



Discovery and Sunday Rides : April to early July 2014

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

Our Discovery Rides are lead circular rides suitable for all ages and abilities and usually take 3 - 5 hours at an easy pace. They are normally free and there is no need to book unless directed in the ride information: Just turn up at the meeting point with a safe working bike, suitable clothing, snacks and drinks, and your camera and binoculars.

We usually stop at a cafe or similar for lunch or a refreshment break depending on ride times and conditions, with sometimes a picnic in summer.

Riders should check the ride status with the ride leader before setting off if the weather is in doubt. **The Ride Leader may change the route or even cancel if circumstances or road conditions dictate.**

We welcome cyclists 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.

This list includes the ‘Cycling Dumfries’ afternoon Summer Family Rides starting from Dock Park. For more information about Cycling Dumfries see <http://cyclingdumfries.wordpress.com> or contact Sally Hinchcliffe on 07982 041278.

DISCOVERY RIDES

Saturday 5th April: Back to Dumfries

I was looking forward to this ride last October when an out of the blue call from my son in the USA resulted in me quickly headed there to help with a family medical crisis, and I had to postpone. So here goes again!

Train to Carlisle, then cycle back. Lunch at Annan and we'll visit the Ruthwell Savings Bank Museum. The official NCR7 route has been considerably shortened by the new 'cut off' past Iron Bridge. Lots of big sky coastal scenery. Train limit is 6 cycles, so please let me know if you plan to come; and don't forget that a day return costs less than a single.

Grade and length: Pretty level, about 45 miles.

Meet: 10:00 for the 10:23 train to Carlisle. Dumfries Railway Station.

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

Saturday 19th April: Water of Luce and Loch Ryan

Obstructed last year because of snowdrifts (at the end of March!) we'll give this one another shot. 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 a coffee stop. 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 – **make sure your brakes are in good order!** About 25 miles

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

Leader: Bob Rostock (01776 840623)

Saturday 26th April: Pedal on Parliament (POP) Ride - Edinburgh

Come join this spectacular and exhilarating annual event, and help make your feelings known (about cycling provision – or the lack of) to the folks at Holyrood. MSPs will be there. Pedal with several thousand other cyclists down the Royal Mile and join in the fun in front of the Parliament building. Usually a group of us head off to a cafe afterwards for a convivial chat.

Paul Buxton is planning to ride from his home near Moffat to Edinburgh the day before, and would appreciate company. If you would like to ride with Paul, or join him on the way, please call or text him on 07751 612307.

Contact: Sally Hinchcliffe 07982 041278, or see pedalonparliament.org.

Meet at The Meadows in Edinburgh, at 12 noon.

Saturday 3rd May: Moniaive and Loch Urr

We'll go by Moniaive but by the back road ie first towards Dumfries and turn right at Milton, then right again shortly after and up the hill with its great view down the Cairn Valley. We trace the minor road beside the course of the long closed Moniaive branch railway to Kirkland and Moniaive, where we'll stop for a refreshment break. Then it's out of Moniaive for a few miles on the A702 before taking a left onto the minor road past Loch Urr and a steady climb to the Corsock – Milton road, and back to Dunscore. A lovely route with some superb moorland and forest views, soon to be blighted with windmills.

Grade and length: Couple of moderate climbs, but we'll take our time. About 25 miles

Meet: 13:15 for 13:30: Dunscore, Church car park

Leader: TBC, but contact Mike Gray (07751 978563, pref. text)

Saturday 17th May (and Sunday): Ayrshire Group Weekend, Minnigaff

Join members of the Ayrshire group on rides from Minnigaff YH, as they hold their annual weekend down here in D&G, taking advantage of our great cycling countryside. Local knowledge assistance with ride leadership is greatly appreciated. And stay around for the social evening in the Hostel afterwards.

Grade and length: Various short and longer ride options

Meet: 09:15 for 09:30. Minnigaff Youth Hostel

Contact: Drew Moyes on 01290 550276 or e-mail contactus@cycleayrshire.co.uk

Saturday 24th May: Corsock Spring Fling Ride

Yes, it's Spring Fling time again; Scotland's Premier Art and Craft Open Studios Event. And this year we are running associated rides over the whole weekend (see the Sunday Ride list too). Today we start in Corsock and ride to Crossmichael, Laurieston, New Galloway and Balmaclellan, calling at 7 studios including 2 in Corsock. Refreshments are available in Crossmichael and NG, and perhaps a well deserved pint back at Pringles. Likely to be a lengthy but very rewarding day.

Grade and length: One steep hill About 25 miles.

