



COME CYCLING



Discovery Rides : Summer and Autumn 2012

Calling all locals and visitors – Come join us on our rides of

Discovery around Dumfries & Galloway

These lead circular rides are suitable for all ages and abilities and usually take about 3 - 5 hours at an easy pace. Most are free and there is usually no need to book; just turn up at the Meeting Point with a serviceable safe bike, suitable clothing, snacks and drinks, and your camera.

Riders are recommended to check with the ride leader if the weather conditions are in doubt. Also we welcome riders who may wish to join a ride at an intermediate point, or perhaps come with us part of the way, or even just join us for lunch/tea for a chat – but please check first with the ride leader for logistics, exchange of mobile numbers etc.

Saturday 21st July: Glentroll and Clatteringshaws

This ride takes us up the valley to the visitor centre at Glentroll for an early lunch, then we tackle the off road route to Clatteringshaws calling by the Bruce memorial. We'll take afternoon tea at the Clatteringshaws visitor centre, followed by a downhill run on the Queen's Way back to Newtown Stewart. Enjoy lots of that wild wide open big sky scenery typical of D&G.

Grade and length: Some sharp grades, about 40 miles, with ~10 off road. Wide tyre bikes are essential.

Meet: Newtown Stewart Riverside car park **10:15 for 10:30 (Note the early start)**

Leader: Jim Cowan (01776 830315)

Saturday 28th July: Glenkiln Loop and Sculptures

We head out of Dumfries by the Maxwellton Cyclepath and then steady climb the Glen route to Shawhead, with great expansive views over the rolling hills. At Shawhead we take the road past the reservoir to the famous Glenkiln Sculptures. These include the King and Queen by Moore, Epstein's homage to The Holocaust and Rodin's standing man (though we leave out the bike inaccessible Glenkiln Cross up the hill!). We then climb over the top to the Milton road and return to Dumfries via Routin Bridge and Irongray, with a visit to Irongray Churchyard and David Gullian's Millennium stone.

Grade: Moderate but with one steep hill. Approx. 16 miles, about 2 off road.

Meet: Dumfries Whitesands, Devorgilla Bridge at **13.15 for 13:30**

Leader: Mike Gray (07751 978563)

Saturday 11th August: Galloway Recycle Sportive (Kirkcudbright)

In the spirit of fostering cycling activity in D&G this sportive is the second of the 'trio' this year under the 'Three of the Best' banner. Organised by Kirkcudbright Rotary, routes of 67 or 102 miles are available, starting in the town.

Details and Booking: www.reCyclesportive.co.uk or phone Keith Mannion (01557 330770)

Saturday 25th August: Dalbeattie and Gelston

In one of our favourite areas, this ride takes us along the coast road to Palnackie with a loop past Orchardton Tower, then a steady climb to Gelston, broken by a visit to the amazing high pines at Doach Wood. We'll trundle back down to the A711 and back to Dalbeattie, with a visit to the Willow Tree Cafe in Palnackie for afternoon tea.

Grade and length: Mostly fairly easy; one steady moderate climb. Approx 16 miles, all on tarmac.

Meet: Dalbeattie Coach Park at **13.15 for 13.30**

Leader: Mike Gray (07751 978563)

Sunday 26th August: The Four Kirks Ride

This is the popular annual "Four Kirks Ride" charity event. From Crossmichael Kirk we ride a loop to the churches at Kirkpatrick Durham, Corsock and Parton, now incorporated in one vast parish. Learn about their fascinating history, whilst partaking of some of our most appealing byways with views over Loch Ken. Find out about local scientific genius, James Clark Maxwell, whose electromagnetic equations lead to the invention of radio and form one of the cornerstones of modern physics. 'Tea and buns' are kindly provided at each venue with a contribution to the ride charity, and a small donation requested at each church.

Grade: Moderate, 23 miles (all on road).

Meet: Crossmichael church hall at **12:45 for 13.00**.

Leader: Dougie Oberheim (01387 710384)

Saturday 8th September: Wanlockhead and Mennock Water

One of our more strenuous Discovery Rides this as it takes us high into the Lowther Hills, using a switch-back track, to Wanlockhead. There are a few tough hills (though we can walk), compensated by stunning views, wide open spaces and a touch of industrial archaeology! We'll stop at the Mining Museum cafe for a well deserved snack. The final reward is a zoom down the Mennock Water back to Sanquhar!

