



## 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

February 2017

## *Present Activities*

*Welcome to the February edition of our Newsletter. We have been continuing our rubbish clearance. Apart from general litter, there are some very interesting bits and pieces left over from the wood's historical use (which we are finding more out about). We can now add turkey rearing to the list! We hope to write more about the wood's past life when we have gathered the material.*

## *Spring Clean in the Wood*



*On **March 18<sup>th</sup>** from 10 to 4pm in Church St, Clifton Rd end we will be holding a big rubbish clearance - in line with the Great British Spring Clean. HBC have kindly donated us a skip for the day. We have gathered a lot of rubbish ready along Church St already and, if we have space in the skip, we can remove more from other places in the wood. Please do come and join us even if it's for an hour or so. We'd love to meet you. Tea, coffee, biscuits and laughs provided!*

## *Wildlife in the Wood*



*Of course it's still a dormant time for most wildlife but we do spot the odd inhabitant. This (left) is a **plaited door snail** and was spotted, beautifully wedged in a crack of a tree trunk at eye level. The shell of the door snails is sinistral, meaning it is on the left side. It can be seen ascending tree trunks on wet days to graze on algae and lichens. We are not sure how it created the situation in the photo: the twig it is connected to is completely separate from the trunk!*

*I have been spending time in the wood, quietly sitting in strategic positions (freezing!), with my camera at the ready, unsuccessfully waiting to capture a shot of the resident foxes to put in the newsletter. Last week, a volunteer and I were discussing a plan of action for something else, when a fox passed by, less than 15 feet away. Of course I didn't have my camera handy and what's more, it completely ignored us - not a glance, nod, not anything. Am I expecting too much?*



*We were, however, compensated by a rare sighting of a small bear in the undergrowth.*



*Two different views of Speckled Wood in February, beginning and end, both beautiful in their own way.*

### ***Photography in the Wood***

*Now we are passing out of winter, its time to emerge from our cocoons and a good time for some photography. People have been fascinated for thousands of years by geometry which they originally found in nature. The word Geometry comes from the Greek – geo (earth) and (metry) measure. An obvious example is the spiral of a shell or a starfish. So we invite you to find some Geometry in the Wood. Here are a couple of examples to give an idea: a circle and a diamond.*



*If you find any Speckled Wood geometry; send your photos to us at the email address below with subject heading 'Newsletter' and we would love to include it in later editions. There is no time constraint and it doesn't have to be top quality, from your phone will do. The main thing is sharing the shape you have found. Spring is a good time of year to look, as we will have buds forming, ferns uncurling etc.*

*If you also have any tales or experiences from the wood you would like to share, please send them in, we would enjoy hearing from you.*

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