**Foray Reports for 2014**

**NFG Foray to Colwick Country Park April 12th 2014**

Around a dozen of us gathered in the car park here on a dismally cold grey morning. Despite that, we enjoyed a good two hours ferretting around for the fungi that emerge at this time of year, in a place we hadn't visited for nearly 10 years. Two early-year conventional mushrooms turned up for us in the form of Conocybe aporos and Psathyrella spadiceo-grisea; and in two locations on or around dead wood, some striking cup fungi, Peziza repanda, with pale exteriors and light brown interiors, discovered by Terry Pears and Janet Fernley. Ann Ward found a single Panaeolus fimicola which we first thought to be a small Psathyrella, until a closer look at the spore-mottled gills got us on the right track. Various brackets large and small were observed and a fair number of the tiny asci on dead stems and old wood. Among these Peter Smith found Hypoderma rubi on a bramble stem, a 1st Notts record; and I found two hyphomycetes on dead nettle stems, Periconia cookei and Periconia byssoides, also apparently 1st county records. To these may be added common species like Leptosphaeria acuta, Leptosphaeria dololium and Crocicreas cyathoides, all on dead nettle stems. A little less common were Bertia moriformis on a dead twig and Trochila craterium on a fallen ivy leaf. In all just over 30 species were recorded, so we felt well pleased.

Howard Williams

**NFG Foray to Rufford on May 10th 2014**

Thirteeen of us turned up for this foray at Rufford Country Park. It was with some trepidation that we did so, for the forecasters had predicted a day of heavy showers. In the event we had a fine morning, the rain holding off until we got back home. I would estimate well over 30 species were recorded in the Wilderness Woods section, along the paths and beside the stream at the edge of the Park. (A full list may be obtained in a few weeks time from our recorder, Di Mears).

We kicked off with an attractive semi-circle of Calocybe gambosa, St George's Mushroom, under the trees near the carpark. Later finds were Pholiota tuberculosa on a rotten log, which looked at first like Sulphur Tuft and nearly as bitter; and Entoloma aprile under sycamore and elder, an infrequently recorded spring pinkgill. Peziza micropus on woodchips and soil could only be identified later on my microscopy which involved looking for bluing of the ascii when stained by iodine. A dead hogweed stem found by John Brown had what seemed to be small dark Mollisias along part of its length. These proved to be a Notts first record of Pyrenopeziza atrata, a possibly under-recorded species and certainly with few records to date. The same stem also bore the attractive pinhead hyphomycete, Periconia cookei, as did an old nettle stem. In fact nettles were rather productive today giving us also Leptosphaeria dololium and Leptosphaeria acuta on stems, and the pretty leaf rust Puccinia urticata, Nettle Clustercup Rust. This had us all puzzled as to whether it was fungus, gall or myxomycete. Had Richard Rogers been able to be with us, he could have told us as he had found this at Attenborough, which makes ours a second Notts record. Di Mears found another rust on bluebell leaves, Uromyces muscari. An old reed stem under water at the stream covered in black dots and mounds gave us Lentithecium (Leptosphaeria) arundinaceum, common enough on Phragmites, but encouraging to identify for those of us who are not yet very expert with ascomycetes. So far the large grassy areas had provided no records at this time of year, but on the way back to the cars a small Parasola was spotted at a lawn edge near the Centre. Parasola plicatilis came to mind, but further examination at home showed it to be Parasola auricoma, with rather warmer brown colours and, under the microscope, scattered golden setae on the cap cuticle. A nice record of a less common fungus with which to end the foray.

Howard Williams

**Sherwood Forest Visitor's Centre "Woodland Festival" 13th September 2014**

We were invited to attend this event to lead public fungi walks. The Rangers were very helpful and put us a table in a prominent position in the courtyard where we had a small display about fungi and we put out a range of specimens for members of the public to look at. It was a two-day-event but we only attended on the Saturday. We did a walk in the morning and another in the afternoon. A lot of interest was shown in the specimens of fungi and we had the opportunity to talk to members of the public and share our interest and knowledge of fungi. There was a lot to see at the event and hopefully we will be able to attend and promote Notts Fungi Group again next year. Many thanks to members who supported me on this event and manned the display whilst I did the walks.

Di Mears

**NFG Clarborough Foray 27th September 2014**

The day before this foray I had gone around the reserve and found a total of 4 fungi; so I had little hope of much on the day, the weather having been dry and the grass being very overgrown. In fact, with about 13 pairs of eyes on the look-out, we achieved a total of 22 records on the foray itself. That is not, in fact, very many, but among them was the excellent find of a single uncommon bolete and a first county record: Boletus impolitus (Iodine Bolete). As the name implies, there was a strong peculiar odour upon its being cut open, not so much of iodine as of bubble-blowing soap solution or, as another member thought, of some kitchen cleaning fluid. None of us recognised it and it had to be taken away to identify.

