



## ***Discovery Rides : March to Early July 2013***

### **Calling all locals and visitors – Come join us on our rides of Discovery Rides 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 (and binoculars).

In addition to our main programme of Discovery Rides this list includes information on other CTC cycling events and rides within D&G, or in which we have an interest. This includes the Ayr Group weekend in April, this year in New Lanark, and, of course, our local Kirkpatrick Macmillan Rally at the end of May (which coincides this year with our Spring Fling rides).

Riders are recommended to check with the ride leader if the weather conditions are in doubt, especially in the winter. We always 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/snack and a chat – but please check logistics first with the ride leader, exchange of mobile numbers etc.

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March: Kirkcudbright Bay, Lifeboats and Ring Marks**

This is a relatively short ride but full of points of interest. We'll visit the Kirkcudbright in-shore lifeboat station, and then pedal round to take a look at one of the most extensive cup and mark sites in Scotland. There are lovely views of Kirkcudbright Bay and the Solway, and we'll ride (gently) up what I think is one of the nicest little glens in the area. A late lunch or snack back in Kirkcudbright at the end of the ride, in Mulberries (the Solway Tide is closed for the winter).

**Grade and length:** Easy to moderate. About 14 miles, with 3 off road.

**Meet:** Kirkcudbright TIC car park, at **10:15 for 10:30**.

**Leader:** Mike Gray (07751 978563, pref. text)

#### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March: Water of Luce and Loch Ryan**

We head out of Stranraer via the London Road and back roads to Castle Kennedy before a steady climb up over the hill to New Luce and lunch. Suitably refreshed we tackle a lovely climb up the valley of the Water of Luce to Penwhirn reservoir and past Braid Fell, before a steep descent to the coast, with views over Loch Ryan. Return to Stranraer is via the cycle path beside the A77.

**Grade and length:** Some steady climbing and one steep descent – check brakes. About 25 miles

**Meet:** Stranraer, Breastworks car park, **10:15 for 10:30**

**Leader:** Jim Cowan (01776 830315)

### **Saturday 13 April: Striding Arches**

No apologies for including this one; it's one of my favourite rides. We'll initially head up to the arch at the 'stable' with its great view down the upper Dalwhat valley, then back to Moniaive for a snack at the Green Tea Room (or may leave 'til the end of the ride), followed by a loop down to Kirkland Church with its interesting graveyard. **We're into BST now, so an afternoon start.**

**Grade and length:** A steady climb up to the arch, with about ½ a mile of off road at the end (wider tyre bike recommended). About 19 miles.

**Meet:** The car park (near the bridge) in Moniaive, **13:15 for 13:30.**

**Leader:** Mike Gray (07751 978563, pref. text)

### **Saturday/Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April: Ayr Member Group Weekend**

Usually this very social annual event is based at the Minnigaff Youth Hostel but this year it's at the New Lanark YH.

See the Ayr website ([www.cycleayrshire.co.uk](http://www.cycleayrshire.co.uk)) for more information.

### **Saturday/Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April: Scottish Bike Show**

This year the show has moved to the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow. In addition to the main 6000 sqm exhibition visitors will have the opportunity to try taster sessions on the indoor track, and also on the 1km outdoor test track, with top brand bike demonstrations. We're keen to encourage support for this premier bike show in Scotland, so no posted rides this weekend. More details about the show are available on [www.thescottishbikeshow.com](http://www.thescottishbikeshow.com). If you would like to enquire about sharing transport up to the show please let Mike Gray know and I'll circulate requests.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May: Newtown Stewart and Creetown**

Inspired by the Bike Show we leap back into the saddle for this afternoon ride out on NCR7 to Creetown with refreshment at the Gem Museum cafe. There are good views over the Cree estuary as we gently climb the route of the old Dumfries-Stranraer railway (the Paddy Line) after Palnure. A visit to the museum itself is recommended – it's chocker with amazing mineral and gem specimens, and has a dangerous shop! On the return we'll divert via the Bargaly Glen up to the A712, and drop back to N/Stewart by the Penkiln Burn.

**Grade and length:** One wicked climb over Blackcraig (which we usually walk). About 18 miles.

**Meet:** Newton Stewart Riverside car park, **13:15 for 13:30**

**Leader:** Jim Cowan (01776 830315)

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May: Kirtlebridge and a 'hidden' railway!**

This route takes us through rolling farmland in the gentle slopes of Lower Annandale, including some of National Cycle Route 74, and a Bruce connection. We finish our ride with a visit to a 'hidden' railway. Afternoon refreshments in Gretna.

**Grade and length:** Easy, about 22 miles.

**Meet:** Kirtlebridge Village, **13:15 for 13:30**

**Leader:** John Dewhurst (01556 502736)

## **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May: The Kirkpatrick Macmillan Cycle Rally**

Our bi-annual Rally held at the Barnsoul Camp Site near Shawhead. We organise and lead rides on Saturday and Monday of various lengths, from around 20 up to 70 miles, typically starting at about 09:30 from the site (gather opposite the kitchen). On Sunday the main ride is our traditional 'Breakfast Ride' to Keir Mill, and (if desired) onwards to Drumlanrig and the very interesting Bicycle Museum. Booking for the Rally itself is essential but local members and guests are very welcome to come riding with us, or meet us en route.

This is also the weekend of the Dumfries and Galloway **Spring Fling** event; see below.

