

COTSWOLD FUNGUS GROUP

Chairman and Foray Leader: David Shorten, 45 Sevenfields, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 7NF.
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Dear Member,

Here's the Summer Newsletter, continuing the series of occasional CFG Newsletters with a round up of news of mycological events for our local region and around the country.

The National Trust - Waxcap Watch 2007

The National Trust has launched a survey of Waxcap fungi and other ancient-grassland indicator species on its sites, whether on lawns of major house properties, sheep pastures or croquet lawns. The survey is open to anyone and they have made it simple to recognise the various species of interest, concentrating on identifying by colour alone (white, pink, yellow, green, red, orange) alongside where and when you saw it. Their own press release to local fungus recording groups says:

"Be part of the largest public fungi survey this autumn. The National Trust is asking members and non-members to survey its 300 gardens and thousands of hectares of countryside in order to find out more about some of the UK's rarest and most colourful fungi. All you have to do is note the number and varieties of Waxcaps, Fairy clubs and Earthtongues you see, where you saw them and when. Results should be submitted using a simple online form. A free colour ID guide will be available to download from September".

To take part and for more information go to: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/waxcaps.

New Books out this year

Russulas: "The Genus Russula in Great Britain with synoptic keys to species" by Geoffrey Kibby was published during the summer of 2007. Details in Field Mycology volume-8(2) February 2007, and available direct from the author at £18 incl. p&p (cheques payable to Geoffrey Kibby) Geoffrey Kibby, 56 Bodnant Gardens, Raynes Park, London. SW20 0UD

Hebelomas: "The genus Hebeloma" by Jan Vesterholt. 2007 (no.3 in the series Fungi of Northern Europe). £32 incl. postage from Pendleside Books.

UK Checklist of species: The first update to the "Checklist of the British and Irish Basidiomycota" was published in late winter 2006, for those that have a copy. The update is available free of charge on the website: <http://www.basidiochecklist.info>. Also on the website are details of how to order a hardcopy of the original edition (£29 from the Kew Gardens bookshop) and an online database search facility for UK species.

Book Catalogues: Pendleside Books 2007 Catalogue no.21 of new and second-hand / out of print books on Fungi and Lichens – a few copies available from DS, otherwise with a 40p s.a.e A5 size envelope from: Pendleside Books, 359 Wheatley Lane Road, Fence, Burnley, Lancs. BB12 9QA.

Simple field Guides:

There is a series of plastic laminated simple pictorial field guides available from The Field Studies Council, try their online bookshop at: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/publications> As well as a guide to fungi (The Fungi Name Trail – good for kids) there's also pictorial guides to Birds (several), Plants (several), Trees and Lichens (several) all reasonably priced at £2.50 - £3.50 including postage.

Events this autumn

CFG's main Autumn Event at Westonbirt

The main autumn event for CFG is the annual open foray at Westonbirt Arboretum on Sunday 14th October (please note that it is much later in the autumn calendar than usual), to which all local fungus groups in the region are invited. The format will be largely the same as in previous years – a morning foray around the Old Arboretum (no dogs allowed), pic-nic or restaurant lunch, afternoon foray into Silkwood followed by an open exhibition of the day's finds by the Education Centre on the edge of the arboretum.

BMS Roadshow at the RHS Malvern Autumn Show

There's no CFG fungus foray on Sunday 30th September, as I'll be helping man the British Mycological Society's Roadshow stand at the RHS Autumn Show at the Three Counties showground in Malvern. If you are going to the show over the Saturday/Sunday please do look us up. *To find out more about the Roadshow check out the BMS website www.britmycolsoc.org.uk or the Marches Website at www.herefordshire-fungi.org.uk*

CFG Normandy trip

This year's trip to France is our fifteenth consecutive mycological autumn holiday in Normandy and the fourteenth to the international festival of fungi at Belleme. While we are away there will be no other foraying activities in the region covered by CFG over the weekend of 6th / 7th October, so check the end of the CFG Autumn Foray Program for details of other local county-based fungus groups activities.

