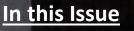
# Fife-Wheel CTC Fife and Kinross Newsletter. Winter 2012/2013 edition





'From the Archives' 2 x Tours Bert's 90<sup>th</sup> and much more



# Happy New Year Folks, can you believe it's 2013 already, it kind of sneaked up on us eh? I hope you've all enjoyed a great Christmas and New Year.

Hopefully you received a lot of cycling related presents and spent the festive period just as you wanted to, managing to avoid the Norovirus and Flu that was doing the rounds in the process!

# 2012 Attendances

2012 saw some big turnouts at the Rendezvous Meets, both Saturday's and Wednesday's, despite one of the wettest year's in recent history (can anyone remember a worse one?).

The best attended Saturday meet (other than CTC Fife & Kinross's 90<sup>th</sup> Celebrations) was the Kingskettle meet in the Village Hall. It was co-incidentally another 90<sup>th</sup> birthday that drew the numbers, it being Bert Brown's birthday. Bert attended the meet as did members past and present along with friends from other DA's. (photos on page 6)

Still on the subject of run attendances, 2012 unusually saw a tie for the most Saturday meets attended in the calendar year. There have been ties in the past, but I'm pretty certain that 2012 is unusual in having a <u>three</u> way tie... not only that but all 3 achieved a 100% attendance record.

By popular demand (and new for 2013) there will also be a small prize for the most Wednesday meets attended (if someone remembers to take a note of the names and pass them on to Nan)

### Articles

Thanks to everyone who has submitted articles for inclusion in this issue and throughout the year. There are a couple of great tours and photos in this issue from 'the Allan's" and contributions from Charlie Brown. These (along with the many suggestions I have received) really are appreciated... it makes my job as Editor so much easier. Thanks.

# Website

The 'Webmaster's hat' has recently been passed from Trevor Keer to George McDermid. I'd like to say thanks on behalf of everyone to Trevor for all the work he has done over the years in maintaining the site and a BIG personal thanks for all the advice I received (without which Fife Wheels would never have been published)

The new look website has been well received already... it has photos from recent meets and events, up to date information and with the inclusion of Facebook a great means of keeping in touch with other members.

It looks like I may finally have to join the age of the 'interweb-computer-face/tweety thing'!

# **Outgoing Committee**

Other changes in 'personnel' have also taken place since the AGM with Morwynn Porter, and Douglas & Lorraine Allan standing down from the Committee. Thanks go to them all for the years they have given to help with the smooth running of CTC Fife & Kinross.

Dougie Latto Editor.

**p.s.** As you can see I really struggled to find a cover photo for this Winter issue and reverted to using one of mine. If you have a Spring related cycling photo I can use on the cover of next newsletter it would be <u>greatly</u> appreciated.

#### Three Island Tour

#### by Stuart Allan

With a few days off work and a new van I set off from home with a plan in mind. With a short tour planned, not so in keeping with my usual. I had decided to visit three islands; Arran, Jura and Mull.

I was headed for Arran first, but not going via Ardrossan but using the seasonal crossing out of Claonaig to Lochranza. I loaded up the van with the bike and equipment and early evening Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October I set off. As I was only going to visit each island for a day I decided to leave the less than sporty touring bike at home and for the first time take my much more nimble normal weekend bike. Arriving in darkness I got ready for my first night sleeping in the van. An experience I had long been waiting for since kitting it out with a sleeping platform. Woken in the morning by my alarm and the sound of rain on the roof I quickly got ready and organised the bike with all the things I would need for my day's ride. Looking over to Arran as I took the short ferry crossing I had lost



all hope of it being a shorts and t-shirt day. Cloud and heavy rain obscured the landscape, with only sea level Lochranza in sight. As soon as I reached the island I donned my waterproofs and started south towards Brodick, questioning my sanity along the way; who in their right mind would call this sort of trip a holiday...only a cyclist.

The route I decided on was to cycle round the perimeter clockwise, passing through Brodick on the way south and Blackwaterfoot heading north. The rain persisted for the first couple of hours but nearing the bottom it started to ease off and in no time clear skies opened overhead and I got to enjoy the wonderful views. Cycling free now from the restraints of waterproof clothing I was soon rounding the bottom of the island and heading north again. Stopping along the way several times to take photographs of the snowy mountain tops and the clear blue waters between myself and the Mull of Kintyre. I soon found myself nearing Lochranza again and in much finer weather than I left it, spotting the ferry on its way as I cycled the top of the island. After just a short wait I was headed back over to the mainland where I would head to Kennacraig.

