

Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter Summer 2019



In the previous newsletter I waxed lyrical about what three of us had got lined up in relation to the West Yorkshire bat survey. Mary, Julie Parkinson and I obtained the recording equipment and on one lovely Friday evening in June we set off from Clifton at 10.00pm and walked into the darkening evening to our journey's end in Bailiff Bridge. The detectors directed us to the presence of the winged creatures along the route and we caught glimpses of them. The red light was on the recording instrument and the wavy line jumped to attention when there was bat activity. We saved the file as instructed and I returned the stuff to a member of the WY bat group. We looked forward to receiving the analysis of our recordings - but it wasn't to be. Something had gone amiss and there was nothing on the "saved" file. The bat group member said, "Never mind - these things happen", but could offer us no explanation as to what had gone wrong. We did have a nice walk in the dark, but we wish it had been more productive. Anyway, at the time of writing this article I have contacted the WYBG and said we are game for another go in August. I don't know if our offer will be taken up, so it is a case of "watch this space".

There are two large flowering plants which Mary and I see too many of in summer. One is called Rosebay Willow Herb and it grows in abundance on the spare land adjacent to our house. I will give you one guess what the other is. Yes, Himalayan Balsam. We as a group may have mentioned it the odd time!

The balsam chooses to grow in some challenging spots in our woods - e.g. across the stream and up some rather steep bankings. But we are not deterred, and we are managing to pull up individual plants by the hundreds, and several years' work is beginning to pay off and in some areas we are winning the battle.

One morning some of us were tackling the balsam by the pylons. One of the volunteers and her grandchildren were working by the stream, and one of them scooped up something from the water and showed it to Sally Tetlow. She identified it a fresh-water shrimp, which is an indication that the water is of good quality. That is encouraging news.

All the best to everyone

Geoff Twentyman -

Chairman

Mailing address: FoJW

**c/o Wyke Library, Appleton Academy,
Woodside Rd, Bradford BD12 8AL**

Telephone

Mary & Geoff on 01274 673274 or

Peter on 01274 600846

email info@judywoods.org.uk. Website www.judywoods.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Ian Downey email ianr.downey@virginmedia.com



City of Bradford MDC
www.bradford.gov.uk



Ramble to Lightcliffe Tea Rooms

A beautiful sunny afternoon saw our party of seven head off through Norwood Green for the tea rooms at Lightcliffe. The cow parsley was in full flower everywhere and gave a wonderful, frothy white effect to all the fields and hedgerows. We were warmly greeted on arrival at our destination and once replete, we headed back on an alternative route via Priestley Green. This made a wonderful circular walk, our final stage taking in one rather large, lush field with only three horses as residents. Lucky them! Then one finally push up the hill back into Norwood Green and our afternoon ramble brought us back to our starting point. What a delightful way to spend a sunny afternoon.

Summertime in Judy Woods

A sunny afternoon, free of rain showers, saw eight participants enjoy a walk through Royds Hall Great Wood heading for Jagger Park Wood. Enchanter's nightshade was much in evidence along the main path and again within the wild flower garden by Judy's cottage, along with numerous other plants that have obviously thrived in this year's growing conditions. Crossing the beck was made much easier by the work put in by the PTG, creating a safe means of passage over the water (old tyres filled with stones) and a series of well laid steps into the wood itself. Approaching the top of the wood, where the trees thin out, there were butterflies in abundance, ringlets, meadow browns and small skippers, obviously enjoying the sunny weather. Here Stuart drew our attention to 2 trees seemingly growing as one, a mountain ash and Swedish whitebeam, both bearing berries. Our walk then continued through the fields, down through High Bentley and passed Jaque Royd. As we progressed down the lane an impressive bull on one side of the field and a herd of bullocks on the other were eyeing each other up, fortunately walls separated us! The final leg of our journey took us down Sowden Lane and back through to Station Road. An enjoyable walk on a beautiful summer afternoon.

Bird of the Season

Grey Wagtail

One of the least-seen birds in Judy Woods is the grey wagtail but if you keep a watchful eye on the beck you will often see these attractive birds looking for food in and around the water and earning their name by wagging their tails. They can appear to be more yellow than grey, but they are not yellow wagtails which are summer migrants to pasture land whereas we can see the grey wagtail all the year round.



PTG News :- Many members of the PTG took part in a First Aid Training course run by British Red Cross on 29th May, lying on the floor and being put into the Recovery Position by one of your colleagues was "interesting". All who took part in the training found it useful and informative and we all got a certificate of competence.



