

FRIENDS OF LADY ANNE'S WAY E -newsletter No. 13 Spring 2022

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Newsletter. As I write this rain and gale-force winds are battering the garden but the brave snowdrops are nodding their heads, offering hope that spring will soon be here.

Latest News:-

January 29/30th saw the LAW100 event finally take place. Over 80 runners set off at 6.0 a.m. from Skipton Castle to run 100 miles along the length of Lady Anne's Way. The weather couldn't have been worse with howling gales during Saturday, but at least the night was calm and Sunday was much better. Mel, who was chief organiser for the event, sent me a link from which we could watch the race unfold as each runner was represented by an icon super-imposed on the OS map. The winner – Sam Tyrer - finished in 18 hrs. 46 min. whilst in 2nd place was Emma Stuart in 19 hrs. 39 min. closely followed by her partner.

Several runners contacted me afterwards to order a badge and one said that he couldn't wait to come back & walk the route in order to enjoy it. One of the later finishers took 36 hrs. because he had problems with his feet and commented that the strong winds on the moor top between Cray and Wensleydale made the going hard work. He continued 'But that's the idea of winter races, they're supposed to be challenging. Saturday night was lovely and clear, we had a great view of the stars in Mallerstang, and Sunday morning was beautiful.'

There's dedication & optimism for you.

Emma at the finish



Stop Press:-

As I was about to email this newsletter to you all, I received the link to a Blog from Julie and Iain, about their epic run on LAW100. This made fascinating reading as they describe their thoughts as the race unfolds. Here's a lovely quote from the beginning of the race, 'It was fun to start the race in the dark and the first few miles flew by. The wind wasn't too bad as it was still quite mild' (Storm Malik had yet to hit them).

On the fells above Grassington the winds reached 50mph and getting worse the higher they went and at times almost blowing them off their feet. By the time they reached Wensleydale Iain was having problems with wet feet so at Askrigg check-point he changed his socks in the hope of some relief. Darkness fell as they started the climb up Cotter End, before the 6 mile run down into the valley bottom. By now Iain's feet were very sore and as a last resort they taped them up with KT tape? fortunately this did the trick.

The approach to Appleby is on a slippery woodland path full of tree roots and Julie was expecting to end up in the River Eden on several steep sections. Fortunately they got through this section and battled on to eventually reached the end at Penrith. Their finishing time was 27 hrs. 47 min. - being joint 20th overall and with Julie in 3rd place amongst the ladies – a fantastic achievement to both of them. I'll leave the final words to Iain – 'I'm certain I could do better – and am planning to come back next year to prove it!'



Julie on the road near Cray High Bridge with waterfall being blown backwards!

Footpath Closure:-

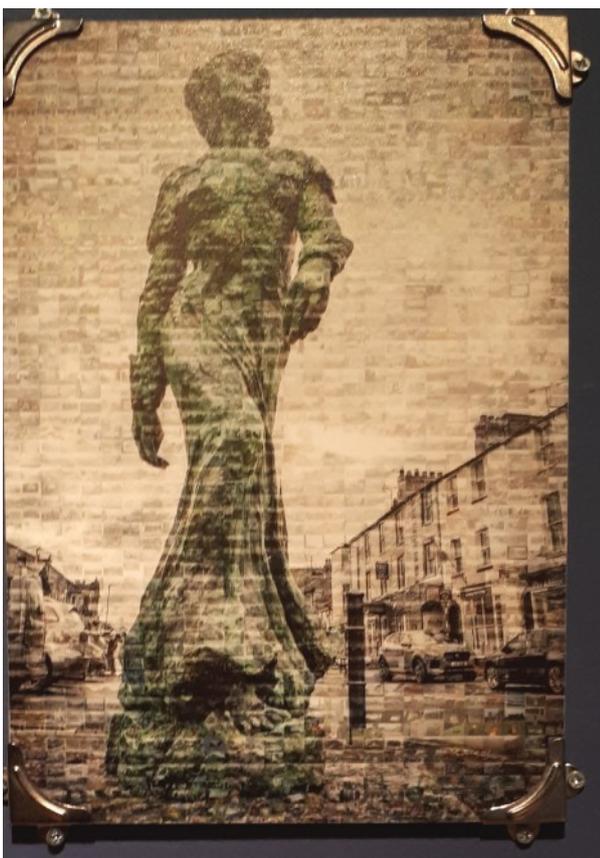
In October, Ann Sandell – Chairman of Kirkby Stephen & District Walkers are Welcome Group, notified me that Hartley Lane would be closed for repairs at some point, part of which is on our route. I'm very grateful to Ann for this information as I was then able to flag this up on our web site and with Ann's help, devise a detour as a temporary measure. Fortunately Cumbria County Council were quick off the mark and the path was re-instated by Christmas.