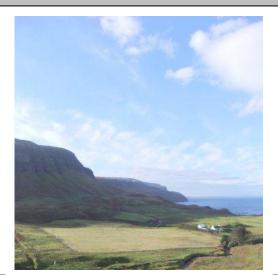


After a rather chilly nights sleep I emerged from the back of the van. With the sun not yet risen I boarded the ferry heading for Islay. Fuelled by a six item breakfast and the excitement of going to an island I had never been on before I took the quick crossing to Jura from Port Askaig to Feolin. The crossing was an experience, the ferry packed with cars and myself just off the Islay ferry. With a strong wind blowing and rain coming down it was fairly damp to say the least. Back on dry land I headed down the road. First passing through Craighouse then on to Tarbert before stopping and turning back for fear of missing my return ferry. The rain hadn't let off much during the ride and the thought of getting back to shelter helped make up my mind to cut the ride short. After a warm wait in the new terminal building at Port Askaig I was on my way back to Kennecraig. Arriving back at the van in

heavy rain I quickly got the bike in the back and changed out of my wet clothes. Headed north again now I made my way for Oban. Where in the morning I would get the early ferry to Craignure on Mull.

With the weather checked the previous night and the chance of rain promised to be minimal I set off for Mull. Leaving the van in darkness again I found my way through Oban to the ferry terminal. Reaching Craignure a little before nine I started south with the plan to cycle round the central loop of the island clockwise. The temperature was low to start but once the sun came up it started to rise and became quite pleasent. Spurred on by the sunshine and the lack of rain I soon found myself travelling along some amazing twisty roads, with high rocky cliffs on one side and the sea on the other. Along my way I even caught a glimpse of a sea eagle, soaring above some trees. Not sure at first what it was, but as it flew nearer I was sure.





I have never seen a bird so big and the car of bird watchers eagerly looking at it through binoculars and long lenses made my mind up.

Stopping for lunch in Salen my trip was almost over. I headed back to the ferry along the main road between Tobermory and Craignure. Arriving just as the ferry was unloading its cargo of cars and lorries I didn't have long to wait. Getting back to Oban mid afternoon, I packed up the bike and headed home. With it raining persistently only one of the three days and riding a lightweight bike for the first time in this area I think the trip had been a great success.

Stuart Allan

# Please note

**Bikeworks** is moving premises on the 15th Feb to...

Unit 4 Castleblair Business Park Glenrothes Fife KY7 5QR **01592774837** 



#### **Obituaries**

Sadly in recent months we have lost three CTC Fife & Kinross members.

#### JIM TRAIL 1954 - 2012

It was a shock to hear of the sudden death of Jim Trail in December. Jim had been a member of the club for over 10 years and came along to Saturday meets when he could. He had family commitments and he quite often worked on a Saturday.

Jim lived in Cupar but latterly worked in Perth, which meant he sometimes turned up at a meet on his way home from work, on his "(motor)bike". Jim was a keen badminton player, playing at top level and also coaching youngsters.

Another interest was golf. Not only did Jim play but he followed the Open every year, taking his caravan to a nearby site and going along to watch the professionals every day. A sad loss, our thoughts over Christmas and New Year are with Jim's family.

#### PETER ALLAN 1955 - 2013

Peter, from Glenrothes, had been ill for a considerable time following an unusual leg injury.

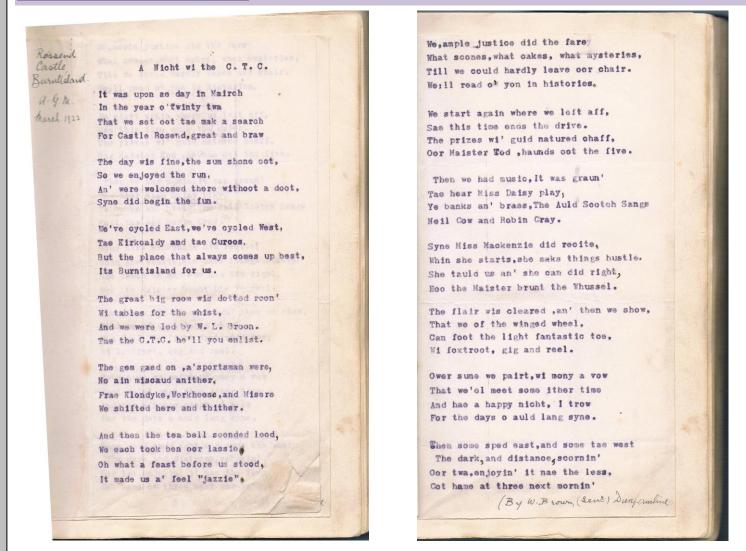
However he had managed to recently return to work, and as such, news of his sudden death early in January came as a shock to those from CTC Fife & Kinross that knew Peter and thought that he was on the road to recovery.

