



Newsletter

April 2015



‘Stump of the year’

Contents

View from the Chair.....	2	School Fungi Art Project.....	11
Editorial.....	3	UK Fungus Day 2014-15.....	12
The Old Keswickian.....	4	An interesting find in the Ancient Forest of Wirral.....	16
Stump of the Year.....	7	Treasurer’s Reminder.....	18
Fungal opportunism.....	7	Available resources for Fungus Day.....	19
Keswick - a bit more.....	8		
Tulostoma problems.....	10		

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View from the Chair

Irene Ridge

The start of another fungus season and lots of interesting things happening in the fungus world. For our own NWFG the main event since the last Newsletter has been the AGM, which was quite well attended (33 people) and notable in a number of ways.

Firstly, and sadly, this was the last meeting for Professor Bruce Ing, our President for many years and a sterling supporter having given interesting talks at many AGMs, led workshops and sometimes forays. I thanked Bruce and made a small presentation on the NWFG's behalf: we wish him and his wife Ellie a happy retirement in Ullapool – which is just too far away from us for regular visits.

A second new feature at the AGM was a visit from Summerfield Books, ar-

ranged by John Watt. They provided an excellent display of books and equipment (and sold some too) and I hope that they can come again.

The third 'incident' (unique I hope) was an encounter by members preparing lunch in the kitchen - and by another out taking his dog for a walk - with an unfortunate and disturbed young man wielding a knife. He was eventually taken away by paramedics and police (complete with tasers) and nobody was actually hurt – just shocked!

You can read a full account of the AGM in the minutes, but worth mentioning here is the resignation from the Committee of Peter Smith, although he remains a member of the Group and will lead the occasional foray (thank goodness, Peter is one of our best mycologists). I mentioned the major project which Group members carried out for the National Trust in 2014, a

fungal survey of their dune reserve at Sandscale Haws in Cumbria (see the last 'View' and more in a later Newsletter).

Tony Carter reported on the 14 forays held in 2014, Jeanette Maddy reported our splendid efforts on national Fungus Day and finally, the Treasurer, Liz Moore, described the generally healthy state of our finances and suggested that a full colour Newsletter might be considered. This was warmly welcomed and a full colour photograph of a fungus on the front cover was suggested as an extra flourish.

After the business meeting we had an interesting talk from the President updating his much earlier talk about slime moulds, followed by an excellent lunch (prepared by Robin Dean with help from Sylvia Massey) and then, after looking at books, some people had the usual foray around Risley Moss reserve

So far in 2015 there has been a major project co-ordinated by John Taylor: the digitising of 'paper' records from Pat Livermore for input to the National Biodiversity Network. Pat was a distinguished mycologist from our region who died a few years ago and making her records more widely available was felt to be a thoroughly worthwhile activity.

Looking ahead, the first foray is on 12 April at Freshfield (Ainsdale) and is the annual Ken Jordan Memorial Foray and there are 12 more forays to follow not including extra activities for National Fungus Day(s) around 10 or 11 October. We are again hoping to link the Beginners' foray on 23 August with a microscope workshop (and have free BMS booklets on Microscopy for beginners to use), so if you are interested do let me

know: if there is insufficient interest the workshop will be cancelled but last year it was found to be very helpful. The Keswick Residential foray is on 2 - 5 October and 10 people are already booked provisionally – see the application form with this Newsletter and do come if you can.

Have a wonderful fungus season and I hope to see some of you on forays and/or at Keswick.

Editorial

It was agreed at the AGM that following publication the Newsletter (and possibly back issues) will be made available on the website to publicise the Group and make the information available to a wider audience. Most authors will probably welcome this development but if anyone has a problem then please contact myself or Irene. Hard copies of the Newsletter will still be sent to members unless they specifically request an electronic copy only.

Many thanks to those members who have contributed articles for this issue and to Mike Walton for typesetting and organising the printing and posting of the Newsletter. Articles can be submitted to me by email. Pictures of fungi to accompany articles are very welcome, preferably as separate attachments. Please note that it is important to show due diligence when including any photographs (or other material) that have not been taken by yourself by getting permission and including the name of the photographer (or copyright holder) so that due credit can be given in the Newsletter.

