



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



NEWSLETTER – December 2015

If you did not receive this newsletter by email but have an email address, please let us have it so we can save money and time on future mailings.

The Speckled Wood Allotments Project

Ore Community Land Trust and Ore Valley Action before it have campaigned for many years not just to save Speckled Wood from development and to open up the footpaths but also to put forward ideas for enhancing the woodland valley for community use. It can provide a range of valuable additional amenities that local residents can benefit from.

One of these projects is to restore the disused allotments on the area of Speckled Wood between School Road and the land identified for the planned **Ore Village Green**. This area is now overgrown and self seeded sycamore trees have grown to create a canopy.

However, advice from members of the local Allotments Association is that this area can be cleared and the soil will be very suitable for reinstating the land for food growing

There is sufficient land, which is level and set out with access paths, for at least 30 plots. It is close to the centre of Ore Village and is easily accessible, with a track for vehicle access via Graystone Lane. A water stand pipe can be provided as the water supply pipes to the adjoining housing in Old London Road are very close by.

Ore is lacking in available allotment land and most gardens in the neighbourhood are too small to allow for much food growing capacity.



There has been a significant revival of interest in allotments across the Borough and nationally and adding to the existing allotment land in Hastings would be welcomed.

Allotments would provide another valuable amenity for the residents in Ore Village and Ore Valley by making productive use of a small area of Speckled Wood, without impacting of the extensive woodland.

Some plots could also be used by local schools, nurseries and children's groups for education and to generate interest in food growing.

Ore Community Land Trust plans to seek funding for the Allotments Project and to acquire the disused allotment land. A

project committee will be set up to involve local residents and organisations that can provide help and expertise in order to develop and manage this project. We will keep Ore CLT members informed of progress.

Woods Report November 2015 by Derek Rainer

This year regrettably we started very late with our maintenance work and with the approach of winter we don't know for how long we can safely continue. Nevertheless, we have gathered a small team which has got larger as time goes on. We meet at 10am on Fridays on the valley floor in the large clearing near the stream, weather permitting. Anyone can join us for 1,2 or 3 hours of light effort (we are that flexible!). This month already we have repaired 2 flights of steps, cleared a pathway, cleared a tree that had fallen into the stream. and installed a footpath sign in Church Street. I suggest you wear wellies and working/ gardening gloves. I can't carry all the tools needed so if you have a pair of loppers or shears, they're handy. My thanks to Chris, Sheena, Me, Bernhard, Kelly and her dog, our team so far.

Autumn wildlife in the woods

By Becky Polain

The woods are looking very colourful at this time of year, as the leaves turn red, orange and yellow and many animals and plants ready themselves for the winter.

It is the best time of year to look for fungi. They will be sprouting up through dead leaves, on dead wood, tree trunks and by the paths. Don't touch them though, unless you are very sure what they are!

Other plants and shrubs are laden with berries. Some holly trees are covered right now, and the ivy berries are particularly enticing to wood pigeons, blackbirds, thrushes and blackcaps.

Many birds are migrating, and as some leave our woodlands, other will be arriving. Look out for flocks of small birds such as dunnocks, tree sparrows and long-tailed tits.



There are only three mammals in the UK that hibernate. The hedgehog, dormice and bats. I admit, it is some time since I saw a hedgehog, and it would be lovely if some were in Speckled Wood.

The queen bumble-bees, wasps and hornets are also hibernating, as are butterflies, frogs, toads and reptiles.

A log pile is a perfect habitat for any hibernating animal, so leave well alone. You don't want to wake someone up!

Victoria Avenue development refused

On 20 October, Hastings Borough Council's Planning Committee reconsidered the planning application for the development of 31 houses and 4 flats on the land at the top of Speckled Wood. This had been approved, subject to conditions, in February 2014. However, some of the conditions had not been met and the recent redesignation of Speckled Wood as Local Green Space, which includes this land, was a fundamental and material change that required the application to be reconsidered. Ore CLT members attended the Planning meeting and were very pleased to witness the unanimous agreement of the Planning Committee to refuse the application, as recommended by the planning officer.

This means that there is now no planning permission for any development in Speckled Wood apart from the small area where Church Street joins Clifton Road This is the last stage in the process of protecting the woodland valley so that Ore CLT can work towards acquiring all of the land to create a Community Woodland.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & APPLICATION FORM (May 2015)

SURNAME: FIRST NAME(S):

ORGANISATION (if applicable):

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: TEL. NO:E MAIL:

SIGNED: DATE:

AGE (if under 16 yrs): Please ask a parent/guardian to fill in the details and sign below

Name: Address:

..... Emergency Tel. No:

Signed: Payment enclosed: £ Cash - Cheque-

(cheques should be made payable to *Ore Community Land Trust*)

Contact details: Ore Community Land Trust, Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Hastings TN35 5BH
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