

Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter

Autumn 2025



Chairman's Autumn 2025 Report

This summer, we had the privilege of Judy Woods being designated as a Local Nature Reserve. We are most grateful to Steve Parkes, a naturalist from Wharfedale, who worked with Bradford Council, Natural England, and "Friends of" groups. As a result, several open areas in the Bradford Met District have received the LNR status. The FOJW are not sure exactly what difference it will make to us, but having such a designation can only be an advantage when seeking grants and other assistance.

We officially celebrated the award on Saturday, 27th September, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Councillor Sarah Ferriby, who is a Wyke ward representative and an executive member of Bradford Council, made a short speech and cut the ribbon, which had been naturally crafted from ivy and berried leaves.

The assembled crowd then made their way to Judy's garden, where Judy North herself acted as host, providing us with refreshments in the form of lemonade and parkin. She told us about her time living in the woods and the three husbands she married throughout her eventful life. Information was also available on the recent archaeological work undertaken by (newsletter editor) Denis Waudby and his team of helpers.

Some of our visitors ventured down to the bridge to meet members of the Calderdale Riverfly Group. They had a collection of live larvae specimens which they had extracted from the stream, and people were fascinated by them. Three of us from FOJW take samples once a month during spring, summer and autumn and we submit the results to the Calder and Colne River Trust. The numbers of various larval types indicate the health of the water. It is gratifying to report that our stream is almost always up to the required standard. Many thanks to everyone who took part or visited that morning. It was most enjoyable.

Geoff Twentyman (Chairman)

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City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Practical Task Group

Meetings

Our Practical Tasks Group meets every Wednesday morning throughout the year. Between a dozen and twenty people give their time to litter picking, rubbish removal, and all kinds of repairs and improvements. This work would be far more complicated if we didn't have a secure base nearby to keep our equipment. On behalf of the FOJW, we would like to thank Norwood Green Storage Containers for providing space for our container and for supplying us with a power source for lighting and electrical work this year. We are most grateful.

November Step Repairs

A recent woodland survey identified that many of the step supports on the footpath leading down to the bridge that is located immediately to the right of the entrance to Tinkers Trail required replacement. The material was provided by Bradford Council and the first stage of the task, the replacement of seven supports, was undertaken by two of our new recruits, Ian and Chuck. For our newcomers, a gentle introduction to the wide range of practical tasks awaiting our attention. The work will be progressed in stages until the 20-plus steps requiring attention are completed.



Woodside PT Group

To improve our coverage of the 40 hectares of Judy Woods and reduce travelling time, it was agreed that an additional Wednesday morning meeting place would be established on the north, Woodside, boundary of the woods. This is our formidable Woodside Group, who undertake a similar range of PTG tasks, including litter picking, the collection and removal of large refuse material and the identification of boundary repairs and reconstruction. A significant contribution to preserving the woodland ambience of this community heritage.



Saturday 2nd August - Balsam Bash

This year, we concentrated all our efforts on the field at Woodside, and twenty of us turned out mob-handed to tackle the depressing spectacle of a whole field full of balsam. Those in wellies concentrated on getting the beck side clear and the rest of us hacked and pulled at the pink beasts in among the brambles and nettles. We only managed to tackle half the field, but we plan to continue on PTG mornings to clear as much as we can. Judging by other areas, it will likely take another year of pulling before we see any results. However, as we've demonstrated in various parts of the woods, it is possible to eventually see fewer balsam and more native species, such as enchanters nightshade, nettles, and brambles. As a reward for the work well done, the group retired to the Old White Bear at Norwood Green for refreshments.



Friday 5th September Bat Walk

A beautifully clear, still evening augured well for our annual bat walk. We gathered at the Woodside Community Centre initially, where Ian Butterfield presented a slideshow outlining the details of how bats communicate, catch their food, breed, and hibernate over winter until the better weather returns. A very enthusiastic game of 'bat and moth' was played, which the children enjoyed enormously. As dusk descended, our party headed out, armed with torches and bat detectors set to the frequency of the bats we anticipated seeing. We entered the woods and headed through North Brow, aiming for Horse Close cottages. On our way, numerous bats were seen, much to the delight of all. We passed through the field and walked through Royds Hall Great Wood to our original starting point. Over the course of the evening, Noctule, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle were noted, but, more excitingly, Ian was confident a Leisler's bat was also present. This bat is considerably larger than those usually seen and the first noted in our woods. **Sally Tetlow**



Saturday 18th October Fungi Walk

A fine, still afternoon marked the beginning of our annual fungi foray led by Nick Kirby and John Gavaghan. The group was accompanied by two children whose keen eyesight helped uncover elusive, hidden species. Our initial stroll down Sowden Lane provided plenty of specimens to keep our leaders busy with identification. Of particular interest was the Honey Fungus, observed in its various developmental stages, sparking much discussion among the group. One of the youngsters circulated an impressive Shaggy Scalycap, which Nick had retrieved from the bank, allowing everyone a



closer look. While the group made their way up High Fernley, Nick ventured over the wall to bring back a striking specimen of spectacular Rust gill. We decided to cross the field in search of Waxcaps, and were rewarded with the discovery of a Parrot Waxcap, its greenish tinge just beginning to show.

Meanwhile, John's attention was captured by a Purple Stocking Webcap near the top of the 99 steps. Retracing our steps to the starting point, participants reflected on the day's discoveries. In total, over 30 species were identified, including Clubfoot, Wrinkled Crust, Rooting Shank, and numerous Beech Milkcaps. The walk was deemed an excellent success, thanks to Nick and John, our leaders, who are to be commended for their patience and willingness to answer the many questions posed by those in attendance. **Sally Tetlow**



PTG Festive Meal

The PTG Christmas Meal took place on Wednesday, 3rd December, at the usual venue. A big thank-you goes out to Alan and Brian for organising the lunch, selecting the menu, and attending to two of the most essential tasks: ensuring that our menu choices were noted, and collecting and paying the money. Some forty members and partners enjoyed a very pleasant early Christmas Lunch, a few festive drinks, and shared pleasant company. Thanks again, Alan and Brian. May we take this opportunity to wish all the members of the Friends of Judy Woods a great time over the festive season, and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.



Seasonal Winter Walk Saturday 27th December 1.00 pm

This will be our final event for 2025 and 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 sing-along back at the Norwood Green Community Hall HX3 8QN. Those attendees who fancy an alcoholic drink are free to take their own beer, wine, etc. Those who would like to enjoy a draught beer can do so at the Olde White Beare pub, where such beverages are available for purchase. As last year, entertainment will be provided by Ken & Sandie, with Ken on Guitar and Vocals, and Sandie on the hammered dulcimer. The afternoon will be rounded off by a carol singing led by Geoff & Mary.

Editor's Comments:

The Committee is now preparing for the 2026 events. The results will be publicised in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, please enjoy the remaining 2025 event listed above. . If you have any thoughts on suitable events for the next year, then please let us know