

LYKE WAKE WALK



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[formerly Lyke Wake Club & Lyke Wake Company Limited]

This is the latest current information including prices and stock availability.

This circular will not be re-issued on a particular time scale any changes will produce an update, please do not e-mail with queries which are covered on this website and this update information.

1. The official web site for the Lyke Wake Walk is www.lykewakewalk.co.uk, However, this circular carries current information and latest prices, please do not rely on other web sites that purport to be the Lyke Wake Walk and/or the former Lyke Wake Club as these are carrying incorrect information and prices. For this reason we cannot continue to send out goods that are incorrectly paid for, we have tried for several years but alas too many honest walkers invariable do not send the correct sums when requested.
2. The Lyke Wake Walk is the forty-two mile crossing of the North York Moors from Scarth Wood Moor, Osmotherley to the North Sea coast at Ravenscar, or vice versa which has to be completed in less than twenty-four hours. Cycle & horse crossings are not allowed, nor are they legal, twenty-four hours of daylight are allowed for ski crossings. For all practical purposes the walk starts at the car park at the eastern end of Sheepwash reservoir (SE468993) and finishes at the Raven Hall Hotel in Ravenscar or vice versa.
3. The official guidebook is published by 'Dalesman', currently it's out of print, but we have a stock. "Lyke Wake Walk – the official guide" (ISBN 185568191-9), available from the the above address. £3.50 inclusive of postage.
4. Over the years, in excess of 160,000 people have completed the Lyke Wake Walk, such vast numbers caused considerable environmental damage to the fragile moorland ecology throughout the 'sixties and 'seventies. The former Lyke Wake Club worked closely with the National Park Authority and landowners to try to alleviate these problems. However, over the past two or more decades the numbers have dropped to such a low level that the continuation of the Lyke Wake Club became unviable, it was therefore agreed by the family of the late Bill Cowley (the walks founder) and of the majority of the members and officials of the club that the club was to cease at the club's Golden Jubilee in October 2005. It was finally laid to rest at a final Wake, held at the Raven Hall Hotel on October 1st 2005 – on the same spot as it was formed, fifty years to the day! A smaller event was held at the 'Lion Inn' in October 2015 to celebrate the 'Diamond Jubilee' of the formation of the walk, there will be no further gatherings.
5. This however, the end of the club, does not mean the closure of the route, it is accepted that many people will continue to walk this moorland challenge. It does mean that there is no longer any need to send reports of crossings, but condolence cards and merchandise will remain available for the foreseeable future. We will continue to work with the National Park Authority and landowners in trying to emphasise the sensitive nature of this moorland area, bearing in mind the possible conflicts of interest brought about by the implementation of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.
6. Since the closure of the official Lyke Wake Club a group of people have formed another organisation, much to the dismay of the founders family, former company directors and former club officials. All badges etc are registered trademarks, and much is also covered by intellectual property rights (copyright) legislation. Legal action has been taken in the past.
7. There is no question of closing the Lyke Wake Walk except during times of great fire risk, but there had been much damage to the central peaty sections by large numbers of walkers & moorland fires, the past three decades have seen much recovery to the moorland ecology. We are co-operating with the National Park in asking parties to be kept reasonably small.
8. Due to colossal increases in Box Number fees imposed by Royal Mail, we ceased to use the Northallerton Box Number, the correct trading address is as above.
9. As an alternative to the Lyke Wake Walk, consider the forty mile "Shepherd's Round", devised by the late Bill Cowley, a circular from Sheepwash to Bloworth, Bransdale, Fangdale Beck, Hawnby and the Drove Road back to Sheepwash. The description leaflet is no longer available, but there is a chapter in the official Lyke Wake Walk guidebook – woven badges are available.
10. A further alternative devised by Paul Sherwood is the thirty two mile circular "Hambleton Hobble" around Black Hambleton, from Osmotherley to Arden, Scawton, Boltby, Silton and back to Osmotherley. This one can be completed as two shorter circuits. A recently revised (March 2018) leaflet of detailed instructions with sketch map is available, £1 plus a s.a.e. – woven badges are available. The route is also described in the official Lyke Wake guidebook.
11. All of these routes are quite difficult; only go with experienced walkers in winter. Remember to have a central telephone number for walkers and support parties to report to, mobile 'phones are not a great success in upland moorland areas. Also bear in mind that the 999 service on a mobile can link to control rooms almost anywhere and operators will have no local knowledge of the area. The local rescue teams have wasted many man-hours and money looking for people who were not really lost or in difficulties, use a map and compass not a 'phone based GPS & know how to use them

12. Please do not make any noise near dwelling houses or deposit litter on the moor and make sure your support parties are aware of this; a hazard to livestock, wildlife and a fire risk.

