

Cotswold Fungus Group AGM 2016



Meeting Minutes

Date: 16th April 2016

Venue: The Barn at Great Wood, Stanton Fitzwarren

Those present were as follows: Dave Champion (DC - Chairman), Pat O'Dell (POD), Jason Doe (JD), Lee Hayward (LH - Secretary), John Roberts (JR - Treasurer), Tanya Gray Jones (TGJ), George Connor (GC), Mary Hunt (MH).

Introduction & Welcome by Dave Champion followed by items numbered as per the agenda (See Appendix 1). Each item was covered by the name in brackets:

1) Apologies (LH)

Apologies were received from Jean Oliver, Cherie Gordon,, Clive Manvell, Philippa Manvel.

2) Review of previous (2015) Minutes: (LH)

The accounts were very healthy.

LH stated our intention to buy a projector with group funds (which has been done).

Chairman reported that group was growing, after a couple of (inevitable) years of decline.

The membership grew.

LH stated that: We moved to a web based, near paperless, supply of information.

We started a library.

LH changed the group logo.

The committee remained unchanged.

CFG updated the constitution for the first time since 2010.

LH stated our intention to reinstate talks / presentations and lectures (which we have done).

3) Chairman's Report (Dave C)

The Chairman reported that the general performance of the group has been very good and he is particularly happy to see so much younger talent in the group.

Everyone seems happy with group forays and events, financially we are comfortable, and membership continues to grow.

Three further points were brought to the attention of attendees, these were:

- The commercial fungus survey conducted and reported by LH/DC on a proposed large housing project in Calne, Wiltshire. The first study conducted in this capacity in the UK.
- DC promoted the CFG on two radio interviews with BBC Radio Gloucestershire and BBC Radio Wiltshire.
- The assistance we offered to the BBC Wildlife in the study of Red Squirrels and *Russula emetica*.

4) Treasurer's Report (John R)

JR stated that the bank balance is healthy and that the main group income is from subs and from the Westonbirt Public forays.

Main one-off additional outlay - Overhead Projector C£170.00

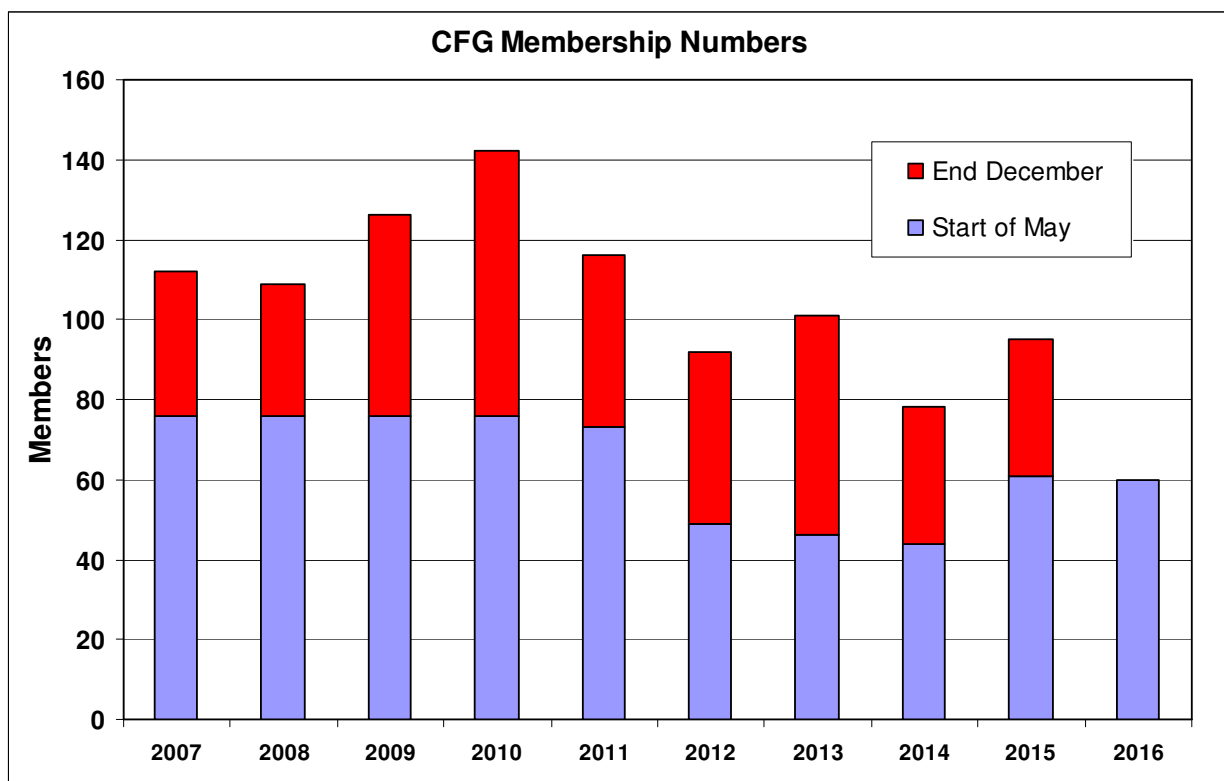
Detailed accounts were presented and, in summary, the up-to-date accounts are:

Opening Balance = £1461.37

Closing balance (as of 14/04/2016) = £1513.30

5) Membership Report: (Lee H)

The following graph shows CFG membership since 2007 (Blue represents membership at the end of May, Red is the membership at the end of the year).



We will continue not to push for membership through any form of advertising etc (retaining members, or new membership). If people want to find us and join they will, as we have a good internet presence (i.e. easy to find).

Secretary happy that we have some very keen younger members.