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THE OLD KESWICKIAN

Robin Dean

Once, long ago, in a time when I had hair and weighed a lot less, a strange society was formed, the North West Fungus Group. Rita Cook was our founding Chair and inspiration. From the beginning it was successful and the forays were popular. Everybody learned a lot and for the first time we had fungus workshops, where we could concentrate on fungi and put many minds and many books to use. This was a lot better than everyone disappearing at the end of a foray. It was very useful too, to put microscopes into use “on the day” and let those who had never seen fungi microscopically have a look.

However, even the day workshops, useful though they were, left a little to be desired. It's always a faff setting up microscopes and carting books about just for a few hours, so somewhere where we could leave everything set up for a while would be good. The idea was born, “Let's have a weekend” but where? Quite a few folk had been on fungi courses at Field Study Centres so we decided to book the Blencathra Field Centre for a weekend. For those who don't know, this is situated 800 feet up on the slopes of a Lake District hill, Blencathra, a couple of miles from Keswick. It was once a hospital where TB patients were treated, the cold mountain air being considered good for them.

The weekend went well and we were able to settle down with books and microscopes. I remember we borrowed a large video microscope from Liverpool Museum which I had the dubious pleasure of transporting and returning. Fungi were on our doorstep and we discovered the now famous “waxcap field”. It was good fun too and it was nice to spend time with fellow Group members. We all learned from each other and saw lots of fungi.

The mists of time cloud my memory, but I think we went a couple more times. I know we once got Geoff Kibby to come along.

In the meantime I was an active member of a mountaineering club, The Gential Mountaineering Club. We had one Club meet a month and stayed in simple accommodation, catering for ourselves. The Club had been going for years and things generally ran like clockwork. We had an annual dinner meet, every year you will be surprised to know, and one year the venue was Keswick.

We stayed in the Keswick Convention Centre and, although we did very little cooking as we went out for our annual dinner, I could see it had a well equipped kitchen and the accommodation was good. An idea was born.

Blencathra had a few drawbacks: the food was poor, it was well out of town, there was no public transport to it and nowhere for non-fungi folk to go. It was also quite expensive.

I suggested to Rita, Irene and the committee that, based on my experience

with the Club, I could run a long weekend at the Convention Centre and it wouldn't cost much. Doubts were expressed by some but we decided to have a go. I visited the Centre with Rita and we had a good look round and decided it was eminently suitable.

I would do the cooking assisted by Sylvia Massey and her friend Laura.

And so we went ahead and things all worked out well. I remember cooking bangers & mash for about 28, which was quite a lot of bangers I can tell you! The fungi were fantastic too!

At the end of the weekend we booked again for the next year, as it was such a success.

I can't remember how many times we went but I was definitely becoming an Old Keswickian.

Eventually other things, such as being Chairman of the mountaineering club, meant I didn't have time to attend Keswick. From what I heard it continued to run successfully and there were glowing reports from folk. Jaqui, Laura and co., The Ladies, were doing a fine job with catering.

Well, eventually I stood down as club Chairman and finally had more time available for fungi, so last year I booked for Keswick once more. It felt a little strange to just be there, without a job, but it was very nice to have the time to set up my microscope and get properly organised. It was even better to have the time to stroll down to the newly opened Wetherspoons, The Justice of the Common Pleas, and have a couple of pints.

On Saturday morning there were various fungal foray options and, as I had done in the past, I offered a "fungal walk". In the past we had been to Borrowdale and done a medium level walk, but the weather wasn't good enough for that. Therefore Mike Walton and myself led a small group, walking from the Centre into Great Wood.

It was a bit drizzly but we enjoyed the walk. I had plotted this on my GPS, which was useful as the paths in Great Wood are a bit confusing. Unfortunately the fungi were rather sparse because it had been quite dry for a few weeks. We did find enough to keep us interested though. We had lunch in the wood and the weather perked up to give us an afternoon of sunshine. It was lovely to walk back along the banks of Derwentwater.

