Ore Community Land Trust

Saving and enhancing green space in the Upper Ore Valley

NEWSLETTER Spring 2020

Ore CLT Volunteer Team Working in Speckled Wood

Ore CLT volunteers (pictured here in February) have been busy clearing our land in Church Street of undergrowth and rubbish & debris that has been dumped there over many years. They have also repaired the steps that lead up from the centre of the valley to Old London Road and are in the process of removing wood and other materials that have been dumped in the stream. There is still much work to do and continuing woodland management as the weeds grow in the spring and footpaths need to be kept clear. In addition we have recently planted some fruit trees on our land in Church Street.

We are keen to recruit more volunteers and if you are interested please come along to one of the work sessions - normally on <u>Thursday mornings 10am to 12.30pm</u> or contact Ore CLT (details overleaf)

In the current coronavirus crisis, volunteer sessions have been put on hold. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of when they will resume.

Here are a few more photos of our volunteers (who come in diverse ages) in action before the lockdown put a temporary stop to it all. The last photo shows Japanese Knotweed drying. All photos were taken by one of our trustees, Amanda Jobson.

Funding for community edible garden awarded

We have just learnt that our bid to Sussex Community Fund has been successful and we have been awarded £3,417 from their Nino Fund to establish a 'Community edible Garden' with young people and families frequenting the wood.

The plot is on the edge of Ore Village Green near to corner of Graystone Lane. We are aiming to make safe pathways with disabled access, and offer learning activities through the growing of edible vegetables and fruit. The area has been cleared of some sycamore trees which has provided much needed light to the woodland. This will be a productive sustainable growing area, establishing an outdoor community learning project offering a weekly event and hosting a monthly Saturday event for families.

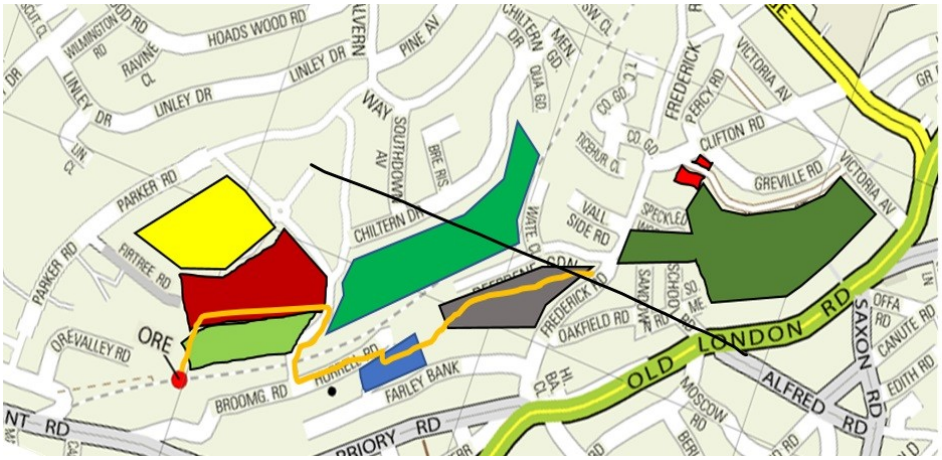
Lower Ore Valley Green Spaces

Ore Community Land Trust has been working with Hastings Borough Council on a proposal for the Trust to take over two green spaces in the Lower Ore Valley as part of a transfer of the land originally acquired by Seaspace for the Millenium Ore Valley Regeneration Scheme. This covers the large green space below Chiltern Drive and a smaller green space between the Old Power Station site and the railway which is shows as Ore Valley Greenspace 1 and 2 on the map below.

This very welcome opportunity will ensure that these areas can be permanently held as protected woodland and green spaces for community use and enhanced to provide improved footpaths and, importantly, key sections of the Ore Valley Greenway- a network of cycling & walking routes through Ore Valley.

It is hoped that the land can be transferred over the next few months and Ore CLT will be working with the Broomgrove Volunteer group, which has already created a network of paths and features such as ponds in the larger of the two green spaces.

The land transfer will come with some funding specifically retained by Hastings BC for use on the green spaces in Ore Valley. This will enable Ore CLT to recruit a part time woodland manager and a colleague to manage Ore CLT land, recruit volunteers and develop a program for improving the green spaces and for community amenity projects and activities throughout Ore Valley.



Help Ore Community Land Trust while you shop

If you are a member of the Co-op, you can select us as your nominated charity and then 1% of everything you spend on Co-op branded products comes to us from their community fund. So far this has raised £933.22.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

You can also donate to us whenever you shop on line at Amazon via Amazon Smile. If you access the site via www.smile.amazon.co.uk you can choose us as your nominated charity and shop in the usual way donating 0.5% of everything you spend to us.

The Woodland Trust is donating 30 trees for us to plant in Speckled Wood later in the year: silver birch, wild cherry and rowan. We'll need help planting them so please look out for details of a tree-planting session in the autumn.

WOODLAND TRUST

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, and purchased with help from Big Local North-East Hastings as a start for our community woodland project. We will also be clearing footpaths 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.

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