

Friends of Judy Woods

Newsletter Summer 2025



Editor's comments

It would be remiss of us not to take this opportunity to pay our respects to our departed friend Ian Downey, who served as Newsletter editor for many years. A task which Ian undertook with due recognition of the support he received from his FoJW friends and the welcome comments from visitors to Judy Woods. It's an honour to take up the reins and I trust that my future comments reflect Ian's editorial legacy.

Chairman's Summer 2025 Report

As Denis Waudby says, Ian is much missed. He was a great worker and had a wonderful sense of humour. Our thanks now go to Denis, our Vice Chairman, for taking on the editorial role of our newsletter, and working with the team that writes, produces and distributes it.

Now for something to celebrate. Since our Spring Newsletter, Judy Woods has had a rise in status. It is one of eight places in the Bradford Metropolitan District that have been designated a Local Nature Reserve. One of the District's leading councillors said, "The designation of these new Local Nature Reserves will boost the profile of these excellent wildlife sites, encourage people to visit and join the Friends of groups for the physical and mental health benefits and strengthen the resilience of nature in Bradford District."

We probably won't see much difference in the immediate future, but our woods' new status should hopefully be an important factor when resources are needed to carry out repairs or improvements. There will be an official celebration day in the woods later in the year, and all FOJW members will be notified.

In the meantime, please continue to visit our much-valued asset when you can.

Geoff Twentyman (Chairman)

Mailing address: FoJW

c/o Linda Paul, 10 Winterton Drive,
Bradford BD12 0UX

Telephone

Mary & Geoff on 01274 673274

email info@judywoods.org.uk.

Website www.judywoods.org.uk



Newsletter Editor: Denis Waudby

Email: dbwaudby@gmail.com

(Lady) Bird of the Season

In a departure from our usual feature on local birdlife, we are showcasing a local friend whom John and Brian recently adopted during their outing in the woods. While entirely different in appearance, the larvae represent the juvenile stage of the ladybird, a beneficial insect renowned for its habit of eating aphids. A very welcome resident in Judy Woods, they differ substantially from adult ladybirds in appearance, featuring a more elongated body, a black or dark grey colour, and often orange markings. The larvae pass through four stages before pupating in August to overwinter and emerge in spring as adult ladybirds.



Practical Task Group Activities

1 Beech Sapling Removal



Beech tree management involves a range of duties, including the regular removal of saplings to promote a more diverse undergrowth and improved light penetration. Our original method of sapling removal proved very labour-intensive with minimal success. A recent purchase of a "Tree Removal Extractor" provided a significantly improved method of removal, resulting in considerable savings in labour time. The woodland dappled picture shows one of our younger members demonstrating the successful application of the extractor, whereby correct application and technique were more beneficial than brute strength alone. We are so pleased with

the results that we have agreed to purchase a larger "Extractor" to deal with the more resilient beech saplings.

2 New Seating

A rather tired PT group is taking a well-deserved rest after completing the installation of a new seat located near the mineral line dam. Situated approximately central along the main pathway, the seat is south-facing and positioned below a clearance in the tree canopy to give a welcome sunny resting point. This is one of the three seats provided by FoJW, with two already installed and the third location now under consideration. If you have any suggestions, please write to the editor at the email address shown above.



3 Sweet Farewells



Please forgive the pun. During a previous visit to the woods, we observed that a three-piece suite had been dumped from Station Road down the streamside incline, a location that proved particularly difficult to access for removal. After surveying the site and with considerable thought, we assembled a PTG "Hit Team" who, fully briefed and equipped, reported for Special Duties on Wednesday, 11th, of June.

This sterling effort was, as usual, conducted with enthusiasm and boisterous, creative scrambling. (The choreography requires attention.) As usual, the task was supported with a fair degree of workshop humour.

Well Done PTG.

Left. The successful team survey the salvaged suite whilst awaiting the arrival of the removal van.

Events Report

1 Cromwell Bottom LNR

On April 15th, the FoJW were pleased to be invited to visit Cromwell Bottom Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which spans 76 acres of diverse habitat restored from a former quarry and landfill site. Nestled in the River Calder Valley, it now comprises a mix of woodland, wetlands, and grasslands that are abundant with plants and wildlife. It is regarded as one of the most significant wildlife sites in Calderdale, providing a vital habitat for a diverse range of insects, birds, and mammals. The LNR representatives led us



through a selected 2.5 miles of this attractive woodland reserve with ample opportunity to observe their working practices and, in particular, their extensive information displays and support facilities. At the end of the walk, we retired to their very welcome tea rooms for refreshments. The visitor numbers they achieved, along with the attendant self-funding raised and the support from Calderdale Council, made us quite envious of the facilities and equipment they had available. A great thank you to Cromwell Bottom for their invitation and access to the LNR.

2 Thursday 8th May, Walk to Lightcliffe Tea Rooms

We were so lucky with the weather for what has become our annual walk to Lightcliffe Tea Rooms. Fourteen of us set off from Station Road, but not before placing our order with Carolyn for freshly baked scones for everyone. Our path led us through Norwood Green and across the A58 heading towards Bailiff Bridge but taking a sharp right over the beck. This is the most strenuous part of our walk, but after a short uphill climb, we were within striking distance of our destination. The fields we crossed looked glorious, resplendent as they were with their late spring covering of buttercups and cow parsley. Such a beautiful combination. We were warmly welcomed by the staff and served promptly with our drink of choice, accompanied by the still-warm scones. Our route back took us through Priestley Green, traversing the large field leading back to Norwood Green, with our walk taking us through both Billy and Rookes Woods. This was a real treat for all, with Carolyn's parting shot to me being 'see you all next year, same time, same arrangements. I'll second that (Sally Tetlow FoJW Botanist)



The Remaining Future Events await your enjoyment and support.

Woodside Family Day Friday 25th July 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Woodside Community Centre, 86 Fenwick Drive, BD6 2RZ to take part in a craft activity day.

Balsam Bash Saturday 2nd August 9:30 am Meet at the Kissing Gate adjacent to 41 Meadway Woodside BD6 2SP for a morning of balsam bashing, followed by lunch.

Friday 5th September 7.00 pm Bat Walk - meet Ian Butterfield at the Woodside Village Centre, 82 Fenwick Drive, Woodside, Bradford BD6 2RZ, at 7.00 pm for an introductory talk before going into the woods at about 7.45 pm.

Saturday 18th October 1.30 pm Fungi Walk - meet Sally Tetlow at the top of Sowden Lane, Norwood Green, HX3 8QR where we will be joined by our experts John Gavaghan and Nick Kirby in our quest.

Saturday 27th December 1.00 pm Seasonal Winter Walk - A chance to walk off those Christmas calories - meet Sally Tetlow at the Old White Beare, for a woodland stroll followed by refreshments and a singalong back at the Norwood Green Community Hall HX3 8QN.

dbw 30/6/2025