Other Local non-CFG Forays

I will be running fungus forays on behalf of a number of natural history societies and organisations this autumn. If you are interested in coming on any of these events, please book with the relevant local society or organisation listed below. However, there are a limited number of free spaces for helpers, if you are available to work as a 'hunter-gatherer' roving ahead of the main party and bringing back interesting finds for me to show to the main body of the group - fairly competent identifiers please.

| Day & Date | Site | Organisation | Times |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Saturday 29 th September | Westonbirt Arboretum | Forest Enterprise | am & pm walks |
| Saturday 13 th October | Batsford Arboretum | Batsford Arboretum | am & pm walks |
| Saturday 20 th October | Westonbirt Arboretum | Forest Enterprise | am & pm walks |
| Saturday 27 th October | Lower Woods | Glos Wildlife Trust | am & pm walks |
| Saturday 3rd November | Great Wood | Swindon Rangers | am & pm walks |
| Saturday 10th November | Clouts Wood | Swindon WWTrust | am walk only |
| Saturday 17 th November | Betty Daws Wood | Glos Wildlife Trust | am & pm walks |

Commemorative Foray in Oxfordshire

On Sunday the 22nd of September there will be a foray at Harcourt Arboretum in Oxfordshire to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire group and commemorate the life of Arthur Warland, who sadly passed away late last year. Details from DS.

Fungus weekend at the Dean Heritage Museum

The Dean Fungus Group are running their popular Fungus Weekend event at the Dean Heritage Centre over Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th October. There will be an exhibition of fungi on display in the museum over both days (open from 11am to 4pm) and a fungus foray on each of the two days (set off 2pm). If you want to attend the foray, please book with Reception at the Museum (01594 822170) – see more details of the museum on their website at: <http://www.deanheritagemuseum.com>

Joint Foray with NS&BFG

Following on from the highly successful spring visit, we'll be teaming up with the North Somerset and Bristol Fungus Group for a joint foray at the National Trust site at Tyntesfield estate on the 4th of November. The visit in the spring (technically mid-winter as it was the 18th of February) managed to add around 110 new species to the already comprehensive list for the site compiled by John and Doreen Bailey from their and NS&BFG's visits to the site over the last few years. John informed me this week that after a good wet summer's foraying, they have now stretched the list to 461 separate species of fungi for the site. Hopefully, if they haven't got there already by November, we will be able to push them over the threshold of 500 species to qualify the site as an IFA under the BMS's assessment criteria.

You can access the various fungus foray visit reports for Tyntesfield on the NS&BFG website at: <http://www.nsbfg.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk>

CFG Accounts 2006/2007

I have compiled CFG's annual accounts for the last financial year (April-2006 to March-2007) and full copies can be made available on request to those who want them. A single page copy of the summary accounts is appended at the end of this Newsletter.

Whilst outgoings this year exceeded our income, CFG is in a healthy position with just under four hundred pounds in the bank (£376.32 against £654.57 at the end of the previous year). Overall membership income almost covered the main outgoings of postage and stationery with the two other main expenditure items being my petrol expenses (at cost) to the BMS's Local Fungus Group Leaders meeting held every two years near Preston, Lancashire and purchase of the CFG website domain. Subscription fees for 2007 have remained the same as for the last couple of years and most of our regular members have paid up their 2007/2008 subscriptions in good time. Overall numbers in the group (74 paid up as of 12-08-2007) stand around the same as last year (total 83 at year-end for 2006/07). The membership list has again been pruned to remove members lapsed through non-payment in spring 2007. The same fixed membership rate (£5 single / £7 couple) will apply to anyone joining the group during this autumn's foraying season.

Public Liability Insurance

CFG has again taken its Public Liability Insurance with the Association of British Fungus Groups and cover runs for another 12 months from 1st August 2007. One of the conditions of the Public Liability Insurance scheme is that our forays have to be led by a paid-up member of ABFG and thus personally covered by its PLI scheme. Currently this is usually OK as long as I am present at forays to lead them, but under exceptional circumstances where I'm not available, forays covered by PLI insurance can go ahead only if led by any one of the other seventeen paid-up ABFG members within CFG.

A.G.M

At the moment there is no plan to have an AGM, but I will probably call one next summer, if only to practice the slide-show I am preparing for the Mycologiades festival at Belleme in 2008 on the “Fungi of Australasia and New Zealand” (my holiday snaps).

Site Species Lists

Over the winter months I normally compile individual Fungus Species Lists for individual foray sites that we visit on a regular basis. This is primarily to inform the owner of what species are present and begin the assessment process of what need to be done to preserve the habitat and survival of any potentially threatened Red Data species. The list also acts as a prompt when we re-visit the sites out of season, or when individuals visit the sites on their own.