Back at the Centre, we went down to the lab with our finds and began identification. There was quite a lot of chatting too and going for cups of tea! There was also a chance to visit Wetherspoons again to take an aperitif before dinner. My chosen aperitif being beer.

The Ladies provided a jolly nice dinner and there was much conviviality at the table!

After dinner the keener mycologists went down to the lab again, while the less keen relaxed and enjoyed the conversation. After a while only the keenest of mycologists remained hard at work and there was a general drift upstairs to join in the chatter. Some of the chatter was about fungi!

Sunday morning was a better day, so Mike and myself decided on a longer, higher walk than Saturday's. The plan was to walk from the Centre up to Latrigg, an outlier of Skiddaw, and then along a ridge and climb up to the aforementioned Blencathra centre. Return would be via the old railway line.

We had 2 willing victims join us so off we went. It's a steady climb up to Latrigg but it passes through various bits of woodland and is usually good for fungi. In fact, about half way up, the path goes past some beech woodland and on previous occasions I have found lots of classic beechwood species there. Not this time however, the dry conditions were against us.

At the top, in the fields near the car park, there were quite a lot of waxcaps about. Always pleasing to see with their bright colours. Some years ago I was up here with Debbie Evans, a grassland fungi expert, and we found the uncommon *Hygocybe ovina*, which looks very like sheep poo. Well it wasn't there this time but the sheep poo was abundant!

We carried on along the ridge with lovely views across the fells. Fungi were still a bit sparse but yet again we found enough to keep us interested. Descending from the end of the ridge we crossed a footbridge over the Glenderaterra Beck and then had quite a steep climb to the famous waxcap field below the Blencathra Centre. After spending some time there we climbed up to the Centre and had our lunch.

Tip for future forayers! There are some outside toilets there that you can use.

We now had to descend into the valley. We located the path OK but went a bit astray in a field when the path vanished. There was a bit of faffing but we eventually spotted the way out and exited on to the lane that passes through the village of Wescoe. From there it was a pleasant stroll down to the old railway line that leads easily back to Keswick. We were ready for a cup of tea!

After a bit more fungal work, Mike and I were ready to visit Wetherspoons again. One has to help a new business get going you know.

The "Ladies" produced a splendid roast Sunday Dinner for the weary forayers which was greatly appreciated by all. This was consumed with even more conviviality than the previous night.

There was a final "round up" around the display table in the lab and I did a preliminary pack up of my gear. Then I went upstairs and found people were networking and enjoying even more conviviality. I feel I should draw a veil over the massage sessions, and anyway the News of the World is no longer in existence.

All in all good fun and very enjoyable. Just one further thing. Friday night dinner is not provided so most folk go out to eat in Keswick. The town centre is only 10 minutes walk. I am fond of a good fish & chip supper and there's a good chip shop on the market square.

It's called the Old Keswickian.....

STUMP OF THE YEAR

See front cover

Tony Carter

On a visit to Ainsdale Sand Hills Reserve in November, I came across this birch stump that had been recently cut down as part of a new firebreak.

It supports *Trametes gibbosa*, *Trametes versicolor*, *Bjerkandera adusta*, *Hypopholoma fasciculare* and is surrounded by *Rhodocollybia butyracea*.

It is my entry for Stump of the Year.

FUNGAL OPPORTUNISM

Tony Carter

An interesting example of fungal opportunism was in evidence in Liverpool in November. At the place where I park my car every day, the fallen leaves had been swept from the pavement and piled into the gutter to await clearance by the Council. Within the seven days that the leaves were there, two *Geastrum triplex* (Collared Earthstar) fruit bodies appeared. I wonder where they are now?



KESWICK

a bit more

Irene Ridge

As a post-script to Keswick 2014 here are a few more details about the forays that Robin didn't go on and the fungi found.

