

Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Winter 2016



Welcome to our Winter Newsletter

One day they are up and running and the next day they are closed and deserted, what are?. The answer is pubs, hundreds of them all over the country. You will have seen them locally and further afield. The Friends of Judy Woods have been affected by the uncertain future of the Pear Tree, Norwood Green, our venue for the last few years for the biggest event of our year, the Season's Greetings afternoon. This put us in a quandary about Tuesday 27th December.

However, good news, we have found a new venue, The Harold Club at the junction of New Works Road and Huddersfield Road. Mary and I met with Chris the steward, who was enthusiastic to host the event, when we explained what normally happens at it.

He will be providing pie an' peas and chilli, plus tea and coffee and mulled wine, so the programme will be similar to before. The club will be open from 12.00 noon to 5.00pm with food available during that time. The walk will start at 1.00pm. The route will take us up the side of Royds Hall Dam and then depending on the state of the ground we'll walk down into the woods on our chosen tracks and paths. Then it's back for entertainment in the car park about 2.30pm and inside for a sing, in a bigger room than previously, till teatime. Hope to see you there. *Geoff Twentyman Chairman*



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From Peter I'm an older (in my 80's) member of **PTG** (Practical Task Group) and I enjoy being outside in the woods. I'm able to help with **litter picking**, generally going round in pairs. We pick up a lot of dog-poo bags each week, but are pleased how much the **BINS ARE USED**, the centre one is often full and we have to split the contents into 2 bags to carry them down to Station Road. I am appalled at how much we collect, plastic bottles, cans you might expect, the occasional tent, broken bikes and bits of motorbikes we might also expect, but sofa cushions, supermarket trolleys, piping, tyres , **WHY** carry them into the woods?

From Sue I love the woods, it's a treat to go there, it's lovely to see it neat and tidy and as I'm almost retired and still able to be active, I feel satisfaction in helping achieve that result. The PTG are friendly and like-minded people willing to help, also it suits me in that I don't have to be there every week, it's flexible.

From Colin - I like go to do the practical tasks with the PTG group, like making new step and paths which are helping everyone walking in the soggy areas in the woods, but also helping clear leaves and maintain older steps . We also need to clear the increasing numbers of fallen branches, we notify the council when the falls are over the paths and are too big for us to manage. (He is extremely good at using a hand saw! Editor) I get the company of men, which I miss since my retirement.



Thanks to BASF of Low Moor Once again they have provided us with a set of fleeces - complete with their new logo - **BASF We create chemistry**. Our Task Group (left)



and our Committee (right) model them below. Our chairman, Geoff took the committee photo and apologises that he can't be in two places at once.

From Katy Ian and I count our walks in Judy Woods as one of our weekly high points. We have our own names for things: the Wurlitzer Organ tree (Ian by its roots), the Precipice Path, the Tippee Toes tree. We have lovely chats with walkers and dog exercisers, the woods seem to bring out the friendliness in folk. We constantly admire the work put in by PTG to keep the woods litter-free and easy underfoot.



From Wendy On my return to Yorkshire after 17 years in London, while trying to find my own place, I stayed in Norwood Green. I would often go to the Woods before breakfast and was impressed by how well they were maintained and assumed the Council was responsible. I still wander in the Woods from time to time with friends (and dogs) and now know more of the hard work that goes into it thanks to Sheila and the Newsletter. It is a beautiful place and a credit to The Friends. So many thanks on behalf of all the walkers who have passed your way.

From Sheila - I have been thrilled to move to Bradford from the south. I was lucky to find my dream house backing onto horse grazing and beyond it is Judy Woods. I have always loved beech woods - so what more could I ask!. I really enjoy going to the PTG when I can as I love being outdoors and doing practical tasks, litter picking, pulling up / thinning out beech saplings - when the soil is soggy it's easier. In the summer I enjoy the battle of pulling up and piling up Himalayan Balsam to rot down. They come up easily and it is easy to clear a noticeable area quite quickly. In the summer and autumn it is good to trim back the lower overhanging branches and the fast growing brambles. I can't reach the higher ones so I try to cut the branches lower down.

From Tony - I have visited Judy Woods since I was a small boy, firstly with my parents and later with my wife, Lynda and our two boys. I became aware of the Friends of Judy Woods some time ago and am now an active member of the PTG. I also enjoy taking part in the Mummers play after the Seasons Greeting Walk. For more see the back page

From Lynda I go to the PTG on a Wednesday morning as often as I can and find them friendly and welcoming. Visitors to the woods comment on the improvements that the group have made which is very rewarding.

Future Events suggested donation is £1 and 50p for children

Seasons Greetings Tuesday 27th December 2016 More details in Geoff's letter **PLEASE NOTE our new venue the Harold Club, corner of Huddersfield Road (A641) and New Works Road, Low Moor, BD12 0UD** It is very likely to be muddy or icy, so we suggest wearing stout appropriate footwear.

From Lynda I dance with Thieving Magpie, a local Border Morris Team, from Marsden. Most of us arrive in time to go on the walk who all look forward to and enjoy the Christmas event, it is a highlight of our winter dancing season. **From Tony** A major event of our year for Bradshaw Mummers (Halifax) is this day. I have been a member of the Mummers since the side formed over 40 years ago. We enjoy the walk through the woods followed by refreshments and entertainment nearby. Then we go inside the pub, where carols sung together with folk songs led by local singers.

Saturday 14th January 2017 Winter Tree Identification Walk Meet Stuart Tordoff for another great session learning about how to recognize trees when they have no leaves. Please meet at the Station Road entrance to Judy Woods, Huddersfield Road, Wyke, BD12 8LA at 1.30 pm



Past Event - The Annual Fungi Walk A fine afternoon saw the fungi foray, led by Varsha Patel, supported by Stuart Tordoff, get off to a good start. An excellent turnout of over 40 people, many with young children, provided us with plenty of enthusiastic spotters. This year we seem to have an abundance of specimens to identify amongst which we noted the more common species of sulphur tufts, amethyst deceivers, milkcaps



and turkey tail as well as a fine example of a pestle shaped puffball. Fly agaric was found at the side of the 'access-for-all' path. We identified a species called The Miller! Some of the children also discovered a number of earth balls. In all a very productive and enjoyable afternoon's foray.