Ore Community Land Trust

Saving and enhancing green space in the Upper Ore Valley

NEWSLETTER Spring 2021

Volunteer Sessions in Speckled Wood

Extra Saturday sessions starting soon

Starting Saturday 5th June, we are beginning our monthly volunteer sessions in addition to the weekly Thursday sessions. These will be on the first Saturday of the month, 10am to 1pm.

Come and join our volunteering team to help improve and maintain Speckled Wood. Spend some time outdoors, digging, weeding, planting, maintaining pathways bridges and steps, sharing knowledge and skills.

We meet at our Volunteer Base in the Community Garden, below Ore Village Green or if you'd like to join us weekly, our Thursday sessions begin again on 20th May 10am to 1pm.

Meet us at our Tool Store in Church Street or our Volunteer Base in the Community Garden. We look forward to meeting you.

New land acquisition

We are delighted to report that we have at last completed the purchase of another plot of land in the upper Ore Valley. This latest acquisition is approximately one acre in size and lies between Frederick Road and Church Street (off Clifton Road).
With thanks to the Elgar family who sold it to us, we plan to name this area in some way using the family name. We also wish to thank in particular, Big Local North East Hastings, who granted us the funds to make this purchase and to pay the legal fees.

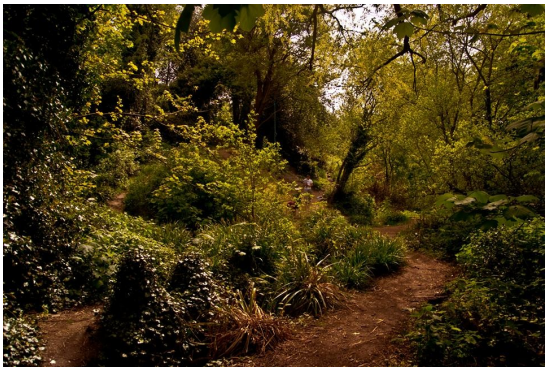
This acquisition is another great step forward in our long term goal of protecting and enhancing Speckled Wood for the community bringing ,as it does, the number of plots of land that we now own in the area to five.
Our first objective with this new plot will be to continue to eradicate the knotweed that currently grows there, a programme of work that we started in 2019. In the long term we plan to nurture this area as a meadow with bench seating that the community can use and enjoy.
[The photo shows knotweed clearance in progress on this land.]

Free Gardening Micro Courses

Speckled Wood and the Community Garden were recently visited by community gardeners, Anna Locke and Amanda Jobson, to create a series of free mini gardening courses for the local community. From sowing seeds to pruning trees. For more information visit:
www.permacultureonline.co.uk/free-gardening-micro-courses

Protecting our footpaths

The footpaths across Speckled Wood from School Road, Graystone Lane, Frederick Road and Victoria Avenue have been used by the community for decades. To and from school and the local shops, for dog walking, and the for the simple joy of this very special urban woodland.



These footpaths are not legal rights of way. We would like to change that so that they are permanently there for walkers, dog walkers, and where possible for wheel chair and push chair users. With your help we can keep these paths open to all for ever. To do this we need to show East Sussex County Council that the paths have been used for over 20 years. If you know any of the paths, and have used that path since 2002 please help us. Give us a call on 0738 3000 673 or email us on info@oreclt.org and we will get back to you and find a time to chat about how long you have used the paths, and where you were going to and from.

This is part of our commitment to protect the land, and enhance this urban woodland and green space for community use.

Speckled Wood Open Day

Saturday 22nd May from 10:30-15:00 at Ore Village Green next to Salvation Army, Old London Road. Tours of the Wood, plant sales, activities for young and old. Come and find out more about Speckled Wood and our plans for the future.

Would you help us with your time and skills?

We are a dedicated, enthusiastic team of volunteers. We have various roles including hands-on roles such as working on woodland management with others on a weekly basis, organising events and running the charity through our board of trustees. We are always looking for new volunteers to join us to work on our wonderful projects to secure the future of Speckled Wood and to manage the woodland for the benefit and enjoyment of the community. We are currently particularly keen to hear from people who might help us to progress our various projects by joining us as a **trustee** or **committee member**.

If you are interested in discussing further to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email us with your contact details at info@oreclt.org and one of us will be delighted to answer your questions.

Continue to 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 for the second year running and the Co-op donates 1% of everything you spend on Co-op branded products to us from their community fund. In the first year this raised just under £2,500.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

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

Ore Community Land Trust, the Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Hastings TN35 5BH

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We are on both Facebook and Twitter so follow us and keep up with the latest developments.