



LYKE WAKE WALK

LYKE WAKE COMPANY LIMITED (Registered Number 1118972)
Wits End, South Kilvington, Thirsk, YO7 2NF

Company Secretary: Paul A. Sherwood

Latest News February 2012

1. The official web site is www.lykewakewalk.co.uk it, like this newsletter carries current information and latest prices, please do not rely on other web sites that purport to be the Lyke Wake Walk and/or 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 many honest walkers invariably 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, which has to be completed in less than twenty four hours. Cycle & horse crossings are not allowed, nor indeed 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 out of print, but we have a stock. "Lyke Wake Walk – the official guide" (ISBN 185568191-9), available from the office at the above address. £3.50 inclusive of postage. Ryedale Folk Museum & Sutton Bank National Park Centre have them in stock at £2.99
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 decade or more 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 and of the majority of the members and officials of the club that the club was to cease at the clubs Golden Jubilee in October 2005. It was finally laid to rest at a Terminal Wake, held at the Raven Hall Hotel on October 1st 2005 – on the same spot as it was formed, fifty years to the day!
5. This however does not mean the closure of the route, it is accepted that many people will continue to walk this moorland challenge; in fact numbers seem to be increasing slightly over the past year. It does mean that now there is no longer any need to send reports of crossings to the club, but condolence cards and merchandise will remain available for the foreseeable future. The Lyke Wake Company Limited 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, they and the limited company and former club officials are strongly opposed to this. The name Lyke Wake Club and badges etc are registered trademarks.
7. There is no question of closing the Lyke Wake Walk except during times of great fire risk, but there has been much damage to the central peaty sections by large numbers of walkers, we are co-operating with the National Park in asking parties to be kept fairly small.
8. Due to a colossal rise in Box Number fees imposed by Royal Mail, we have ceased to use the Northallerton Box Number, the current trading address is as above.
9. As an alternative to the Lyke Wake Walk, try the forty mile "Shepherd's Round", devised by the late Bill Cowley, a circular from Sheepwash to Bloworth, Bransdale, Fangdale Beck, Hawby and the Drove Road back to Sheepwash. A leaflet of detailed instructions with sketch map is available, 25p plus a s.a.e. – woven badges are available. The route is also described in the official Lyke Wake guidebook.
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 leaflet of detailed instructions with sketch map is available, 25p 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. The local rescue teams have wasted many man-hours and money looking for people who were not really lost or in difficulties.
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. There are reports from the land agent and 'keeper that some walkers are still using the unauthorised path across Flat Howe, please continue on the railway track to the Lion Inn. This has always been the only contentious section on the whole route, even with the implementation of the CROW Act you still do not have a 'Right to Roam' – all land owners have the legal powers to close sections of moorland at critical times, nesting, shooting, fire risk etc. Therefore please comply.
14. Cafes and hotels find difficulty in coping with large parties of walkers, large rucksacks, muddy boots – be warned and be considerate. Camping and accommodation are generally available, most inns supply food and Ravenscar Village Hall can be hired for large parties (contact Mrs Russell 01723-870801). Details of the numerous B&B accommodation and campsites are available from the local tourism offices:- Hambleton District Council 01845-522755, North York Moors National Park Information Service 01845-597426, Ryedale District Council 01751-473791 or Scarborough Borough Council 01723-373333.

15. 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.
16. 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. In October 2006 the National Park held a Lyke Wake Walk exhibition at the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre attracting over 3600 visitors.
17. The Ryedale Folk Museum has recently had a new single storey building erected, adjoining the rear of the main building and purporting to be for a fairly permanent exhibition of the Lyke Wake Walk and of the former club with a series of Lyke Wake artefacts on display; however this has not really materialised. Mike Benson the museums curator is keen to receive any mementos from walkers to use in these displays, an old pair of boots, photos, anything that has a Lyke Wake connection. Please contact Mike Benson on 01751-417367 or by e-mail to mike@ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk It was formally opened on Sunday 26th October 2008
18. The 48th annual Lyke Wake Race will be held on Saturday 7th July 2012 (always the closest Saturday to July 10th) Application forms are now available with a s.a.e. from the office at the above address or can be downloaded from this website. The closing date for applications is 16th June that actually means 16th June – not the early hours of the 17th. The future of the race is in no way affected by the closure of the Lyke Wake Club
19. Bill Cowley the walks founder and Chief Dirger died in 1994, he had been Company Chairman since the 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, she has reached ninety years of age and feels it is time to relinquish the position and cease any formal involvement (she has taken no active part since Bills death). No other members of the Cowley family have shown any interest in the organisation in recent years. Following legal & commercial advice it has been agreed that the company will continue to operate with only one (unpaid) director – the Company Secretary.
20. The Lyke Wake Company Limited will continue to sell the official copyright, trademarked & trade named memorabilia for the Lyke Wake Walk, Shepherd's Round & Hambleton Hobble for the foreseeable future, i.e. as long as they remain financially viable. All emblems, badges & logos are copyright and some are registered trademarks & tradenames. Please make all cheques payable to the Lyke Wake Company Limited, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope – with the correct stamps for the size of envelope. With Royal Mail's abysmal record of damaging 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)	£2.00	
• Woven Lyke Wake Walk Badge (coffin shape)	£2.00	
• Woven Shepherd's Round Badge (circular shape)	£2.00	
• Woven Hambleton Hobble Badge (circular shape)	£2.00	
• Woven White Rose of Yorkshire Badge (square shape)	£2.00	
• Woven Cleveland Way Badge (crest shape)	£2.00	
• Purple Lyke Wake Walk Ties	£8.00	
• Purple Lyke Wake Walk Baseball Caps (inc of p&p)	£6.00	only one remaining
• White Lyke Wake Walk T-shirts, Large only (inc of p&p)	£7.00	only one remaining
• Lyke Wake walk – the official guide (inc of p&p)	£3.50	