

2010 Events Programme



You will have received a new Events Programme with this Newsletter, please keep it in a safe place. If you mislay it, there are always details of our events on the website www.judywoods.org.uk and in local newspapers, especially the Telegraph and Argus. Look under the Wyke or Woodside area entries.

We're continuing with our Wednesday Rambles, but have brought them forward half an hour, to start at 1.30pm this year. Our events this year are focussing on the Woodside end where our new Access for All path - Tinker's Trail - is situated. We hope to attract wheelchair users and both the Bat Walk and the Fungi Walk will be suitable for the less able.

Also at the Woodside end, and suitable for all ages and abilities, is our new venture on 3rd May, May Day Bank Holiday afternoon 1 to 4pm. **BIRDS, BUGS AND BOTANY.**

There will be various short walks throughout the afternoon exploring the bird life and wildflowers. You will be able to participate in a bug hunt, make a bird or bat box or make something to feed the birds with. In among all this we will have entertainment from Yan and Ann. We encourage you to come on foot as parking will be at a premium.



Our programme starts on Saturday 17th April with a Geology Walk led by Patrick but this one starts at Station Road at 2pm.

Annual General Meeting

We hope as many members as possible can come along on at 7.30pm **Thursday 18th March** when we hold our Annual General Meeting at **Wyke Methodist Church**. The AGM only takes up a short time but we are always pleased to meet our members and hear of any concerns or suggestions which you may have. This year we are really pleased that Bob Thorp, Bradford

Council's Trees and Woodlands Manager will give us a presentation about Woodland Management.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2010 can we encourage you to do it as soon as possible to make sure you continue to receive mailings from us.



Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Spring 2010



Chairman's Message

The last event of 2009, the Seasons Greetings Walk, once again attracted over 100 hardy walkers to attempt the icy underfoot conditions before returning to the safe haven of the Pear Tree for refreshments and entertainment by the popular Bradshaw Mummers and the Thieving Magpies Morris Dancers.

The main project for the year was the upgrading of the Access for All Footpath from the Meadway entrance to the woods. Our thanks are due to Denis for undertaking this work. Unfortunately the original opening of the footpath Tinker's Trail had to be postponed - the path could not be found under the snow, but it was finally opened on Monday 15th February by Coun. Anne Hawkesworth and members of Barrie Tinker's family.

Altogether the events arranged by the committee were well attended, apart from the bats who decided to have a night off when we paid them a visit. We are grateful to the Practical Tasks Group who meet on a regular basis and keep up with repairs, cleaning out the beck and litter picking. More volunteers would be appreciated.

The committee, in addition to preparing the events programme for 2010, is looking to install, in early Spring, permanent posts marking out the various footpaths. The woods continue to attract interest from walkers outside the local area and it is our intention to continue working in partnership with the Bradford MDC to maintain the woods for the enjoyment of the community.

Peter Walker

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Practical Tasks Group

Before the weather beat us we had managed to repair two damaged fences, clean leaves and debris from the steps in two areas of the woods, remove a few heavy items washed down the beck in flood water and litter-pick the area between the two entrances on Station Road - a no mean task considering the slope of the land there!



Since late December weather conditions have prevented our undertaking any tasks we'd identified in the woods. Even the sorting & cataloguing of the tools and equipment in the container, a poor weather option, was missed as I was suffering with a cold on the day. However the thaw gives the opportunity to update the task list and resume the weekly work party.

The FOJW have previously agreed that the large number of self propagating Beech trees needs to be addressed. Consequently before mid March it is intended to thin these out by removing some saplings. This will aid the existing established



trees. The carefully removed saplings will be replanted elsewhere (for Forest of Bradford) by the BEAT group. Works will be dependent on being able to collect, store and hold the saplings for collection by BEAT. It is likely that BEAT will supply us with different varieties of saplings (Oak for example) for planting in suitable sites in the woods. These works need to be completed before mid March.

A major task that needs to be completed for early Spring is to install 30 posts to mark footpaths that will feature in the updated guide. To achieve this there is need of planning to make best use of available time and as many volunteers as possible.

John Reilly

Anticipating Spring

We tend to think that the woodland lies bare in the winter months and mostly of course that is true, but life is there if you look for it. Fungi are present all year round, particularly the bracket fungi such as birch polypore, and if you look carefully you will come across other species including the bright yellow Sulphur Tuft. Mosses and lichens in their various forms decorate the trees and stones throughout the wood at all times and can be quite spectacular.



Hazel catkins, commonly known as lamb's-tails, were showing well before the end of last year and will continue to swell as the days lengthen. Look carefully at the hazel and see if you can find any female flowers - minute bright red stars - in addition to the catkins which are of course the male flowers. Other trees will produce catkins too; the aspen, alder and the willows whose catkins we know as pussy-willow will brighten up the branches.

One of the earliest plants to show is the dog's mercury, with its rather inconspicuous flowers, which carpets some parts of the wood. This will be followed, especially on the perimeter of the wood, by the much more attractive coltsfoot (which 100 years ago my mother would collect as an ingredient for cleat wine), celandine (above) and primroses and by then we'll be looking forward to the glory of Judy Woods, the bluebells, and when they begin to die back you might come across yellow archangel (left), one of the earliest of the mint family to flower.



The interesting thing about Spring flowers is that they are already formed whilst underground and that's why they appear so quickly once the weather turns warmer and the days lengthen. So there's lots to see in the coming weeks - enjoy!

Stuart Tordoff