

# Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Spring 2014



**Have You Seen The New Bird Boxes** - How many have you spotted? Answers to Sheila - email address below.

They were made in May last year - see your Summer Newsletter 2013 or through the downloads page in Judy Woods Web site.

**From Geoff** - I walked in the woods with Practical Task Group members one Wednesday morning and said, "If I found this spot on holiday, I'd be really impressed!". The sun shone on the beech tree roots, the fallen leaves glistened and we looked down the steep ravine to see the beck pouring over the waterfall.

It's so easy to take it for granted when in the woods a lot. I never fail to be amazed when people say "I've lived around here for years and haven't been to the woods", the woods are a jewel in West Yorkshire. I've known the woods for 60 years, but since the Friends Group formed in 2002, I now appreciate just what can be learnt about them. The group has helped increase people's knowledge about - trees, flowers, birds, bats, archaeology, geology, local history - so much! Luckily several members are into modern technology and you can read about exciting developments in this newsletter. I'd like to invite you to our AGM on 10th April at 7.00pm at Wyke Methodist Church. You'll see the woods how you have never seen them before! *Your Chairman*

**Mailing address: FoJW c/o Wyke  
Library, Appleton Academy, Woodside  
Road, Bradford BD12 8AL**

**Telephone: Mary & Geoff on 01274 673274 or  
Peter on 01274 600846 Email: [info@judywoods.org.uk](mailto:info@judywoods.org.uk).**

**Website: [www.judywoods.org.uk](http://www.judywoods.org.uk) Newsletter Editor:  
Sheila Lum Email: [sheilalumchina@gmail.com](mailto:sheilalumchina@gmail.com)**



## JAMES 'dig' Judy Woods

The Friends of Judy Woods and JAMES Group are pleased to announce the completion of the QR Coded information trail through Judy Woods. The trail is based on the young people's journey in completing their Heritage Lottery Funded "Young Roots Project." This joint project originated from previous work undertaken by JAMES young people in identifying areas of interest in these very special woods. In 2012 they created their orienteering photo trails, the red and white squares displayed in many places in the woods.



Heritage based project workshops included flora and fauna identification, archaeological excavations, dry-stone walling and other woodland based occupational lifestyles. They also had a session making bird and bat boxes and those not taken home, are now up in the woods. In addition,

the group were encouraged to consider how local industries such as coal mining and iron production influenced the woods as we see them today.



During these activities, the young people decided which interesting points of the woodland's heritage would be featured. Based on the above experiences ranges of "Heritage

Way-Points" were determined by the young people. The chosen locations are now identified with posts that carry the 'QR codes' and these 'codes' can be scanned using 'smart-phones' or tablets to link to the internet, to access more information about that location and history.



Information about the QR trail on [www.james-digs.org.uk](http://www.james-digs.org.uk) .

Information about JAMES [www.jas-bmep.org.uk](http://www.jas-bmep.org.uk) .

Picture trail is available in download page of [www.judywoods.org.uk](http://www.judywoods.org.uk) .

## What Flowers and Trees will show signs of Spring first?

The woods can look bare in the winter months, but the **Mosses and lichens** can be beautiful, Jagger Wood is a good area for these. With such a mild winter many things are likely to be early. But it will also depend whether the area is exposed, in a sheltered spot, water-logged or



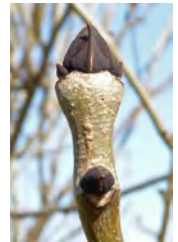
covered by under-growth, that has almost not stopped growing this winter. The Catkins on the Hazel were showing in January. One of the **earliest plants** is **Dog's Mercury**, but their flowers are not colourful!

Another early flower is the lovely delicate white **Wood Anemone**, a relative of the blue ones in our gardens. The yellow **Coltsfoot** bring colour into



the woods, especially where it is a bit lighter. The flower looks a bit like a dandelion but the stems are very different. The showy Bluebells are generally not showing their colour till May.

The leaf-break of the **trees** will vary a lot, Sycamore being one of the earliest. They are followed by the Beech and Oak, as they have to break through the old leaves. Later still will be the Ash, they have to get through the pointed black cover protecting their buds.



## DO YOU TAKE PHOTOS WHEN YOU VISIT THE WOODS?

I will choose one to be published in each Newsletter.

Please send to my email: [sheilalumchina@gmail.com](mailto:sheilalumchina@gmail.com)

**Proposal for 4 Editions of the Newsletter** There seems to be so much going on now in the woods I can't fit it all in.

So I am now planning 4 a year.

## Do we have your email address?

If we can send the newsletter to you using it, we will save postage costs. Please send you address to: [info@judywoods.org.uk](mailto:info@judywoods.org.uk)

## Events Programme for 2014

We've got new events planned. We are also varying which day of week they are on. **We are having more events on Saturdays**, which we hope will suit working people and families.

**"What is this submarine hunter doing over Judy Woods?"** On Thursday evening 10th April, there will be an exciting talk **"Can't see the Woods for the Trees"**. It'll be part of our Annual General Meeting.



On Saturday 21st May 10:30am, Alice Gingell will lead our popular **Wild Flower Walk**, will the blue bells be out?

On Saturday morning 21st June Stuart is going to lead a **Tree Identification Walk**. The beech trees may be known by most visitors, but can you recognize the other trees in the woods?

**We have some new people helping to lead walks.**

Peter Todd in July will bring early memories of going to the woods in 1940's.

In August we are going to have a **walk starting at the Woodside Entrance** led by Alan Williams, he organizes the Practical Task Group.



### Season's Greetings - did you go?

We were so lucky, no rain and even a little sun. The walk featured on what's been happening in Low Wood. The QR codes were explained, some people had already used them. People were also saw fallen trees, the work done by the Practical Tasks Group on the paths,



improving steps ... Later at the pub. entertainment outside then inside singing.

Who's going to win?



Little Thieving Magpies joining in - plenty of growing room in the hats!