

# Friends of Judy Woods

## Newsletter Spring 2018



At our committee meeting in January we welcomed Andrew Cutts, Assistant Trees & Woodlands Manager, Bradford Council. Andrew has recently taken up his post, as the successor to Colin Whitfield, who worked so well with the Practical Tasks Group. Our first few conversations with Andrew have indicated that our close and satisfactory working relationship with the Council will continue. At the committee meeting we were impressed with him, and he seemed to be encouraged with our organisational abilities and enthusiasm. If you want to meet Andrew and hear about his background and related interests then you will have the chance on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, as he has agreed to be our guest speaker at the AGM.

As a group we keep moving forward to get jobs done - with the occasional knock-backs (see inside). The work with Seonaidh Jamieson and the Clifton Beck Project continues to be interesting and productive. We have been fortunate in obtaining much extra input, especially in those tasks such as tree planting and revetment construction where we would have struggled for time and resources. One particular thing which I am looking forward to soon, via Seonaidh and her colleagues at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT), is the training in the identification of river flies and learning about sampling procedures. I heard Seonaidh being interviewed about this on Radio Leeds recently and I am looking forward to knowing my caddisflies, from my stoneflies from my mayflies! I also understand there is something being considered by the YWT which is referred to as "Leaky dams". Perhaps more about them later. There are all sorts of things to add to one's knowledge and experiences when one is a Friend of Judy Woods! And with learning and leisure still in mind don't forget that we have our programme of walks lined up for the year, some of them instructive, some of them just for the sheer fun of it - but all we hope very much enjoyable. See the list on the back page.

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Chairman

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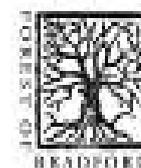




Photo shows damage at the stile entrance to the woods adjacent to the container site, the fence was broken down and the waste bin was destroyed it appears by quad bikers. The council were informed and they replaced the fence and the bin speedily. One positive outcome was that the cover of the bin was still intact and fitted the fire damaged bin (outlined in a previous newsletter), so that was reused at the High Fernley Road bin. Unfortunately discussions about wanton vandalism and litter become inevitable at time like this.

The site where our tool storage container is kept has been cleared of trees and now looks amazingly large. It is our understanding that we will be able to keep our container on the site but will be moved to another position, this will be done by the new owners, Events Equipment Hire Ltd. Railtrack, who have access to the railway via the site, will be using some of the area as storage and consequently will be erecting a security fence to keep their property safe, we will be inside the security cordon. Exciting times indeed, watch this space.

In November the Clifton Beck Project volunteers and the PTG made revetments from removed Beech whips to slow down water run off and to provide wildlife habitat. 150 native British trees were also planted in an area upstream from the culvert that runs under the mineral line. The last 'dog poo' poster was fixed at this time.

During January we have removed beech whips in the area of the Middle Path and again, with our Clifton Beck Project collaboration, 320 saplings have been planted, the proposal is to plant wild flowers in this area as well as more trees.

During the frost and snows the PTG has concentrated on litter picking and clearing of culverts. We have a harness and rope so are able to safely litter pick the embankment on Station Road, this needs to be done before the spring growth starts.

Those members who take the Bradford T&A may have noticed the Autumn Camera Club competition was won by Beverley Clough The photograph, titled Splendour, was of the 99 steps looking upwards through the autumnal foliage. All publicity is welcome.

## **PTG - Work Done**

**In November** volunteers worked a total of 204 Hours and collected 27 bags of litter, a tent and some discarded cannabis plants.

**In December** volunteers worked a total of 83 Hours and collected 24 bags of litter.

**In January** volunteers worked a total of 131 Hours and collected 22 bags of litter.

**In February** volunteers worked a total of 99 Hours and collected 20 bags of litter, 8 plastic containers, an old wheelbarrow, child's scooter and a traffic cone.



A few months ago we started utilising the motor tyres that we find on a regular basis in the beck. As you can see from the photo we place the tyre in the beck where we want a stepping stone, large flat stones are put in the base to stabilise it as much as possible. Then recycled ballast is put on top to make a steady foot-friendly surface to walk on. If there is an unusual amount of water in the beck and the tyre is washed away we just retrieve it or find another and repeat the process. It is a practical use of tyres, the plus point is that we don't have the laborious task of removing them from the woods. Here you see John & Brian completing the task using ballast.

Our Membership Secretary, Linda Paul, has volunteered to be responsible for the area adjacent to Judy's Cottage and will co-ordinate the weeding and planting of the wild flower garden. A big thank you goes to Linda with the assurance that she will have some help!

We had been offered instruction by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust experts in basic dry-stone walling procedures but due to bad weather the day had to be cancelled. We assume it will be rescheduled in the near future. As we have a large number of dry stone walls in the woods this skill will be very useful. If a few PTG members become proficient they can instruct the rest, enhancing our total skills base.

The PTG again organised a Christmas meal at the Guide Post Hotel on Common Road there were 20 or so attendees and a very enjoyable get together for members and partners. It is good seeing colleagues in a more relaxed social setting and without their green fleeces and Hi-Vis jackets. Thanks goes to Julie Parkinson for again organising the meal. Some attendees had made a special effort and made festive hats, prizes were not awarded and no photographs were available at time of going to press, I think we were all too busy eating, drinking and chatting.

**Last Event of the Year was the Seasons Greetings Walk-Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** Following last year's successful change of venue we returned for a second year to the Harold Club. The morning's inclement weather kept numbers down but a good crowd enjoyed the walk and the Thieving Magpies Morris group. The weather drove the Bradshaw Mummers inside for their performance but this worked very well as the performers were nearer to the audience and the 'subtle nature' of the tales was easier to understand. As usual the singing of carols by everyone was the centre of

the afternoon activities interspersed with performances by folk singers. Put the Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 in your diary and come along with the family for an entertaining festive afternoon and enjoy the most popular of our events.

Although the PTG work more often from the Station Road end of the woods we still frequently work from the Woodside entrance. The locked gate was ripped off and damaged, see photograph, nearby were Quad Bike tracks, possibly related? The council was informed and the gate has been replaced with one that looks more substantial than the previous one



### Future Events in 2018

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm** Springtime in Judy Woods - Sally & Stuart (Meet at Station Road)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 7.00 pm** - AGM at Wyke Methodist Church

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am** Balsam Bashing (Meet at Station Road)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm** Summertime in Judy Woods - Sally & Stuart (Meet at Station Road)

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 1.30pm** Ramble to Lightcliffe Tea Rooms - Sally (Meet at Station Road)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 7.00pm** Bat Walk -Ian Butterfield (Meet at the Harold Club)

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm** Fungi Walk - Varsha & Sally (Meet at Station Road)

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 1.30pm** Wintertime in Judy Woods - Sally & Stuart (Meet at Station Road)

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm** Seasons Greetings (Meet at the Harold Club)

**Bluebells - Important Information** - it has been noticed that someone has planted groups of Spanish Bluebells in the woods. These are not a native species and when identified these should be removed. The planting of such non natives is strongly discouraged. A notice will be placed on the notice boards to this effect.

**So to repeat please do not plant any non native plants, including Spanish Bluebells, in the woods and report any sightings of ones that have slipped past our inspection process.**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April.** And finally, may I encourage members to attend the/your AGM, it keeps members in touch with the aims of the group and ensures that we, the committee, are in tune with the members. As stated on page 1 Andrew Cutts will be our guest speaker at the AGM. Hope to see you there.