On Saturday 4 October a small party, of 5 females, braved chilly winds and rain to foray on the grassland of Latrigg Fell. We didn't travel nearly as far as Robin (Dean) but managed to find 33 species, including 18 species of waxcaps (*Hygrocybe*) and six clavarioids, which confirms this site as a premier waxcap grassland. Another group went to Brundholme woods where, based on the labels of specimens on the display table, 19 species were recorded, including the Bracken Club (*Typhula quisquiliaris* - right). This species is not one we see every year but this year was found at two other sites, so it had a good year! A third group went to Aira Force (12 species) and found the Jelly Tooth (*Pseudohydnum gelatinosum* - right), a white gelatinous asco that grows on conifer wood. All of us noticed that the woodland sites had very few *Russula*, *Lactarius* or bolete species: dry weather in previous weeks seemed to be the likely explanation. Alan and Enid Braddock, NWFG members but stalwarts of the Mid-Yorkshire Fungus Group visited a number of sites around Keswick (Crow Park, Hope Park and Cockshot Wood) and found an *Agaricus* which, with the help of Geoffrey Kibby's key and Jeanette Maddy, was

finally identified as *A. comtulus*. This is not often recorded (although a certain A.E. Carter has a record on the national database (FRDBI) from Allerton Golf Course, Liverpool!).

On Sunday one group went to Great Wood, a site close to Derwentwater that we visit most years. It yielded 28 species (from labels) including Jelly Tooth again and two regular 'specialities' – Holly Parachute (*Marasmius hudsonii*), a tiny thing on dead holly leaves with long hairs all over its cap; and Angel's Wings (*Pleurocybella porrigens*). A second group (including me) travelled further along Derwentwater to Bowder-



stone in Borrowdale. The mixed woodland here yielded 58 species: more Bracken Club; *Hygrocybe mucronella* (the one that tastes bitter on the tongue)

from Alan Braddock; *Amanita eliae* from John Watt (only 88 records on FRDBI and most of these seem to be in southern England); and 'Choke', *Epichloe typhina* on grasses (Sarah Harvey and Sue Shiels).

There wasn't nearly enough time to identify all the specimens we found but the display table in the 'lab' (actually the games room for Keswick Centre) was filled to capacity (see below). And I think, helped by the wonderful catering from Jacqui Dinsdale and her three helpers, that everybody had a very good time.



TULOSTOMA PROBLEMS

Tony Carter

In November, I decided to take a look at Raven Meols Hills in Formby. It has a good mix of sand dunes, conifer, birch scrub and heathland.

I found a quiet spot in the dunes to eat my lunch. I noticed that I was sitting beside a patch of *Tulostoma*. Looking at the reddish stems, I took a view that they would be *T. Melanocyclum* (Scaly Stalkball). *T. brumale* is said to have a smooth straw coloured stem, sometimes with isolated warts but can be scaly when dry.

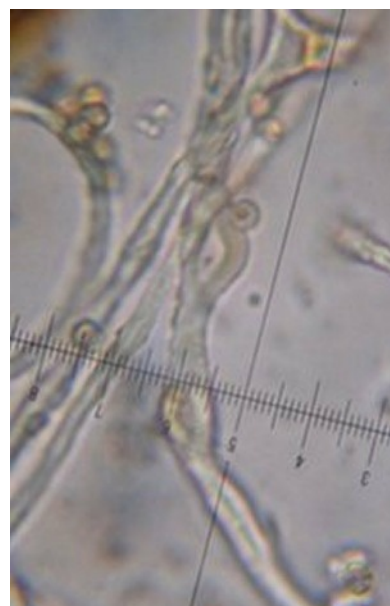
For years there was a large patch of *Tulostoma* at Ainsdale Sand Hills Nature Reserve. The late Ken Jordan was the first to record them there as *T. brumale* but this was revised to *T. melanocyclum* after later research. But they have slowly disappeared. I suspect because visiting forayers keep digging them up to look at them. So it was pleasing to have located some more.

I checked my spores and from the information in B&K, Eckblad, Marriott and a German website confirmed my identification based on a spore size for *T. brumale* of not larger than 5µm.