Hartley Lane with new bridge installed.

Tony's run:-

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Tony Wade from the Isle of Lewis ran the route over several days in July to raise funds for Parkinson's UK and also to 'celebrate' his 60th birthday! Frank and I were at Skipton Castle to see him off and to offer some encouragement. Tony's aim was to raise £500 but in the end he managed to raise the phenomenal sum of £7,711 – in his words 'totally off the scale'. His was one of the most successful Justgiving pages that month, putting him in the top 1%. Many congratulations to Tony – an absolute star!



Tulle House Museum:-

In autumn Frank and I were having a day out in Carlisle and whilst viewing an exhibition at the Tulle House Museum we came across a familiar image. This was a piece describing a project held during the summer at Kirkby Stephen which involved people of all ages creating works related to the area. What caught our eye was a montage made from photographs by the Kirkby Stephen community which took inspiration from the figure of Lady Anne. As you can see in the picture it mirrors the sculpture of her which stands in the centre of the town.

Walkers on the 'Way':-

I find it particularly fascinating when people take the time to let me know about their adventures on the route and the different ways they walk it. I've had photos, CDs, a video, a paper back book with an individual chapter on Lady Anne's Way and even a complete diary – all 29 pages of it. All of which I'm very grateful for and which all go into an archive.

In August Tony and Carol contacted me for some badges, having just completed the route. They'd collected their Completion Certificate from Penrith T. I. C. and in their words 'we have evidence as all our daily walks recorded on Strava' – a new one on me!

Then in January this year Taudi from Victoria in Australia emailed asking for a copy of the guide book. She is planning to meet her Glasgow-based daughter and husband about mid June to do the walk after walking King Ludwig's Way in Bavaria. She sounds like a very adventurous young lady.

Notes from my Log Books

Whilst re-organising some paper work recently I came across a log written in 1992 when I first started walking sections of the proposed route. I found it fascinating to look back and be reminded of walks done all those years ago and at times some with friends who are sadly no longer with us. I thought it would be good to share some of these journeys with you all.

3rd. April 1993. Self, Hazel & Derek. (H & D being old friends from the Long Distance Walker's Ass.) Cray Rd. to Cubeck (Wensleydale).

Beautiful day, I was so busy talking that I missed the turn off to the right, & we were nearly at Semerwater before I realised my mistake. We had to go all the way back up again to the top of the moor.

So nothing new there then!

24th. Oct. Hawes to Kirby Stephen. Glynn & Self. (G & S are very long standing friends.)

Sara & the boys dropped us off at Hawes & then met us at the finish in Kirkby Stephen. Great to be able to do one full section in one go. Left at 9.40. Finished at 2.47 Glynn had me running at the end to reach the pub before closing time at 3.0pm. & guess what – they were open all day!

5th. Dec. Steve Watkins, John & Self. (S & J also old friends from LDWA)

Brough to Appleby. An epic!

Aimed for a high level route but it proved impossible as the footpath across the Warcop Training ground was only open one day a week. We didn't know this at the time. A very good cinder track to the top of the moor but then it disappeared. The red flag was flying when we started up the hillside but the notice when we reached it was a bit ambiguous (at least that's what it says here).

