

Friends of Judy Woods

Newsletter Spring 2015



Lovely photo of Oak Apples - These are created by the secretions of the Oak Gall Wasp. Thanks Lynda.

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

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

Our 2015 Events programme is now available. Find it on our web site or contact us for a copy. We are giving the Bat Walk a rest this year, but you can still see and learn about trees, flowers and fungi. Two of our walks have special themes. A romantic letter from World War Two will form the basis of our July saunter (see more information on the back page). Our committee member Sally Tetlow has sampled the delights of Lightcliffe Tea Rooms and will be leading us there from the woods in September.

We should love to see you at our Annual General Meeting on 17th April. If those words strike fear into your heart, worry not. No-one will pounce on you to do anything, I promise; nominations for jobs will already have been dealt with. You will be welcomed with tea and biscuits and a slide show before we start the short items of business, then we will be sharing with you items "From our own Correspondence". I am sure we will be in for an entertaining evening as usual.

Geoff Twentyman Chairman

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The woods are coming alive - Today my attention was caught by a bird flying away from one of the new bird boxes. While I waited to see what bird was using the box, I saw several lovely tree creepers with their petite curved beaks, among a flock of coal tits in



the next tree. A coal tit was nesting in the box.

Later I saw a squirrel, so birds and animals are enjoying the spring weather. The leaves of the bluebells are also heralding more colour in the woods and the buds on the trees are swelling.

We've got a Facebook page now - Judy Woods

More information about the history of Judy North and the woods will be added in the future. There aren't many friends yet, but it would be good to have more. There are already quite a few photos up, if you go to Photos, then Albums you can see them. The woods are named after Judy North, who used to live near Judy Bridge, and lots of people would come to the woods at the weekend where she used to sell parkin and fresh lemonade. In the 50s and 60s Dauber's ice cream van would come down and park near the bridge where there was also a small refreshment hut. There are also maps of the woods and lots of photos of how the woods look now. Please add more photos or information - we like to know what's going on.



Memories of Scouting days and the Woods - Wyke used to have several Scout Troops, they, Guides and 'outsiders' used to visit and camp in the woods. We had an expert come and help us identify trees, we learnt how to light fires with one match and I remember cycling up to Sun Wood - **Thanks Bill Tordoff**. This is a picture from 1916 when the Scout Master was Arthur Hanson. **Thanks Peter W.**



If anyone has more memories to share with our readers please contact me Sheila

ALL ABOUT TREES - Why are there so many falls of huge branches? The natural life span of a Beech Tree is only 150 - 200 years. If you look carefully, many of the beeches in Low Wood and Hannah Wood are in line, having been planted over 200 years ago. They were said to have been planted to provide beech wood for making bobbins, but it might just have been because Beech Woods were the fashion. By the time the trees were big enough to make wooden bobbins, they were no longer needed. The clearings that are resulting from the falls are encouraging more birds, wild flowers and other plants into the woods. We are hoping this year to put in some QR code posts by some trees to help with information about the different trees.

Forest of Bradford (part of BEAT) have planted nearly 1/2 million trees in Bradford to improve the environment. We have been lucky to have the help of Ian Butterfield from the Forest of Bradford and his band of volunteers to plant over 1,000 saplings. These are in the field near Judy Bridge.

The Practical Task Group (PTG) are clearing some of the beech saplings and large areas of encroaching brambles, which we hope will enable oak and other trees to thrive. We have also been given 100+ saplings including Rowan and Cherry from the Woodland Trust which have been planted and protected. We hope to replant them around the woods, in future years.

Drainage Work - At this time of year there is always a lot of MUD. We have fought the on-going battles with mud. We were lucky to



have Bradford Council provide a digger for a day. Left, Norman putting the sleeper in position in High Fernley. The PTG has also cleared additional sections of the ditches, especially in the woods near Station Road.



Future events

A Talk with a theme of "From our own correspondence"

Over the years we have had photos given, letters and emails received and comments made at groups visited, which have added to our knowledge of the woods. Mary Twentyman will tell us about some of them. This will be after the short **Annual General Meeting on Friday 17th April 7.00pm**. Tea and biscuits will be served before the meeting at Wyke Methodist Church, Laverack Field (off Towngate), Wyke, Bradford BD12 8JB. We do hope you will come and join us.



Find out about the Wild Flowers in our woods this Spring

We all know the bluebells, but I am sure with Alice Gingell helping us, we will see a lot of other plant species. The walk will start at the notice board in Station Road, Wyke BD12 8LA, off Huddersfield Road on **Wednesday 27th May 1.30pm**. Spring flowers were featured in the Spring Newsletter 2014. My favourite is the Wood Anemone.



We are pleased to announce a Special Event this year

The Woods in Wartime

A love letter sent from Wyke during WW2 to a serviceman sweetheart is the basis for a walk on 26th July. There will be a short introduction in Wyke Methodist Church before we try and retrace the route through the woods described in the letter.

Our Website Contains So Much Information! www.judywoods.org.uk

There are easy links to the different pages, for example:-

The Project page - see more about some of the many projects that

have been done over the years. In 2013 the James Project with young people and with support of the Heritage Lottery fund, provided new bird boxes and the QR posts.

People with smart phones can scan the post and find more information about the woods.

In 2009 the Tinker's Trail was created, the

page tells more, why it was called after a council official.

