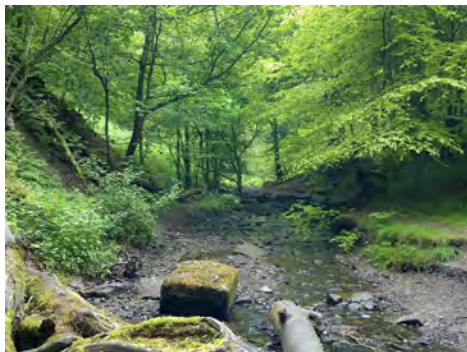


# Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Winter 2015



What a lovely image showing our great woods! Thanks John Paul from Facebook



Reader's photo - If you have a picture/s to share with us please forward it / them to Sheila

**Welcome to our Winter Newsletter** Summer's been and gone - did you spot it? That's an exaggeration on an old theme and we did have some decent days. "**Mary's wartime walk**" took place in constant rain but was really enjoyable. **Sally Tetlow** was luckier, we were favoured by warm sun all afternoon, despite an iffy forecast. She led a dozen of us via Norwood Green to the halfway point, Lightcliffe Tea Rooms. Here we put on the weight we had just walked off by consuming their delicious cakes and scones. Luckily local historian John Brooke was just calling at the tea rooms to deliver some leaflets and he was (willingly) roped in to give us a brief talk about the history of the area. A real bonus. Thank you John.

There have been big changes in the woods - some unexpected like the fall of the big ash tree at the bridge. The Practical Tasks Group has continued to work hard doing regular maintenance and also in the clearing and excavation work in "Judy's field". Watch out for more news about this as the work progresses.

*Geoff Twentyman*

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## LAUNCHING MARY'S WALK

On 26<sup>th</sup> July - in teeming rain - we launched our new free walk booklet "The Woods in Wartime - Mary's Walk". We were pleased how many of you turned up - and we hope you enjoyed our displays and wartime music



to get us in the mood. We've sent a copy of the booklet and the newsletter out to everyone by post (along with an early membership reminder) so we can make sure all our members see the booklet. Extra copies can be picked up at Wyke Library or Roy Waterhouse's Bathroom Showroom, Huddersfield Road at BD12 8HT.



It's a wonderful booklet and we thank Wendy Faulkner and her brother Steve Trossell for sponsoring free copies and Mike Beecham for its design. We encourage you to follow the route and tell family and friends about it.

Would you believe it's out of date already? As soon as details appeared in the Telegraph and Argus we received a phone call from 93-year-old Gertie Tommis (nee Metcalfe) of Wyke. She had read information from the booklet in the article that Mary and Harry had met at a dance at the Textile Hall, but she was keen to point out that she had BEEN THERE and it was actually at Bert Shutt's Ballroom at Bankfoot! Wendy agreed that was probably correct. A few days before the launch we went to check that all the markers were in place and as we stood at the top of the mineral line to admire the view, we realised the art work at Blackley, shown on the panorama on pages 5 & 6 was difficult to see, using binoculars we checked, but no sign of it. Had we imagined it, NO, it had been removed after the Tour de France!

**Then calamity!** The Tuesday after the walk and even more rain, the grand old ash tree's roots slipped and the trunk fell across the stream **No more can we admire the same view as John O'Judy in the 1860s** with the much slimmer ash tree behind him. So do get out and visit the woods before anything else changes!



Mary Twentyman

**Oh Dear What a Change!** Many of us will remember going on a winter walk and seeing the ash tree with the snow on it. But it's not the same now, it was uprooted and fell across the stream taking down part of the bridge



superstructure. This led to a major task to remove the 10 ton tree, to clear the lane and mend the damage done to the bridge.

Fortunately, the arch was left undamaged.

The Council quickly removed the fallen tree

but had to bring in a large caterpillar-tracked vehicle to lift the trunk out of the beck. It was thought that the tree was around 200 years old.



After the tree was removed the next major task was to rebuild the walls of the bridge.

The Council contracted Jagers builders, of Halifax, to rebuild the bridge. This involved



scaffolding and the repair was done speedily and to a very high standard.



## Have you seen the new Sculptures?

Tony Lunn has continued his magic and worked by the 'access path' up from the Station Road entrance to the woods by the notice boards. An old fallen trunk has been transformed by the carvings featuring owls.



There is a large flying owl and at the far end more owls. Within a short time a vandal broke off the sitting owl, it was found, restored, but it's been broken off again!. It has a little mate there as well.

## Future events

### **Seasons Greetings starts at 1pm Monday 28th December**

It is our most popular event of the year, will there be snow this time? The walk will be led by MaryTwentyman and followed by Morris dancing and a Mummers play in the car park. Inside you can try the mulled wine and enjoy carols followed by traditional singing. **Please meet at the Pear Tree Inn, Norwood Green HX3 8QD**

**Winter Trees Identification Walk** We will learn how to name the trees from their trunks, branching style and other features. Stuart Tordoff will lead the walk so join us on **Saturday, 1.30pm 16th January, Station Road Entrance, Wyke BD12 8LA**

**Past events** **The June Ramble** saw a small group enjoy a sunny day led by Stuart to Jagger Park Wood and Jaque Royd. They spotted an amazing clump of Sulphur Tuft.



**The October Fungi Walk** - 20 people attended this popular walk, led by Varsha Patel, but this time a bonus, a foraging specialist joined the event, so everyone learnt a lot more than usual!