

Friends of Judy Woods

Newsletter Spring 2023



Whenever I read or review the activities of our group there are certain words which spring to mind - especially "enthusiastic", "dedicated", "philosophical", "hard-working", "well-organised", "compatible" and "forward-looking".

We are most fortunate that our active members can provide a wide range of abilities, which means that things are well-organised, practical work is done efficiently, and we are all kept informed of achievements, setbacks and on-going things. "Enthusiasm" means that on any given Wednesday morning there can be up to 20 people or more working as the Practical Taks Group. "Dedicated" includes those volunteers who turn up whatever the weather, and also covers without doubt the description of Paul and Ken who every week empty the litter bins, the main content of which is dog poo. The fact that most of it is wrapped does little to disguise the smell!

One dictionary definition of the word "philosophical" reads "having or showing a calm attitude towards disappointments or difficulties". This trait is certainly useful - nay necessary - at the PTG in particular. Yes, there are certain things we would like to do to the anti-social individuals who vandalise the area for their own pleasure (?) or selfish gain, and those who dump rubbish. However, we persevere and continue to repair things. Sometimes again and again. We are particularly grateful for the patience of our dry stone wallers (Kevin, John, and the others) whose sterling efforts can often be sabotaged between one week and the next.

I don't want to give an over-pessimistic view of the abuse we encounter, because there are many good things which give us cause for happiness and celebration. We work well both as the PTG and the committee. We have occasional differences of opinion, but we are pretty compatible. When it comes to working together to sort out problems we have a good record. This was proved at our Seasons Greetings event in December when arrangements which we thought were well in place fell apart. After the initial serious concerns many members rallied round and we finished up having a successful time. Grateful thanks to everyone concerned.

Our January committee meeting is where we decide on the events for the year. As you will see on the back page we have plenty of activities for you to look forward to. This is another example of where members' enthusiasm comes in, and we are never short of walk leaders. We should like to thank Geoff & Sue Dunn as new leaders. And by a special walk we will be marking the life of someone whose enthusiasm shone through so many times, our first chairman Peter Walker. See Saturday 20th May.

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You're more likely to hear a jay in the woods rather than see one but if you do spot one it's very likely that you'll note the white rump of this colourful bird as it flies away from you - they usually see you before you see them. Their loud harsh alarm call can be heard throughout the year but Spring is probably the best time as the birds will be making themselves heard as they look for mates. Members of the crow family, jays are slightly bigger than blackbirds, and reasonably common in our woods. Jays are renowned for their love of acorns which they cache during autumn to see them through the winter.

We suggested in our last newsletter that you keep a lookout for waxwings, especially in supermarket car parks. Those of you lucky to be around Tesco's on Halifax Road last month might have caught sight of these exotic-looking birds as they stripped the berries from the rowan trees.

Seasons Greetings Event - report by Sally

Our last event of the year took place on 27 December at the Harold Club in Low Moor. We were well supported which was a relief to all after a couple of years' absence as a result of Covid. Refreshments were provided by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who did a marvellous job in producing a range of offerings, including warm soup and rolls, sandwiches courtesy of Sharon and a wide range of donated home-baked cakes. Following this a short walk was led by Sally and Denis round the lake in Harold Park on what was a slightly, damp miserable day. On returning the Ryburn Longsword entertained us with their mesmerising routines following which the Judy Mummers presented their offering which had been both written and directed by Mary Twentyman. This was well received by all and we then settled down for the remainder of the afternoon as various members of the audience took to the stage to perform. We were particularly proud that Alice Jones was amongst these. Alice is a professional singer and multi-instrumentalist whose background is rooted in folk tradition. An amazing day, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Joan Dobson - Obituary By Stuart

We were very sad to learn of the recent passing of Joan Dobson. Joan led our first Spring wild flower and Autumn fungi walks and continued to do so for eleven years until mobility problems made the task too difficult. She was an inspirational leader, combining a professional teaching ability with great knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, her subjects, an enthusiasm which she passed on to many of her pupils over the years. Any walk with Joan was full of interest and her cheerful disposition ensured that it was also a great pleasure. Always renewing her annual membership, Joan was a true Friend of Judy Woods. She will be sorely missed by the many she inspired.

Fire Safety Notice

The council had received a complaint from a member of the public relating to a fire notice placed close to the junction of the main path and High Fernley Road. The edges of the notice were sharp and it was considered that they could be a danger to the public. The screws were long and difficult to remove. It was satisfactorily relocated to a prominent position close to the "Poo Bins". The use of some sandpaper to smooth the edges and corners was also thought to be a sensible refinement.

LitterLotto

Liz Parker the Bradford South Area Ward Officer has asked us to promote the Litter Lotto scheme, their website litterlotto.com states as follows:-

The Litter Lotto is a scheme funded by businesses such as McDonald's to help create a clean environment by trying to change people's behaviour and opinions of litter and is supported by Bradford Council. The scheme is app based and it works by rewarding users with spot prizes and a weekly jackpot of £1000. The app is free to download using their QR code or through Google Play Store/Apple Store. Spot prizes are awarded as coins or cash rewards and the weekly jackpot is £1000. For every piece of litter binned in Bradford, the user will receive a double entry into the weekly jackpot. The more litter binned, the greater the chance of winning a prize or the jackpot. All people have to do is take a photo binning their litter.

