**Forays Reports 2018 (in reverse order)**

**10.11.18 Spalford Warren**

The last foray of the season here was bright and sunny and we had a very good turnout of members and guests. About 50 species were recorded, a little disappointing, but the weather had been dry for much of the year. We have recorded as many as 67 species in the past.

Old favourites like Fly Agaric (Amanita muscaria), Conifercone Cap (Baeospora myosura), Plums and Custard (Tricholomopsis rutilans) and Buttercap (Rhodocollybia butyracea) were plentiful enough. Mike found Saffron Milkcap (Lactarius deliciosus) under the pines – its orange colours, bruising wine-red, are always cheering to see. John found the seldom recorded Tubaria romagnesiana. It looks very like its common cousin Scurfy Twiglet (Tubaria furfuracea). They can be separated with difficulty only by measuring spores. John also found Bracken Club (Typhula quisquilliaris) on dead stems of bracken, a minute white club which takes some spotting.

Red Band Needle Blight (Mycosphaerella pini) was collected by Mike and identified by Ann. It is a 1st Notts record, and not, I believe, very welcome in coniferous plantations. Ann’s small inkcap Coprinopsis radiata on dung is a 2nd county record; Nick’s Psathyrella frustulenta is also a 2nd Notts record; and John’s Tubaria (above) is a 3rd Notts record.

Among difficult little brown jobs, I identified 3 species of Galerina, all small, all orange-brown. About 3 Mycena species (little grey jobs) were also identified. Di identified the Myxomycete Mucilago crustacea, with the blunt English name of Dog Sick Slime Mould on a grass stem. It is not uncommon.

Howard Williams

**04.11.18 Bunny Wood**

The weather had been very dry before I made a preliminary visit to the site 2 days before the foray. I wondered whether we should cancel the foray as I could find only a very few fungi! However we went ahead and to my surprise on the day we had a list of 41 species.

The site is on the side of a hill and has mainly ash trees with some old coppiced elm. I decided that we would go along the bottom path first as it was damper than the area at the top of the hill. This was a good decision because although we eventually climbed to the top we recorded no fungi there.

Working our way along the bottom path past piles of coppice wood we found plenty of honey fungus and the usual crusts and brackets and other fungi associated with ash. On one wood pile we found Coprinus picaceus (magpie fungus) which is an unusual and spectacular find. Buried at the bottom of the wood pile on some old elm logs was Rhodotus palmatus(wrinkled peach) which we have recorded here on previous visits. This is not a common fungus as it only grows on elm.

With many pairs of eyes we managed to spot several different Mycenas including the black milking bonnet (Mycena galopus var nigra). Another fungi worth mentioning was Clitopilus prunulus (the miller) with its strong mealy smell growing on soil under ash. Clustered on a rotten cut trunk were the poisonous Galerina marginata aptly known as “funeral bell”! Two of the more unusual Pleurotus were recorded – P. cornucopiae on elm and P. dryinus.

At the end of the day we were pleased that we had not cancelled!

Mary Hawkins

**28.10.18 Barrow Hills**

Around a dozen of us attended this foray on a dry sunny morning. Barrow Hills is a site rich in fungi, but after a very dry year we found only 39 species this time. This compares with 84 species in October 2012 and 59 species in November 2003. However, this does not mean that we found nothing of interest.

The sandpit area which is a SSSI, while being very dry, produced some uncommon to rare fungi. Ann found and identified the Red Data List (RDL) Crowned Earthstar (Geastrum coronatum) in sand under hawthorn, in the same spot as in 2012. (Just beyond the reserve outside a garden on the track leading to the site, she also spotted another earthstar group which I later determined as Rosy Earthstar (Geastrum rufescens), whose status is described as ‘Vulnerable’. We found this on the reserve itself in 2012). Another RDL specimen was found by Bernard, Lepiota echinella, a small cream Lepiota with russet scales and fibres. It would have been a 1st Notts record, had I not found it myself a week earlier at another sandy site near Worksop. Arthur collected another fairly uncommon Lepiota from this sandpit area, Lepiota erminea, usually seen on dunes, but which can occur on inland sandy areas. It has been found here before and at Walkeringham NR. On the edge of this area with broad-leaf trees Mike found Pluteus ephebeus on a stump. Nationally this is not uncommon, but in Notts is only a 2nd county record. Ann’s Psathyrella tephrophylla, also found in the margins of the sandpit with broad-leaf trees is not commonly found either. A useful characteristic of this Psathyrella is its smoke-grey gills, at least when in its prime.

