

Ore Community Land Trust

Saving and enhancing green space in the Upper Ore Valley



NEWSLETTER Autumn 2020

Volunteers maintaining the woodland

Over recent months our volunteers have been working hard to maintain the woodland and ensure it remains safe for members of our local community to take their regular exercise during the COVID-19 crisis.



Bridge & Steps - Repair and Rebuilding

Several of the 5 stream bridges in Speckled Wood have been damaged or were deteriorating with age and so our volunteer team has rebuilt 3 of them to keep the footpaths open. We are now using old railway sleepers as a much more robust and long lasting solution. Our next project will be replacing the steps on each side of the valley. Both of these projects are being funded by a grant from the Hastings Foreshore Trust for which we are grateful.



Eradication Programme for Japanese Knotweed



This is going to be a long term objective as this invasive plant has taken over quite a few areas of Speckled Wood. However we are now making good progress on the worst affected area next to Church Street with the help of volunteers from the Conservation Trust (TCV) and our own volunteers, as the photo shows.

Site Volunteer Base Unit - On Land Below the Green

This container based ex-building site canteen was finally transported to the Ore CLT owned land near to Old London Road in September. It had been stored in a Hastings Council car park for some months and the operation was skilfully carried out by Tony from Hastings Crane Hire who managed to navigate the narrow Graystone Lane track.



It is now providing a valuable base for our volunteer teams and will also be used for community events when the current Covid 19 restrictions are finally relaxed - we all hope in early 2021!

Land purchases

It is just over a year now since we completed the purchase of two adjacent plots of land in Speckled Wood. They are located just below Ore Village Green as shown on this map in green. We are delighted with the progress made by our wonderful volunteers on this plot over the past 12 months, despite the interruptions caused by the coronavirus.

We have cleared undergrowth and a couple of trees that were growing as weeds, levelled off part of the site, and created a community garden, complete with a small pond! We are also in the process of purchasing another plot of land near Frederick Road, which is almost an acre in size.

Sadly, the conveyancing process has been seriously delayed, but we are optimistic that it will complete within the next few weeks. Big Local North-East Hastings grant funded these purchases.



Realisation of Ore Valley Greenway Moves Closer

Hastings Greenway Trust (HGT) had put in a bid to the Hastings Town Deal (a £25M Government fund allocation to Hastings) for the construction of the Ore Valley Greenway (walking & cycling) routes from Ore Station, including the section through Speckled Wood (which runs along the long abandoned Church Street from Victoria Avenue to Frederick Road. The project bid is one of those selected at the first round and will now be subject to an independent assessment for projects to be submitted to the Government. If successful the work would start in 2022 and be a collaboration between HGT and Ore Community Land Trust.



Ore CLT is working to acquire most of the land required for the Greenway routes in the Lower Ore Valley and in Speckled Wood. This project would be of enormous value to residents throughout Ore Valley and has long been one of the projects that is strongly supported by Ore CLT and many other organisations in the area. For more details look at the Hastings Greenway Facebook page.

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.

Community Garden and Tree Planting

Work has continued on the Community Garden next to our volunteer base unit below the Green. We are now going to start to clear the area of brambles to allow for seating and new planting.

We would like to plant some gooseberry bushes and wild strawberries, creating good biodiversity and for young hands to pick. We are keeping the elder trees and making use of the vegetable pots with a range of planting for nature and for eating. Fruit trees were planted in July on our land alongside Church Street and are becoming well established.

We are looking for a new volunteer to help with gardening to support the ongoing uses of the plot in making a practical compost heap and redirecting the entrances into the plot making it easier to access from Village Green end.



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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

Phone: 0738 3000 673 Web: www.orecommunitylandtrust.org.uk Email: info@oreclt.org

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