Peter's funeral on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 was attended by members of CTC Fife and Kinross. Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time.

#### **COLIN SMITH**

Tom Hamilton has informed us of the sad death of Colin Smith of Kingseat. He was 61. Colin and his wife were regular cyclists and, although they were rarely on club runs, they regularly came along to our Annual Lunch with Tom and Janet Hamilton.

#### From the CTC Fife DA archives



Maureen absolutely loved this poem from 1922, written by our Founder, Walter Brown and felt that it should be shared with others by publishing it in the newsletter.... and who am I to argue? What a gem it is!



D.A. FIFE WINTER RUNS 1948:49 November Kopper Kettle Kafe Ice Rink Tearoom 20 Kettlebridge 27 Dunfermline December 4 Kinross 11 Ceres 18 Glendevon 25 Lundin Links 31 Hogmanay Rua Mrs.J.B January 8 Falkland 15 Kirkcaldv (A.G. M.) 22 Culross 29 Cadham Mrs.J.Brown February Burnside (Near Gateside) haugh Hut am(Mag. Night 6.30.p.m 15, Dee Pl.Kdy.) Corne March Moray Arms April 9 16 23 Balmerino Saline Kettlebridge (Perth Y.H.) Myrehaugh Moet for TEA 4-30p.m. RUNS SECRETARY Mr.M.Mather 36 Lomond Crescent Falkland SECRETARY Mrs.R.Brown I5 Dee Place Kirkcaldy

I also found the Runs List (left) to be really interesting What caught my eye was the meet at the Ice Rink Tearoom.

Being an ex 'rink-rat' I got to thinking about how that would work these days... until I realised that it wasn't to Kirkcaldy Ice Rink but to Dunfermline Ice Rink!

The only meet still on our calendar 64 years on from 1948/49 Winter Runs is the Red Lion at Culross.

Expect more "From the Archives" in future issues.

(1938, ed.)

In tour 1

#### BERT BROWN 90 AND OFF TO MAJORCA

#### by Charlie Brown



Bert cutting his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday cake.

A large crowd turned out on the run to Kingskettle Village Hall on Saturday 17th November to celebrate Bert Brown's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many friends from Fife and Kinross and several from the Lothians and Glasgow were there to wish Bert many happy returns. Bert has been a very long time member of the CTC and has been involved with the club at committee level for over 50 years until his retirement as club President only a few years ago. After a short speech by current President, George White, Bert cut his cake, and he made a short speech about changes in cycling over the years. Bert was being treated to a holiday in Majorca for his birthday by his daughter. The club wish Bert all the best for the future.



Messrs. Berwick, Elder and Boreham at Kingskettle.

#### by Charlie Brown



Morwyn Porter, our president for the last 3 years has retired from her position as President and also from the committee. Morwyn first joined the committee of Fife & Kinross DA in the year 2000, very quickly taking on the role of Club Secretary. She held this post for 4 years and kept the club on an even keel through a difficult time. On the retiral of Willie Nelson, Morwyn took over the daunting post of Club Treasurer – no mean feat after Willie's meticulous book-keeping.

In 2009, with the club now known as CTC Fife & Kinross, Morwyn was elected Club President, our first lady to do so.

At the AGM in November Morwyn was presented with a lovely cycle clock from the club in recognition of her service to the club.

Morwyn will be greatly missed on the committee, and we wish her all the best with her many other interests.

#### Sunny Hebrides Again; June 2012

#### by Douglas & Lorraine Allan

A feeble notion that we'd never been to Vatersay and the rumour of good weather, despite the rain and trash elsewhere, seemed like a good enough excuse to go back to the Hebrides.