Sharp-eyed Ann Ward found some small yellow clubs in moss, Clavulinopsis helvola (Yellow Club) and also a minute white Marasmius epiphyllus (Leaf Parachute) on an old leaf petiole. The most visually striking fungus was the first to be seen, at the base of an old pear tree in the orchard, Gymnopilus junonius (Spectacular Rustgill) and the deep golden colour combined with large size ensured it gave us a spectacular display indeed. Here too was Meadow Waxcap, Hygrocybe pratensis, struggling through the long grass. It made you wonder whether, if the grass were mowed earlier and taken off, there might not be other waxcaps on this area.

David Burton found an uncommon Mycena tufted on a fallen oak branch, Mycena maculata , spotting red when bruised; and also the bracket Polyporus durus (Bay Polypore) which puzzled us at first as the two brackets were so small and usually attain a much larger size. Finally one of our lady members found a mummified damson in the orchard covered with the brown pustules of Monilinia fructigenus, a species known to most apple growers I suspect, and not one I had seen previously on any other substrate.

Howard Williams

**Clumber Park Foray 1st October 2014**

46 species were recorded on this fine sunny morning in the Park; nothing remarkable but representing a good range of fungal families. A long spell of previous dry weather may explain why we didn't find more. We decided to foray near the old stone bridge at the SW end of the Lake and among the adjacent beeches.

Bernard Featherstone led the way to the carpark there, and typically, it took us a long time before we managed to get away from this area and into the beech area proper. Surprisingly only 2 Russulas were recorded, possibly owing to the dry weather: Russula fellea (Geranium Brittlegill) predictably turned up in numbers, no doubt used to the dry conditions prevailing under beech; Jean Parrott found a nice specimen of the red Russula silvestris with cap skin almost entirely peeling.

Bernard collected a single of the handsome Tricholoma sulphureum (Sulphur Knight) with its strong smell of coal gas and Tony Kavanagh found some red-brown toadstools with red-spotting gills which later proved to be Tricholoma ustale (Burnt Knight), not uncommon under beech. He also found an interesting Lactarius with milk turning yellow on a handkerchief. There are some half-dozen of these types, and later inspection showed it to be Lactarius lacunarum, not that frequently recorded.

A single Amanita citrina var. alba (False Deathcap) was collected by Jim Norris in beech litter and attracted much attention. Being white it resembles the rare deadly Amanita virosa (Destroying Angel), but the marginate bulb and smell of raw potatoes distinguishes it. Tony Sprake found the only two Clitocybes of the day, Clitocybe metachroa and Clitocybe nebularis (Clouded Agaric); and also Inocybe napipes (Bulbous Fibrecap), frequently found, as here, under beech. In beech litter also, someone spotted a coral fungus and there was some speculation as to whether it was a Clavulina or a Ramaria. It turned out to be the fairly common Clavulina coralloides(cristatus) (Crested Coral).

Altogether an enjoyable morning's foraying.

Howard Williams

**UK Fungus Day Event 12th October 2014 at Sherwood Forest Visitor's Centre, Edwinstowe, Notts**

About 18 members of Notts Fungi Group attended and about 70 members of the public visited our display and about 35 of these came on the walks we did in the morning and afternoon

The Rangers at the centre made available a classroom and a small marquee in the courtyard. In the classroom we had a variety of books about fungi and display boards with information about their biology, variety and identification. We also had a quiz on edible and poisonous species. We provided a range of children's activities which included "how the fungus got its spots", a simple key to identify specimens, word puzzles and colouring activities. We also had a photographic display on a continuous loop and a microscope so members of the public could look at spores etc. In the marquee we had a display board with information about the Notts Fungi Group and pictures of fungi with a variety of leaflets about fungi and the mushroom growing kits kindly provided by the BMS. We also had a display of fresh specimens for members of the public to look at. Members of the Notts Fungi Group were available in both the classroom and courtyard to answer any questions that the public might have. We did three walks during the day. Uptake was low in the morning but we had good attendance on the walks in the afternoon.

