



FRIENDS OF LADY ANNE'S WAY E – Newsletter No. 16. Autumn 2023

Latest News:

Earlier this year the Dales National Park issued a consultation document concerning a proposal to build houses on green-field sites in the Park. One of the areas considered runs north of Embsay and beside the route of Lady Anne's Way. We sent in an objection on the grounds of the impact it would have on the enjoyment of the walkers, with the two fields considered seen as an important recreational resource for local people. In addition a housing estate here would inevitably increase the traffic along Brackenley Lane which is also part of our route. This road has restricted width and poor junctions, with the section beneath the railway line (on a tight bend) being of considerable concern. The scope for improvement on this section of the lane is negligible.

Throughout the whole of the National Park the proposed sites in Embsay received the most objections with over 700 respondents against and with Threshfield coming second with almost 200.

In September Kirkby Stephen Welcomes Walkers Group organised a walk along part of Lady Anne's Way for Heritage Open Days. The walk commenced at Aisgill in Mallerstang, visiting Hellgill Force before joining the 'Highway,' passing the Water-Cut and finishing at Outhgill pinfold, created by Andy Goldsworthy. Many thanks to Ann Sandell and all her group for organising this.

Abbot Hall in Kendal has finally re-opened after undergoing renovation over the last three years. There's a new exhibition by artist Julie Brook and importantly for us The Great Picture is back! This 18ft. x 9ft. triptych (commissioned by Lady Anne) was painted during the Civil War and is attributed to Jan van Belcamp. The left-hand panel depicts Lady Anne at 15 years old when her father died. The central panel shows her parents and her two brothers who both died in infancy. The right-hand one shows Lady Anne in 1646 when she finally inherited her estates.



Another re-opening was the National Portrait Gallery in London, again after a closure of three years. Imagine my surprise on discovering in the F.T. Week-end Arts section, this portrait of Lady Anne in the background. We featured this painting by William Larkin in last autumn's Newsletter.

Walkers on the 'Way':

Richard contacted me in July, having just completed the route. He'd done the section from Skipton to Grassington last year but sadly had to stop due to his mother falling ill and subsequently dying. His mum was a keen walker and very much loved the Dales and Lakes, so she was in his mind as he continued and completed the walk this year. We wish him lots of happy walking in the future.

John from America is in his 70's and completed the route in August. As he said 'I had some doubts about how I would fare with a multi-day walk after several years absence during the pandemic, but it went fine. I came home feeling fit and robust'. Unfortunately a week after returning home he tripped on his front step, fracturing his pelvis. Whilst recuperating he decided to put Lady Anne's Way on Open Street Map – I gather similar to Wikipedia. Many thanks John and we hope you recover quickly.



Elizabeth and her friends from Lincoln sent me this pic of them at the Water-Cut sculpture up on the Highway in Mallerstang.
A very popular spot for a photo.

Reece:

Frank and I have been re-walking sections of the route, checking out overgrown sections and also the waymarking. We met two walkers from America whilst in Wensleydale and Frank met people from Germany and France when on Halton Edge above Barden Tower recently.





On one occasion after Frank had dropped me off at Commonholme Bridge in the Eden Valley, he went to visit Cliburn Church and was surprised to find a Commonwealth War Grave there.

There was also a placque to those in the Parish who gave their lives in the Great War.

Equally fascinating was an entry in the Visitors Book from a couple from Somerset walking the 'way' which said 'Walking Lady Anne's Way in support of Somerset Dementia Charity-Reminiscence Learning'. We hope they raised lots of money.

Historical:

I'm indebted to Val Kendall who lives in one of the Almshouses in Appleby, for the following information.

Up to around twenty years ago the entrance to the Almshouses was locked at 9.00pm. Then about fifteen years ago the live-in Warden decided to revive the custom; standing at the entrance with her key, ready to lock up. Anyone arriving after this time had to ring the bell to get in and their 'punishment' was to have to open the door at 7.00am next day(not too much of a chore I gather as most of them were up at the crack of dawn anyway).

If you're ever in Appleby, Valerie leads tours around the houses, chapel and gardens. To book just contact her on vkendall@live.co.uk.

Winter Event:

LAW100-the annual running event, organised by Due North Events will be held on 27th & 28th January next year. This time the run will be done in reverse, starting at Penrith Castle at 7.30am & finishing at Skipton Castle. The entrants have until midnight on Sunday to finish. There are four checkpoints along the route, providing support and a good meal and a rest at Skipton Town Hall at the end. Wow!



Approaching Hawes

Happy Walking Sheila & Frank