Discussing this with Don McNeil, he confirmed that his initial test is whether the stem is smooth, having reliably identified *T. brumale* starting with this observation. He did advise me to look at a recent paper by Caroline Hobart in Field Mycology 13 (3).

This paper works on a spore size for *T. brumale* as up to 5.5µm which dented my conclusion. In addition, she points out the differences in the hyphae where the septa are described as yellow stirrup type. My hyphae are this type - see right.

It seems that the spore size is not definite having regard to the varying opinions in the literature. I have an old *T. melanocyclum* that has a smooth stem so do the scales/warts fall off with age? If the hyphal test is critical, then I have found *Tulostoma brumale* (Winter Stalkball).



SCHOOL FUNGI ART PROJECT

Tom Ferguson

Given the importance of fungi to us all, I have long thought it important to introduce them to the younger generation at an early stage. An opportunity to do so occurred last year which coincided with UK Fungus Day

I was asked by the Headteacher at Eccleston Mere Primary School in St Helens where I am a Governor if I could work with a class of eight year olds on an art project. The finished work would help to decorate the walls of the school's new extension. I decided that fungi would be an ideal subject matter.

I went into the class on a Thursday afternoon with a pile of fungi I had collected that morning which demonstrated variety of form and colour. We then talked about the fungi discussing what they were and how they differ from plants; how they obtain their food; spore dispersal; their role in ecological processes including decay; mycorrhizal associations; and edible and poisonous species.

The next morning the class were divided into groups and on each table I put a variety of the fungi. Issues of safety and hygiene were emphasised. On each table were pencils, poster paints and paper.



I then gave some instructions on what we were going to do and tips about how to draw and paint and went round the tables helping and encouraging.

Each child drew or painted anything from 3 to about 12 fungi. I encouraged them to observe and try to be accurate with form but let their imaginations run on colour if they wanted. This was partly because there was a dearth of the larger more colourful fungi in my local woods at that time-no Russulas, Milkcaps or Agarics.

I took the paintings home and selected individual fungi, cut them out and mounted on a collage which I designed based on the images produced, making sure that everybody had at least one of their paintings on the final work.

The children were really enthusiastic. Not just with messing about with paint but the fungi themselves. Helping the Earthstars to disperse their spores was one of the highlights but being introduced to “fancy” words like mycelium and chlorophyll seemed to impress them as well.

Some of the drawings were beautifully observed and I asked a number of the children to refrain from painting these ones and I think they are a really impressive feature of the finished work.

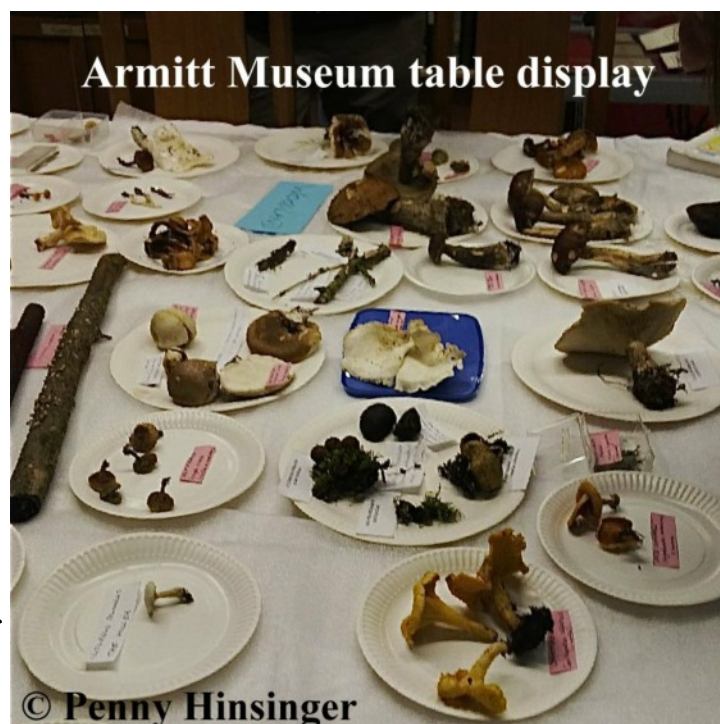
Although no Fly Agarics were available to paint, that didn't stop a number appearing in the final picture! But at least that particular class have been introduced to the great variety of species and, who knows, in a few years' time may be joining our fungal forays.