We didn't have a large number visiting the classroom but those that did were impressed by the range of activities we had provided. It was a lovely sunny day and people had come out to lunch and walk in the forest so were not so easily tempted inside. However, the marquee was very busy all day and people were interested and astounded by the range of fungi that we had displayed. The mushroom kits were very popular as was the identification leaflet provided by the BMS. They were less interested in other leaflets. During the walks we identified fungi found and told people about how they feed, reproduce etc. We didn't carry out a detailed recording exercise but we did list 45 species during the walks (List available from Di Mears)

Overall I thought it was a very successful day and it certainly raised the understanding and profile of fungi with the public and we were able to promote the Notts Fungi Group and encourage people to get in touch about fungi via our website. Thanks very much to all members of the group who helped make this event successful and to David Burton for providing photographs.

Di Mears

**Boughton Brake Foray 18th October 2014**

This site has always produced interesting fungi and this year was no exception, despite recent dry weather broken by a few wet spells. On a fine morning about a dozen of us turned up for the foray and, as so often, most fungi were found within some 800 metres of our start point. Fungi were found among the pine trees and mixed oak and birch, and especially under some fine, still youngish, beech stands.

Here, as at Sherwood Forest last week, the only Russulaceae found were a very few Russula ochroleuca (Ochraceous Brittlegill) and Lactarius tabidus (Birch Milkcap) and possibly a very blackened and past-it Russula nigricans (Blackening Brittlegill). On the other hand there were plenty of Mycena and Psathyrella species, among which the most interesting were Mycena adscendens (Frosty Bonnet) and Mycena speirea (Bark Bonnet) on twigs and Mycena capillaris (Beechleaf Bonnet) on a beech leaf. The pretty Psathyrella corrugis (Red Edge Brittlestem)with red-edged gills attracted attention too, a common species among several other red-edged Psathyrellas. Among the larger fungi a scattering of orange Lepista flaccida (Tawny Funnel) brightened the woodland floor under some mixed trees; while the equally bright Gymnopilus penetrans (Common Rustgill) lightened the gloom under the pines.

Two species hard to see in the deep beech litter, and therefore very well spotted by Marion Bryce and David Burton respectively, were the black Helvella lacunosa (Elfin Saddle) and the small but strikingly red-gilled and red-stemmed Melanophyllum haematospermum (Redspored Dapperling). The latter especially attracted much attention. The two most uncommon species of the day were some 1mm wide creamy-white discs on short stalks on a fallen beech leaf collected by Diane Mears and later identified as Hymenoscyphus immutabilis, a first Notts record; and some Inocybes collected in the beech litter, I believe by Mavis Broomhall. This was Inocybe ochroalba, very uncommon, though found by us previously in Sherwood Forest in 2004, identified then by Leicestershire group members. So it was a good second county record for us. The other Inocybe found by Bernard Featherstone was a pale, much commoner species, Inocybe sindonia, of rather variable appearance.

We don't yet have a full list, but I would not be surprised if it exceeded 50 species, making this one of the more productive forays this season.

Howard williams

**Farndon Willow Holt 8th November 2014**

On this foray we were joined by the Farndon Wildlife Watch Group, leaders and parents. It was a bit damp to start with and very wet underfoot but it brightened up and we had a very pleasant walk. We began in an area that has been planted with a variety of Salix species. In the long grass we found the Blue Leg Roundhead, (Stropharia caerula), Brown Roll Rim (Paxillus involutus), the handsome Pestle Puff Ball (Lycoperdon excipuliforme) and the Peppery Roundhead (Stropharia pseudocyanea) which has a distinct peppery smell. The children were also very good at finding fungi difficult to identify in the field! Other notable finds were the Bulbous Honey Fungus (Armillaria gallica), Field Blewit (Lepista savea) and Poison Pie (Hebeloma crustuliniforme) with its droplets of moisture on the gills.

After a break for hot chocolate we walked across a meadow and into woodland. On the way we saw a large group of the Wood Pinkgill (Entoloma rhodopolium) and one of the leaders showed us the remains of a Giant Puffball (Calvatia gigantea) that she had found earlier in the year. In the wooded area there was the Blushing Wood Mushroom (Agaricus silvaticus), Hairy Curtain Crust (Stereum hirsutum), Purple Jelly Disc (Ascocoryne sarcoides), Lumpy Bracket (Trametes gibbosa) and the Blushing Bracket (Daedaleopsis confragosa). We were also pleased to find oak stained green by the Green Elf Cup fungus (Chlorociboria aeruginascens). In the past this wood has been used to make decoratively inlaid woodwork called Tunbridge ware.

We then went into a more overgrown area where there was a large pile of cut Willow trunks. Here we found Small Stagshorn (Calocera cornea), Yellow Brain (Tremella mesenterica) and the myxomycete Lycogala terrestre. There was also a very interesting small yellow bracket with gills but we have been unable to confirm its identify. This is a very interesting and varied site and well worth a return visit.

