

Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Winter 2017



When the main content of the newsletter has been sorted out Ian, the editor, sends me the draft version. Then I try and write something which doesn't duplicate the information in the articles, but certainly acknowledges some of the things that have been reported. When I had read this edition's offerings I felt both proud and a little breathless. There is so much going on and so many people willing to get stuck in to make Judy Woods a pleasurable and well-maintained place.

If you are not sure how people are involved, then this is the basic outline. Bradford Council owns the woods, and they have overall responsibility, through their (now rather small) Parks and Woodlands section. Prior to the ever-increasing financial restrictions they would have carried out some of the work we now do as volunteers. However, Council staff still deal with major works and those situations which need immediate attention. They also supply most of the materials we need, like sawn timber, sand and cement.

We have three main groups. The FOJW committee is a formally organised group, with officers and a bank account. It holds an open Annual General Meeting which is open to everyone. The committee deals with administration and finance etc, and organises the walks and other events. The second group is the Practical Tasks Group, which meets every Wednesday morning, and is an informal gathering of men and women, who enjoy improving the woods through litter removal, tree planting, invasive weed removal, path improvements, and various other jobs. The FOJW buys and owns its own tools, and is financed mainly by the membership fees, money from talks, and donations from people on the organised walks. And the third group is yourselves the actual Friends of Judy Woods. Some of you are not able to participate in a physical way, but support us through your annual subscriptions and your words of gratitude and encouragement.

So many thanks to everyone for your continuing support in whatever way you do it.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2018.

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Chairman

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Newsletter

Bat Walk - Friday, September 8th - A report by Sally Tetlow

A change of format for our annual Bat Night proved highly successful and our 16 participants were well rewarded on their evening ramble into the woods. Ian Butterfield started the event by presenting an illustrated talk in the Harold Club and from there we walked up towards Park Dam where we picked up immediately, on our bat detectors, the sounds of Noctule bats - one of the first to emerge in an evening. There were also good sightings of them flying around the trees by the dam. Things only got better as we progressed on our walk down to Judy's Bridge and we managed to identify 3 further species - Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Daubenton's, the latter being present around the stream by the bridge. Bats seemed to be everywhere and sounds and sightings occurred continuously throughout the duration of our walk. An excellent evening thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After a concerted effort by the Practical Task Group to clear Himalayan Balsam in general and in Judy's Field in particular, we thought we had managed to virtually remove it in Judy's Field. However late in the Balsam season we discovered that there were still some pockets of balsam here and there, so a renewed effort next season might just see it eradicated, possibly a vain hope.

A number of Grey Squirrels have been seen in the woods recently. A report in the Guardian newspaper earlier in the year and subsequently in the monthly magazine of the Woodland Trust, refereed to a proposal by Prince Charles to sterilise the country's Grey Squirrels (and thereby reduce their numbers) by feeding them Nutella (a favourite special treat for squirrels apparently) spiked with a squirrel contraceptive. As the first report was **not** published on April 1, I assume that it was a serious suggestion, we await developments. A final cautionary remark could be, try not to let Prince Charles anyway near **your** jar of Nutella



Friends of Judy Woods PTG Meeting

30/08/17 The practical task group had a meeting on 30 August to review what had been accomplished during the year so far and to invite proposals for what should be done in the future. It was proposed by Geoff Twentyman that, relating to the area near the stepping Fstones, that we should attempt to build some steps on the steep slope at the far side to make the path more accessible

and safer. This project has now started, but There is still a long way to go. Sand and cement bags need to be taken from parking area to the steppingstones where we then use stone from the river bed to build the foundations and steps. Currently we have done five steps up with plenty more to go. Whether we will continue right up the slope with stone steps or attempt to put in wooden ones has yet to be decided. A big thank you to Peter who, with his four-wheel-drive truck, has allowed us to get very close to the stepping stones area with all our materials. The alternative is for teams of volunteers using wheelbarrows, which is very hard work and not much fun.

Fungi Walk -Saturday, October 7th - Report By Sally Tetlow

Our annual Fungi Foray, ably led by Varsha Patel, saw 15 participants scour the woods for interesting finds. We were not to be disappointed. Sulphur Tufts, at varying stages of development, were our first spots thereafter followed by sightings of Black Bulgar on a tree off the main path. Other notable spots were Amethyst Deceiver, Willow Shield, Witches' Butter, Oak Milkcap, Porcelain fungus, Oyster mushrooms and Earthballs in abundance. Fly Agaric were again evident at the top of the steps down to Judy Bridge and Jelly Bean fungus was pointed out to all by Varsha down at the bridge itself. A very rewarding afternoon thanks to our eagle eyed band of 'forayers'.

PTG - Work Done

In August volunteers worked a total of 135 hours and collected 23 bags of litter. In September volunteers worked a total of 129 hours and collected 39 bags of litter +4 tyres, three buckets, and half a wheelie bin.

In October our volunteers worked a total of 162 hours and collected 28 bags of litter + a gazebo, a wheelie bin, a child's bike, a car seat cushion, and a new shower tray (in original packaging).



The Notice Board at the Woodside end of the wood was vandalised some weeks ago and consequently needed replacing. Stuart obtained the materials and assembled all the parts in his workshop. Chris and Ian assisted in taking the sign to site, they also had the pleasure of having their photo taken, Stuart was behind the camera.

(all that work and no photo of him, sad!!)



Signs have been put up near the entrances urging all dog walkers to clean up after their dogs.

Our PTG have been involved with The Clifton Beck Project (organised by Seonaidh). Some of our volunteers have been working with them on their projects and they have been working on ours. We have done some balsam removal and some step building for them and they have been involved with bird and bat boxes, balsam removal and beech whip removal. If any FoJW members living near Brighouse, would like to volunteer to help Seonaidh's group and improve your own immediate area contact her on seonaidh.jamieson@ywt.org.uk A big thank-you to Seonaidh and her colleagues.

Future Events in 2017

Suggested donation £1 for adults and 50p for children.

Our Last Event of the Year is Seasons Greetings Walk -

Saturday, December 30th at 1.00 PM

This very popular event will commence from the new venue that we used last year, The Harold Club, which is at the corner of Huddersfield Road (A641) and New Works Road, Low Moor, Bradford BD12 0UD

It has been proposed that we use the stage in the function room so that we can focus more easily on guest singers and make the entertainment experience more enjoyable. Entertainment outside from Thieving Magpie and the Bradshaw Mummers. This event is usually well attended and is always most enjoyable.

Appropriate stout footwear is recommended.

Events for 2018 will be decided in Mid January 2018 and will be outlined in the next newsletter.

A number of members have made positive comments relating to the newsletter so thank you for that, I hope I can continue to provide content of an informative and interesting nature.

A final thought by the time this newsletter is published Colin Whitfield, our contact at Bradford Parks & Landscape Services, will have retired. Colin has been very helpful and supportive over the years and the Committee decided that a token gift - a bottle of scotch along with our thanks and good wishes was appropriate. Maybe Colin would consider becoming a volunteer in his retirement?