

Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Summer 2017



"It's only a bit of rain." That's seems to be the motto of many of our Practical Task Group members and several of our regular ramblers. Although I am a reasonably frequent attender at the PTG I do miss quite a few sessions, owing to other commitments. I also sometimes look out of the window on a Wednesday morning and can barely see the bottom of our garden through the rain. So, I convince myself that I will be better off getting on with other jobs inside at home, because the morning's activities will no doubt be cancelled owing to the bad weather. I never learn, do I? The following day the weekly PTG report comes through from Alan Williams, and invariably there has been a most respectable turn-out of volunteers who have completed yet another lot of work. You can read about Sally's walk (or was it nearly a swim?) in this edition. Needless to say, I sent my apologies in advance. All credit to those who enjoyed themselves, but that was one day I didn't mind being thought a "wimp". At least I was a dry one! Well done Sally and company anyway.

Looking ahead to what we hope will be a drier occasion we will be starting our bat walk this year from the Harold Club on Friday 8th September. The official starting time is 7.00pm, but the bar will be open from 6.45pm for drinks or soup and a roll. And finally, my thanks go to Ian Downey, who has taken over as editor of the newsletter, and to Sheila Lum, our former editor. Please see the back page for more information.

Hope to see you at some of our events

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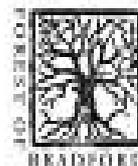
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Balsam Bash

We organised a Balsam Bash in June and offered, as an incentive, pie and peas at the local pub, The Pear Tree, we had as I recall 19 attendees and we ended up having cleared a substantial amount of Balsam. We also have had a joint-venture with the Clifton Beck Project where they have had some of their members work in our woods and we have returned the compliment by helping them with their problems with Balsam. There is a frightening amount of Balsam in Wellholme Park, they need to concentrate their efforts in the next couple of years to clear it as it is on the verge of getting completely out of hand, as is the case in other places in Calderdale. Should any of our members living in or near Brighouse wish to help at Clifton Beck if you contact the organiser at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Seonaidh Jamieson (pronounced Shona Jameson), I am sure she will be happy to give you information and timings relating to what is going on and what they propose to do. Contact her at Seonaidh Jamieson <seonaidh.jamieson@ywt.org.uk>



In relation to our problem with Himalayan Balsam we have had a number of initiatives to remove as much as possible this year especially near to the beck, as when the seed pods burst in late summer they can distribute seeds up to a distance of 7 m from the plant and should these get in the beck the seeds can be distributed further downstream causing problems in subsequent years not only in our wood but also in

other areas in Calderdale

The practical task group (PTG) have spent many hours in the last few weeks clearing Balsam and have been successful in all but the most difficult areas to access.

PTG - Work Done

In March our volunteers worked a total of 174 hours and collected 38 bags of litter and one tyre.

In April our volunteers worked a total of 132 hours and collected 30 bags of litter, 4 tyres, an old tent and a shopping trolley.

In May our volunteers worked a total of 165 hours and collected 32 bags of litter, 4 tyres, a large plastic container and a child's paddling pool.

In June our volunteers worked total of 126 hours collected 25 bags of litter plus tyres, cycle, plastic air bed, plastic and metal tubs, air ducting and old cannabis plants.

Archaeology Walk - Saturday 8th July 2017

Our 'resident' archaeologist, Dennis Waudby, organised a walk through the woods for the Clifton Beck Project which was also attended by a number of the Judy Woods members. To quote him, "This will cover the human history of Judy Woods and give a new perspective on the area" The walk was excellent and informative and was well attended (20 or so participants). A big thank you to Dennis for that effort.

Tea Room Walk - Wednesday 28th June 2017 - Sally Tetlow

'Our tea room ramble day started with pouring rain and the 7 hardy souls who turned up wondered whether we should go ahead. However being made of sterner stuff, the view was taken that we should continue and so we headed for our destination of Lightcliffe Tea Rooms where the proprietors greeted us warmly. After partaking of their splendid cakes and scones, we left for home (still in the pouring rain!), our numbers now rather depleted as one caught the bus and two headed for home in their car. Those who made it back to Station Road by foot were well and truly soaked through. A heartfelt thanks to all of you who turned out in such dreadful conditions.' "I didn't have any cake, Sally, my Ham & Cheese Pannini was good though" (Ed)

Container Break In

The 2017 Spring newsletter mentioned the fact that all our tools were stolen when our container was broken into in early February, we went through the inventory and claimed the replacement cost, over £2,000, the insurance company has now paid out and we have, in the main, purchased all that we need to replace, so we are now back to full strength as far as equipment is concerned, however, it was difficult for a number of weeks to accomplish what we wanted to do in the PTG not having all the equipment we needed. Anyway back to normal now. Big thank you to PTG coordinator Alan Williams for his efforts in chasing up the insurance company, providing them with the information that they required and the subsequent purchase of the replacement tools. Thanks Alan you worked very hard.



Another unfortunate occurrence was the waste bin at the junction of the main path and High Fernley Road, some kind person lit a fire on the top of it and melted the plastic. The PTG members cut away the damaged plastic so it was still usable, the council have been informed but to date it has not been replaced. Perhaps a metal one could be substituted, this is their decision not ours.

A number of the members of the PTG attended a (INNS) 'Invasive Non-Native Species' workshop organised by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust relating to the identification of invasive plant species in Yorkshire, of the plants in this category seen in our area Himalayan Balsam is the problem one, where it occupies riverbanks and wet/woodland areas in the woods.



Future Events in 2017

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

Bat Walk - Friday, September 8th at 7.00 PM
See information provided by Geoff on first page.

Fungi Walk - Saturday, October 7th at 2.00 PM
Meet Varsha Patel and Stuart Tordoff off at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA

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
As it is most likely to be icy, muddy or both, it would be wise to wear appropriate stout footwear.

A quick final note, my name is Ian Downey and I am the new editor of the newsletter, if you have any information relating to Judy Woods please send to my email address ianr.downey@virginmedia.com - comments and photographs would be most welcome.

And finally a big thank you to Sheila Lum, the previous newsletter editor, who has handed over the reins to me. Sheila has done a sterling job over the last few years.