Meet: 09:45. Corsock, opposite Pringles
Leader: Mike Gray (07751 978563, pref. text)

Monday 26th May: Canonbie Spring Fling Ride

For our other DR of the Spring Fling weekend we head to the eastern end of D&G, with a ride out of Canonbie, visiting our first studio there, then around locations at Eaglesfield and Langholm (where there's a wealth of open studios – we can split up and 'do' as fancy takes us, and take lunch) before returning to Canonbie via Claygate. This is an opportunity to see the work of a whole range of local artists and artisans, and pedal through the distinctive countryside at the extreme east of the region.

Grade and length: Bumpy, and a few sustained climbs. About 25 miles.

Meet: 09:45. Canonbie Village Hall

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

Saturday 7th June: Galloway Lanes and a Pioneering Scientist

We head out of Castle Douglas on a gentle climb to Clarebrand before dropping down to Old Bridge of Urr to join the B794 to Corsock. Then over the hill on minor roads to Parton where we'll visit the grave of John Clerk Maxwell, who's famous electromagnetic field equations sparked (!) the idea of 'radio' waves in the 'eather' which led to the invention of radio, TV and much else besides, and in a different direction to Relativity and Quantum Mechanics (as acknowledged by Einstein). A giant of 19th Century physics scarcely honoured in his own land! Return to CD is by way of Crossmichael, with a few miles on the A713.

Grade and length: A few sustained climbs but not steep. About 20 miles.

Meet: 13:15 for 13:30. Castle Douglas, King St car park.

Leader: John Dewhurst (01556 502736)

Saturday 21st June: Glenluce Figure of Eight

A lovely, well, 'figure of eight' ride featuring a great variety of scenery – coastal, a loch, woods, moors, and an Abbey and Castle.

Grade and length: Moderate grades, about 22 miles.

Meet: 13:15 for 13:30. Glenluce War Memorial

Leader: Ted Norfolk (01998 700432)

Saturday 21st June: Eskrigg Nature Reserve

This is an easy ride from Lockerbie taking in the Eskrigg Nature Reserve where Reserve Manager Jim Rae will show the group around. The visit will offer an opportunity to see a wide range of animals (including red squirrels), plants and fungi in the company of an expert.

Grade and length: Easy, about 12 miles (2 off tarmac).

Meet: 13:15 for 13:30. Lockerbie, Tesco car park

Leader: Jonathan Kneeshaw (01683 221128 or 07761 990813)

Saturday 5th July: Moffat North and South

First we head north from Moffat to Corehead (near the base of the Beeftub) via the Annan Water valley, to the Borders Forest Trust woodland restoration project. We follow this with a run back into Moffat for tea and buns. Refreshed we pedal off in the opposite direction to the Moffat Community Nature Reserve, via Milton and Beattock.

Grade and length: One sustained but gradual climb. About 20 miles.

Meet: 13:15 for 13:30. Moffat, by the Ram.

Leader: Jonathan Kneeshaw (01683 221128 or 07761 990813)

Saturday 12th July: CTC D&G Stewartry Sportive

This is our annual Sportive which we have moved this year to an earlier date in July, in the hope of hitting better weather (third time lucky – we hope). The event, which is a personal time challenge in which riders are sent off in small groups, starts at the High School in Dalbeattie and offers 3 routes. There's a modest 15 mile loop out by Gelston designed for families, casual riders and adult lead youth groups. For the keener cyclists there is a 50 mile loop extending to New Galloway, and a challenging into the hills 75 mile loop up to Carsphairn. As you know we like to run CTC as an inclusive organisation catering as far as practical to cyclists of varying capability, and in this spirit we are opening up the short route this year to electrically assisted cycles. The longer routes include refreshment stations at about 20-25 mile intervals.

Registration at the school commences at 8 am and riders leave from 9 am (usually those for the 75 mile route initially, though slower riders for the 50 mile route can be accommodated by special arrangement). For more information and entry details please see www.sientries.co.uk or contact Betty Howard on 01556 610998

CYCLE DUMFRIES SUMMER RIDES

These short Saturday Afternoon lead rides, all on cycle paths or quiet roads, are specially intended for casual cyclists and families. They are short (building up to more than 10 miles by the end of the summer), and routes are level or only mildly sloping. All start in Dumfries Dock Park, near the car park, at 2 pm.

Sat 5 th July	Kingholm Loop
Sat 12 th July	Lincluden Abbey
Sat 19 th July	Maxwelltown Loop
Sat 26 th July	Caledonian Cycleway
Sat 2 nd August	The 12 Apostles (stone circle)
Sat 9 th August	Glen Road Explorer
Sat 16 th August	Heathhall Explorer
Sat 23 rd August	Glencaple

For general information on CTC activities and rides in D&G contact Mike Gray (01387 270995 or 07751 978563 or grayjohnmichael@aol.com). Alternatively see our website 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.