



## The Western Front Way Foundation – A Permanent Pathway For Remembrance

Dear All

I am writing to ask your support on behalf of The Western Front Foundation, a charity set up in 2016. We are supported by Sir Anthony Seldon, Tom Heap and many other enthusiasts. Our aim is to create a permanent pathway along the whole Front, some 475 miles.

This pathway is inspired by the words of Alexander Douglas Gillespie, a 2nd Lt. in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was killed at the Battle of Loos in April 1915. But, shortly before his death, he wrote of his desire to create a tree lined route along the whole front and "to send every man, woman and child in Western Europe on pilgrimage along that 'via Sacra' so they might think and learn from the silent witnesses on either side". That simple yet powerful idea drives this ambitious project.

The inaugural walk took place in 2016 and the dates and route to be walked in 2017 can be found at [www.thewesternfrontway.com](http://www.thewesternfrontway.com). The opportunity to 'walk in the footsteps' of the soldiers and understand the history of this conflict offers a challenge and a tribute to those that were killed or injured along the whole Front. Current visits to the battlefields are area specific and cover huge time periods of the many battles over the 4 years. The Western Front Way is to be a permanent walk, documented with maps and all the relevant information to allow walkers to 'feel the ground beneath their feet' as they make this pilgrimage.

There are many worthwhile charities that support the Services and linked to the Western Front. This, however, is a charity dedicated to creating a permanent pathway that all can walk. As the war recedes into the distance, it is our responsibility to not only mark the years that have gone by, but to keep alive memories of those who sacrificed so much and into the second centenary.

We are seeking sponsorship for this year's walk, 2017, and beyond that will further establish the route and our target of £130,000 will provide transport, guides and walking support. Our goal is to build the pathway, every year we gain further understanding of how, when and in what best way it will be constructed. Please look at the website and the enclosed circular for details of how to donate and please use the Gift Aid Declaration Form to enhance your generous donation.

We are most grateful for your support in creating something that will forever allow future generations to understand the horrors of war and the sacrifice of so many.

Respectfully, yours

The Western Front Way Board