If anyone wants a copy of the list for a specific woodland – let me know, and I can email an electronic copy of the document, or post on a hard copy. These may be useful if you are routinely walking any one of these sites and want to contribute to the knowledge of the fungus flora of the site. Lists are available for the following open public access sites:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Batsford Arboretum | Buckholt Wood, | Clanger Wood, |
| Clouts Wood | Coopers Hill, | Crickley Hill Country Park, |
| Frith Wood | Great Wood Stanton, | Green Lane Wood, |
| Lineover Wood | Lower Woods | Lower Wetmoor Reserves |
| Midger Wood | Savernake Forest | Siccaridge Wood |
| Silkwood | Westonbirt Arboretum | Webbs Wood |
| Woodchester Park | | |

Significant additions to the lists from our late winter, spring and summer activities include:

Buckholt Wood NNR

Multiple ad-hoc visits to Buckholt and Cranham Woods National Nature Reserve by members of the group throughout 2006 pushed the count for this site from 463 to 556 separate species of fungi recorded. A list of 500+ species is an achievement, both for a woodland and any recording group and qualifies the site under the BMS's listing as an IFA (Important Fungus Area) and thus worth conservation for its wealth and diversity of fungi, whether it has any red-data species present or not. The count at the end of summer stands at 586 species with the addition of a number of resupinate (flat uninteresting) bracket fungi, smaller cup fungi and slime moulds. The two spectacular finds of larger cup-fungi were the Hare's Ear (*Otidea onotica*) and a bright yellow rooting cup *Sowerbyella radiculata* – only recorded at one other site in the county – in Silkwood at Westonbirt Arboretum.

Great Wood (Stanton Fitzwarren):

Our 2006 forays at Great Wood added a further 54 new species records to the already large list for the site, taking it up to 765 separate species of fungi recorded there, and making it our second-highest recorded Wiltshire site. The late winter and spring visits have now increased this haul to 809 species and at least two more formal CFG forays are planned there this autumn. One of the most unusual additions to the list for Great Wood was The Prince *Agaricus augustus* a highly prized edible, surprisingly seen there for the first time this summer.

Great Wood remains one of our key habitats for the Wrinkled Peach *Rhodotus palmatus* in North Wiltshire. There are only 32 records for it over the period 1986 – 2006, covering eleven sites in all and 12 of these 32 records are here at Great Wood. This gilled fungus is species-specific to Elm (*Ulmus*) only, usually on felled or recently deceased trees, which are hanging on at this site and a few other reserves in Wiltshire.

Lower Woods & Lower Wetmoor NNR:

Our foray visits to Lower Woods in 2006 saw us reaching the goal of 500 species of fungi recorded and then extending it to 536 by the end of the year. For those of you who are members of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, there is a write up on our achievements at the site in GWT's Wildlife News magazine on page 6 of the February 2007 edition. The spring foray to Lower Woods confirmed its worthiness for conservation by pushing the site list to 556 species.

What's going to be out there in autumn 2007?

Given the (yet again) unusual spring/summer weather pattern in the UK, with a warm dry spring and then parts of the region inundated in mid-summer, your guess is as good as mine.

However, I must point out that I saw my first Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*) near Boulogne in the hotel grounds of a converted chateau in France in mid July. Perhaps not so surprising considering I saw (with several believable witnesses) The Blusher *Amanita rubescens* and *Amanita spissa* in early June in the Forest of Dean.

The occasional bolete has been reported throughout the summer months, in the Forest of Dean several species including the Brown Birch Bolete on 9th June and at Westonbirt the Slippery Jack and the Red Cracked Bolete in late June.

Is this the place to let it slip that some members of the group have been feasting on early Chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*) since the beginning of June?

One very recent press article suggested that this summer was going to be a good one for Truffles, although a bit of background digging tracked the source of the optimistic predictions to an entrepreneur who had set himself up as a grower of truffles and supplier into the restaurant trade. As an initial follow-up, the Today programme on Radio 4 was looking for a truffle expert to take a team out into the woodlands of the southwest of England early the next morning (Gloucestershire, Somerset and Devon had been suggested as a good location) to find truffles live on radio sometime between 7 and 8 am. I hadn't realised that they were such early risers.

BMS Membership & Journal queries

The British Mycological Society has appointed an administrator at its new office in Manchester. Please contact Laura Crossley at: laura@britmycolsoc.info with any membership queries. She may also be able to help with teething problems related to Field Mycology magazine subscriptions, although these should be resolved initially with nlinfo-f@elsevier.com at Elsevier, the publishers.

The BMS has now ceased publication of The Mycologist magazine and switched its members subscriptions to a free issue of either Fungal Biology Reviews or Field Mycology.

BMS membership fees can (as from 2008) no longer be collected by Direct Debit and will need to be paid by cheque each year.