13. Cafes and hotels find difficulty in coping with large parties of walkers, large rucksacks, muddy boots – be warned and be considerate, most inns supply food. Public transport is virtually impossible to use in North Yorkshire as its very existence is doubtful! Details of accommodation and campsites was available from the local tourism offices and council websites. Since April 2023 the district councils & borough councils have ceased to exist and tourism outside of the National Park is the domain of North Yorkshire Council, however, It is not known if this actually functions, querying it produces blank stares! Try www.northyorks.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture/visit-north-yorkshire. But the North York Moors National Park Information Service may be your best option.

14. There is no longer any need to send reports of your walks, but we are still interested for statistical reasons, Lyke Wake Walk Condolence Cards are still available, 50p per person, and special ones for double crossings, both ways in forty eight hours, past double crossers may apply, 50p per person. Please send a s.a.e. in all cases.

15. The formal records of the former club have been deposited at the County Records Office in Northallerton and the less formal materials, photographic archive, press cuttings archive, audio/film archive, club mace, Goulton tankard etc have been deposited at the Ryedale Folk Museum at Hutton-le-Hole (01751-417367) I understand currently none of the historic material is on display and it is doubtful it ever has been, but any serious researcher should be able to view items by appointment. An etched glass window in a new building, which was formally opened on 26th October 2008, by Paul Sherwood, shows the sketch map of the route shown in the early editions of the late Bill Cowley's guidebook.

16. The Golden Jubilee Lyke Wake Race was held on Saturday 12th July 2014, the race was always the closest Saturday to July 10th, but after many years of low entries and a continual staffing problem and a lack of enthusiastic new helpers it had been reluctantly agreed to bow out on this 50th race. The former company had been interested in allowing a running club to organise the event under licence, enabling them to use registered trademarks, trade names, badges etc. An agreement was reached with a running club, and they organised a race in 2015 but failed to comply with the commercial terms of the agreement and this was terminated. The former company has no involvement with any event purporting to be the Lyke Wake Race. It is unknown if it is still the same running club organising it. Please advise us if any organisation are using badges, logos etc that imply a race is a continuation of the original event.

17. Bill Cowley the walks founder and Chief Dirger died in November 1994, he had been Company Chairman since the former Company was formed in 1973, Jean, his widow had been the Chief Witch from the walks inception until the Bill died when she took over as Company Chairman. However, when she reached ninety years of age she felt it is time to relinquish the position and cease any formal involvement (she has taken no active part since Bills death). Jean died, aged 95, in July 2015. No other members of the Cowley family have shown any interest in the organisation in recent years. Following legal & commercial advice it had been agreed that the company should continue to operate with only one (unpaid) director – the Company Secretary. The situation has now changed; income became so low that the limited company became unviable, statutory involvement with Companies House, accountants, HM Revenue & Customs, bank charges etc meant the costs became more than income. This was always regarded as inevitable. The Lyke Wake Company Limited was wound-up on 31st October 2019, the registered trade marks and intellectual property rights have been transferred & are therefore still legally protected.

18. Official memorabilia for the Lyke Wake Walk, Shepherd's Round & Hambleton Hobble will be available for the foreseeable future, i.e. as long as they remain financially viable, replacement stock will not be ordered. All emblems, badges & logos are copyright and some are registered trademarks & trade names. Please make all cheques or postal orders payable to P.A.Sherwood, or send cash by registered post. It is not possible to purchase items by PayPal, Bank Transfer, gold sovereigns, bitcoin or any electronic means. I have tried this in the past and it doesn't work with a building society account (bank charges are prohibitive) and a recent whinging objectionable person has caused me to put a stop to any attempt with these sort of payments. Please stop asking if you can pay by PayPal, Bank Transfer, gold sovereigns, bitcoin or any electronic means. YOU CAN'T. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope – with the correct stamps for the size of envelope. With Royal Mail's abysmal record of damaging/losing items in transit a padded envelope is a good idea!

Metal Lyke Wake Walk Badge (coffin shape)	no longer available
Metal Lyke Wake Supporters Badge (crest shape)	£3.00
Woven Lyke Wake Walk Badge (coffin shape)	£3.00
Woven Shepherd's Round Badge (circular shape)	£3.00
Woven Hambleton Hobble Badge (circular shape)	£3.00 very few remaining
Woven White Rose of Yorkshire Badge (square shape)	£3.00
Woven Cleveland Way Badge (crest shape)	£3.00
Purple Lyke Wake Walk Ties	£10.00
Lyke Wake Walk – the official guide (inc of p&p)	£3.50
Hambleton Hobble leaflet	£1.00
Shepherds Round leaflet	no longer available

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS WEBSITE WILL CEASE AT THE END OF 2025 BRINGING TO AN END SEVENTY YEARS OF LYKE WAKE – AS WE KNEW IT