

# Friends Way 2 launch 20.5.23

## Swarthmoor Meetinghouse, Ulverston, LA12 9NB

Friends Way 2 celebrates Margaret Fell's journey from Mistress of Swarthmoor to Mother of Quakerism. The guidebook route takes you from Sedbergh to Swarthmoor mainly in George Fox's footsteps.

**Timing:** presentations, led by Prof Ben Pink Dandelion, begin at **4 pm in Swarthmoor Meetinghouse**.

Depending on your choices, your participation could begin:

- in the morning with the walk
- from 2.30/3 pm if you'd like to visit Swarthmoor Hall and/or tour the Meetinghouse
- with tea from 3 pm
- sharp at 4 pm for the presentations only.

**Bill Shaw**, Clerk of the Meetinghouse, has kindly offered **guided tours** (up to 20 people) at 2.30, 3.00 and (if need be) 3.30 pm. For those that wish to walk first, we propose the circuit shown on the next page which starts and ends at the Friends Meetinghouse, a distance of 5.5 miles/9 km. If you want the guided tour, you should aim to complete the walk and arrive at the Meetinghouse by 2.30 or, at latest, 3 pm.

**Highlights of the Margaret Fell circuit** include extensive views from Birkrigg Common, the visit to Sunbrick, Margaret Fell's burial ground, and the famous Birkrigg Stone Circle. The walk runs largely offroad and gradients are mostly gentle. Total distance is 5.5 miles/9 km: see page 2 for details.

**Swarthmoor Hall** (LA12 0JQ) was Margaret Fell's home for 70 years until her death in 1702 and is still the northern centre of Quakerism. It is only a 1-km round trip from the Meetinghouse, but it is still undergoing a major refurb and has minimal staffing. They have kindly agreed that everybody who attends this launch is welcome into their lovely grounds at any time that day and there may be access to the historic interior. The Hall is shown by the large open circle at top left of the map on page 2.

**Parking:** there is limited parking in Meetinghouse Lane (a narrow road that may be busy with farm traffic) but Urswick Road is more suitable, especially for larger vehicles. It is very close to the Meetinghouse and labelled on the map on page 2.

# Margaret Fell circuit

**Total distance: 9 km/5.5 miles**

**Total ascent: 143 m/470 ft**

**OS Explorer OL6**

From Swarthmoor Meetinghouse, head south to Red Lane and complete the figure-of-eight loop. We suggest anti-clockwise: first visit the summit of Birkrigg Common, then pay your respects at Sunbrick Burial Ground and visit Birkrigg Stone Circle, returning by White Gill Lane and Willington Wood to the red open circle opposite: then retrace your steps from Red Lane.

The route is offered in good faith but we have not had the chance to field-test it. Each group leader or individual is responsible for their own safety, navigation and time-keeping. The route involves a little road-walking on vergeless minor roads where care is needed.

At Sunbrick, the burial ground can be hard to find: there is no gate, sign or marker. The small red open circle on the enlarged map clip below may help: GR SD 286 739. The photo below has the gateway highlighted in white; the plaque shown on p19 of our book is set into the entrance.



Birkrigg Stone Circle is unusual in having two concentric rings of stone, one of only about 30 such circles in the entire UK. For more info and photos, look online e.g. at [bit.ly/birkrigg](http://bit.ly/birkrigg).