ABFG membership

Membership of the Association of British Fungus Groups entitles individuals to full public liability insurance cover when foraging anywhere in the UK and Europe as well as the informative and lively The Forayer magazine written by ABFG Chairman Michael Jordan.

Membership of ABFG is currently only £17.50 – see: www.abfg.org

CFG Website www.cotswoldfungusgroup.com

If you haven't already visited the site, please do have a look. Currently it holds the background data on CFG, the foray dates (but not locations), membership details and joining instructions. The next phase is to set up a picture gallery to host photographs of unusual local fungi and members of the group - you may already notice we've dotted the main website with photographs of foray activities already. Apologies to those who appear in the earlier photos from my collection, but I am currently going through it and digitising something in the region of three thousand slides, beginning in the early 1990's. When I get into the current century, we'll replace the older photos with photos of current forayers and more recent pictures of old forayers. However, we do hope to have a separate picture gallery of our exploits in France and my photos certainly go back to the Belleme festival 1994.

If you have any digital images of CFG members, especially from earlier events (I have very few people photos from 1992-1995), I would be pleased to receive them for upload onto the website.

The stage after that is to publish recipes for edible fungi. Again if you have any that you'd be willing to have uploaded onto the website, we'd be glad to accept them, especially if they are accompanied by a good photograph of the prepared dish and/or fungus ingredient.

Identification of Lichens

Anyone interested in trying to identify Lichens should try out "A guide to lichens on twigs" a simple stepwise key to identification at: <http://internet.nhm.ac.uk/jdsml/nature-online/lichen-id-guide/index.dsm1> or <http://nhm.ac.uk/jdsml/nature-online/lichen-id-guide>. The website is very user-friendly and displays good quality photographs under each species named.

Alternatively there are a series of plastic laminated simple pictorial field guides available from The Field Studies Council, try their online bookshop at: www.field-studies-council.org/publications/bycategory/lichens.aspx.

Guides worth getting are: Urban Lichens (vol.1: on trees and wood) / Urban Lichens (vol.2: on stone and soil) / Churchyard Lichens / Lichens on twigs, at £2.50 each.

Conservation & National Red Data List of Fungi: an update

A revised list of species of fungi of high conservation interest was submitted by the expert mycological working party to JNCC (the Joint Nature Conservancy Council) and is under consideration (still). This is a 2006 update to the original 1992 list of rare, endangered or threatened fungi which forms the backbone of conservation concerns across the country.

The original 1992 list was used by all local authorities to base their conservation priorities upon and formulate their county-BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) when it came to assessing priorities for fungi. In our region there were only two key Red Data List fungi present in Gloucestershire or Wiltshire on the original list (*Boletus satanas* and *Hygrocybe calyptyraeformis*) with a handful of other species in the lesser listed categories. The new list is still not formally agreed, but has been published as 'provisional'. This revised provisional list has been drawn from more up-to-date records in the national database of fungus foray records, which includes a large volume of data generated in the 1990s by the spread of local fungus recording groups.

One of the casualties of the revised provisional list is that both *Boletus satanas* and *Hygrocybe calyptyraeiformis* fall off the main list, but are replaced by other more representative and truly rare and endangered species. I suppose it was inevitable that this would happen: nominate something as rare on limited data and people will go out looking for it, creating more data, which will include the occasional find for it, thus proving it is not rare after all, just under-recorded.

The provisional list is available from the A.B.F.G website at: www.abfg.org/BAP1.htm and is particularly useful as it also contains pictures of each of the key 67 species (click on the name to see the photo) now being considered for drawing up revisions of current BAP fungi lists. It is this list of species that will be used by CFG in assessing the status of our regular foray sites when I carry out the next review of each of the site species lists at the end of the 2007 foraging year.

Already, this list has been used for submission to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's revised Biodiversity Action Plan and we have 15 of these 67 species of endangered fungi recorded in the county of Wiltshire, ten of them in our 'Cotswolds' area of North Wiltshire. These are:

Boletus pseudoregius (2 records), *Cantharellus melanoxeros* (1), *Chlorociboria versiformis* (5), *Hericium cirrhatum* (4), *Hericium coralloides* (1), *Hericium erinaceum* (1), *Hydnellum concrescens* (1), *Microglossum olivaceum* (1), *Sarcodontia crocea* (1), *Stephanospora caroticolor* (1). Seven of these ten species records are contemporary (since 1990) the remaining three are archival records and pre-1950's.

A similar review will be undertaken on the Gloucestershire part of our 'Cotswolds' area when Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust reviews its county-wide BAP and will be reported back in the Spring Newsletter.