UK Fungus Day 2014-15

Jeanette Maddy

UK Fungus Day (UKFD) was inaugurated in 2013 to bring fungi and fungal research to the attention of the general public. In 2014 North West Fungus Group members were involved in a variety of UKFD events, which took place throughout the region from Cumbria to Bangor.

In Ambleside at The Armitt Museum, Irene led an event which began with a short talk and fungal display, and continued with a walk through parkland, grassland and forest along the side of Lake Windermere (page 14 bottom).



Assistance was provided by Sue Shiels, Sarah Harvey, Mo Richards and Penny Hinsinger. Although there were few of the larger fungi, forayers were fascinated to be shown the smaller fungi which often go unnoticed. Accordingly *Mycena pseudocorticola* was one of the star attractions. The Armitt is of particular significance to mycologists as it holds the collection of Beatrix Potter's fungal portraits. A number of them are on permanent display there and some were brought out of store especially for this event.

At Jodrell Bank in Cheshire, Liz Moore led another of our events with assistance from Tim Rogers, Rachel Hunter, Tony Bond and myself. Most people are aware of the large radio telescope. Less well known is the associated arboretum where we were able to set up a table display of over 80 fungal species. This was largely



due to efforts made by Liz and Tim to collect and identify fruitbodies from several other Cheshire sites in the preceding days. There were three organised walks and although the larger fungi which tend to grab people's attention and imagination were again not much in evidence the smaller, less charismatic species were able to take centre stage. Hand lenses proved useful, and it was very pleasing to experience peoples' amazement and delight with species like lemon disco and bird's nest fungus (left). Another

species caught people's attention with its distinctive smell. One lady said it reminded her of humbugs, and a small boy said it reminded him of aniseed balls of which he was very fond! It was of course *Clitocybe odora*, the aniseed funnel.

The annual foray at Treborth Botanic Garden, organised by James Balfour of the Friends of Treborth, was again very successful. The foray took place in the coastal woodland which runs along the Menai Straits, contains an SSSI and is also home to a few red squirrels. After the foray, there was a display of finds in the cool house (a conservatory-style venue - overleaf, top). The event was so popular (>100 people) that not everyone could fit in, so the side vents were opened and rows of people stuck their heads through to listen to the foray leaders speak! Over 160 species were recorded including *Lyophyllum eustygium*, which is only known in Wales from Treborth. Debbie Evans contributed a display of about 60 species of rust fungi, which illustrated the particular association of these species with vascular plants.

Other walks were led in Warrington and St Helen's by Tom Ferguson, on Tameside by Norman Bamforth and on the Wirral by me with the help of Tony



© James Balfour



© Nan Goodall

Carter and Rachel Hunter. Lancashire Wildlife Trust hosted Irene and myself for another walk at Mere Sands Wood, and one highlight here was the discovery of a somewhat washed out and particularly smelly specimen of lilac dapperling *Cystolepiota bucknallii*. Last but not least, you can read about another event, which coincided with UKFD, in Tom Ferguson's account of an arts project which he led at a local school where he is a governor.

Even if you weren't helping at an event there was an opportunity to join in the UK Fungus Day proceedings. iSpot was again available for people to upload their fungal photos for others to help with identification pointers. If your preference was for a quiet fungal foray of your own then one source of ideas was provided in a leaflet developed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust with the help of Mike Hall, called "Great places to see fungi". If you haven't already seen this take a look at <http://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/great-places-see/great-places-see-fungi>.

All in all then, great support for UK Fungus Day from NWFG, and I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all of the people mentioned above without whose efforts not a lot would have happened. Photographs from the various events have been included in this newsletter and more can be seen at the Friends of Treborth facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.423928314421709.1073741848.254686018012607&type=1>.

BMS are also producing a special 2014 UKFD newsletter.