Grade: Strenuous, 25 miles (7 off-tarmac). Wide tyres and plenty of water are essential.

Meet: Car park at Simpson Road (turn Right at the Post Office) at **13:15 for 13.30**

Leader: Mike Gray (07751 978563)

Sunday 16th September: Stewartry Sportive

The final sportive in the summer's 'Best of Three' trio, and an exciting new venture for our CTC D&G Member Group. This sportive is being organised by us in co-operation with the Dalbeattie Community Initiative. The three routes on offer are designed to appeal to all cyclists, from casual and family groups to serious 'roadsters'. The medium and long routes include opportunity for refreshment stops.

Grade and length: Short, Medium and Long routes, approx 15, 50 and 75 miles

Start: Dalbeattie High School car park

Details and Booking: www.dandgcycling.org.uk or phone Betty Howard on 01556 610998

Saturday 22nd September: Stranraer and Leswalt

Visit a beautiful wooded glen, a restored castle and a secluded bay.

Grade and Length: Easy. About 13 miles (4 off-tarmac)

Meet: Stranraer Breastworks car park **13:15 for 13:30**

Leader: Jim Cowan (01776 830315)

Saturday 29th September: Doors Open Days

For the Dumfries Ride meet in Dock Park (by the bike stand) at 1pm. The ride will visit Moat Brae, Greyfriars Church, Dumfries Museum and Camera Obscura, Robert Burns Centre, Oasis Youth Centre and Recording Studio, the Council 'Bunker' and The Old School.

For the Machars Ride meet at the Whithorn Visitor Centre at 10.30am. The ride will visit the Martyrs' Cell and Old Prison House in Wigtown, with lunch in the town. Then down to Isle of Whithorn via Garlieston to visit Machars Movies.

Leaders: DUMFRIES Please contact Sally Hinchcliffe on 01387730704 to book places and for information.
MACHARS Please contact Jim Cowan on 01776 830315 to book places and for information.

Saturday 6th October: Castle Douglas Area Day of Region Ride

Robin is running a DoR ride again this year, based out of Castle Douglas, dropping in on various events and 'open houses' en-route. The ride will head first to Dundrennan, then on a track from Port Mary to Balmae, returning to CD via the lovely road from Kirkcudbright via Tongland and Rhonehouse (a CTC D&G favourite). Plenty to see on the way round and, I dare say, a few refreshment breaks.

Grade and length: Moderate grades, one long climb. About 30 miles with a few off road so wider tyre bike recommended.

Meet: Castle Douglas King Street car park (TIC)

Leader: Robin Hogg (01556 502979)

Saturday 20th October: CTC D&G Member Group AGM

Yes I know it's boring, but necessary, and it is an opportunity to formally have your say and help ensure that the group keeps up the good work. I'm afraid we have run out of local morning ride ideas that also enable a morning break for refreshments (without involving an excessively early start) so we are **not** planning any of the usual pre-meeting rides. We will, however, have opportunity for social chat and biccies before the meeting, from 13:30. There are plenty of cafes in CD if you wish to arrive early for lunch, with friends & fellow members. And there may be a short Tour de France video from the early 60's to watch, if I can get the system to work!

Meet: Gordon Hall, St Ninian's Church Castle Douglas at 13:30. AGM starts at 14:00

Contact: Jim Cowan (01776 830315), Mike Gray (07751 978563) or Ted Norfolk (01988 700432)

Saturday 27th October: Borgue

I thought I would add this to compensate for the lack of AGM rides. A great favourite but cancelled in June because of appalling weather on the day, the route encompasses a wide spectrum of our heritage in a short distance and in easy terrain! Archaeology, history, a poet, curiosity and a coastal experience!

Grade: Easy. 14 miles (2 off-tarmac).

Meet: Centre of Borgue village at **13.15 for 13.30**.

Leader: Phil Howard (01556 610998)

For general information on CTC activities and rides in D&G contact Mike Gray (01387 270995/07751 978563) or email grayjohnmichael@aol.com. Or see our website <http://www.dandgcycling.org.uk>
Please note that adults are responsible for themselves on rides and for children in their charge. Children 17 and under must be accompanied by a responsible parent or guardian. The Ride Leader may change the route if circumstances or weather dictate; please check with the appropriate RL if in doubt.