

Friends of Judy Woods

Newsletter Spring 2025



If you have seen our events list you may have noticed that this year we will be having three walks which take us beyond Judy Woods. On Saturday 29th March (weather permitting again) Mary and I and bold participants will be venturing as far as Shelf and Jacque Royd!

However, in April there will be a new site for us to explore. Just before Christmas Mary and I had a walk round one of our favourite spots, the Cromwell Bottom nature reserve which is situated between Brighouse and Elland, adjoining the River Calder and the canal. At the end we were delighted that the café was open for a cup of tea. By chance we got talking to one of the volunteers who turned out to be Simon Day, one of the main members of the Cromwell Bottom Wildlife Group. We told him about our involvement with the FOJW and compared notes. To cut the story shorter the result is that on Thursday 15th April at 10.30am we are all invited to meet some of their volunteers and have a guided tour of the reserve. We hope you can join us. If you need advice about getting there please email info@judywoods.org.uk.

Our third "away day" will be on Thursday 8th May at 1.30pm when once again Sally Tetlow will lead us from Station Road to the goodies awaiting us at Lightcliffe Tea Rooms. All our events are detailed on our website - www.judywoods.org.uk.

And finally, a reminder from Linda, our membership secretary. If you haven't already renewed your membership please do so soon. If you have misplaced your form we can supply you with another one!

Best wishes to you all. *Geoff Twentyman* (Chairman).

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City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Tree of the Season - Swedish Whitebeam



Our woods contain a variety of different tree species, although beech is the predominant one. Over the years, efforts have been made to identify and list these, with plaques being placed on them to mark those worthy of note. The plaques have been sited just out of reach to deter vandalism, and this has worked well but a recent inspection revealed that some were showing signs of wear and tear. One we think has been nibbled by a squirrel and another has split - trees will carry on growing! Look out for these as you walk and as a challenge, see if you can find the Swedish Whitebeam.

Over the years we have planted trees in the woods, initially with schools and seven years ago in conjunction with the Clifton Beck project but these days we spend more time uprooting trees rather than planting them. To help us in our mission to clear the multitude of beech saplings which thrive to the detriment of other trees and shrubs in the understorey we have purchased a sapling puller which has been a big help. The only trees that have been planted in recent years have been in Judy's field and in the memorial area. These have suffered mixed fortunes; those in Judy's field which were planted as a food source for birds six years ago have thrived, or at least seven of the eight which we planted have, the other one disappearing soon after it was planted, and these were recently checked and the stakes and ties refreshed where necessary but the trees in the memorial area have not fared so well. Last year some mysterious disease attacked most of the trees in the memorial area, some fatally. The council have not been able to identify a cause and so the source remains a mystery. At time of writing it's uncertain what the future of this area will be.

Working in the woods

We've had signs made to hang on the gates at each end of the woods on Wednesdays as we are working. We hope they might encourage new people to join us at Station Road at 9.30am where new members will be met with open arms and handed a litter picker.

FRIENDS OF JUDY WOODS Our Practical Tasks Group is at work in the woods this morning litter picking and doing general maintenance.			
			
			
			

We build and maintain paths in the woods
Clear fallen branches and keep drains flowing. Do you fancy joining us on a Wednesday morning 9.30am to 12 noon?
If so have a word with one of us this morning or contact Brian on tasks@judywoods.org.uk

Saturday 28th December 2024 Seasonal Winter Walk

The weather was in our favour this year and with an excellent turnout of walkers to support our ramble. Thirty-seven walkers set off from the Old White Beare to undertake a circuit of the village. As we passed through the site of the Wheel 'Ole, Mary showed old photos of the building and gave a short history relating to its usage. Suitably invigorated, the assembled throng returned to the hall, where soup, alongside various cakes, was served. This was then followed by a communal sing with musical accompaniment courtesy of Ken and Sandie with Jim on his guitar. Everyone entered into the spirit of the event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. However, an extra thank you must be given to the sterling work done by the Woodside Workers who manned the kitchen so ably.



Our Annual General Meeting. Thursday 10th April 7pm

Wyke Methodist Church, Laverack Field (off Towngate) Wyke, Bradford BD12 8JB. Refreshments available prior to the meeting. After a short AGM our speaker is **Dr Ron Fitzgerald**, a former keeper of Leeds Industrial Museum who will give a presentation "**Identifying the remains of Early Coal Mining**" A very apt topic, given the remains of coal workings in our woods. Ron doesn't often give talks nowadays, so be sure to catch this one. Everyone is welcome to attend so please spread the word.



Bird of the Season - the Mallard

One of the less common birds to be seen in the woods is the Mallard, our most common duck. When there's sufficient water in the beck, mallards (almost always in pairs) can sometimes be encountered taking a rest in a quiet spot. Whilst we would perhaps think of mallards as living solely on water they can often be seen away from it, particularly in early Spring when they might be looking out for a nesting site which can be quite a distance from water, even in trees. They can be seen on house roofs and gardens in early Spring. One of our members found a clutch of eggs last year well away from water which turned out to be those of mallards. The females will lay 9-12 eggs of which probably 2-4 might survive predation. So keep a lookout and don't be surprised if you see mallards in places that you wouldn't think of.



Upcoming Events - Saturday 29th March 1.30pm - 3 Js Walk

Join our jaunt through Judy Woods to Jagger Park and back via Jacque Royd. Meet Geoff and Mary Twentyman at the top of Sowden Lane, Norwood Green HX3 8QR (Approx. 3 miles)

Tuesday 15th April 10.30am - away day!

Guided walk round Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve

Meet at the car park off Cromwell Drive, Elland Road, Brighouse (A6025). HD6 2RG. Refreshments available afterwards for a cash donation. (Approx. 2½ miles).

Thursday 8th May 1.30pm - Walk to the Lightcliffe Tea Rooms

Meet Sally Tetlow at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA. Remember to bring some money for your delicious refreshments. (Approx 5 miles)

And finally.....where is it?

Can you recognise this spot in the woods? We'll pass it on one of our walks this season. If you think you know where it is drop us a line or send us an email to info@judywoods.org.uk If you can use What 3 Words to indicate the exact spot all the better. You'll get a mention in the next newsletter and FREE enamel Friends of Judy Woods badge. Wow!

