

CTC LANCASTER & SOUTH LAKES

CLUB HOLIDAY 2023 THE GALLOWAY COAST

The 2023 edition of the Club holiday headed north to the Galloway coast in early June, chancing upon perhaps the best weather of the year. We booked five Swiss-type chalets at Bar End Lodges at Sandyhills Bay, south of Dalbeattie. 28 members enjoyed a week of cycling, walking, sightseeing, or just relaxing and visiting the nearby pretty coastal villages of Kipford and Rockcliffe. The chalets were dotted around a wooded hillside, with a wetland Nature Reserve at its foot, popular for pre-breakfast ambles. The site boasted a swimming pool, which was reserved for us in the early evening. There was also a bar and restaurant.

Our rides explored the quiet lanes between Sandyhills and Dumfries, Kirkcudbright to the west, and as far as Loch Ken and Laurieston to the north. Car assistance enabled us to get across to Creetown from Gatehouse of Fleet. Some intrepid souls enjoyed the off-roading in the Dalbeattie Forest and other mountain biking centres. A favourite coffee and lunch stop was the excellent café and farm shop at Loch Arthur, Beeswing. In between the rides, we enjoyed pottering around the lanes, taking up the challenge of Jean's orienteering quiz. Mike Codd led a walk up Criffel from New Abbey, with views across to the northern Lake District.

The evenings offered a range of entertainments. Liz and Dave had devised their usual challenging questions for the Quiz Night. Musicians including Mike, and the two Daves led us in an evening of folk singing. Nick organised an evening meal for the group at the site restaurant.

All in all, another successful Club holiday, made special by the location, fantastic weather and the range of cycle routes and other facilities on offer in this quiet and unspoiled corner of SW Scotland. Thanks to everyone who made it possible. Apologies if I missed anyone.



