



NATIONAL COUNTRY LINK AUTUMN WEEKEND

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER – MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023

RIVERSIDE LODGE HOTEL, IRVINE, AYRSHIRE

Ayrshire Country Link invite you to The Riverside Lodge Hotel, 46 Annick Road, Irvine, KA11 4LD. We're returning to this hotel for the third time with the third name!

The Hotel is situated on the edge of town & is 5 minutes drive from Irvine Railway station.

The cost of the Weekend is £240 per person for a double or twin room, single rooms are available for a supplement of £20 per night. This covers dinner, bed and breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, entertainment on all nights and the cost of the coaches on Saturday. Not included in the price is the cost of entrance fees at the venues on Saturday and Sunday.

If you wish to stay extra nights outwith Friday – Sunday please book direct with the hotel, phone number 01294 279274 & advise them that you're coming for the CL weekend, cost £79 single room, £89 for double room & £44.50/person for twin room, bed & breakfast. Please advise Kirsteen if you've booked extra nights at the hotel.

The hotel will accept cash & card payments.

On Friday night we'll have a hot buffet supper followed by a disco, the fancy dress theme is fictional characters or real ones, past or present, eg film, music or sport. A formal dinner will be held on Saturday evening followed by a disco with a raffle. The charities will be announced at the Weekend. The Members Meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon. There will be entertainment on Sunday evening.

The trips are definite at the time of printing but are subject to change depending on circumstances/ events.

SATURDAY –

1. AM - **Dumfries House, Cumnock, owned by King Charles.** Dumfries House & Estate was bought by King Charles (then HRH Prince Charles) in 2007. An hour long tour of Dumfries House is included, Historic Scotland Member- £10.15, Art Fund Member- no charge, Historic Houses Member - no charge. Please give membership number & which organization when you book, please also bring your card on the visit. As well as Dumfries House there are walks in the grounds, walled garden, arboretum, Chinese Bridge, maze, etc. Lunch is available in the Coach House Café at your own cost. Website <https://dumfries-house.org.uk/>

PM - **The Heritage Centre, Cumnock, KA18 1SH.** The Heritage Centre is owned by a private trust. The museum has vintage buses, fire engines, a Police heritage display, vintage tractors, etc. There's a vast collection of historic memorabilia, from the smallest magnifying glass to army trucks and steam engines. Lead Trustee Jim Smith will be on hand to talk about his vast collection of memorabilia. A cuppa and biscuit will be provided. Website 'www.vintagevillagemuseum.com'

Cost which includes Dumfries House tour - £18

2. AM - **Farm visit to AB Young & Sons, Girvan Mains, Girvan.** The Young family farm 2,500-3,000 acres, they've got 450 suckler cows & rear their calves to finish. They buy stores & finish them, 150 acres of maize (unusual in Ayrshire), 500-600 acres of winter & spring cereals & Ayrshire early potatoes. Drew is the only original member left of Girvan Early Growers (co-op for tatties). They have a biomass boiler & anaerobic digester on the farm. The farm is on the coast, it's a very large arable farm for Ayrshire.

Lunch at Dowhill Farm restaurant, Turnberry (own cost) or elsewhere.

PM – **Farm visit to Robert Veitch, Strandhead Farm, Tarbolton & Ve-Tech Concrete.** The Veitch family have been farming at Strandhead since 1996. In 2004 they started to do farm buildings for other farmers. This proved to be a success gradually employing additional labour to keep up with demand. The business has steadily expanded over the years and now employs 50 people over its construction, ready-mix concrete and structural steel divisions. In 2013 they built a robot facility on the farm milking 245 cows. Robert is a keen exhibitor & does well showing his dairy cattle. We'll see & hear about the farm & other businesses.

3. AM - **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway** – Scotland's famous bard! The admission charge includes entry to the Museum & Burns Cottage. Nearby is Brig O' Doon, Burns Monument & Gardens & Alloway Auld Kirk, made famous by the poem Tam O' Shanter. NTS & NT members free (bring your card). Lunch is available in the café. Website - <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/robert-burns-birthplace-museum>.

PM – **magical mystery tour!** Guided tour of Ayrshire's coastal sights.

Cost £15 (NT & NTS members £7.50)

4. Do your own thing.

SUNDAY (OWN TRANSPORT) -

1. AM - **Goldie Racing Stables, Uplawmoor.** Jim Goldie is a successful racehorse trainer who had his best season in 2022. Hopefully we'll see the horses being ridden out. Numbers may be limited for this trip.

2. AM - **RNLI, Troon**. We'll see the equipment room & hopefully get onto a lifeboat. This is a great opportunity to see lifeboats, (a D Class inshore lifeboat & a Trent class all-weather lifeboat), the equipment & to hear first-hand about the fantastic work RNLI do. Numbers are limited to 20. Cup of tea & biscuits included, charge £5.

3. PM - **Scottish Maritime Museum, Irvine**. Home to Scotland's national maritime heritage collection, the award-winning Scottish Maritime Museum is a great day out. Guided tour of a 1920's tenement flat & a fitting shed then explore the maritime heritage collection in the building & outside. There is plenty to see & read. Small café. You can do morning trips then this one. Cost £8.50

4. Do your own thing

You can do your own thing during the days, walk along Irvine beach (one mile plus), go to Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning & walk there or explore the surrounding area.

If you have any queries please phone or text Kirsteen on 07714 352418 or e-mail 'kirsteen.moneyacres@tiscali.co.uk'.

The small print: Requests for refunds to be made in writing before or during the Weekend to the organising committee whose decision is final.



**NATIONAL COUNTRY LINK AUTUMN 2023 WEEKEND
IRVINE, AYRSHIRE**

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND £100 DEPOSIT together with a stamped addressed A5 envelope (unless on e-mail) **NO LATER THAN 17 JULY 2023 TO -**

Kirsteen Henry, Thornlea Cottage, East Moneyacres Farm, DUNLOP, Kilmarnock, KA3 4BE

The final balance is due by 11 September 2023.

Please mark the envelope ‘**National Country Link Weekend**’.

Name:

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Phone no.

Mobile no:

E-mail: (print)

I am a member of Country Link

I wish to share double/twin* room with (name and group)

.....

Single room required – *yes/no *Delete as applicable

Any special requirements?

Please make cheques payable to **National Country Link Weekend**.

If you have any queries please phone or text Kirsteen on 07714 352418 or e-mail ‘kirsteen.moneyacres@tiscali.co.uk’.

In returning this form you are agreeing to the Weekend Organisers retaining your personal data for the purposes of running the event, your data will not be shared with another organisation or group.