PTG Tasks

A particularly important task is to ensure the paths and steps are maintained. The PTG have been replacing worn out and damaged path edging during the last few months. There are quite a few areas on the main path running up from Station Road where sections need to be replaced. This involves removal of the rotted/damaged piece of edging board and stakes, cutting back the soil and ballast behind the board and reseating the new board by fitting new stakes.

Mentioned in the report of the Summertime in Judy Woods Walk are the stepping stones made of tyres filled with flat stones. Here is a picture of the new improved version with more tyres. We acquired some broader tyres so we could incorporate more flat stones creating more stability. Hopefully they would be less likely to be washed away by a strong current.

At this point I usually catalogue the hours worked and the number of bags of rubbish collected on a month by month basis on the PTG Wednesday morning work session. Suffice it to say that we average more than 12 attendees, collect more than 7 bags of rubbish per week and retrieve a diverse selection of larger junk, a more detailed breakdown is available on the website.

Fence mending:-Vandalism has again occurred to fencing in a number of places particularly in the area of High Fernley Road up from Judy Bridge. All the problems we have discovered have been repaired during July. One of the metal gates off High Fernley Road near where it meets the main path, has been badly damaged, we think by someone trying to gain access to the woods with quad bikes. Repair of this type is beyond our capabilities and was reported to Andrew at the council.

Litter picking on the embankment - Dope on a Rope

Parking on the woodland side of Station Road results in drivers throwing takeaway packaging, bottles, spent compost and pots from cannabis culture etc. over the fence and down the embankment. We now have a safety harness and climbing rope to ensure no accidents happen when we decide to have a purge to clean up the area. Occasionally we find more unusual artefacts, recently Station Road was resurfaced and consequently the white lines were removed. The contractors put up a sign stating that there were no white lines, this of course, after a few days, was thrown over the fence by some "kind person" and subsequently recovered by our team.

Balsam Bash 2019

We had our annual Balsam Bash on the 21st June. 17 participants took part and the weather was kind so a lot of Balsam was bashed. In the areas where we have concentrated in previous years there seems to be little balsam growth. This year we focused on the left hand bank going up stream from the Mineral Line towards Judy Bridge. We are particularly pleased with our efforts, but we must be vigilant and not complacent as balsam has a habit of "sneaking up" on you. Balsam bashing will continue on our regular PTG Wednesdays till the flowers form seed heads and it is too late. The reward/bribe for turning up for the Balsam Bash was home made Cornish pasty (or Veg equivalent) and tomato soup at a local pub, the Old White Beare.

Latest News

Liaison with other friends groups in the Bradford area with Andrew Cutts.

The first group meeting was hosted by us on June 5th and was lead by Andrew Cutts (Assistant Trees and Woodlands Manager), representatives of Park Wood & Northcliffe Woods attended the walk. The next one is due in early September at a date yet to be finalised this will be hosted by the Friends of Northcliffe. We received a copy of a lengthy email from Sue, a Park Wood member, who was impressed with our wood and what FoJW do in it. A week or two later Chris and myself bumped into Sue on a Wednesday morning, she had come back to explore, we had obviously made an impression.

Future Events in 2019 - Please try to support our events.

Wednesday 28th August 1:30 pm Ramble to Robinsons Tea Shop, Score Hill - meet Mary and Geoff Twentyman outside Duke of York on the A644 just up from the Stone Chair roundabout at Shelf HX3 7LN. Don't forget money for refreshments. (3 miles)

Friday 13th September 7:00 pm Bat Walk - meet Ian Butterfield at the Harold Club, Low Moor (junction of New Works Road/Huddersfield Road) BD12 0UD at 7pm for introductory talk before going in woods about 7.45 pm. Bar will be open from 6.45 for drinks. Tea and coffee also available.

Saturday 12nd October 1:30 pm Fungi Walk - meet Varsha Patel and Sally Tetlow at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA.

Saturday 30th November 1:30 pm Wintertime in Judy Woods - meet Stuart Tordoff and Sally Tetlow at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA.

Saturday 28th December - Season's Greetings Walk

We are very sad to announce that due to the unavailability of our entertainment teams and their supporters, this year's Season's Greetings event has had to be cancelled.

We are very sorry to have to disappoint you.

And Finally

It is important to mention future plans, projects and tasks completed, however, there are members of the PTG who turn up every week and perform the more mundane but equally important tasks of litter picking, emptying the litter/poo bin (located at the junction of the main path and High Fernley Road). The weight of rubbish, especially after a fine weekend or a bank holiday can be substantial. Removal by means of a wheel barrow is the only practical solution. Thanks, therefore, to **all** members of the PTG but particularly not forgetting the work done by the "Unsung Heroes".