

# Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Spring 2017



Damage done by the nuisance quad bikes. "Is this too big for us to do?" See inside for information about who does what in the woods.

**Welcome to our Spring Newsletter** On Wednesday morning during half term I and other members of the Practical Tasks Group (PTG) tackled a major partial blockage of the stream in Low Wood. We sawed through many boughs of a large fallen tree, shifted a loads of loose branches and other debris. We weren't close to the path used by most folk and down quite a slope, so few people actually came near us. However, I watched one group of adults and children as they made their way right down to the stream. A grandma, daughter and some children were coming down to the stream edge. Grandma expressed her gratitude for the work we do in the woods. She also added that she herself litter picked.

What she said next however was the thing that impressed me the most. She said had other grandchildren who lived abroad, and they had also visited several other countries. They were currently making lists and one of the lists was their favourite places to visit. Out of all the places they could have named guess which came top - yes, Judy Woods, when they came to stay with Grandma. That piece of information as they say "fair made my day". **Geoff Twentyman**

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## Practical Tasks Group (PTG) and The Council Help Each Other

The woods are managed by the Parks and Woodland Department of The City of Bradford MDC. The Friends of Judy Woods volunteers help with maintaining the woods, there are lots of tasks we share.

**Shared Tree work** Over the last few years there have been many major branch falls, mainly when trees have split because of age. The extreme winds and lots of rain have all had their effect. The PTG are able to use hand saws, loppers and often clear the beck of broken branches or where they have fallen on paths.



One of the many large falls, across Tinkers Trail near Woodside

However, when the branches / trunks are large they need a chainsaw, even the thinner branches can be dangerous for us to tackle as they can flip over and cause injury. We often send photos to the council, so they can assess and arrange for dangerous branches and larger trunks to be dealt with by their qualified staff.



The council decide the priority of each task, they often deal with blockages of the official public footpaths, bridleways and

dangerous situations while in other situations they may have to delay action.



This shows the cooperation with a member of council staff in the safety helmet using a chain saw, while the volunteers used muscle and hand tools

### **All Our Tools Stolen**

When the PTG volunteers arrived at our container on Wednesday 1st Feb, they found the doors had been wrenched open and all our tools, shovels, spades, saws, hammers, sledge hammers, wheelbarrows and sack cart had been stolen. They even took our sweeping brushes, gloves and nest boxes. The Police attended the same morning and thought the thieves probably pulled the doors open with the aid of a truck/4x4, breaking the lock in the process. The insurance company has been informed that the replacement cost is over £2,000.

### **Maintaining the Stone Walls**

Another area where the tasks are shared is the stone walling repairs. The photo on the front shows the damaged wall at the bottom of Royds Hall Lane. A major rebuild was required and the council did a very good job repairing it, **see photo right**.

It is a natural that the walls deteriorate but they are helped by vandals. Now when possible, we cement in the stones in the repaired portion to make them less vulnerable. In 2011 a



dozen volunteers were helped with 2 days of training showing us how to repair walls and the skills learnt are still helping us. Repair work has also been done through the Forest of Bradford Group.

### **What the PTG did in 2016**

The weekly group only cancelled twice because of bad weather and once for our Christmas meal together. Alan the leader of the PTG group does a monthly report for the council detailing issues, dumped items cleared and the bags of litter which are all taken to Station Road. The Clean Team come specially to collect the stuff on Wednesday afternoons. Alan also notes the number of volunteers that have helped and the hours worked.

**So the totals for 2016** Total number of Volunteers for the year 480 which is 9.8 per week and 1440 hours were worked during which the PTG also picked up 341 bags of litter (approx. 5 kg each).

**The work done by the loyal volunteers is fantastic.** A lot of people who visit the woods acknowledge and thank team members when they are busy helping keep the woods tidy and safer.

**Future events in 2017** "The 2 Year Clifton Beck Project" Come and find out more about our main stream, Royds Hall Beck. It starts at Queensbury Golf Course, goes through Judy Woods and onto the River Calder. The project will look at how to stop Himalayan Balsam



growing beside it. There will also be the AGM, when we look back at what has been done during the last year and decide who will be on the committee. They generally meet monthly to discuss projects to be done, whether there might be grants available, the newsletter etc. Do come for a cuppa before the meeting starts at **7.00 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April** at Wyke Methodist Church, Laverack Field (off Towngate), Wyke, Bradford BD12 8JB.



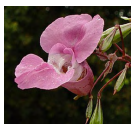
Our **1st walk of 2017** (approx. 3 miles) will be led by Stuart Tordoff, lets hope for dry weather, but it'll probably still be muddy. We'll meet at **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1.30pm** at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA.



Our popular **Wild Flower Walk**, led again by Alice Gingell, who will find lots of interesting flowers and plants to show us.

Meet at **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm** Station Road Entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke, BD12 8LA.

Every year we try to remove as much Himalayan Balsam as possible.



It is easy and very satisfying to see piles building very quickly, which are then left to rot. This summer we're hoping to liaise with the Clifton Beck Group to include a Saturday when we will have a session and combine the work with entertainment at a local venue. More details later.

**Past events** **Seasons Greetings** was the biggest event of the year, 134 people walked from the Harold club past Park Dam to Judy Woods. Thieving Magpie (TM) and Bradshaw Mummers entertained us and TM were wonderful helping youngsters try dancing like the grownups. There was good singing in the bar of The Harold Club. They'd welcomed us before and after so well.

**Winter Tree walk in January** 11 people joined us to understand how to identify trees when they have no leaves. We learnt to use the shape of trees, their siting, colour and texture of the bark and buds to help. We tried to do it and there were lively debates as we looked more closely to decide on the type of tree. It was a very helpful and informative walk which was enjoyed by all.