Arriving at Oban in plenty time for the ferry, we discovered that the usual ferry's engine had died and they were waiting for a replacement boat; so an exciting 5 hours later we finally left for Barra. The usual Calmac all day breakfast was supplied for free due to the delay, something not widely told to the masses as you had to be in the cafe queue to find it out. We started our own rush by telling all the folks we had met while waiting.



It was a nice evening though and arrival was now scheduled for 01.00, and we had NO lights. On arrival the pier at Castlebay was a scene of chaos and panic as folks tried to find their way about to B&B's etc in the dark with unlit bikes going in all directions.

Despite the late/early hour we decided to head for Vatersay regardless and so set off into the gloom hoping for an early sunrise.

The journey proved to be a bit of a challenge as the road had recently been repaired and the new surface was still jet black which unfortunately matched the sky/grass/cattle grids/ rocks/ sheep etc. which were not really being illuminated by the pen torch being waved over my shoulder in the general direction of the scenery. The odd bit of old grey tar came as a great relief after a series of dodgy moments and emergency stops as we threatened to leave the tar and go off road.

Arriving on Vatersay for the first time we were unsure where to stop but after pedalling around the village we settled back at a small car park in the dunes.

It was still dark; no sunrise yet but threatening daylight but a clear sky and disappearing stars encouraged us just to throw the groundsheet on the grass and get into the sleeping bags and look up.



The dawn brought a beautiful day and we had actually ended up where we intended to be. After a reconnoitre of the area we found a spot hidden from nearly everywhere and put up the tent with a view of the East bay. The local village hall was nearby for water and toilets.

The sun was now out with a vengeance, a happy occurrence that was to last for the whole holiday, and we spent two days frolicking on the beach, swimming and lying in the sun, which was almost TOO hot. Next day; after a coffee stop in Castlebay and an exceedingly fine pedal up the West coast of Barra to Cille Bharra chapel we watched the plane land on the beach then back to the ferry terminal for Eriskay.

We camped next to the cemetery on Eriskay and again enjoyed the hospitality of the Am Politician pub which, despite the excellent weather was very quiet as was the rest of the island.

The next stage was a long one all the way to the hostel on Berneray, although with the hot weather it was very leisurely taking in quite a few coffee stops and a deviation over the moors to get to the Co-op at Solas.

The hostel had the usual happy selection of natures' crazy people trying to find the meaning of life, the universe and everything; counting ourselves in here!! We managed to get the West beach and the north of the island to ourselves for a day, with fantastic skies and general views.

The usual happened with the others twittering on about how to spot otters, and not seeing any, when I went out of the hostel door to find one that had decided to wander off the beach and across the front lawn without a care in the world and then proceeded to rummage around the hostel for a while; you just had to be in the right place at right time; unfortunately herself with the camera only managed to photograph it's bum.

We spent the next few days enjoying Berneray and then returned south to Loch Maddy for the ferry to Uig on Skye.



It was a short day to Uig but the hill was there for the next one. Escaping Uig to the North takes you up the hill and the hairpin. We've spent happy times before watching cars getting stuck and the local bus do it's three point turn thing on the hairpin and although we'd solo'd up before, the tandem and trailer had never done it. The climb proved to be Ok as the traffic was quiet so the tandem crawl didn't cause any tailbacks although when we stopped on the bend for the photos a few cars did manage to get themselves in a tangle without our help.

The coast north is humply with spectacular views and we had a great run around the peninsula. When we were here last time, on solos, we had done Trotternish anticlockwise via the Quirang and found a great tea shop at Digg (<u>http://www.smallandcosyteahouse.co.uk</u>) which had a huge list of speciality teas. We revisited, were remembered, and treated to a special house mix of invigorating tea for tired cyclists followed by seriously thick lentil soup, homemade bread and then chocolate cake to die for, all of which got us down the road to Portree.





The tandem plus trailer caused a bit of a stir with the tourists and we had to pose for pics and had an interesting chat to a chap from the USA who was on a hang gliding trip over Europe and was heading to the Alps next. We had made good time and decided to head for the campsite at Sligachan where we camped next to the river and enjoyed the view of the Cuillin.

