



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

January 2017

Present Activities

Happy New Year to everyone! Fitting around festivities, we have been clearing up rubbish for a clean start to the New Year. We managed to fill quite a few sacks and will do some more imminently, so go and enjoy the wood when you can.



Sitting on the concrete bench (see our November newsletter) the other day was quite a moment. No one was around and it was so peaceful. I was hoping to catch sight of the foxes who reside nearby, but instead, I was treated to three pairs of small birds hopping from tree to tree top. Too high up for me to identify, but such fun to watch.

I spent quite a bit of time looking straight up, not a view we often see, and got all philosophical about it. Look how the trees seem to leave space between one another, (just enough room for a canopy of leaves in the Summer). Well done trees, a good example of mutual respect - I thought.

Walk in the Woods



On Saturday, 21st January, Ore Valley Greenway organised a roughly three mile walk along the proposed route for the Greenway. This included passing along some of the pathways in Speckled Wood.

It was a great turnout as there were around 70 adults and children.

Although a chilly day, it was enjoyed by all!



Wildlife in the Woods



A quieter time of year for wildlife; but we did spot a couple of wasps basking in a morning of surprising warmth and sunshine. They are ground nesting and the entrance to their nest can be seen far left on the picture.

Fungi

Fungi are out and abundant! We did put a gallery of some species in last month's Newsletter but they deserve another mention as they are everywhere and such a variety. Here are some photos we took and our attempts at naming them. (Please note: we do not guarantee our accuracy and recommend you observe and do not touch, when up close)



(L to R)

1) Glistening Inkcap

2) Candle Snuff

3) Top: Purple Jelly Cup

4) Many Zoned Polypore



5) Unknown



6) Jelly Ear



7) Yellow Brain



8) Velvet Shank

A couple of interesting facts:

The Candlesnuff Fungus is generally one of the fungi to attack already rotting wood. It is bioluminescent (glow in the dark)but , before you get too excited, its glow is very weak and needs complete darkness with zero light pollution to be seen.

The Yellow Brain Fungus' genus name is Tremella mesenterica. The word Mesenterica is derived from two Ancient Greek words meso (middle) and enteron (intestine) so obviously someone thought it looked more like that! Yellow Brain (intestine!)grows on wood that has already been attacked by a wood rotting fungi and is easily spotted in wet weather when it swells. There is a white version, but it is quite rare here in the Uk, so if you see one, take a photo!

Well, that's it for this month.

If you do have any experiences or photos in Speckled Wood that you would like to share, then please contact us on the email address below with subject heading "Newsletter"

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