Beyond and above the sandpit area, under oaks and birch, Tony found a large Agaricus with broad coarse brown scales, encrusting a fair amount of sandy soil. This was Agaricus cappellianus (formerly vaporarius). While not an RDL fungus, its status is described as ‘Near Threatened’ and it occurs occasionally rather than uncommonly. Tony also collected on an old fallen branch only the second ascomycete of the morning, Rosellinia aquila, tightly clustered black spheres with central papillae. Not uncommon.

Howard Williams

**20.10.18 Deer Dale/Browns Covert, Sherwood Pines**

I was a bit worried about this foray as I had not visited the site but Ann assured me it would be great as long as I avoided the Husky Dogs and the Cyclists! It was a long drive to the site along a single track road and I did begin to wonder if I was in the right place until I arrived to see a good collection of parked vehicles. We heard the Husky Dogs baying in the distance but they didn’t cause any problems.

Next to the parking area there is a good stand of Beech trees with some Pine and Birch. We spent at least 90 minutes in this small area! It was easy to find things as there was very little undergrowth under the Beech and we had a very good collection of Lactarius, Mycena and Russula which had been difficult to find in our earlier forays. We found three types of Amanita: the Fly Agaric, the Blusher and the Grisette. The Fly Agaric was particularly common. Under the Pine we found the Ear Pick fungus (Auriscalpium vulgare) and the Conifer Conecap (Baeospora myosura) and at the base of a stump Root Rot (Heterobasidium annosum). An interesting and rare Dapperling (Echinoderma echinaceium) was found by Craig under oak and on a Beech twig he found the Hairy Oysterling (Resupinatus trichotis). We found four types of Boletus: the Cep (Boletus edulis), the Suede Bolete (Xerocomus subtomentosus) with its downy cap, the Peppery Bolete (Chalciporus piperatus) and the Bay Bolete (Xerocomus badius).

We then walked along the rides avoiding the cyclists. At the top of the hill there was a large stand of Pine but the area was very overgrown so we went back down and took another path. There was grass growing along the edge of this ride with bare areas covered with litter. Here we found the Pipe Club (Macrotyphula fistulosa ) and the Slender Club Macrotyphula juncea ) and the White Saddle (Helvella lacunosa) growing amongst the litter and grass. Other notable finds were Roundheads (Stropharia caerula), Cavaliers (Melanoleuca polioleuca) and Knights (Tricholoma sulphureum)!

During this foray we hardly walked any distance, so it wasn’t an opportunity to improve our fitness but in terms of species of fungi it was excellent. In all 76 different species were recorded and this was the longest list in the autumn forays. Perhaps another visit to this site would be worthwhile next year.

Di Mears

**17.10.18 Blidworth Bottoms**

The NFG has records from this site from 2001 & 2008, but it was a new site for me. So I was looking forward to our visit here. David & Dorothy Burton guided us expertly round this large area of mixed deciduous woodland and conifer stands, which produced for us a good range of fungi from various families. There was a good turnout of members and guests, some of whom we hope will join us regularly on our forays.

We had 3 species of bolete: Red Cracking Bolete (Xerocomus chrysenteron), Bay Bolete (Xerocomus badius) and the colourful Scarletina Bolete (Boletus luridiformis) found under birch by Tony. Pine Conecap (Baeospora myosura) was found wherever pines grew, usually upon buried pine cones. There were 3 species of Lactarius, our youngest guest visitor, Ophelia, finding Coconut Milkcap (Lactarius glyciosmus), smelling as its name suggests of fresh coconut. There were also 3 species of Russula identified, the most interesting by far being Russula melitodes under oak, found by Tony. It is a 1st Notts record and a Red Data List (RDL) species with the status ‘Endangered’.