**Contacts:** Rally booking information and the registration form, meals etc. are accessible on the D&G and CTC-S websites, [www.dandgcycling.org.uk](http://www.dandgcycling.org.uk) and [www.ctcscotland.org.uk](http://www.ctcscotland.org.uk). For other enquiries please contact Mike Gray ([grayjohnmichael@aol.com](mailto:grayjohnmichael@aol.com), 07751 978563) or Ted Norfolk ([enorfolk565@btinternet.com](mailto:enorfolk565@btinternet.com), 01988 700432).

## **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May: Spring Fling Rides**

This year Spring Fling coincides with the CTC-Scotland Kirkpatrick Macmillan Rally at the Barnsoul camp-site near Shawhead. There will be three SF rides on Saturday and Monday, all starting from Barnsoul.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May.** We will be leaving Barnsoul at **10:00** to visit studios in Kirkpatrick Durham (lunch there in the Village Hall), returning to Barnsoul via Glenkiln and the famous statues - a 22 mile route with one steady climb.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May.** We will be leading two rides; a 50 mile round trip to **Kirkcudbright** and a 35 mile ride to **Moniaive**, both starting at **09:30**. Both rides offer a splendid variety of studios, and eateries.

For more details contact Mike Gray (07751 978563) or [grayjohnmichael@aol.com](mailto:grayjohnmichael@aol.com).

**Please Note: The Spring Fling Rides are public rides – visitors are very welcome.**

## **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June: New Galloway and Glen Kens**

A wonderful loop ride NE of New Galloway into the moorland scenery with great views over Glen Kens and the surrounding hills. Our outbound route exits New Galloway via the A762 to join the National Byways cycle route past Dalry then onto the B7000. We then do a circuit onto the B729 and back via the Byways route past Loch Lochinvar and onwards through Balmaclellan back to New Galloway. There is a shorter route option if the weather is poor. Suggest taking a packed lunch as there are no tea rooms mid route, although at the end of the ride there's an opportunity re-fuel with a delicious cake in Kitty's Tea Room!

**Grade and length:** Some long steady climbing. About 32 miles, some of the minor roads a little rough.

**Meet:** New Galloway car park, **10:15 for 10:30. Note early (summer) start.**

**Leader:** Robin Hogg (07974 814172) [mail@gallowaycycling.co.uk](mailto:mail@gallowaycycling.co.uk)

## **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Mull of Galloway**

This is a wonderful area for coastal scenery with magnificent views over the N Channel and Irish Sea, and (of course) Luce Bay! First we head SW to Port Logan for our first 'dip in the sea' then head south to the tip of the Mull of Galloway for a well deserved refreshment break. Suitably 'watered' the return to Ardwell is via Drummole.

**Grade and length:** Undulating, with a few grades. About 25 miles (all on tarmac).

**Meet:** Ardwell Car Park at **13:15 for 13:30**

**Leader:** Bob Rostock (01776 840623)

## **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July: The John Taylor Memorial Ride**

Last in this list, but by no means least, our annual memorial ride to John Taylor, who for many years championed touring cycling in D&G and in Scotland. He was a founder member of CTC-Scotland in addition to serving for many years as D&G Secretary. A tad longer than our usual Discovery Rides (!!), the route, one of John's favourites, takes us from CD to Drumlanrig (Bicycle Museum) and then via the Dalveen Pass to Crawford for lunch at the village shop. Return is via Thornhill and Glenkiln. There are refreshment stops along the way but this is a lengthy cycle – bring plenty of fluids and energy foods. Note that the shop in Crawford has only limited 'stock' – **please let Ted know if you are planning to ride** so that he can pre-warn them of rolls demand.

**Grade and length:** A real mix, from undulating to some stiff and/or sustained climbs. About 100 miles.

**Meet:** Castle Douglas, car park at the top of King Street. **An early start at 07:00**

**Leader:** Ted Norfolk (01988 700432).

## **Easter Family Cycle Rides from Dumfries**

Join Cycling Dumfries member and I Bike Officer Rhian Davies, on two Easter Holiday lead cycle rides for all the family.

The first ride is on **Saturday 30 March**, 2:00pm until 4:00pm. Take in the scenery on a five mile ride along Dumfries's lovely Maxwelltown cycle way, and back along shared use paths and quiet roads.

The second ride is a week later on **Saturday 06 April**, 2:00pm until 4:00pm. This one takes us out to Lincluden Abbey and the banks and waters of the River Nith, again an easy five mile town ride along shared use paths and quiet roads.

Both routes may be viewed on <http://cyclingdumfries.wordpress.com/easter-rides>.

Rides meet at the King George V Sports Complex at the Bike2Go hire point. There will be a small fee for riders. Free bike hire can be arranged through Rhian for the afternoon for adults and children over 12 who are big enough to use a full sized bike. Little ones will need their own bikes and children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Spaces are limited so booking is advisable (but not essential).

For more details ring Rhian on 07769 931 802 or e-mail [rhian.davies@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:rhian.davies@sustrans.org.uk)

**For general information on CTC activities and rides in D&G contact Mike Gray (01387 270995 or 07751 978563), or email [grayjohnmichael@aol.com](mailto:grayjohnmichael@aol.com). Or see our website [www.dandgcycling.org.uk](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 or even cancel if circumstances or weather dictate; please check with the appropriate RL if in doubt.**