Next day we picked up the route along the coast from Sconser and, once we'd got past the quarry, it was deserted and, although the road surface was a bit rough and overgrown at times, with the views, it was eminently superior to trying to grind over the hill on the main road. The rest of the day was pleasant with a stop in Broadford and a great run down to the ferry at Armadale. The crossing to Mallaig was flat calm and with a sizeable fish supper inside us we set off for Arisaig. The geography here had changed greatly since our last visit, many years ago with the children, what with the completion of the new road and general changes to the village. We eventually found a great campsite, Sunnyside Croft,

(<u>http://www.sunnysidetouringsite.co.uk</u>), where we were squeezed in and made very welcome; it was after all the Jubilee weekend. We ended up conveniently close to the toilet block and all the onsite cooking facilities including a microwave, very handy for the rice, with patio chairs provided for our comfort. The campsite is very new and the facilities were fantastic.

The sun continued to blaze down and we spent the next day on the beach with all the tourists. I bought the camp T shirt with the map of Scotland made up of place names with the campsite in BIG letters; great.

We left to head for Lochailort and Moidart via Glen Uig with a bit of apprehension as the sun was still shinning and we knew the hills ahead. We had a break at the Glenuig inn but were disappointed as the place had been "improved" beyond recognition. Warm real ale at £4 a pint and similarly priced meals in a sterile, soulless environment was not what we were really looking for but we stopped nonetheless for a drink as the liquid was



required; a sentiment generally expressed by many others in on-line reviews of the place. Rich kayakers seem to like it though. The Glenuig brae beckoned so onwards and upwards in the baking sun and we pressed on to enjoy the freewheel down to Kinlochmoidart and along the lochside. The roads hereabouts had also been improved, EU money again, and the rolling nature had been destroyed and replaced by long even grades which were not too good for the tandem, so with tired legs we arrived at the shop in Acharacle for a rest and refuel. Revitalised, we pressed on to the campsite at Resipol where the midges welcomed us for the first time; although a well chosen spot and some chemicals soon sorted them out!!



Tomorrow would sort us out too as the hill from Strontian over to Lochaline, up Glen Liddlesdale, is not to be taken lightly; it's a long walk with a tandem and trailer and we keep saying "never again" but the route is just too good and convenient. If we needed reminding of the heat we were passed by two Scottish Water tankers and speaking to the drivers on the ferry we discovered that Mull had been in drought for several weeks and they were shipping drinking water daily from Fort William. This was to be the last leg of the trip and is always appropriate by ending with two ferry crossings to get back to Oban.

The pedal to Craignure came with disturbingly dull weather and, shock horror; I got a rain drop on my shorts, just the one, whilst we were waiting for the ferry. The weather then continued to deteriorate on the crossing and it was positively dull and damp in Oban where we celebrated with a fish supper sitting in the drizzle on the prom. We had dropped below the magic invisible line drawn by the jet stream that had been giving the far northwest its excellent weather. We actually got WET going back to the van in the swimming pool car park when the rain really started, and it continued until we got back home to Dunfermline.

Got the weather, got the T shirt; yippee.

# Douglas and Lorraine Allan

(What a great tour.... I just wish I had room for all of the photos that came with the article... all that blue sky and good weather... it can't be good for you, can it? Ed.)

# **Annual Lunch 2013**

words by Dougie Latto

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January saw this year's Annual Lunch being held once again at the excellent Upper Largo Hotel.

A good turnout came to enjoy the fare and, going by what I heard, they were not disappointed with the many choices to be had from the varied menu. The fair weather (mild for the time of year) had quite a few more than usual cycling to the lunch. The ample portions fuelling us all for the journey back

The ample portions fuelling us all for the journey back into the wind... unless you had cycled from St.Andrews of course (Stuart & Nicki)

The usual array of prizes were presented with the Best Newsletter Article going to Denise Chapman (seen in the photo right.. with George apparently attempting the Tommy Cooper "Jar, Spoon" gag!)





Also awarded was the Photo & Caption trophy. George Berwick was once again the winner, but this year there was stiff competition. I bet George is glad that there is a smaller trophy now... the previous one must've taken a bit of a 'hummph' to get it home by bike to Balmerino. I'm convinced he used to hide it under a nearby hedge and retrieve it on his way to the lunch the following year!

