



ORE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Seeking to acquire land in the Upper Ore Valley to save and enhance urban woodland and green space for community use and to protect animal habitat



Speckled Wood Newsletter

December 2016

Present Activities

Welcome to edition two of our new Newsletter. We have been busy backfilling our concrete bench, clearing a path to it from the bottom of the first set of woodland steps (Old London Rd side) and completing our wood pile fence. We have also cleared a couple of trees that fell in the recent winds: one on the green and one alongside some steps further in.



Luckily some trees are managing to keep a handle on things!

We also took the opportunity to put in a new riser on one of the steps; using wood from one of the fallen trees



We went on a walkabout to prioritise our next tasks and we have decided that a litter pick is in order, so we will be doing this on Friday 9th between 10 and 12.30 if anyone would like to join in. (We will start on the Green, Old London Rd at 10am)

Wildlife

Last Newsletter we promised a photo of the common lizard we found, well, here it is.



It is about 5-6cm long and has a distinctive orange underbelly which indicates that it is a male.

The common lizard as an adult would be between 13-15cm long and variable in colour although males tend to have spots and the females, stripes.

The young, as in our friend here, are all brown or black.

There are three native species of lizard in the UK: the common lizard, the slow worm and the sand lizard (endangered species). Many people confuse newts with lizards but they are slow moving. (that's why our photo is a little blurred, he was a quick mover!) (Photo - thanks to Chris)

Tales from the Wood

We also promised you a Speckled Wood Butterfly story.....

SPECKLED WOOD GIVES YOU WINGS!



“Just sitting there, enjoying the view, when, two Speckled Wood Butterflies started flying in front of me. One landed on my right shoe and the other, on my left shoe. I reached for my camera, but alas, too late, they had flown.

Moral of this story: You never know when beauty will touch, and keep your camera handy!

PS. One flew back, and as I had my camera handy, I captured this.”

(Photo and tale with many thanks to Chris.)

Gallery

It seems a good time of year to have a Speckled Wood Lichen/Fungi Gallery:



Photo 1: Shows Glistening Ink Caps in two stages of their lifecycle. At the front you can see their bell shaped form and if you look closely you will see a fine layer of reflective cells which shine in the sun. Behind, you can see them in their deterioration stage where their gills dissolve into a black inky liquid with their spores.

We haven't formally identified the others at the time of going to print! There are over 4000 species!!!

(please note that we are amateurs and do not guarantee our identification!)

If you would like to contribute something to the Newsletter, whether it is photos, stories etc about Speckled Wood; please send to the email address below with subject heading “Newsletter” and how you wish to be identified, then we will try to include it.

Contact: Ore Community Land Trust, Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Hastings, TN35 5BH e-mail: ore.clt@hotmail.com www.orecommunitylandtrust.org.uk