Ore Community Land Trust

Saving and enhancing green space in the Upper Ore Valley

Newsletter February 2019

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

At the AGM in September, our outgoing Chair, Tony Polain, reviewed the year. Here are some highlights of a very busy year.

- **Land Acquisition and clearance**
  Ore CLT has been fortunate in acquiring its first two plots of land (in "Church Street"), courtesy of Hastings Borough Council. Work has been progressing well to clear the land in readiness for our mini-container to host tools etc.
- **Speckled Wood Survey**
  with the aid of a grant from Building Better Communities, we have a carried out a comprehensive door-to door survey in the area surrounding Speckled Wood which showed substantial support for Ore CLT plans for Speckled Wood. The idea is to encourage the local community to see the wood as a local amenity, find out what activities they would like to see take place, and get involved.
- **Woodland Volunteer Activity**
  Land Preparation and Footpath Clearance
- **Public Meeting**
  We held our AGM in September
- **Ore Valley Greenway**
  Meetings with ESCC, HBC, Sustrans, the Hastings Greenway Group, Amber Rudd, The Ramblers, HUB, HARC and Big Local to promote the case for the Ore Valley Greenway and to challenge (successfully) the circuitous route proposed by the County.
- **Ecology Walk**
  A walk was organised to learn more about insect life in Speckled Wood. It was led by Andrew Grace and it is hoped to hold more of these walks in future.
- **Green Gym**
  run in conjunction with The Conservation Volunteers, the gym sessions proved to be very popular and successful.
- **Newsletters**
  We produced various newsletters periodically updating members and the public with details of our activities, events and plans for the future.

At the September Annual General Meeting the following new committee was elected:

Chair – Jim Breeds

Secretary – Tony Polain

Treasurer – Becky Polain

Membership Secretary and Minute Taker – Richard Street

Fund-Raiser – Ruti Chang

Board Member – Aubrey Ingleton

Ex-Officio Board Member – Tania Charman

Ore CLT Volunteer Base & Tool Store - Church Street

We now have a really useful base unit located in Speckled Wood on our land next to Church Street (south of Greville Road). This is thanks to funding from the Big Local NE Hastings, help from the Conservation Volunteers organisation and our own small team of dedicated volunteers.

As the photos show it is a small but strong and secure unit that acts as a tool and equipment store and is also fitted out to be able to provide tea & coffee and shelter (if it rains) for volunteers working on the land we are clearing. We also have a much larger site office, also funded by the Big Local, that we intend to locate below the Green next to the Salvation Army Hall when we have been able to acquire the plot of land that we need.

Would you like to join our Speckled Wood Volunteer team?

We have plenty of work to do to continue to clear and enhance the area of land we have been given by Hastings Borough Council, as a start for our community woodland project. We will also be clearing foot-paths throughout Speckled Wood, repairing the four sets of steps from the valley floor and dealing with other woodland management tasks. If you are interested or want to know more please contact us by post or email below.

Here's something to help keep the grey cells ticking over. All the answers are things you might find in Speckled Wood. There are at least 16 things to find.

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E	O	X	V	P	Z	Y	C	F	E	W	S	U	Y	Q
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B	D	F	P	B	M	E	R	U	E	Y	A	T	R	B
B	I	L	E	O	P	B	L	D	C	E	L	E	S	S
A	V	R	C	K	O	J	G	A	H	C	G	R	E	I
D	S	G	D	T	T	D	M	Y	R	N	N	F	L	D
G	P	M	T	S	G	O	R	C	I	X	E	L	T	E
E	O	L	I	K	R	V	W	P	Y	G	K	Y	E	E
R	E	H	M	E	M	K	P	Z	Q	D	O	B	E	W
S	N	A	C	K	N	I	R	D	R	D	R	P	B	T
A	B	R	I	O	T	D	O	I	C	F	B	P	U	O
S	T	N	A	Y	M	G	U	H	N	A	Z	D	I	N
L	F	P	L	L	S	E	J	S	T	N	E	T	O	K
A	D	F	F	H	S	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	L

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