

**ASH DIEBACK** is a disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea*. We probably won't know until the spring, when new leaves come shooting through, whether this fungus has spread to natural woodland in Yorkshire. We have quite a number of ash trees in Judy Woods and of course our veteran tree giving shade at Judy Brig is an ash. We'll keep you posted.



**SEASONS GREETINGS 29th December**

Don't forget it's a Saturday this year. 1pm start for the walk at the Pear Tree, Norwood Green and 2.30ish for Thieving Magpie and Bradshaw Mummers, followed by singing inside afterwards. As ever soup and rolls and mulled wine will be available. Will we be able to come up with a new route? Come along and find out!

**PICTURE TRAIL.** If we're honest we were disappointed by the small number of entries we had for our Picture Trail contest in the summer. But well done to our winners Sally Tetlow and Lucy Horner who managed to find all but number 22. (We'll let you into a secret, neither could we, but it's sorted now!) Soon the Great Wood section of the Trail will be posted on the website as a download and we hope more of you will have a go at all three sections. It's a good way of getting to know the woods and will keep the children occupied in the school holidays. It's easier to spot the locations when the leaves have fallen – so what are you waiting for? Off you go!



Please continue to send correspondence to us c/o Wyke Library. We understand the move to the new Appleton Academy site will not be until February or March next year and we will still be using the new Library as our postal address



# Friends of Judy Woods



## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012

**A**lthough Judy Woods are a delight at any time of the year, I think that we especially appreciate Springtime when we see the wonderful display of bluebells and Autumn when the beech trees glow with their golden colours. I hope that you have been able to spend some time in the woods this Autumn to appreciate our heritage.

But it's not only what we see that we can appreciate. In some cases we enjoy the woods more for what we don't see - litter, for example. We can be thankful to our Practical Tasks Group (the PTG) and to other volunteers for ensuring that the woods are kept relatively litter-free throughout the year and you may also have noticed that mud has become less of a problem as the year has progressed.

The PTG started to tackle the mud at the bottom of High Fernley Road and the difference they were able to make was amazing. What had become a quagmire is now a pleasant place to walk once again. Encouraged by this success, the PTG are now tackling other paths within the woods and you will note a distinct improvement in the state of the paths in the coming months.

Alan Williams has not only organised the weekly work of the PTG but has also campaigned for funds to buy equipment and protective clothing for the increasing numbers of volunteers. His success in raising almost £2000 is a remarkable achievement. We are most grateful to Alan and to the major supporters of his appeal, the Masonic Charities and BASF, as well as to the many other smaller businesses who contributed to the total.

Our programme of walks and rambles is now at an end and once again these have been well attended and appreciated. We are grateful for the effort that our Treasurer, Mary Twentyman, puts into organising this varied programme of activity. Mary is also responsible for maintaining our website, [www.judywoods.org](http://www.judywoods.org), which will keep you bang up to date with all our activities thanks to Mary's renowned efficiency.

I hope to see you at our final event of the year - the Season's Greetings walk - and I thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Judy Woods which I hope will continue next year.

*Stuart Tordoff* Chairman

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## LOOKING BACK ON THIS SEASON'S WALKS

Whilst everyone has been complaining of events being rained off this summer our walks programme has miraculously managed to dodge the rain. The summer and autumn rambles both enjoyed excellent weather and the archaeology walk to Judy's Garden was a scorcher! The bat walk has been called off because of rain on more than one occasion but this year we had clear skies, co-operative bats and lots of interested children and adults.

As the Fungi Walk drew nearer we were wondering if our luck would hold, but it did, and although cool the rain held off. Our new expert, Varsha, had prepared illustrated information sheets for us so that we could spot the commoner types of fungi we were likely to encounter.



Some of us had heard of Dead Mans Fingers but nothing had prepared us for coming face to face with them protruding from a dead branch in the undergrowth. Makes you jump!

Stuart spotted a fluorescent yellow slime mould on the log at the top of the steps from Judy Brig in May, and we had watched its peripatetic wanderings for some days, so we

were pleased to spot a bright orange slime mould on the Fungi walk.

While some of us were tracking down elusive fungi, Finlay was exploring the stream and look what he found!

The bowl of a clay pipe



Dr Nigel Melton of Durham University tells us that the pipe with its "lower half fluted style" dates from the period 1820 to 1840 and was almost certainly crafted by a local Yorkshire maker.



Thanks to Joan Dobson for accompanying Varsha and helping her settle in to her new role. We'll miss Joan, but understand that she wants to take life a little easier from now on.

## PRACTICAL TASKS GROUP UPDATE...

The all action guys and gals on the team of the Practical Task Group have been hard at it on our behalf all through the summer and autumn and have made some significant improvements to the paths on the red marker trail through Royds Hall Great Wood. For those of you unfamiliar with this path, it's the middle level route from Judy Bridge following the stream through Great Wood and then up the banking to the circular path at the end of Tinkers Trail.

There have always been muddy sections on this route and the red marker path was an attempt to guide people onto the best paths. This has in fact resulted in making some of the paths even muddier, but our team have rectified this by dumping stones, uncovering firm ground under leaves and mud and in several locations installing short sections of steps.



Together with general cutting back of undergrowth and making the marker stones more visible, this has resulted in a route that even the more directionally challenged can safely negotiate.

The more observant of you may have noticed the discreet numbers on each post (usually on the side facing away from the trail) — so if you need reassurance you are going the right way, check for these.

We thank our team for all their hard work and will be rewarding them with high visibility jackets which will make it possible for them to carry on in even worse weather than we have had this

"summer". Keep up the good work team!

If you would like to join us one Wednesday morning when litter picking and other lighter duties are also performed, please give Alan (01274 416577) or John (01274 873460) a ring and they will be pleased to give you more information.