Anyone wanting site data on any of these particular species, let me know and I can run off a printout of the database records for these fungi.

Advance notice of Autumn 2007 COTSWOLD FUNGUS GROUP foray dates

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| 2 nd September | Sunday | North Wiltshire (Great Wood, Swindon) |
| 9 th September | Sunday | Gloucestershire (Midger Wood & Westridge Wood) |
| 16 th September | Sunday | Gloucestershire (Lower Woods) |
| 23 rd September | Sunday | North Wiltshire (Ravensroost Wood & Webbs Wood) |
| 30 th September | Sunday | No foray – CFG at Malvern Show |
| 6/7 th October | Sat / Sunday | No UK Forays, CFG in France |
| 14 th October | Sunday | Gloucestershire (Westonbirt Arboretum) |
| 21 st October | Sunday | Gloucestershire (Cirencester Park) |
| 28 th October | Sunday | North Wiltshire (Savernake Forest & its Churchyards) |
| 4 th November | Sunday | North Somerset (Tyntesfield NT Estate) |
| 11 th November | Sunday | North Wiltshire (Stanton Park & Vincients Wood) |
| 18 th November | Sunday | South Wiltshire (Clanger Wood & Green Lane Wood) |
| 25 th November | Sunday | North Wiltshire (Great Wood, Swindon) |

Full details of foray site locations and how to get there will be mailed out soon.

Hope to see you at a foray at some point this autumn.

Dave Shorten

Dave Shorten / 15th August 2007 / CFG-Admin2007 / Newsletter Autumn07

COTSWOLD FUNGUS GROUP

Chairman and Foray Leader: David Shorten, 45 Sevenfields, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 7NF. 01793 764649.

ACCOUNTS 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007

| Item: | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | BALANCE |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| OPENING BALANCE 1st April 2006 | | | + £654.57 |
| 1. MEMBERSHIP 2006/2007 | + £337.00 | | + £337.00 |
| 3. B.M.S Booklets / Pocket Guides | + £ 15.00 | - £ 30.00 | - £ 15.00 |
| 4. Other SALES | + £ 0.00 | - £ 0.00 | + £ 0.00 |
| 5. CHEMICALS for microscopists | + £ 0.00 | - £ 0.00 | + £ 0.00 |
| 6. OTHER Income & 7. Expenditure | | | |
| ABFG Membership * | | - £ 17.50 | - £ 17.50 |
| ABFG PLI-supplement (2006/7)** | | - £ 20.00 | - £ 20.00 |
| Slide-shows & Talks & Led forays *** | + £242.00 | - £222.95 | + £ 19.05 |
| Mileage: W&SBRC Meetings at Devizes | | - £ 19.80 | - £ 19.80 |
| Petrol & Accom at B.M.S meeting**** | | -£107.40 | - £107.40 |
| Mileage: BMS surveys (M.A – Pachyella) | | -£ 28.20 | - £ 28.20 |
| CFG email & website domain name purchase | | -£ 72.46 | - £ 72.46 |
| 8. POSTAGE | | - £114.24 | - £114.24 |
| 9. STATIONERY | | - £239.70 | - £239.70 |
| SUB TOTALS | + £594.00 | - £872.25 | - £278.25 |
| CLOSING BALANCE 31/03/2007 | | | + £376.32 |
| 2. Subscriptions received in advance for 2007/08 : | | | + £212.00 |
| Balance at Bank 01-April 2007: [£653.90 -£86.34 +£27.76 -£7.00] | | | = £ 588.32 |
| 10. Income planned 2007/2008 (Slideshows & Forays already booked) | | | + £350.00 |

Notes:

* ABFG Membership's accounting year is from Jan-Dec 2007. Public Liability Insurance runs Aug-06 – July-07.

** ABFG Public Liability supplement of £20.00 to cover insurance for outstanding memberships of CFG at end of July 2006 and cover new CFG-members and occasional attendees during autumn foray season.

*** Income & expenditure from a number of organisations for slideshow talks or forays: Calne Gardening Club, Winchcombe Gardening Club, Swindon Ranger Service, Glos Organic Gardening Society, Dursley Birders, The Woodcraft Folk Youth Group, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Mileage reimbursed to DS at 30p / mile.

**** Meeting held every 2 years and partly subsidised by BMS (£90 off accommodation). DS's petrol reimbursed at cost.

David Shorten.

Chairman and Foray Leader,

06-07 Accounts / c:\CFGAdmin-2006 / 30.04/2007