Looking forward to UK Fungus Day 2015 (11 October), which I have to say is rapidly turning into UK Fungus 'MONTH', we are off to a great start with 6 events already organised. Two of these are of particular mention as NWFG members will be helping with the establishment of Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Biodiverse Society Project. This initiative has started up this year with the aim of assembling and training a team of volunteers to carry out extended Phase 1 surveys of existing and potential Local Wildlife Sites across Lancashire and Merseyside. John Watt and Tony Carter will be providing groups of volunteers with introductory mycology training so that eventually fungi can be considered in the site assessments.

There will be fungal walks once again at Risley Moss, Mere Sands Wood, Tegg's Nose, Macclesfield and probably Stanley Bank Wood, St Helens. An event at Manchester Museum during Manchester Science Festival week (22 October – 1 November) is also under consideration.

If you would like to help with any of the above or would like/have been asked to organise something locally, please let me know. There is plenty of supporting material including free leaflets for people to takeaway, posters, giveaway 'grow your own' oyster spore kits, stickers, bookmarks etc.

UK Fungus Day events are fun and very rewarding, so please come and join in!

An interesting find in the ancient Forest of Wirral

John Watt

On Sunday 17 August 2014, Jeanette led our foray around the attractive Dibbinsdale SSSI Nature Reserve on the Wirral, situated on Triassic sandstone with calcareous flushes. The varied habitats surprisingly cover 53 hectares and include semi-natural - probably ancient - broad-leaved woodland, especially Ash-Wych-elm and also Pedunculate Oak. There is a wide range of other tree species, some of which such as hornbeam had been planted. The remaining areas are reed swamp, fen pasture and neutral grassland.

On a mown area with nearby pedunculate oaks and a hornbeam, I found a large, 20cm, capped toadstool which suggested an *Amanita* with a smooth, fawn coloured cap, paler towards the centre, and with striae reaching just one quarter towards the centre. I was initially thrown off the genus by the fact that the gills were only minimally 'free'. Although I can't find references in texts to this feature, Kibby's reproduction of drawings in Bas' monograph would appear to show this distinction for the subsection *Vaginatae* in contrast to clearly free gills in the more well-known *Amatinae* and *Phalloiceae* subsections.

There was no ring and the stipe was whitish floccose and was deeply inserted into the ground such that the stem base and volva were not obtained (This may be a characteristic of the species as the same experience occurred to Geoffrey Kibby). His advice had been sought to help to confirm the identity for there was some debate amongst the forayers who were present as to whether we had *Amanita fulva* or *Amanita lividopallescens*, an alternative which I had suggested at the time from leafing through Buzcacki's 2012 Guide. This was unknown to me and thought by everyone else present to be rather unusual; hence a degree of scepticism. This was understandable because there are only 29 records on the FRDBI over 60 years with 2 in Scotland, 1 in Northern Ireland. There are various associated Angiosperms especially *Quercus*, *Fagus* and *Carpinus*.

Two of us took part of the cap home and confirmed that the spores were inamyloid; the first stage in keying out an *Amanita*. The next step in Vesterholt's key is the presence of a ring or not; so, in this case, leading us to the largest of the 8 subsections, namely *Vaginatae* within the subgenus *Amatinae*. At this point the next fork in Kibby's key is whether the spore Q value is greater or lesser than 1.1. The latter applied in our case. But, thereafter, not having possession of the volva membrane we had to rely more directly on field characteristics such as colour and marginal striae.

The spore sizes, as measured by a couple of us, initially seemed quite divergent with one spore measuring 14 microns but further checks indicated this to be an outlier. It is the case that in this species there is inconsistency between reports of spore sizes in the literature between *A. fulva* and *A. lividopallescens*, as shown in the following tables.

	Dibbinsdale <i>Amanita</i>
Cap size	20cm; marginal striae 0.25; buff?
Stipe	> 12 x 2cm, base not obtained; no ring; hollow; slight striations under cap.
Spores (JW)	10.7 (9 - 12) x 9.9 (9-11); Q 1.08 (1.0 - 1.2) μ m.
Spores (TR)	12-14 μ m.