As you'll have read earlier the Trophy for Best Attendance was hotly contested between Denise Chapman, George McDermid and George Shepherd.... who won it jointly. Well done to all of them for the commitment shown all year to achieve a 100% attendance at the Saturday meets in 2012. I wonder how the attendance competition will go this year? Thanks go to Nan and George for organising the lunch, trophies and prizes... just in case you're wondering... my vote is to hold next year's Annual Lunch at the Upper Largo Hotel. **Footnote** 

After the lunch and we'd said our 'cheerios' we headed for Dysart on the tandem (accompanied by George and Denise). Unfortunately we got a visit from the p\*\*\*\*\*e fairy... back wheel (no doubt)....drum brake (of course).... and no spanner or pliers to take the bolt out to allow me to remove the back wheel (I'd used them that morning to adjust the brake and forgot to replace them in my kit!) So I had to repair the tube in situ'. Thank goodness I still carry a kit as well as tubes! Unfortunately it wasn't a great repair and kept deflating slowly... not good on a tandem, so 3 miles further on we eventually conceded that we'd have to lighten the load on the back wheel. How you may ask? Well... Maureen got off and walked while I cycled back to Dysart for the car with a very soft and rapidly deflating rear tyre.... I picked Maureen up at the Kdy end of the 'Coaltown' having walked from the far end of East Wemyss (George had also come out by car to see that we were ok... much appreciated, Ta) It all sounds like a bit of a nightmare, but it really was ok and we both thoroughly enjoyed the company, our cycle (a cycle/ walk in M's case!) and the lunch too. It's a pity it's only once a year!

RUNS LIS	T Jan – April 2013.	★ Note changes indicated below.
January	<b>OS Map/Ref</b> (click ref. for more detail)	Destination (Click on link for more details)
Sat 19	Map 59 ref <u>NT3032893286</u>	George & Denise - 69 East Quality Street, Dysart (NOTE change of venue from Harbourmaster House)
Wed 23	Map 58 ref <u>NS952938</u>	Loganlea Tearoom - Forest Mill, Nr Saline
Sat 26	Map 59 ref <u>NO253073</u>	Falkland Village Hall
February		
Sat 2	Map 59 ref <u>NO263010</u>	George & Nan Shepherd - 2 Crawford Place, Glenrothes
Wed 6	Map 58 ref <u>NO035002</u>	The Inn - Crook of Devon
Sat 9	Map 58 ref <u>150947</u>	Jim & Joyce Hamilton - 3 Moray Villas, Kelty
Sat 16	Map 59 ref <u>NO389186</u>	Morwyn Porter - Denbrae, by Logie
Wed 20	Map 59 ref <u>NO290070</u>	Freuchie Bridgend Garden Centre
Sat 23	Map 58 ref <u>NO183093</u>	Bill & Marion Suttie - Burnbank, Gateside
March		
Sat 2	Map 59 ref <u>NT302928</u>	Dougie & Maureen Latto - 2 Pan Ha', Dysart
Wed 6	Map 65 ref <u>NT040784</u>	Rouken Glen Garden Centre - A902 West Lothian towards Linlithgow
Sat 9	Map 58 ref <u>NO122017</u>	Boathouse Bistro - The Pier, Kinross
Sat 16	Map 59 ref <u>NO488155</u>	Stuart & Nicki Brown - 18 Cairnhill Gardens, St Andrews
Wed 20 🔶	Map 58 ref <u>NO1806100389</u>	Scottish Glider Centre, Portmoak KY13 9JJ (Note change of venue from Cycle Tavern)
Sat 23	Map 58 ref <u>NO242112</u>	George & Anne White - 2 Cupar Road, Auchtermuchty
Sat 30	Map 58 ref <u>NT170961</u>	Lochore Meadows - Picnic Tables
April		
Wed 3	Map 59 ref <u>NO335095</u>	Pitlessie Inn
Sat 6	Map 59 ref <u>NO283128</u>	Fife Animal Park - Birnie Loch, Nr Collessie (Picnic tables or cafe)
Sat 13	Map 65 ref <u>NT111861</u>	Douglas & Lorraine Allan - 85 Evershed Drive, Dunfermline
Wed 17	Map 58 ref <u>NO235185</u>	Newburgh Harbour
Sat 20	Map 58 ref <u>NT021983</u>	Powmill Milk Bar ( <u>Gift Barn Next Door</u> )
Sat 27	Map 58 ref <u>NO063033</u>	Carnbo Village Hall

Contacts: <u>Saturday/ Wednesday meets – Nan Shepherd 01592 612942</u> <u>Social Events – George Shepherd 01592 612942</u>

• On Saturday rides when a meet is at a member's house, please bring your own lunch.

• The Host/ Hostess is only obliged to provide tea and coffee.

• At Village Halls please note there is a small charge of £1.00 to cover costs. Drinks will be supplied, please bring your own lunch.