Other interesting species determined on site or later at home were: Amanita vaginata found under birch by Charlie – the commonest of about three grey species of this genus; Mary collected the small ochraceous Conocybe vestita, only a 2nd Notts record and with few records nationally; Charlie also found two species not common in Notts, Bicoloured Deceiver (Laccaria bicolor) with its beautiful lilac-blue gills and a 1st Notts record with Inocybe stellatospora. The spores of the latter, as the name implies, are star-like in appearance and striking to see.

There were plenty of Mycena species but we identified just three: Mary found Angel’s Bonnet (Mycena arcangeliana), whitish with lilac-grey stem and iodine smell (sometimes only apparent on drying); she also found Yellowleg Bonnet (Mycena epipterygia), its pale yellow stem being characteristic; and the tiny Mycena ascendens was collected on twigs by Mary and Bernard at different times in several different places. This last white Mycena has bristly stems, granular caps and a tiny hairy white disc at the stem base.

We began the foray by finding a common enough gilled bracket growing on an unusual substrate: Oyster Fungus (Pleurotus ostreatus) on the cut edge of a large felled pine trunk. As often as not it is seen on beech, oak or birch, but rarely on conifers. Perhaps unsurprisingly the most ubiquitous species today were Sulphur Tuft (Hypholoma fasciculare), Buttercap (Rhodocollybia butyracea), Fly Agaric (Amanita muscaria) and unidentified Mycena species.

Howard Williams

**07.10.18 National Fungi Day, Edwinstowe (UK Fungus Day).**

This year we were based at the new RSPB visitor centre at Edwinstowe. We had our usual display of fresh specimens brought in by members of NFG, display boards showing pictures and information about fungi, leaflets from the BMS, samples of oyster mushroom spawn to give away and activities for children. Throughout the day NFG members were on hand to identify fungi and answer questions and a volunteer from the RSPB helped us with the children’s activities. Our boards etc were very close to the restaurant so we had a more or less constant stream of visitors. We did three walks through the National Nature Reserve to look for fungi and in all we had 65 members of the public join us. Despite the very dry weather we saw a good range of fungi including bracket fungi, Amanitas, Milkcaps, Brittlegills, Bonnets and Boletes and we were able to discuss the importance of fungi in the woodland.

We recorded a total of 49 fungi and this included Inocybe salicis which was a first record for Notts. As usual the edibility of fungi was high on the agenda and our visitors were particularly interested in a Parasol mushroom and a large example of the Beefsteak fungus on an oak tree. The hoof or tinder fungus is iconic for the reserve and there were lots of examples to point out to our visitors.

Children really enjoyed the walks and we provided badges, colouring activities, word searches and ‘how the mushroom got its spots’ to engage them back at the display table. The oyster mushroom spawn was a very popular freebie and one of our visitors has sent us a picture of her oyster mushrooms growing on a paperback book! Let’s hope she enjoys eating them.

This event is important for raising the profile of fungi with the general public as knowledge is generally restricted to what can be bought at the supermarket! Our visitors are always surprised at the range of fungi from black crusts to colourful toadstools and we hope that some of them will develop an interest in this very diverse and interesting group of organisms. Without the help and support of the BMS, the RSPB for providing the venue and NFG members for their help on the day this event would not take place which would be a loss to everyone!

Diane Mears

**30.09.18 Vicar Water, Clipstone**

This was about our 4th visit to this site and it proves worthwhile every time. This year Mike started us off at the end of a long track on the left of the usual car park down to the fishing lake car park. From there we set off up the gentle slope above the water.

