

Friends of Judy Woods Newsletter

Spring 2026 Report



Chairman's Spring 2026 Report

Hello everyone,

I have been looking back at our activities during 2025, and I am proud of what we continue to do as Friends of Judy Woods. As you know, the woods are owned jointly by Bradford and Calderdale Councils, but Bradford mainly manages the whole area. Like many local authorities these days, finances are tight. I often wonder what the Council would do without the voluntary input of our Practical Task Group. Could they afford to employ a contractor to litter pick and remove fly tipping? What about repairing paths or rebuilding walls and fences, or removing loose tree branches? Needless to say, the continued removal of Himalayan Balsam would be impossible without our efforts.

We know that the few staff remaining in the Council's Woodlands section appreciate our efforts and provide us with materials to carry out repair and renewal work. What many people don't realise is that motor vehicles (except for the unauthorised quad bikes!) cannot travel far into the woods. As a result, we must physically transfer most things by wheelbarrow up and down slopes, and often through the mud. A few years ago, this was less of a challenge, but as time has passed and many of us have gained a few more years, we have had to slow down somewhat. It is especially gratifying and encouraging when we are joined by friends who have a bit more energy and physical capability. Many thanks - you know who you are!

Unfortunately, I must highlight a concern. After Judy Woods was designated a Local Nature Reserve last summer, we learned that plans are underway to build a housing estate right up to its edge near the Hudson development at Wyke. Many local residents have objected, citing issues with access, traffic, drainage, and environmental impact. Planning permission is still pending, but if approved, it will mean losing part of our green belt and a popular route to Judy Woods.

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2026 Events Programme

The Friends of Judy Woods (FoJW) present their annual programme of events for 2026, offering a range of activities suitable for all ages and abilities. The events include seasonal walks and gatherings, focusing on woodland biodiversity and celebrating community heritage. These occasions are an excellent opportunity to socialise and meet new friends. Please refer to the following reports for reviews of our 2026 meetings. ENJOY.

Tuesday 10th March 10.30am

Walk to Bierley Woods - meet Geoff and Mary Twentyman at Raw Nook Nature Reserve, Railway Terrace, Low Moor, BD12 OLT. (Approx. 4 miles).

Thursday 16th April 7.00pm

Annual General Meeting - Wyke Methodist Church, Laverack Field (off Towngate) Wyke Bradford BD12 8JB. Refreshments will be available prior to the meeting.

Thursday 14th May 1.30pm

Walk to the Lightcliffe Tea Rooms - meet Sally Tetlow at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA.

June (Date to be confirmed)

Walk round Oakwell Hall to see how their Friends Group operates.

Balsam Bash (Date to be arranged)

Balsam Bashing - Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA for a morning of balsam bashing followed by lunch.

Friday 18th September 7.00pm

Bat Walk - meet Ian Butterfield at the Woodside Village Centre, 82 Fenwick Drive, Woodside, Bradford BD6 2RZ.

Saturday 17th October 1.30pm

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

Monday 28th December 1.00pm

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.

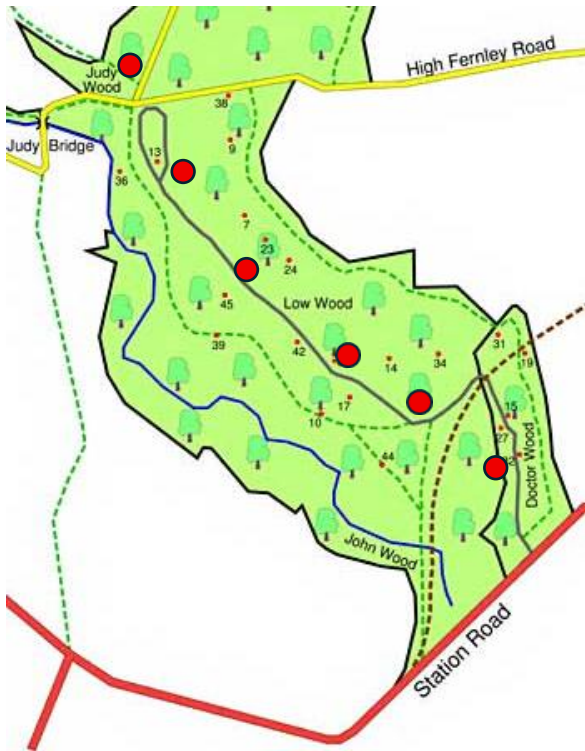
Additional details will be made available nearer the dates or for further information please ring 01274 673274 or email info@judywoods.org.uk or visit our website www.judywoods.org.uk.

Practical Task Group

Here is a brief review of recent Practical Task Group (PTG) activities aimed at enhancing and repairing access and facilities in Judy Woods.

Seating and pathways

With Judy Woods now recognised as a Local Nature Reserve, an increase in visitors is expected. In response, additional seating has been installed along the main pathway from Station Road to High Fernley Road. Six seating areas have been placed at regular intervals, marked in red on the map.



The location of the six seating areas was planned to provide seating at regular distances as shown in red on the map. Seating location, comfort, and stability were assessed and agreed as acceptable by Maxine and Karen our quality control team.



Low Wood Main pathway seating

PTG regular weekly task



Along with the litter left by regular visitors and collected by our litter pickers the woodland is a popular dog-walking area with the attendant deposits for which the PTG have provided and located additional collection points and undertaken weekly clearance facilities. With filled waste bags returned to council collection points. In total 52 sacks were collected in January.

Footpaths and Boundary Fence Repairs

One of many footpath leaf clearances undertaken by our PGT team. Deliberate damage to the Station Rd boundary fence shown top right, initially made safe by the PTG prior with final repairs completed by Bradford Council. Our well-established liaison with the Council works well in arranging rapid response to such major repairs.



Woodside



Our Woodside explorers located the annual crop of supermarket trolleys which are usually planted under water. They were recovered and planted inline as shown at 150cm intervals in anticipation of another crop next year provided an outbreak of community care and commonsense does not arise.

Saturday 27th December Seasonal Winter Walk

Our annual post-Christmas meet was held in dry, cool weather with a strong turnout. We walked from the Old White Beare through Norwood Green, Ox Heys, and Sowden Lane to the Community Hall. The kitchen team provided soup, hot drinks, and desserts to the returning walkers. It was then over to Geoff and Mary who led everyone in a very enjoyable singalong ably accompanied by Ken Sandie and Jim who provided the musical backing. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and our thanks our kitchen crew, and Geoff, Mary, Ken and Sandie and Jim for making it such a success.



Editor's Comments:

We are currently upgrading the QR coded heritage trail and notice boards to reflect increase visitor numbers. To view a the QR waypoint information, photograph the QR Code No 8 on the right and open the file.

