

Judy Woods Tracks Through Time

Did you know that Judy Brig or Horse Close Bridge, to give it its proper name, appears in the Quarter Sessions Records in the 18th century?

1720 Whereas John Mark, late of Kilyth in the County of Sterling in North Britain hath made proof upon Oath before this Court that he was robbed on the Eighth day of August last about one a clock in the afternoon by three persons unknown at a place called Horseclose-bridge in the township of Lightcliffe in the Wapentake of Agbrigg and Morley, of the Sum of twenty Pounds in money and of Goods and Merchandizes of above the value of Seven pounds

So because it must have been worth lying in wait at the bridge to rob someone does this mean that the old tale that there was a pack horse route through the woods is correct? This is one of the things we are hoping to find out with our next project "Tracks Through Time" and we are applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to help us contact experts who can help us.

Part of the project will also involve:

- training in surveying the paths through the woods
- improving the overgrown area on the Norwood Green side of the bridge and bringing it back into use as a public amenity
- improving Judy's Field and providing signage and information boards and holding a "Meet Judy North" event
- developing an app for use on smartphones which would enable visitors to be directed to points of interest and find out more about them
- working with local schools and Forest Schools which use the woods to involve them in the project

If you would like to show your support for our bid then please complete the form enclosed with the newsletter and return it to Wyke Library as soon as possible.

If you would like to get involved in the project please contact us by email at info@judywoods.org.uk or phone one of the contacts on the front page.

If you want to know how the bid is going and if we have been successful go to the News section of the website at www.judywoods.org.uk.

Friends of Judy Woods



Newsletter Summer 2011



Chairman's Letter

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter. Don't the months slip by? Since our last newsletter we've enjoyed the bluebells and have seen the canopy close once more over large parts of the woods to restrict the growth of the understory. But that's not the situation throughout Judy Woods. Jagger Park Wood, in the North-West corner, is a little-visited area and enjoys a different habitat to the rest of the woods. Whilst beech is the dominant tree of Judy Woods - the tree which of course provides us with the super autumn colours - the trees in Jagger Park Wood are mainly downy birch which provide a more open canopy and thus more understory growth. There you're more likely to see wildlife - birds, and if you're lucky, quiet and upwind, you may be lucky enough to encounter deer here. There are two paths that lead into Jagger Park, so be adventurous and have a look there sometime, but do be prepared for a bit of mud on the beck side if it's been raining.

Our regular walks and rambles have been enjoyed by many, particularly the archaeology walk last month which attracted 40 people. Our practical tasks group has been particularly active this year and nine of this group were given four days of instruction on the rudiments of dry-stone wall building after which they were skilled enough to restore the wall just above the lower entrance to the woods in Station Road. This wall had been in a state of disrepair for some time and its renovation is a real credit to our wallers. Sadly the wall which was built to learn the skills required for walling was demolished by vandals within ten days of its being erected. We wage a constant battle with vandals who seem hell bent on destroying walls, fences and trees as well as with motor bike riders whose activities damage the woods from time to time. If you do see signs of vandalism, please let us know.

Fortunately the vandals are a very small minority and do not deter the many hundreds of folk who enjoy the woods on a regular basis. I hope that you will continue to enjoy Judy Woods and to extend your support of the Friends. *Stuart Tordoff*

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City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

www.bradford.gov.uk



We now have an Information Board and Notice Board at both the Station Road and the Woodside end of the woods. We hope these will inform visitors of what's going on as well as giving a little of the woods' history. There are also suggestions for walks in and around the woods.

Check them out

AGM

Some of our loyal members came to hear Julia Pearson from BEES give us an excellent presentation about 25 years of the work of Bradford Environmental Education Service.

100% price increase!

At the AGM there was unanimous support for the proposition that subscriptions to Friends of Judy Woods go up to £2 from 2012. Subs are due at the end of the year. See next newsletter.

Task Group

Our Wednesday morning Task Group is going from strength with several new members (male and female) who are helping to keep the woods tidy.

This summer they have litter picked the embankment off Station Road as well as other parts of the woods. They've cleared the stream of rubbish and removed various trees which fell in the wind. Our never ending battle with Himalayan balsam continues—please feel free to pull some yourselves as you walk through the woods. More members of the group have now had dry stone wall building training from BEES and now we hope to be able to tackle more repairs ourselves.

WALKS SO FAR.....

On Pat's Geology Walk in March we were surprised to find that a large piece of rock had detached itself from the small waterfall. Geology in action!