It was a year here for Honey Fungus species (Armillaria mellea & bulbosa) which cropped up everywhere. Fortunately there were more interesting species to concentrate on. Quite early on Ann found Cinnamon Crust (Hapalopilus nidulans) on a fallen oak branch. Apart from its attractive coloration, it has the interesting feature of immediately staining bright purple when potassium hydroxide (KOH) is applied to the crust’s surface – unmistakable. Bernard collected Hebeloma birrhum, one of the small Poison Pies, which grow with broad-leaf trees; while Marion pointed out two brown Russulas under an oak tree. These were Russula graveolens, a 1st Notts record. There are two other similar ones sharing the characteristics of a fishy smell and staining grey-green on the stem when iron salts are applied (Fe reaction). I admit to not having been able to smell the fishiness, though others did; but I did smell it after it had been enclosed for a day. Growing under oak is also a characteristic.

A big oak log attracted much attention for two things growing on it: the chestnut and black Oak Curtain Crust (Hymenochaete rubiginosa) for which there are only a few county records and the red myxomycete, Acyria denudata. John Brown produced a superb photo study of this, while Marion took a very good picture of the Hymenochaete. Towards the end of the foray I saw an unusual-looking thin crust on a piece of rotten fallen oak wood: poroid, with white margins and a kind of flesh-grey or ochraceous-grey pore surface. This was Skeletocutis carneogrisea, only a 2nd Notts record. Towards the end also, we saw a few groups of the striking orange-yellow Hare’s Ear Fungus (Otidea onotica) among brambles under the broad-leaf trees. It is not that uncommon in the county, but not frequently seen either.

Howard Williams

**15.09.18 Stonehills Plantation, nr Mansfield**

This was probably the first foray of the autumn season which we felt the ground moisture levels where improving and so the list of species was also increasing.

The long dry summer seemed to last longer in Nottinghamshire than most of Britain.

This foray was well attended (18), even though we all had early seasonal memory lapse in regard to the species found – but between us we slowly recalled parts of names in English or latin.

The final count of species was 36 and many thanks to Di Mears for all the species she took home with her to confirm by microscope.

Some of the smaller species such as Hymenoscyphus fructigenus, Nut disco found on both acorn cups and beechmast seemed to be recovering from the summer quicker than the larger species such as Fly Agaric.

It was felt at the foray that we should endeavour to visit another year as the mixed woodland was easily accessible and parking was ample, but I must apologise for saying the distance between traffic lights was 3 miles when it should have been 2 miles.

Ann Ward

**02.09.18 Sookholme/Shirebrook**

This old pit site was a new venue for the NFG and most of us had not visited it previously. Twelve of us came along for a sunny morning’s exploration. The previous 3 months had been very dry which perhaps explains why our haul of fungi was very small (just 11 species). The plantation area is also quite young and has not perhaps yet had time to develop an extensive mycota. Even so, the areas of grass verge around the lake and at the bottom of the wooded hill were disappointing; only a few clusters of Fairy Ring Mushrooms (Marasmius oreades) were found near the lake and in the grass on the hilltop a few Common Field Mushrooms (Agaricus campestris).

In the woods on the hillside the Common Stump Brittlestem (Psathyrella piluliformis), found by Marion and on birch wood Common Mazegill (Datronia mollis) found by Jean were about the only ‘ordinary’ fungi seen. However, on leaves and needles, living or dead, we did find a few tiny ascomycetes like Melampsora caprearum on living willow leaves, or Lophodermium pinastri on dead pine needles. The most interesting record here was a black-brown bristly patch on a dead hogweed stem. This was the hyphomycete Dendryphiella infuscans, which proved to be a 1st Notts record.

With lichens Craig had better luck and recorded 19 specimens from tree bark and other substrates to give us a respectable total of 30 records.

We finished a little early, but the weather had been kind and we all enjoyed (I think) the scramble over ditches and up the hillside of ash and pines. At least for the photo at the top we all raised a smile.

Howard Williams

**11.08.18 Thoresby Courtyard**

N/A