Thanks to the Wildlife Watch Group for inviting us and the Notts Wildlife Trust for giving us permission to visit.

Di Mears

**Sherwood Pines Foray 12th November 2014**

This foray had a really wet start but it did brighten up later on. In all 59 species were recorded. Writing these down in pouring rain gave our recorder a real headache, but luckily Arthur had a digital recorder which he was able to lend her and so save the situation. On this foray as on so many this season, we noted a lack of Russulaceae, recording only Russula ochroleuca, Lactarius deliciosus and Lactarius hepaticus. I wonder if this infrequency is just local or more widespread this year.

Despite the weather we had some unusual collections. Mike found Lyophyllum gangraenosum, blackening to the touch; Di found Hebeloma birrus, the striking red-gilled Melanophyllum haematosporum, and one Lycoperdon umbrinum in needle litter, none common and the last only a 2nd Notts record; Craig' s Lepiota grangei, greening to the touch, is uncommon; Richard collected the unusual, often overlooked Conocybe blattaria and also Leratiomyces ceres with bright red cap, a foreigner which has spread rapidly in recent years.

The unknown toothed pale ochraceous fungus found in several places attached to conifer wood has remained a mystery. It may be no more than Pseudohydnum gelatinosum (itself a good record), swollen by rain water to a degree where it no longer resembles the typical form. Di also collected two dark brown, greasy-capped small fungi which have been sent to Kew for checking out as I could not find anything in my keys quite similar. We shall have to wait and see if they represent something different or turn out to be some common and garden type I should have recognised.

Surely though, the prize find of the day must go to Inge who found Volvariella surrecta for us to enjoy. This is a small fungus which grows upon the common Clitocybe nebularis, hence its English name of Piggyback Rosegill. It is a nationally rare fungus, usually seen only in books, so it really made the day for those of us still around (being near the end of the foray, some members had had to leave). Oddly enough, member John B. photographed this same species at Daneshill Lakes about the same time, so perhaps Nottinghamshire will become a favoured site for it. Who knows?

Howard Williams

**Ransom Wood, Mansfield 22nd November 2014**

This was a well-attended foray and we were joined by some members of the Wollaton Natural History Group and other visitors from Notts Wildlife Trust. We began by looking at the cut trunks in the car park where we found Black Bulgar (Bulgaria inquinans), Hairy Curtain Crust (Stereum hirsutum), Purple Jelly Disc (Ascocoryne sarcoides), Silverleaf Fungus (Chondrostereum purpureum) and Jelly Rot (Phlebia tremellosa). We then walked through the woodland which has a mixture of trees. We saw a variety of bracket fungi: Razorstrop Fungus (Piptoporus betulinus), Hoof fungus (Fomes fomentarius), Blushing Bracket (Daedaleopsis confragosa), Smoky bracket (Bjerkandera adusta) on Birch and Purplepore Bracket (Trichaptum abietinus) on a conifer stump. Under Birch we found the Sulphur Knight (Tricholoma sulphureum) with its strong smell of coal gas, the Ochre Brittlegill (Russula ochroleuca), Birch Milkcap (Lactarius tabidus) and the Mild Milkcap (Lactarius subdulcis).

Two interesting species of Helvella were found: White saddle (Helvella crispa) and Felt Saddle (Helvella macropus). Rooting around in the undergrowth yielded Bracken Club (Typhula quisquilaris) and Bracken Map (Rhopographus filicinus). Under a conifer hedge we found the Collared Ear Star (Geastrum triplex). We then went to look at areas of grass close to the buildings. Although these areas resemble lawns they are mainly moss so are a good habitat for waxcaps. We were not disappointed and found six different species of waxcap together with the unusual Lilac Leg Fibrecap (Inocybe griseolilacina), Meadow Coral (Clavulina corniculata), Wrinkled Club (Clavulina rugosa) and Handsome Club (Clavulinopsis laeticolor).

Time was rapidly running out but we still managed to see Common Bird's Nest Fungus (Crucibulum laeve) on wood chips under a Beech hedge, Milky Bonnet (Hemimycena lactea) in pine needles and the Redlead Roundhead (Leratiomyces ceres) in well rotted woodchips. We recorded a total of 89 species (list available from me) and there were more that couldn't be identified!

Thanks to members for finding such an interesting and diverse range of fungi. It was a really enjoyable morning and one of the highlights of the 2014 season.

Thanks to Charles Cannon for allowing us to visit this site. It's very interesting because of the diverse habitats it supports.

Di Mears