

Burton Buses visit November 2024 u3a Wild Things

We were lucky to have Mervin today to find and explain the prolific fungi of this wonderful fragment of ancient woodland on our doorstep.



There were wood-rotters galore, like this Artist's Bracket, *Ganoderma applanatum*, growing on one of the elderly oaks on the edge of the wood. A fingernail carves easily through to the brown spores beneath, giving the fungus its common name. We have been visiting this huge bracket every year since this group began in 2015. It will eventually kill the tree, but not yet.

There was evidence of the presence of the Yellow flat-footed Fly *Agathomyia wankowiczii*, an uncommon fly unique in that it lives on and causes galls on this fungus, which are the lumps on the surface seen in the photo overleaf. They harbour the larvae

which will eventually bore holes through the surface and fall to the leaf litter to pupate and turn into the flies. It's one of the very few flies causing fungi galls known to science.



We found a few late mycorrhizal fungi like the Oakbug Milkcaps with their mild tasting 'milk', allegedly smelling of bedbugs, an aroma which one of our group did recognise from a long-ago holiday in Bali.



Unusually this year many of the fungi, mainly the Mycenae or Bonnets, were coated with the parasitic fungus *Spinella fusiger*, the Bonnet Mould fungus. It's a pin mould that grows out of the mushroom caps cunningly allowing the mushrooms to develop and shed their spores before being digested by the moulds. We'd never seen so many, but they were certainly photogenic.



Bonnets, parasitized or not, were everywhere, doing their recycling job on every available piece of broken wood, from the tiniest twig to stumps. Here Carole is holding a twig of probably *Mycena arcangeliana*, Angel's Bonnet, and the close-up shows how their hyphae penetrate the surface.



My personal favourite wasn't a fungus at all but a Slime Mould, one of the Stemonitis species, possibly the aptly named Chocolate Tube Slimemould, *Stemonitis splendens*.

These strange life forms are a story in themselves and I would urge you to access the February 2024 edition of the Hull Natural History Society here:

[http://www.hullnats.org.uk/Bulletin/Bulletin5\(4\).pdf](http://www.hullnats.org.uk/Bulletin/Bulletin5(4).pdf)

You will find a double whammy: an article by me called 'Seduced by Slime' explaining more about slime moulds, plus an article by Mervin on 'Some of the fungi on Beverley Westwood.'



Left: Curtain Crust fungi on a tree trunk.



Cherry Galls on Oak leaves found by Doreen, and the underside of a Wood Blewit.





**From top clockwise: Petticoat Mottlegill
Paneolus papilionaceus , Shaggy Parasols
Macrolepiota rhacodes , Dusky Puffball
Lycerpodon nigrescens, Holly Parachutes
Marasmius hudsonii , an uncommon fungus
that only grows on Holly leaves.**

**BEVERLEY & DISTRICT U3A
FUNGUS FORAY BURTON BUSHES 4 NOVEMBER 2024**

Spinellus fusiger (on Mycena inclinata) Bonnet Mould

Basidiomycetes

Russula atropurpuria	Purple Brittlegill
Lactarius quietus	Oak Bug Milkcap
Mycena archangeliana	Angel's Bonnet
M. galericulata	Common Bonnet
M. (vitilis)	Snapping Bonnet
M. inclinata	Clustered Bonnet
Clitocybe nebularis	Clouded Funnel
Laccaria laccata	Deceiver
L. (tortilis)	Twisted Deceiver
Marasmius hudsonii	Holly Parachute
Macrolepiota rhacodes	Shaggy Parasol
Lepista nuda	Wood Blewit
Hypholoma fasciculare	Sulphur Tuft
Paneolus papilionaceus	Petticoat Mottlegill
Crepidotus (variabilis)	Variable Oysterling
Ganoderma australe	Southern Bracket
Postia stiptica	Bitter Bracket
Stereum hirsutum	Hairy Curtain Crust
Trametes versicolor	Turkey Tail
Schizopora paradoxa	Split Porecrust
Lycoperdon pyriforme	Stump Puffball
L. nigrescens	Dusky Puffball
Auricularia auricula-judae	Jelly Ear
Bolbitius titubans	Yellow Fieldcap

Ascomycetes

Xylaria hypoxylon	Stag's Horn or Candlesnuff
Daldinia concentrica	King Alfred's Cakes or Cramp Balls

Myxomycetes

Stemonitis (fusca/ splendens)	Chocolate-tube slime mould
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List compiled by Mervin Nethercoat

Photos by Paul, Mervin and myself.

Helen Kitson