At second notice halfway across the escarpment, there were no flags flying or lights flashing as mentioned on the notice, so we proceeded. Then we started to hear guns firing, rather loudly. It was too far to go back so we pressed on rather hurriedly - lots of nervous laughter. It was freezing cold up there too. We passed altogether 15 duff shells on this section which was rather unnerving. At the end of the range at Halton, there were loads of signs & flags all saying we should not have passed this point.

Dropped down towards the River Eden at Gt. Ormside only to discover that there was no bridge across, water very deep & river very wide. I thought the lads were going to mutiny. Then one of them spotted an old disused railway line going over the river. (At least we thought it was disused until we found out later that it was the Settle to Carlisle line). We climbed the embankment & hurried across, just as we reached the other side a train flew past!

Carried on & just near the end of the walk as we came out of a track onto a road, was a parked car. Inside were a couple absolutely stark naked! This was in December.

As you can imagine I never heard the end of this.

Publicity:-

Maggie Dickinson (one of the 'Friends') writes regularly for the Cumbria Magazine and last year was no exception. In the July issue she described in vivid detail Lady Anne passing through Mallerstang and the Eden Valley. Her articles are always packed with historical content which is well researched and you feel as if you've stepped back in time as you read them.

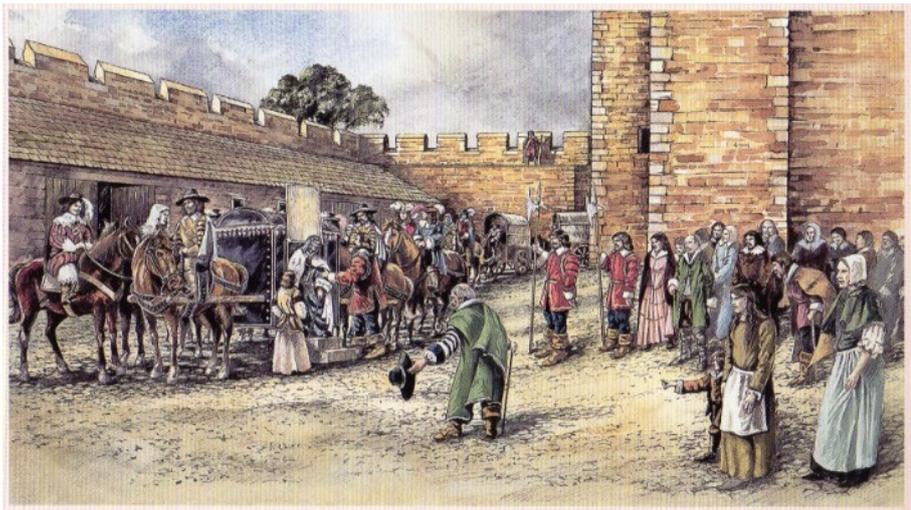
In the September issue she goes into great detail about the stock-locks which Lady Anne gave to people as gifts and these have been mentioned in our previous Newsletters. There are thought to be about a dozen left and some can be found in churches in the area.

Our flyers which were printed last May, have been well received with over 1,500 distributed so far and orders coming in for more.

Historical Info:-

The horse-litter was described in medieval and early modern times as an alternative means of transport, especially for ladies of royalty. This was the preferred mode of travel for Lady Anne, although I think not for the faint-hearted, as I suspect it was a bit like being on a ship in choppy waters; the litter being a carriage slung on long poles between two horses: one at the front and one at the back.

Lady Anne would be accompanied by men-servants on horse-back, her ladies-in-waiting in a coach and many others on foot. Furniture and bedding would also be taken along in waggons as they went from castle to castle. This entourage could often be as large as 300 strong.



The above is a reconstruction of Lady Anne's arrival at Brougham Castle circa 1670 by Peter Dunn

Here's to our new freedoms and lots of walking this spring and summer.
Best wishes Sheila & Frank.