over the Cross Burn, and close to the Devil's Beef Tub.

## Miscellaneous :

**34 Grassic Gibbon Centre.** This centre is a purpose-built, bright, attractive building adjoining Arbuthnott Hall and is run by a voluntary board of directors on behalf of the local community on a not-for-profit basis. It celebrates the life, work and times of James Leslie Mitchell, the novelist of the Mearns, better known by his pen name Lewis Grassic Gibbon. It's on the B967, half way between Inverbervie and Fordoun. Entry is free, small charge for the exhibition, and a café open March to Oct', 10 – 4:30.

**35 Loch Turret Dam.** This earth embankment dam was built 1964-1967 to supply drinking water, and generate power for its own water treatment works. The works were extensively modernised and upgraded in 2010 by Scottish Water. Go past the Famous Grouse Experience, (where there is a café, shop, etc) turn left at Hosh Cottage, and follow the single track road for some 3 miles up to the car park. Take a picture of the dam from here, and walk up to the embankment to enjoy the view.

**36 Dunsinane Hill, near Collace.** This is the site of an Iron Age fort, and more recent inhabitation up to around 1000 BC. Shakespeare chose this as the location of Macbeth's fort in his Scottish tragedy of that name, and indeed the place where Macbeth loses his head, literally. In the encounter with the three witches, Macbeth is assured that he will be safe until "... *Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane Hill shall come against him*". Macbeth is killed here by Macduff, whose army arrives shielded with oak boughs cut from trees at Birnam Wood. Incidentally, the local name was Dunsinnan Hill. Shakespeare changed the spelling and moved the emphasis from the second syllable to the third, to help it rhyme, when Macbeth says – "*I will not be afraid of death and bane, Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.*" Take the B953 between Abernyte and Balbeggie, and you will see the hill to the north of the road. Turn on to the unclassified road heading north to Collace, past the quarry in the west side of the hill, and look for a small parking area at a tight left hander. There is an interpretation board here, at the foot of the path up to the fort. If you have the time and inclination - the views of Strathmore and the Tay valley are amazing. But it is a good climb, not recommended in biking gear. A photo at the board is fine.

**37 Birnam Wood, near Dunkeld.** Originally a medieval oak wood made famous by its mention in Shakespeare's Macbeth. Only one Oak tree remains from the great forest – the Birman Oak. However, it probably isn't old enough to have itself been the source of greenery to camouflage Malcolm's army in 1057 but it is one of the oldest trees in the area. It is possible that Shakespeare visited the area in 1599 with a troupe of touring players sent by Elizabeth I after a request from King James IV. Unfortunately, the old oak tree is down a private road, funnily enough called Oak Road. Look for the brown walkers' sign "Birnam Oak 430 yards", adjacent to another of those Victorian water fountains, near the front of the Birnam Hotel. A photo including the sign, the fountain, or the recognisable granite hotel frontage, is fine.

**38 The Anchor Barge, Tarbert.** This local landmark vessel is part of the Anchor Hotel, Barge and Seafood Restaurant business, in Tarbert on the Mull of Kintyre. The Barge claims to offer the most luxurious accommodation in town, and is located (as you might expect) in the harbour. Look for the A8015 on the south side of the harbour. There is a conveniently located M/C only parking spot on the quayside. (according to the streetview on Googlemaps in 2018.)

## Islay :

The Challenge visited Islay in 2011, which was the first year set by Sandy Torrance. Eight years on, with many new members taking part, it's time to revisit this charming island in the Inner Hebrides.

Step off the Islay ferry and into the world of single malt whisky. There are eight (at least) working distilleries on Islay, including the big names like Laphroaig, Bowmore and Ardbeg. It's also a world of birds, over a hundred different species breed on the island. The Oa (pronounced 'oh') in the south of Islay is a haven for golden eagles, choughs and peregrine falcons. The RSPB maintain a Visitors Centre and Reserve at Loch Gruinart in the north-west. Islay has excellent beaches, from Saligo Bay on the Atlantic coast to the Singing Sands in the south. There is generally plenty to keep you entertained, from music festivals and castle ruins to handcraft studios. The whisky festival, "Fèis Ìle" is scheduled from 25th May - 1st June 2019, and is likely to be a busy time.

Calmac run the Kennacraig to Islay ferry - £33.50 + 13.40/p, 4 or 5 sailings per day. This ferry lands at either Port Ellen (2 hours 20 minutes) or Port Askaig (from 1 hour 55 minutes).

**39. Bunnahabhain Distillery.** Take the most northerly long and winding road, about 8 miles north of Port Askaig along the shore of the Sound of Jura, with great views. Built in 1880, and now owned by Highland Distillers, who are famous for their Famous Grouse and Black Bottle blends. Bunnahabhain has a milder taste than most Islay malts, since its water supply comes up through limestone and is transported by pipeline to the distillery, so does not pick up peat on the way. Tours are available at £5, redeemable on purchases. See their web site.

**40. Kildalton Cross.** The Kildalton Cross is a monolithic high Celtic cross in the churchyard of the former parish church of Kildalton. It was carved probably in the second half of the 8th century AD, and is closely related to crosses of similar date on Iona. About 7 miles from Port Ellen, near the end of the unclassified road which forms a continuation of the A846. On the way, you will pass three of the most famous Islay distilleries, Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg. Worth browsing their visitors' centres and taking a tour, or a coffee.

**41. Kilchoman Cross.** On the road to Machir Bay is the settlement of Kilchoman ( with its relatively new distillery opened in 2006 ), and the ruined Kilchoman Parish Church. This church was built on the site of a medieval church, and an even earlier Christian chapel. The graveyard holds many old slabs and crosses, including the 14<sup>th</sup> century Kilchoman Celtic Cross, carved in Iona style. If you have time, ½ mile west is the Kilchoman Military Cemetery which is the last resting place of many victims of the Otranto. On October 6<sup>th</sup> 1918, just a month before the armistice that would end WW1, the American troop carrier Otranto collided with another ship and sank in Machir Bay on the west coast of the island. More than 400 lives were lost.

**42. St Nechtan's Chapel, and burial ground, Kilnaughton.** Here are the remains of a Medieval chapel, almost certainly 15th century although the east end may date from the early 13th century, and the foundations probably 7<sup>th</sup> century. The building was half buried in sand in 1895. Graves occur both inside and outside the building and there are at least 4 sculptured slabs. About a mile west of Port Ellen, take the road to the Oa, then turn left after the modern cemetery down to the Bay.

**43. Red Telephone Box, Port Wemyss.** This is in the village of Port Wemyss, at the southerly tip of the Rhinns Of Islay. It sits beside a post box, and a bus shelter on Bayview St, with a view across to the lighthouse on Orsay. ( Note it is a K6 model, for you phone box anoraks. )

**44. Exmouth Memorial Cairn, Sanaigmore.** This cairn stands near the end of the B8018, in the north west of Islay, overlooking Sanaigmore Bay. Erected in memory of the 241 Irish emigrants who lost their lives on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1847 when the brig The Exmouth of Newcastle sank en route from Londonderry to Quebec.

**45. Port Charlotte Hotel.** Located in the main street of the village of the same name, this boasts excellent food and comfy rooms. If you prefer cheaper accommodation, the SYHA is almost next door, in a former whisky store. Also in this village are a pub, the Museum of Islay Life, a café and a camp site nearby.