



FRIENDS OF LADY ANNE'S WAY

E – annual newsletter No. 20- 2025

Welcome to our annual newsletter and I hope you've all enjoyed the summer weather, although as I type this it's pouring down in Yorkshire which is good for the garden at least.

Walkers on the 'Way'.

Only a week ago I received an email from a rather distraught lady who was in Skipton and about to start the walk with her husband, only to discover that he'd left their copy of the guide book at home in the New Forest. They'd managed to organise through my publisher to collect another copy in Hawes at the end of day three, but she wondered if I might have a PDF of days two and three so that they wouldn't miss any of the interesting sights. Fortunately I was able to help them out. She emailed back to thank me and to say that they'd had horrendous weather on day one but things improved after that. At Askrigg they were able to divert slightly off-route (as suggested in the text) to visit Mill Gill Force which was quite spectacular after all the rain of the previous few days.

In June George emailed to say that he'd completed the walk in four days whilst wild camping each night – quite an achievement. His longest day was the first one from Skipton Castle to Cray, just beyond Buckden, a distance of 30 miles. On his travels he met a German couple doing the route in a sensible ten days and then caught up with an American couple just beyond Hawes. He thoroughly enjoyed himself visiting castles and other interesting buildings en-route, but the high passes of Stake Moss and the Highway were his favourite sections.

Below is one of the Jpegs he sent me – a view from his tent which was pitched just below the Water Cut sculpture looking down Mallerstang.



Publicity.

Also in June the Cumbrian and Westmorland Herald printed an article I'd written celebrating the fact that Lady Anne's Way had been going for thirty years and that a new edition had been published for 2025. This will be the fifth edition of the book during this period. Over the years many walkers have used the route to raise funds for their chosen charities and they then go on to email me about their adventures. The NAV 4 running group held an annual race in February for several years over the entire route, encountering some awful weather in the process and Frank and I enjoyed following the runners progress through a link on the web. The route has been waymarked and will eventually appear on the OS maps and a bronze sculpture 'In the spirit of Lady Anne' by Diane Lawrenson has been erected in Kirkby Stephen. Quite an eventful period.

Whilst trawling the web recently I noticed that there appeared to be rather a lot of pages under the heading of Lady Anne's Way – fourteen in fact! Apart from a site on Wikipedia there are many Walking Holiday sites as you would expect. These companies are invaluable for many as they book all your accommodation along the way and carry your baggage onwards for you. Of more interest to myself are the ones created by walkers who have done the trail and created websites about their adventures. There are You Tube videos, Instagram and blogs and a site created by a runner Julie who'd done the LAW100 Race in February 2022.

Julie's log is fascinating because 2022 was the year when the race was hit by a terrible storm, the worst weather since the event began. Julie relates - 'The wind on this section was horrendous at about 50 mph... and it got worse as we climbed higher'. Fortunately she was able to have a rest and to refuel at Kettlewell. Amazingly she finished the race in 27 hours 47 minutes and was placed 3rd lady home and 20th overall. I think I'll stick to walking.

Latest news.

At last the new interpretation panel about the walk has been fixed to the wall of the Upper Eden Visitor Centre. A bronze plaque lies below which dedicates the square outside the Centre, including the sculpture, to the memory of Joan Johnstone who was Chairman of Kirkby Stephen Town Council for many years.



Finally I had an email from Will at Discovery Travel based in the Isle of Wight. Their company are specialists in self-guided walking holidays and are the only UK organisers of self-guided Land's End to John O'Groats hikes. Will had three ladies who were about to set off on Lady Anne's Way and he thought it would be nice to have three badges from me to present to them on completion of the route.

Happy walking
Sheila and Frank.



Entrance to the Almshouses at Appleby.