

Our Pretty Enemy Himalayan Balsam

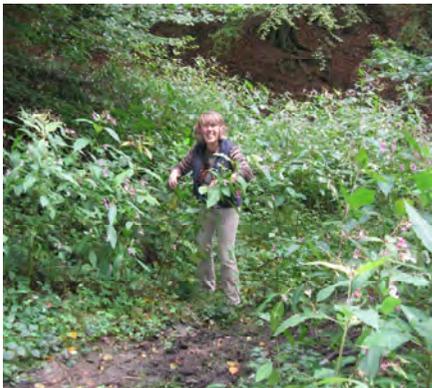
This plant was brought to England in 1839 as a pretty flower, it's nickname is Policeman's Helmet. It belongs to 'Impatiens or Busy-Lizzies' family. The green/pinkish stems (up to 3 metres) look soft are very fleshy. They are easily broken and pulled up.



But it has become a menace because it is very clever. In July the seeds can spring up to 7 meters from the pod! It loves damp areas and grows by streams which carry the seeds a lot further. Each plant can have 800 seeds and lie in the soil for 2 years and still come up. So how can we stop this clever plant?

We can pull them up before the flowers become seeds, to prevent the spread. But it's clever in other ways - in the picture you can see the red shoots from the 'elbow' where more roots are ready to start another plant! If you pull them and leave them on the ground they easily grow again. When they are broken off or pulled we put them in big piles so they rot down rather than grow again.

There are many areas of the plants in our precious woods. The steep slopes west of the beck in Low Wood have the most plants. It is going to be almost impossible to get rid of them - so the main target is the ones growing in small clumps east of the beck.



So if you see them, we would love you to pull them up and help us reduce them.

Sheila Lum, Task Group Volunteer



Friends of Judy Woods



Newsletter SPRING 2012



As I write this we can celebrate a much milder winter than we had last year and I hope that there is not too much inclement weather ahead before we welcome Spring once more.

The milder weather tempted an amazing number to our Season's Greetings walk - we counted 183 on the walk and this number was swelled by the non-walkers who passed the time in the Pear Tree awaiting our return and the start of the day's entertainment. The Bradshaw Mummers go from strength to strength and the Magpie Morris (many of whom join in the walk) are always most entertaining. Thanks to them and for all those who supported the event again this year.

Another group going from strength to strength is our Practical Tasks Group which now numbers over 20 active members who meet most weeks to work in the woods to maintain the paths, walls and fences and to keep the woods spick and span. I am sure that our work enhances the enjoyment of the many hundreds of people who use Judy Woods and it is very pleasing when people take the time to stop and tell us so.

Our website continues to be extremely well maintained by Mary and is a source of much information. Mary and the Friends of Judy Woods committee have also put together another excellent diary of events for the coming year, and I hope that you will be able to join us at some of these events as we celebrate our 10th anniversary.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends and I hope that you will continue to enjoy Judy Woods during the coming months.

Stuart Tordoff Chairman

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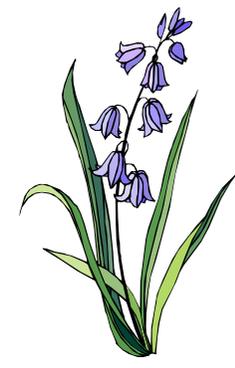
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Our Practical Task Group goes from strength to strength and have been able to tackle some long over due jobs recently. The marker posts through Royds Hall Great Wood now have red bands on them which make them stand out a bit more. We've also installed a few more where the right path might have been in doubt. Go and check them out if you've not been already.



If you have any photographs of any events in the woods over the last 10 years, we'd love to have a look at them. We would like to be able to include them in celebration presentation following the AGM on Thursday 19th April. Have we mentioned that date before? It would be good if lots of our members could come along.

Please make a note of the AGM date, Thursday 19th April 7pm at Wyke Methodist Church. It's really encouraging when members turn up and we are able to put names to faces.

This is a special celebration AGM looking back at the first ten years of the Friends Group existence; and looking forward to the next ten. Please come!

Joan Dobson, who has led our wild flower and fungi walks since the group started, has decided it's time to hand over the reins to others, but not before she instructs them in where to find our Judy Woods specialities. So this year we say "Hello" to Alice Gingell and Varsha Patel. We look forward to getting to know you. Thank you Joan for your amazing knowledge which you have so generously shared with us. Please keep in touch.

The new Events list is now out. It's in with the newsletter if you get it by post, or as a download from the website. We've extra events this special 10th Birthday year and we hope to meet more of our members at them. Please introduce yourselves. You can usually spot members of the committee in their green FOJW fleeces. Extra copies at Wyke Library.

Our thanks are due to Bradford Council and Ian Butterfield of Forest of Bradford for the provision and installation of the new split chestnut fencing by the steps down to the bridge on High Fernley Road.



Please note that this year's Geology walk starts from Meadway at the Woodside end of Royds Hall Great Wood. New terrain and hopefully, new knowledge, about our well loved woods. Meet Patrick at 2pm on Sunday 18th March. Stout shoes recommended.



If you've been on the path from Mannorley Lane and through Parish Wood, Royds Hall Wood and into Jagger Park Wood recently, we hope you have noticed the new steps and the way the path has been dug out of the hill side to make it much more stable. This has been done by Calderdale Countryside Volunteers and we hope to join forces with them to improve other paths on the Calderdale side of the beck.

Did any of you venture to join in when the East Pennine Orienteering Club held an event in the woods at the beginning of December? It looked pretty complicated but committee member Sheila assures us it's as easy as pie and she can't wait for the next time they club hold an event in Judy Woods. We're hoping to include something on orienteering at our At Home on Saturday 2nd June.

As part of our celebratory year we're having an "At Home" when we're inviting all and sundry to come and see what the Friends do on their home territory. So this includes YOU. As a member of the Friends we hope you will want to join in and any offers of an extra pair of hands on the day will be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch with one of the people mentioned at the foot of the first page. Offers of baking, parkin, moggy or parkin pigs would be really welcome. Judy won't be able to do it all herself. If there are any ginger beer brewers out there, please get in touch!