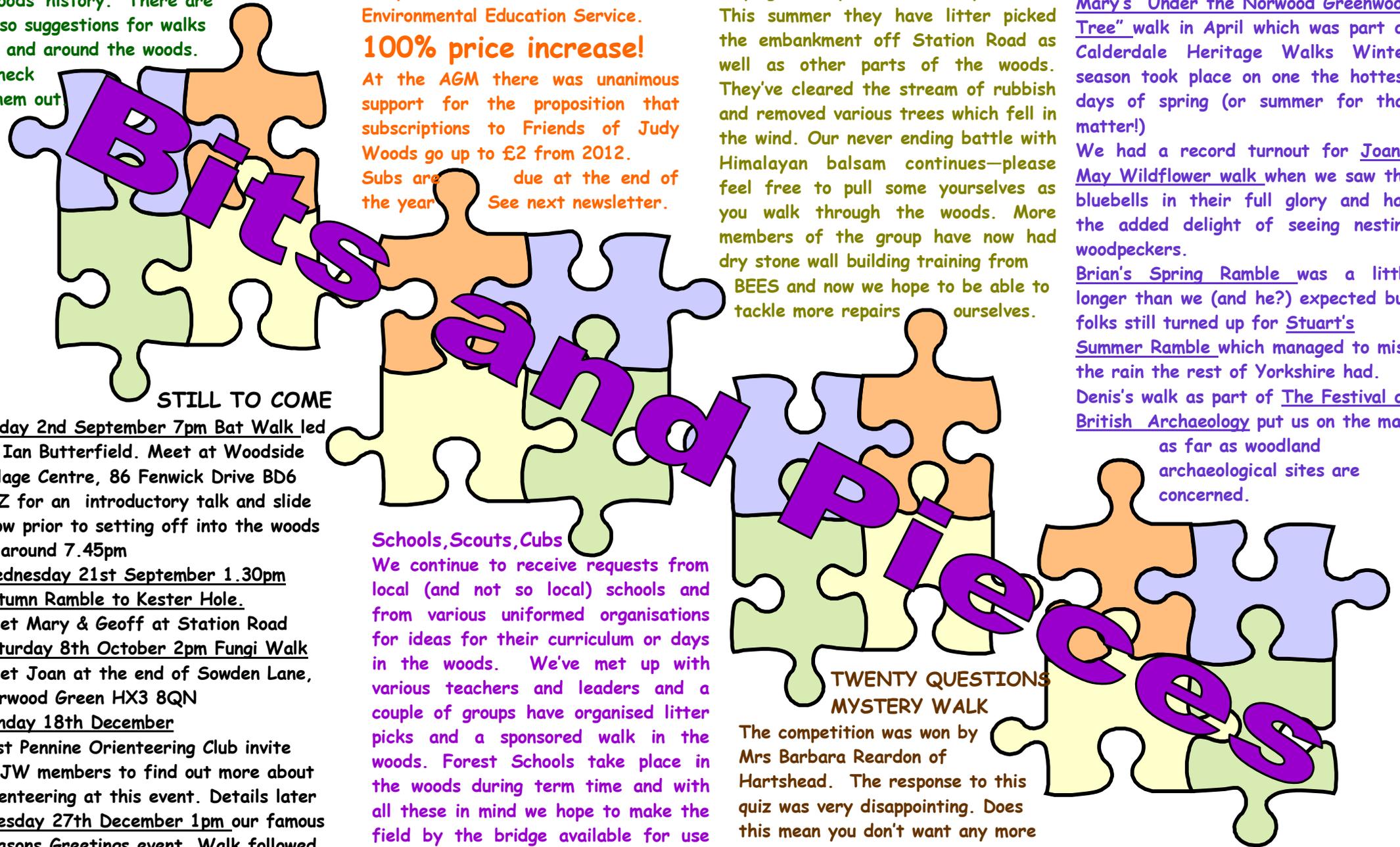
Mary's "Under the Norwood Greenwood Tree" walk in April which was part of Calderdale Heritage Walks Winter season took place on one the hottest days of spring (or summer for that matter!)

We had a record turnout for Joan's May Wildflower walk when we saw the bluebells in their full glory and had the added delight of seeing nesting woodpeckers.

Brian's Spring Ramble was a little longer than we (and he?) expected but folks still turned up for Stuart's Summer Ramble which managed to miss the rain the rest of Yorkshire had.

Denis's walk as part of The Festival of British Archaeology put us on the map

as far as woodland archaeological sites are concerned.



STILL TO COME

Friday 2nd September 7pm Bat Walk led by Ian Butterfield. Meet at Woodside Village Centre, 86 Fenwick Drive BD6 2RZ for an introductory talk and slide show prior to setting off into the woods at around 7.45pm

Wednesday 21st September 1.30pm Autumn Ramble to Kester Hole.

Meet Mary & Geoff at Station Road
Saturday 8th October 2pm Fungi Walk

Meet Joan at the end of Sowden Lane, Norwood Green HX3 8QN

Sunday 18th December

East Pennine Orienteering Club invite FOJW members to find out more about orienteering at this event. Details later
Tuesday 27th December 1pm our famous Seasons Greetings event. Walk followed by entertainment at Pear Tree

Schools, Scouts, Cubs

We continue to receive requests from local (and not so local) schools and from various uniformed organisations for ideas for their curriculum or days in the woods. We've met up with various teachers and leaders and a couple of groups have organised litter picks and a sponsored walk in the woods. Forest Schools take place in the woods during term time and with all these in mind we hope to make the field by the bridge available for use again. (See back page)

TWENTY QUESTIONS MYSTERY WALK

The competition was won by Mrs Barbara Reardon of Hartshead. The response to this quiz was very disappointing. Does this mean you don't want any more walks featuring in the Newsletter ?