

Season's Greetings Tuesday 27th December 1pm

meet Mary and Peter at the Pear Tree Inn, Norwood Green HX3 8QN for a short walk followed by Morris Dancing by the **Thieving Magpies** and another play from the famous **Bradshaw Mummers**. Sing-a-round and food afterwards—the perfect way to round off the celebrations!

We're on the map!

We've only just realised that the Ordnance Survey have finally put us on their maps. About seven years ago we complained to them that Judy Woods were not marked in words on OS maps. On larger scale maps some of the individual woods were, but not the woods as a whole. So we are pleased to see that we appear on Bing Maps and other websites even if they've got the words slightly wrong. You can even get us on printed maps — go on treat yourself to a new copy of the Bradford sheet for Christmas!

Take Notice

We now have a full complement of Notice and Information Boards. One of each, at Station Road and just inside the woods at Ullswater Drive entrance at Woodside.

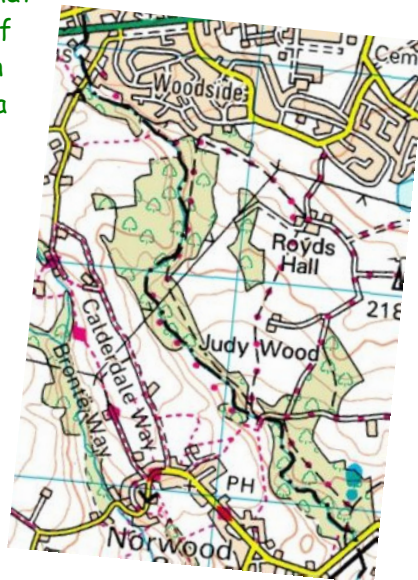
Thanks to Grass Roots Grants for the funding.

Memories

Until Bradford Corporation bought the woods in the late 1920's it seems probable that only the lanes passing through the woods were open to the general public. Do any of your older relatives or friends have any memories of going to the woods in the 1920's?

Orienteering event

We've been asked by East Pennine Orienteering Club to give a special invitation to members of the Friends for their event on Sunday December 18th. Registration is between 10 am and 12noon. If you've ever been lost and wished you could use a compass properly do come along and have a go. Bring a compass if you've got one. There are links from our website to www.eastpennineoc.org.uk and further details on our Notice Boards.



Friends of Judy Woods



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011



If you walked in the woods during the past couple of weeks you will have experienced either mists or mellow fruitfulness - or both - as Autumn extends itself into the Winter weeks! The mild weather and lack of frost have allowed a bumper crop of fungi to develop this year and the woods have been full of lots of different species - there was a particularly spectacular display of oyster mushrooms between the lower entrance in Station Road and the beck in mid-November.

As we approach the end of another year it's a good time to reflect on what we have achieved as a group during the past 12 months. Whilst membership of the Friends has remained pretty stable, the numbers of volunteers in the Practical Tasks Group (PTG) has increased throughout the year and we now have a group of around 20 people who help out with our tasks with an average of about 10 helpers turning up each week. John Reilly has reported more fully elsewhere about the PTG but a testament to the work they do can be found not only in a largely litter-free woodland but also in the dry-stone wall which they repaired near the bottom entrance to the woods on Station Road which is a major enhancement to that area and a great credit to the group.

The new notice boards and information boards are now installed at both ends of the woods and are a great improvement on the old ones. A lot of effort has gone into obtaining the necessary finance and in their production. Many thanks to Mary Twentyman and Ken Hooper for their efforts.

Our main walking season is now over, but the walks and rambles that we organised have been very well attended and thanks go to our own members who organised and led walks and also to the experts who freely give of their time to lead speciality walks during the year.

I hope that you will be able to join us for our ever-popular Season's Greetings event on 27th December. This would be a good time to renew your membership, which I remind you has risen to the dizzy heights of £2 to cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters.
Stuart Tordoff Chairman

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City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
www.bradford.gov.uk



Going batty!

This year was the eighth in which a bat walk has been held as part of the Friends of Judy Woods events programme. The walk has always been very well attended, and this year was no exception attracting regulars as well as new people who come to learn about, and watch bats.

Over the years we have seen or heard, using the bat detectors, at least five species of bat including **common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, long eared, daubentons, and noctule bats**. There are seventeen species in the UK, with around ten occurring in Yorkshire.

Judy Woods provides a perfect habitat for bats with plenty of old trees for bats to roost in and insects to feed on. This year our walk started from Woodside, following Tinker's Trail through Royds Hall Great Wood down to the bridge and back. Quite early on we saw a common pipistrelle bat jinking and turning as it flew after small midges in an opening in the tree canopy. More "pips" were seen along the field / woodland edge and passing under the power line towards the steps. Last year at around this point we were lucky enough to see six noctule bats emerge from their beech tree roost site. These are one of our largest bats often mistaken for swifts as they fly high above the canopy.

As we approached the bridge a new echolocation signal was picked up on the bat detectors, as daubentons bats swooped up and down the beck. We had great views of the bats as they flew under the bridge turned around and flew back under us again. Also known as water bats this species pick insects off the surface of the water with their feet, before eating them on the wing. One last surprise before we turned back for home, as a soprano pipistrelle flew over Judy's Cottage field bringing the tally to four for the evening.

Ian Butterfield—West Yorkshire Bat Group



Lottery Bid—Tracks through Time



Our Heritage Lottery bid is on hold at the moment as we try and sort out some land ownership issues. Research on the routes through the woods continues. We're still working on the idea of the Ap. If you have a Smartphone please scan the code on the left which will help us gauge how many people might be using these devices in the woods. Thanks.

Update on the PTG.....

that's the Practical Task Group!

The PTG can report another successful year. Contact numbers on the PTG list have increased as has the number of volunteers turning out on our regular Wednesday morning meetings. Because of the harsh winter we didn't get into a regular pattern of Wednesday morning meetings until March but apart from a short annual break in August these have continued on a weekly basis since then.



Regular tasks involve litter picking throughout the woods, balsam bashing (in season), removal of some larger items of rubbish (usually from either the beck or the embankment) and some fence and path repairs. Occasionally we have cleared branches from pathways after high winds have either broken them off or brought the whole tree down.

Following a short dry stone walling course in June during which a length of wall in Station Road was successfully restored we recently had sufficient volunteers with dry stone walling experience to tackle repairs in a further three areas. There are several sections of wall that have either fallen into disrepair or been vandalised which we will tackle in the coming weeks. In recent times some walls and fences have been broken down to allow motorbikes and quad bikes illegal access into and through the woods. Part of the wall on High Fernley Road has been reconstructed recently by the council following incidents in that area where police and rangers have stopped and impounded one or more quad bikes.

We have an increased list of tasks currently, some of which will be progressed and completed within the winter period if the weather allows. In particular the thinning of beech in specific areas in order to allow better development of established trees.



Hopefully if we are able to remove the beech saplings carefully they will be replanted elsewhere by the Forest of Bradford group.

We continue to be encouraged by the surprising number of times that people walking through the woods have taken the time to stop and pass on positive comments about the work of the volunteers.

John Reilly — PTG Co-ordinator