

# Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Late Spring 2014



**Oh dear, the invading Himalayan Balsam is here again!**

With such a mild winter they are coming up early this year, and they are likely to be rampant as the ground is so damp. I pulled this fast growing sturdy one up in early May. Please pull up any you see, put into a pile, so hopefully they will rot before setting roots and growing again.

**From Geoff your Chairman** Our AGM in April was well supported, 26 people present - members of Committee, Practical Task Group (PTG), representatives from other Friends groups, and FOJW members. New roles included Denis Waudby as Deputy Chairman, and Stuart Tordoff as Treasurer. I was able to report on many good things achieved during last year including the photo trail, QR codes, work with the JAMES organisation, maintaining the website, organised walks, and the work of the PTG. Something which is beyond our control is the number of trees, particularly beech, which are falling or shedding large boughs. Although high winds sometimes contribute, this time the major cause appears to be that the trees are reaching the end of their natural life. Where there are safety risks the Council and/or the PTG are taking action, elsewhere fallen wood is left to break down naturally and make shelter and food for the birds and insects. AGM business was followed by Denis who gave a fascinating talk on "LIDAR" What is that, you may ask, well read all about it over the page! Thanks Denis.

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## Have you seen how more families and children are coming to the woods?

We think the families are using it because it's good fun and of course there is no cost. **Forest Schools** have taken place in the woods since 2008. Pam has been bringing many groups of nursery age children for years, visiting



the woods for 6 week periods. It is a unique way of building independence and self-esteem in young children. They explore the natural world and enjoy planned activities. Walking among the tree roots and on the slopes and paddling in the streams improves

their balance and confidence. They're encouraged to look and listen to natural sounds as well as listening to stories. During the last session they sometimes have a camp fire and learn about fire safety.

**More Primary and Junior schools are visiting the woods as well.**

**Appleton School** have really appreciated the resource being so close. They are able to use the woods in so many ways, included studying Erosion (all the rain must have illustrated this perfectly) and the effects of Environmental Pollution. The children sometimes use the Judy Woods web site to find information about the woods history, wild life and fauna, this helps their internet skills. They use different parts of the woods for Landscape Painting and making pictures using what they find on the forest floor. So many of the aspects National Curriculum can be studied in reality, not just in theory. Children from 3 to 19 have come into the woods already. After half-term the 5-6 year olds will be going on a 'Mini Beast Hunt' finding them on the woodland floor and in the streams.



When I spoke to a group of children they said things like 'I enjoy being outside / I like making things'.

**What a lot of dens there are now! But ONLY USE FALLEN WOOD OR WHAT HAS BEEN CUT BY THOSE MANAGING THE WOODS**

**In the next newsletter** I'll be highlighting the activities which are interesting and fun in the woods with children during the school holidays.

## Do you Leave only Paw-prints Behind?

We have been delighted by how much the bins, near High Fernley Road and the Station Road stile, have been used. This has already made a reduction in the litter left in the woods. The Practical Task Group empty them every week.



After seeing success in other authorities, Bradford Council

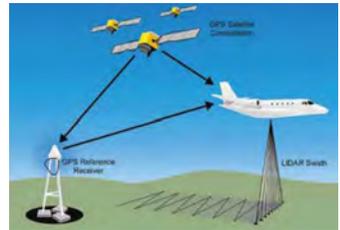


have a new campaign to recruit **Green Dog Walkers**. Wyke Ward is getting involved and supplying leaflets, posters, stickers and

'Poo Bags'. The aim is to recruit volunteers who will wear the arm-bands, carry spare bags and give them to dog owners who don't have bags. Many children enjoy playing in the woods and are at risk from contact with dog faeces. The more we can do to reduce the amount left in the woods the better. More information from 01274 431155.

## Can't see the Woods for the Trees

If you missed the presentation at the AGM and are still wondering what the Submarine Hunter is doing in Judy Woods, we have the answer. The aeroplane uses an infrared light survey scheme (LiDAR) to detect



submarines at sea; when there are none there, it reflects an image of the seabed. This makes it ideal for archaeological surveys as it provides a view of the ground below the tree cover. So we can now see how people in the past have altered the woods in their search for coal and iron. The picture below shows the different levels of information achieved by comparing OS Maps with Aerial Photography and LiDAR. We look forward to using the information to prepare for our next archaeological survey of the Woods later this year.

If you are interested in joining us let us know via the website.



## Events Programme for 2014

We've got new events planned. We are also varying which day of week they are on. These are the details of 2 Saturday events, which we hope will suit working people and families.

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 10.30am Tree Identification Walk

Stuart Tordoff is going to show us the variety of trees in the woods.



The beech which would have been used to make good bobbins, for the textile industry, were mainly planted around 200 years ago. Meet at Station Road, off Huddersfield Road (A641), Wyke BD12 8LA.

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm Walking Through History



Peter Todd has been coming to the woods for over 75 years, so has very interesting information about how the woods were many years ago. Denis Waudby has looked at the clues that can be found now, as he has been studying the archaeology of the woods. Meet them at Station Road, off Huddersfield Road (A641), Wyke BD12 8LA. (Part of the Festival of British Archaeology).

**How about putting these in you calendar ready?**

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 10.30am Summer Ramble Judy Woods Panorama -



Meet Alan Williams at Meadway, Woodside entrance, off the A6036 Halifax Road (turn opposite Tesco), Bradford BD6 2SP. Distance about 3 miles - Not suitable for very young children - hilly & muddy in places)

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 7.00pm Bat Walk - Meet Ian Butterfield



at Woodside Village Centre, 86 Fenwick Drive, BD6 2RZ off Halifax Road, (A6036) (opposite Tesco) at 7pm for introductory talk and slide show before going in woods about 7.45pm

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

This is Margaret's unusual shot through the fallen branches.

Thanks very much to people who have responded. I look forward to more photos ready for the Summer Newsletter .

Please send by 5th July to my email:

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