



ASKHAM HALL SECOND ANNUAL WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

INSCAPE RETREAT

FRIDAY 24 TO MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY

We happily return to Askham Hall in the company of kindred spirits for three superb concerts performed in the Hall's ancient wood-panelled spaces and nearby Chapel, stimulating lectures, readings and discussions, crackling fires, comfortable accommodation in architecturally significant rooms, first class meals and teas prepared by resident chef Richard Swale, and gentle, albeit brief, architectural walks in the Vale of Eden.

Ensclosed within the thick stone walls of the 14c pele tower at Askham Hall, a Grade I medieval manor now run as an informal family-run country house hotel, we will intertwine sublime performances by gifted young musicians with a most interesting course of study. We turn our attention to the vivid diaries kept daily for seventy years by Anne Clifford (1589/90-1675), Countess of Pembroke, Dorset and Montgomery. The redoubtable and determined Anne Clifford spent much of her life in a brave, long and complex legal battle to obtain the rights of her inheritance after her father's breach of an entail which stated that the Clifford estates should descend lineally to the eldest heir, whether male or female, dating back to the time of King Edward II. The gripping narrative of her early life at Skipton Castle, her lifelong fight for her legal birth-right, her challenging consecutive marriages to two unsympathetic noblemen, her later life as a powerful property owner and patron of the arts, can be set in the context of optional afternoon visits to her spectacular properties. In the centre of Penrith itself, we visit the moving memorial she erected for her greatest ally and advocate, her mother.

We will again be warmly welcomed by Lady Anne's fellow Cumbrian, Askham Hall's current owner, Charles Lowther, son of the 7th Earl of Lowther, whose birthday inspires the Winter Music Festival and lends a most festive atmosphere for all to enjoy.

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY

- 09.30 Train leaves London Euston for Penrith
- 12.29 Train arrives Penrith for minibus to Askham Hall
- 1.00 Group lunch at Askham Hall
- 2.30 End of lunch
Check in and rest
- 4.00 Tea served in drawing room
- 6.00 Reception with canapés and drinks
- 6.45 Walk to Askham Church
- 7.00 Concert programme
Schubert - Piano Sonata in B Flat Major D. 960
Schumann - Piano Quartet in E Flat Op.47
- 9.00 Walk back to Askham Hall for buffet dinner

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

- 11.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture, *Lady Anne Clifford: her Life and Times Part I*
- 12.30 Group lunch in Askham Hall
- 1.30 Minibus to optional visit of Brough and Appleby
- 2.15 Arrive Brough Castle ruin
- 2.45 Leave Brough castle
- 3.00 Arrive Appleby Castle
- 3.45 Leave Appleby
- 4.15 Tea at Askham Hall
- 5.15 Walk to Askham Church
- 5.30 Concert in Askham Church
Dohnányi - Serenade for String Trio Op.10;
Ravel - Violin Sonata No.2
Fauré - Piano Quartet no. 1 in C minor
- 7.30 Dinner in Askham Barn
- 9.00 Evening recital in Hall by fireside - Noam Greenberg plays Chopin

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

- 11.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture *Lady Anne Clifford: her Life and Times Part II*
- 1.00 Group lunch in Askham Hall
- 3.00 Finale concert in Askham Church
Schumann - 5 Stücke im Volkston for cello and piano
Schumann - Märchenbilder for viola and piano
Brahms - Piano Quartet no. 1 in G minor
- 4.30 Walk back to Askham Hall, free time
- 7.30 Dinner in Askham Hall

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY

- Check Out
- 10.15 Leave for Kendal
- 11.00 Arrive Abbot Hall Art Gallery for 'Great Picture' of Lady Anne Clifford, and works by Turner
- 12.30 Lunch in Castle Dairy Restaurant
- 2.24 Train Oxenholme to London
- 5.13 Arrival in London Euston Station



ASKHAM HALL

Nr Penrith
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TEL 01931 712350

Askham Hall is a place to stay and relax in a secluded part of the Lake District. Just over the hills from Ullswater, it has 15 bedrooms and a restaurant in the house. An ancient oak-beamed barn has been converted into a hall for parties and concerts. There is a spa and outdoor pool. A luxurious, intimate, unpretentious country home set in acres of grounds. It is just a short walk from St. Peter's Church, Askham, and close to the 13th Century St. Michael's Church, which has strong Lowther family connections and overlooks the hall, River Lowther and Lowther Castle.

Dating from the 12th Century, Askham Hall was a fortified peel tower protecting England from invasion by the Scots. In the 16th Century it was converted into a grand Elizabethan mansion by Thomas Sandford before being bought by the Lowther family 200 years ago. It then became home to Anthony Lowther, a descendant of the 5th Earl of Lonsdale, Hugh Lowther the "Yellow Earl" and was passed down the family. The present owner's grandfather moved there after moving out of Lowther Castle next door. It is now owned by Charles Lowther and his mother, Caroline, Countess of Lonsdale, who until recently had Askham Hall as the family home. The new venture to open the hall as a commercial venture continues to be a family affair, involving both the Countess of Lonsdale and Charles Lowther along with his sister, Marie-Louisa Raeburn, and his wife, Juno

COST £1195 Members, £1245 non-Members, £135 single room supplement, £250 deposit, includes three nights accommodation with breakfast, two coffees, all lunches with wine, all dinners with wine, tea, lectures by Nicholas Friend, four concerts, all visits and all travel during the tour. Excludes travel to and from Penrith.