# Leeds Otley Run goes ahead amid shock after crossbow attack on pub crawl



Revellers in Leeds have defiantly taken part in the city's renowned Otley Run pub crawl just one week after a violent incident involving an extremist who targeted young people along the same route. This traditional event, known for its light-hearted atmosphere, confronted a dark reality when 39-year-old Owen Lawrence shot two women with a crossbow before turning the weapon on himself on Saturday night.

Despite the recent attack, participants donned an array of fancy dress costumes and sparkly outfits for the two-and-a-half-mile parade of pubs, showcasing their resilience and spirit. Images from the event revealed groups dressed as various characters, including a mix of superheroes, Dobby from Harry Potter, and even a collection of traffic cones.

Lawrence's attack has left a profound impact on the local community. The two victims, aged 19 and 31, were shot as they participated in the very event that many were celebrating shortly thereafter. Fortunately, both survived; one has since been discharged from hospital, while the other remains in stable condition. Lawrence succumbed to his injuries two days after the incident.

Witnesses and students in the area have expressed their heightened sense of vulnerability following the assault. Art student Jess Anderson, 20, shared her concerns, stating to the BBC that the event underscored a “rise in violence against women.” Another student, Christi King, 21, mentioned feeling an increased awareness of her surroundings after the attack.

The attack has drawn the attention of counter-terrorism police, who identified Lawrence—an unemployed resident of Headingley—as the main suspect. Authorities have stated they are not searching for any additional suspects in relation to the incident. Prior to the attack, Lawrence had made several troubling statements on social media, revealing far-right leanings and intentions to disrupt the community. In various posts, he referenced extreme ideologies and even described his plan as an "Otley Run Massacre," with an aim to target students and participants of the pub crawl.

Lawrence’s online presence included disturbing affiliations with extremist literature and ideologies that promote white supremacy and misogyny. Posts indicated he had studied a manifesto associated with Brenton Tarrant, the perpetrator of the Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand in 2019, further illustrating the troubling motivations behind his actions.

In the wake of these events, local students have voiced their concerns about safety during social outings. Many are now feeling the need to exercise increased caution while enjoying traditional festivities that had previously been a source of community camaraderie.

The Otley Run, a staple of student life in Leeds, now stands as a reminder of the contrast between celebration and tragedy, as communities navigate the effects of violence within their midst.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4nnn80gl71o> - This article discusses the Otley Run pub crawl in Leeds, highlighting its popularity among students and the controversies it has sparked among residents due to disruptive behavior.
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-63689058> - This report details the efforts by Leeds City Council to address antisocial behavior associated with the Otley Run, including urging residents to report offenses and considering fines for misbehavior.
3. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/older-male-groups-who-arrive-by-coach-are-causing-issues-with-public-urination-and-sexual-harassment-on-otley-run-meeting-hears-3935899> - This article highlights concerns raised by Leeds City Council about older male groups arriving by coach causing issues such as public urination and sexual harassment during the Otley Run.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/21/leeds-drunken-otley-run-goes-from-high-spirits-to-public-menace> - This piece discusses the shift in demographics participating in the Otley Run, noting an increase in older, male groups leading to more disruptive behavior and prompting calls for stricter enforcement.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj907l37zm0o> - This article reports on the refusal of a new venue along the Otley Run route to sell alcohol, citing concerns from residents and local councillors about issues like public urination and sexual harassment.
6. <https://readsector.com/brawl-breaks-out-and-man-is-injured-as-hundreds-take-to-the-streets-of-leeds-for-the-otley-run/> - This report describes a brawl that broke out during the Otley Run pub crawl, resulting in an injury and highlighting the potential for violence associated with the event.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14675477/Defiant-Otley-Runners-famous-19-pub-beer-crawl-week-fanatic-tried-massacre-youngsters-crossbow.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data