<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Kibby	Vesterholt (FN)	Moser	Buzcacki
Cap	3.5-10cm; marginal striae 0.25 – 05 brown tones.	3-8cm radially sulcate to 0.25; yellow-brown to orange brown.	6 -12cm	4-9cm; distinctly lined at margin.
Stipe	White occas floccules.	Fibrillose; whitish, brownish tinge.	10-15 X 1-2; whitish to red-brownish.	8-15cm
Spores	10.0-12.5 (14) x (8.0) 9.3 x 12.0 (13) μ m	10-12 μ m	8-12 (14) μ m	9-14 μ m

	<i>Amanita lividopallescens</i>			
	Kibby	Vesterholt (FN)	Moser	Buzcacki
Cap size	6-12 (15); marginal striae 0.2-0.4 pale ochre / beige (in his key 6-20 pinkish buff).	6-20cm; radially sulcate to 0.6 cream to pinkish-buff.	10-14cm ochre-grey.	8-12cm lined at margin.
Stipe	Robust; white with concolours pale zig zag remnants.	Floccose – white to pale buff.	20 x 2.5cm; floccose; transient ring +/-; volva fragments persisting.	7-12; off-white veil remnants; persistent volva.
Spores	(9)10-12 x 8-11 (12) μ m	9-13 μ m	11-14 μ m	9.5-13.5 x 8-12 μ m

A brief correspondence with Geoffrey Kibby served to endorse the finding as *Amanita lividopallescens*, and I did send a dried specimen but have not yet had an accession number. Hopefully, when recent outstanding submissions to FRDBI have been entered, this 30th UK record may then be added to the list.

Many thanks to those who participated in this quandary.

Treasurer's Reminder

Subscriptions are due in January each year.

If no subscription has been received by October I will assume that you no longer wish to remain a member and you will be removed from the membership list. You will be most welcome to re-join at a later date should you wish to do so.

Payment can be made by cheque made out to *North West Fungus Group* and sent to me by post with the accompanying subscription form (sent to those only who have not yet paid) so that I can keep my members' database up to date. Please print clearly especially your email address.

Liz Moore, 48 Alan Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 4LE

If you bank online and prefer to pay directly to the account here are the details;

Acc. Name North West Fungus Group

Acc. Number 00126916

Sort Code 30 98 12

The Account is held with Lloyds Bank.

If you do choose to pay by direct transfer, direct debit or standing order please let me know so that I can check for it on the bank statement and let me know if you change any of your contact details in future since I will not be receiving a subscription form.

lizmoore@btinternet.com

Available Resources for Fungus day

Liz Moore

If you are planning or helping at an event for Fungus Day or any other public education exercise do check out the material and ideas available on the BMS website. Go to: www.britmycolsoc.org.uk

Click on Education and Outreach

Click on Resources and Materials

Click on BMS Support Material

Look at Leaflets and Booklets

Here you will find images and description of free sheets plus some that are for sale. The Common Fungi poster and the Pocket Guide may be obtained free at the discretion of Norman Porrett provided that they are in small numbers and for use on Fungus Day, he is always helpful and friendly. This can be negotiated directly with him by email - norman@britmycolsoc.info. The Field Studies Council Name Trail is NOT free.

You may find it helpful to look at the display items available to borrow, mostly they are stored at the BMS office in the Ardwick area of Manchester and would need you to arrange to collect and return. Once again ask Norman. There are a number of simple activities suitable for younger children under the 'Primary' section which are not too demanding on equipment and materials though much of the 'Secondary' suggestions are probably best left to the school laboratory.

Free bookmarks, stickers and *Pleurotus* inoculum and advice were available last year on the 'Planning your Event' section of the Fungus Day web site. There are links on the BMS site or just google it.



Keswick October 2014

Two species found in 2014:

Hygrocybe coccinea (above), found at Latrigg

and

Pleurocybella porrigens (left) found on rotting conifer logs in Great Wood.

(Photo of *P. Porrigens* specimen found in N. Ireland)

Photos by Irene Ridge