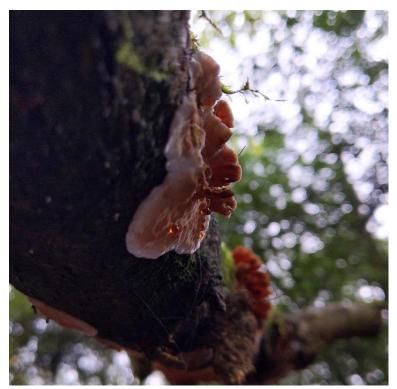
Wild Things fungus foray at Burton Bushes 7th November 2022

What a magical foray this turned out to be. We could hardly move without spotting, or standing on, fabulous fungi. There were woodrotters like the majestic Ganodermas, huge bracket fungi eating away at the heartwood of old oaks and beeches, or the tiny but weird fingers of Stagshorn on dead branches. There were plenty of mycorrhizal fungi too, like Cloudy Funnels, trooping around the trunks of trees sharing their root systems, food supplies, and quite possibly, if modern research turns out to be right, communication and defence systems. Mycology is such an exciting study as there is still so much we don't know in this hidden wood-wide web.

Sixteen of us turned out, an excellent showing for a dodgy day in November, but the weather held. Even novices in the group were soon getting their eye in, bringing us fungi to identify. Phil led the way. He comes here regularly dog-walking, so knows where the most delectable fungi can be found. Mervin did most of the ID, explaining highlights as we wandered, such as the Bleeding Bracket, which exudes 'bloody' spores when rubbed.

No-one rose to my challenge to taste the juice of the Oakbug Milkcap, one of the most fun ways to ID milkcaps. This one was mild, just getting slightly acrid after a few seconds. However, Doreen did innocently pick up a Stinkhorn for us, which, thankfully, had lost most (but not all) of its noxious smell, as the insects had obviously had their fill.

I showed the group the Campion Smut, a fiendish smut fungus that hijacks the DNA of Campions and turns their reproductive organs into spore producers, easily recognisable on the flowers by its dark brown colour. We were also lucky enough to find a tiny slime mould, , which had just entered its reproductive, spore-producing phase, and looked like a crust of snowflakes. This is the only time these extraordinary single-celled organs, belonging to the kingdom of Protista, neither flora nor fungi, become visible. I identified it by photographs only, as by the time I got my sample home it had turned into an amorphous, almost clear gel, before disappearing altogether.



Fungi list by Mervin Nethercoat; report by Helen Kitson; photos from Mervin Nethercoat, Paul Sears and Helen Kitson.

Left: Bleeding Oak Crust

Opposite clockwise: Small Mycenae on moss and on branch; Buttercap in leaf litter; Sulphur Tuft.



Page 3 clockwise: *Ganoderma applanatum* (Artist's Bracket); Glistening Inkcaps on a fallen trunk; Mervin shows the group a Clouded Funnel.

Page 4: tiny Mycaenae and a Shaggy Parasol (top) and a Wood Blewit.

Page 5: Red Cracking Bolete; Phil takes a closer look at a branch.

Page 7: Coral Slime Mould (*Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa*) and Lighthouse Galls (*Hartigiola annulipes*) on a Beech leaf















Foray Burton Bushes 7 November 2022 List compiled by Mervin Nethercoat

Basidiomycetes

Russula ochroleuca Ochre Brittlegill

R. fragilis

Lactarius quietus Oakbug Milkcap

L.

Angel's Bonnet Mycena archangeliana Common Bonnet M. galericulata M. Filopes **Iodine Bonnet** M. inclinata Clustered Bonnet M. pos pseudocorticola (tiny, on mossy bark) Clitocybe nebularis Clouded Funnel Armillarea mellea Honey Fungus The Deceiver Laccaria laccata Marasmius hudsonii Holly Cap Collybia butyracea **Butter Cap** Macrolepiota rhacodes Shaggy Parasol Amanita muscaria Fly Agaric Lepista nuda Wood Blewit Hypholoma fasciculare Sulphur Tuft Coprinellus micaceus Glistening Inkcap

Panaeolus sp

Crepidotus variabilis Variable Oysterling (pos C cesatii)

Boletus chrysenteron Red Cracking Bolete

Laetiporus sulphureus Chicken of the Woods (Very much past its sell-by date!)

Ganoderma australe Southern Bracket
G. applanatum Artist's Bracket
Stereum hirsutum Hairy Curtain Crust
S. gausapatum Bleeding Oak Crust

Trametes versicolor Turkeytail
Schizopora paradoxa Split Porecrust
Phallus impudicus Stinkhorn
Auricularia auricula-judae Jelly Ear

Microbotryum violaceum Campion Anther Smut

Exidia thuretiana White Brain

Ascomycetes

Xylaria hypoxylon Stag's Horn or Candle Snuff

Daldinia concentrica King Alfred's Cakes

Nectria cinnabarina Coral Spot

Mollisia cinerea Common Grey Disco



