



FRIENDS OF LADY ANNE'S WAY

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A lot has been happening in the last twelve months concerning Lady Anne's Way, starting in October when the route was featured on Channel 5's TV programme Yorkshire Great and Small. Helen Skelton and Dan Walker visited many places along the route, beginning at Skipton Castle where they were given a conducted tour by the owner Mr. Fattorini. They covered sections of the route through to Hawes at the end of Day 3, visiting the cafe at Hebden – lots of cakes of course – and Dan Walker had a tour of Nappa Hall in Wensleydale. This was fascinating to see because it is privately owned and not available to the public. After the programme our web site received 2,166 views from people in the UK / 54 USA / 12 Netherlands / 7 Portugal and 6 from Spain, absolutely amazing.

Also last autumn we had an email from Diane in Anchorage, Alaska, who had done the walk with her husband and had a wonderful time. She wanted to know roughly how many people walked the route each year to help with a presentation she was giving about it to her local sporting goods store. Still overseas, we had a request for two woven badges from a couple from Oregon USA – see a pic below of them with friends at the end of the 'Way' in Penrith.



Sadly my publisher Tony Grogan passed away in February this year after a long illness and we remember him with great affection. Tony's funeral was a celebration of his life and was quite remarkable. Frank and I learnt so much about the work he did helping people in need, he was an inspiration to so many. He and his wife Chris took over publication of Lady Anne's Way in 2013 and introduced the strip maps included in the guide book. Tony walked every step of the route adding the annotations to the maps which walkers find so useful. They publish several guide books including their own Dales Highway and these can be found on their web site Skyware.co.uk.

Place Action Group is newly formed by Westmorland and Furness Council with the aim of improving the route marking and publicity for Lady Anne's Way, exploring the benefits it can bring to the local area of the Eden Valley and also possibly creating shorter loops from the trail to encourage walkers to visit places of interest around the area. One of their ideas is to have information boards in certain villages along the route including one in Kirby Thore.

Westmorland and Furness Council have also instigated a new long distance trail – Westmorland and Furness Way- which starts high up in the North Pennines at Alston, travelling through parts of the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District before finishing in the south at the ruins of Furness Abbey. The trail links many long distance paths including Lady Anne’s Way which it follows from the outskirts of Appleby all the way to Kirkby Stephen. See below for a j.peg of the new board to be erected at Brough where the W. and Furness Way and L.A. Way coincide.

The Legacy of Lady Anne Clifford

An alternative start for the Westmorland and Furness Way is Penrith via Lady Anne's Way (a 100-mile/161 km trail to Skipton linking associated historic sites). From Appleby-in-Westmorland, both routes merge to Kirkby Stephen before separating as the Westmorland and Furness Way continues south-west.

Born in 1590, Lady Anne Clifford spent nearly forty years fighting for what she believed to be her rightful inheritance after her father, George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, bequeathed his estates to his brother. Undeterred by pressure from powerful figures, including King James I, she steadfastly pursued her legal claim.

When Lady Anne finally inherited the Clifford estates in 1643,

including Appleby, Brough, and Brougham Castles, she found many sites in disrepair. She carefully restored them in their original architectural style, while also repairing churches damaged during the Border raids and English Civil War, including St Lawrence's Church in Appleby, where her tomb rests today.

Charitable Work

Known for her generosity, Lady Anne Clifford founded Appleby's almshouses and commissioned the Countess Pillar monument near Brougham, which marks the spot where she had her last meeting with her mother in 1616. She also endowed an annual £4 gift, or dole, which was given to Brougham's poor every 2 April at the Countess Pillar.

Significant Historic Sites

Brough Castle: Seat of the Clifford family for 450 years, a medieval stronghold built upon a Roman fort site.

Brougham Castle: The magnificent sandstone ruins of one of Lady Anne's main residences. Open seasonally from mid-March to November.

Pendragon Castle: A 12th-century fortress with links to local legend, restored in 1660 before later being abandoned.

Brougham Hall: Acquired by Lady Anne in 1651 and extensively renovated. Today, the walled complex houses artisan studios and a café.

For more information about the walk, features, responsibilities and liabilities visit: www.westmorlandfurnessway.co.uk

Please donate to help care for the landscapes you've enjoyed and protect them for the walkers, wildlife and communities who will follow.

The Westmorland and Furness Way has been delivered by: Westmorland & Furness Council

Another new long distance path is The Roof of England Walk – a journey around the North Pennines – which is a 301km. (or in old money 188 mile) circular walk starting in Appleby and heading north to take in the highlights of the North Pennines including High Force, High Cup Nick and Nine Standards. The walk links up with L.A. Way from K.Stephen to Brough and joins other sections to reach Appleby. The Eden Valley has suddenly become a place of great interest for walkers with Kirkby Stephen and Appleby becoming important stopping points along many routes.

Path maintenance is an ongoing problem but with all these new routes and initiatives we hope that the increased footfall will help in this respect. The ‘Highway’ high above Mallerstang has recently had restoration work done on it by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority with the help of a donation from the Trail Riders Fellowship. The surface had become badly damaged especially around the Helgill area and the improvements, including restoring the full width of the track, should help prevent further damage.

In July I received an email from Chris who had walked the route with a friend over four weekends, completing one weekend per year and starting in 2023. On their final weekend walking from Appleby to Penrith, they stayed overnight in a timber tent camping pod at Low Moor Caravan Park near Ousenstand Bridge. The camp site owners had been telling them about the disruption caused by the upgrade of the A66 a situation which we are carefully monitoring as it affects many footpaths in the Eden Valley.

Taking much longer was Will who took, in his words ‘A mere 8 years and 6 months’ to complete the route. He did it in 9 stages going from his home in Embsay near Skipton each time, his first stage being on 23rd. January 2018 and the last on 13th. July 2026. Yes that’s definitely a record Will!

Finally in July I joined the Ingleborough Archaeology Group on a day trip by train to Appleby from Settle. We were met at the Moot Hall by Stanley Rooke, a former Mayor, who gave us a tour of the Council Chambers complete with a very entertaining talk. This was followed by an equally fascinating tour of Appleby Castle where we were shown rooms which were not usually open to the public. After lunch we visited the Almshouses built by Lady Ann before reaching our final destination of the Church of Saint Lawrence where Lady Anne and her mother are both buried. I was asked to say a few words about Lady Anne's coffin which lies in a crypt below her memorial. This was featured in the Westmorland Gazette in 2015 when the crypt was opened up for repairs to be done which was badly needed due to flood damage. Unfortunately our return train journey was disrupted by an 'outage' caused by the excessive heat. This resulted in all the signals failing and our one hour journey took three instead!!

Happy walking
Sheila and Frank