There are currently 250 users across the district, but they need more people to get involved. They want us to promote the app. They will be trying to get people onto the app themselves at clean up sessions etc. Once the app has been downloaded, do the following:-

Pick up a piece of litter and open the app.

Take a photo as you put the litter in the bin,

Submit your entry.

Wait to see if you've won a prize!

A chance to encourage litter picking and be rewarded!

Bin it to Win it
Prizes every month just
for binning litter!

Download the free App that rewards binning
litter with spot prizes and huge jackpots!

Free to enter – Just bin litter!



litterlotto



Grey Squirrels

In the last few weeks we have been again aware of squirrel activity, much more evident than at other times of the year. They are often seen in small groups rather than as individuals. Early February is of course mating time hence more sightings. Gestation period for squirrels is six weeks or so, the babies are called kits - useful to know if it ever comes up in your pub quiz.

Fencing

The rustic fence leading down towards Judy bridge has been damaged again. It was decided to replace it with conventional fencing. We have sufficient materials to complete this task so a new post and two rails have already been fitted, the rest will be done soon, weather and manpower permitting.

Kissing Gate Fence

As mentioned once again in the last newsletter the fence adjacent to the kissing gate had been replaced. This has again been vandalised. The post has been pulled out of the ground and rails removed, the perpetrators seem to be very persistent in their criminal damage activities.

Feed / Seed the Robins

Robins have territories in many areas of the woods and when we are working, any disturbance of the ground will attract a robin as they are on the lookout for any worms and bugs that we uncover during our work. PTG coordinator, Brian, has taken to bring bird food which interests them even more. Robins are very possessive of their territories, even the female has a territory of her own in winter. The male marks out the boundaries of his territory by singing loudly, especially in the spring. Males will fight fiercely with one another to defend their territories, sometimes to the death. Their endearing nature to us hides a more sinister side.



Beck Diversion

A beck diversion to the left of the Station Road kissing gate entrance was creating a pond, it is now back on course. It was difficult to accomplish as a fallen tree prevented access.

WhatsApp Group

The members of the PTG have a WhatsApp group to exchange news, ideas, pictures etc. When we received some sleepers to use as replacement steps on the "99 Steps" there were amusing comments passing around relating to tiredness, sleeping, railways etc. Then Chris H came up with the idea that sleepers were Russian Spies which started a new comedy thread altogether!!

Thank You Julie

Due to pressure of work Julie has relinquished her Deputy PTG Co-Ordinator role. Ian has volunteered to take up this vacant post, he will be formally proposed at the April AGM.

Sleepers & "99 Steps"

Mentioned in the July 2022 newsletter that we had received delivery of two railway sleepers, from the council, for use as replacement steps on the "99 Steps". After being sawn in half they were taken by car down High Fernley Road to the barrier, wheelbarrowed to the site and fitted the following week. We requested some more sleepers to complete the project and eight more sleepers were duly delivered. These, we discovered, were slightly smaller than the previous ones but still adequate for the job. We are in the process of installing these and, when completed, the steps will be much safer.



Hi Ho!

The Woodside Workers amused us all by posting a WhatsApp group video of them singing the Hi Ho song from Snow White. They remembered most of the words - a great effort.

Bin Replacement

One of our "Poo Bins" was vandalised, fortunately Peter from the council sourced a replacement promptly, which pleased Paul & Ken - the bin emptiers

2023 Events Programme

Saturday 25th March 1.30pm

Springtime in Judy Woods - meet Stuart Tordoff and Sally Tetlow at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA. Brush up on your tree and plant identification as we check on what's emerging as the woods spring into life. 2-3 miles

Thursday 27th April 7.00pm

Annual General Meeting - Wyke Methodist Church, Laverack Field (off Towngate) Wyke, Bradford BD12 8JB. A presentation by Ed Brightman, Council Asst. Woodlands Manager Refreshments available prior to the meeting.

Saturday 29th April 1.30pm

Woodside Wander - meet Sue and Geoff Dunn at the Meadway entrance, Woodside, Bradford BD6 2SP for a stroll through Judy Woods - hopefully we will see bluebells.

Saturday 20th May 10.30am

Peter's Walk - meet Mary and Geoff Twentyman at Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA, visiting some of the places associated with Peter Walker. Opportunity for refreshment at Cafe CC in Scholes. 4-5 miles

Saturday in June (date to be confirmed)

Archaeology Walk - meet Denis Waudby at the Station Road entrance, off Huddersfield Road, Wyke BD12 8LA.

Details of the events later in the year will be posted in the next newsletter.

Please keep an eye on the website for possible changes.