6) Secretary's Report: (Lee H)

- We have changed our web hosting (more expensive) but LH went for an upgraded package so that we could host other sites (e.g. DFG website). This has decreased the price we pay substantially.

- Apologies for late release of the foray programme - due to web/email/hosting issues and LH being ill at just the wrong time.
- Still having some issues with email not being delivered, so LH hopes everyone is receiving the information sent out.
- Microscopy classes are to be started this year - Under the name "Microscopy Club". To improve skills of several very keen members.
- CFG will be having a Fungus Photo competition this year for members - there will be a prize and hopefully the best pictures will be made into a calendar for free download or to be printed (at a cost). LH asked for ideas for what the prize should be?
- LH suggested that maybe more information should be added to the members page on the website, if people want it, such as foray records etc. LH asked what should be included? Attendees stated that at present the content should stay the same.

Personal points (LH):

- Facebook page has taken off really well and is very active. I'm Really pleased. it now deals with ID enquiries, general and detailed discussion, and is a great way to impart information.
- CFG Library: is rather good, thanks to so many book contributions from group members. But library is underused. But it doesn't really matter, it's there if people want it. Attendees suggested that an email should publicise it's existence to those who don't know and that maybe it could be made a mobile library, i.e. taken to forays, so that people could borrow field guides etc and people would have a place to borrow and return other books.
- I'll be attending a two day BMS GL meeting in June, where there are several issues I'm keen to discuss with them (DNA, recording, microscopy class advice, why we have very little contact from BMS etc).
- Finally: nobody has complained about the change of group logo.

7) Election of CFG Committee (Lee H)

The committee leading up to this AGM was as follows:

Current committee:

Chairman:	Dave C
Treasurer:	John R
Secretary:	Lee H
Recorder:	John R
Membership secretary:	Lee H
Foray Organiser:	Lee H
Facebook Administrators: ...	Dave C, Mary H
Website & Data Controller: .	Lee H

Attendees were asked if anyone would like to stand for election for any existing position?

Each committee member re-stood for their current positions. Each position was Proposed, Second and Carried.

It was proposed (LH) to create new positions on the committee, regarding recording lists and records data management. Both Tanya Gray Jones and Jason Doe has both previously kindly offered their skills.

Position 1 - Records data Manager. Propose Tanya.

Position 2 - Recorder - Propose Jason.
Both proposals were unanimously carried.

The names of the new positions are not yet decided

8) Changes to the Constitution (Lee H)

LH Proposed that the only change should be to reflect the new positions.
Attendees stated that new positions do not need to be built into the constitution, so the CFG Constitution remains unchanged - see Appendix 2.

9) CFG Schedule for 2016 (Lee H)

Foray program for the whole of 2016 has been finalised, and published on the website.
The January 2016 Westonbirt foray/picnic has been finalised.

There are two public forays, Westonbirt on National Fungus weekend and at Batsford during the October half term. Westonbirt public foray is our main group fundraiser, Batsford we do for costs plus lunch only.

LH has already created and sent the publicity information and posters that Westonbirt required. There was confusion over last year's advertising, but this year everything seems in place.

Lower Woods foray is joint with NSBFG

Two new venues have been introduced to the foray schedule: two woods on the Berkeley Estate and two Natural England woods near the Ebworth centre, The Camp.

Westonbirt - National Fungus Day - I've invited (and been accepted by) CFG, DFG and NSBFG fungus groups. There will be an ambitious day of events - Recording foray / Newbies foray / Public forays / Fungus display & info / Fungus Groups Picnic in adjacent rooms in Education Centre.

Continuing out drive to reintroduce educational presentations (we did some last year) several have already been confirmed for this year:

LH - Presentation & Walk for Swindon Borough Council

LH - Presentation for GWT FoD group

LH - running an identification course for GWT.

LH -Lecture followed by foray at Cirencester Royal Agricultural University.

Two further presentations turned down as LH on holiday at the time.

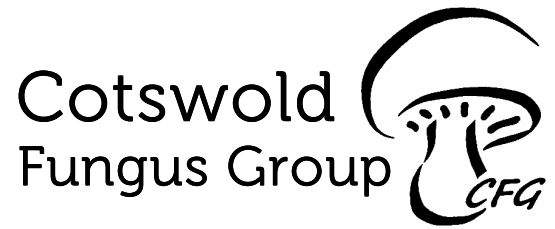
LH currently has three presentations (varying in depth and complexity). Shortest 1Hr 15mins (for wildlife trusts etc). LH writing a shorter (50mins) presentation for Garden Clubs etc, but this is proving hard work!

Crickley Hill Bioblitz - 8 July 2016 - 3:00pm - 9 July 2016 - 3:00pm. LH asked attendees if we should attend? it was decided probably not (as a group) as this is a dry site and summer is likely to return very few fungus finds.

10) Any Other Business? (Lee H)

No further business was discussed and the meeting was closed.

Appendix 1 AGM Agenda



Annual General Meeting 2016

Date: 16th April 2016 at 14:00pm

Location: The Barn at Great Wood, Stanton Fitzwarren

Agenda:

- 1) Apologies.
- 2) Review of minutes of the previous meeting.
- 3) Chairman's report.
- 4) Treasurer's Report.
- 5) Membership report.
- 6) Secretary's report.
- 7) Election of CFG committee.
- 8) Review and changes to the CFG constitution.
- 9) CFG schedule for 2016.
- 10) Any Other Business.

Constitution

Name: The Group shall be called Cotswold Fungus Group (CFG)

Aims: The Aims of the Group shall be to:

- (a) Record the fungi of the general area of the Cotswolds, comprising the Vice Counties of East Gloucestershire (VC33), West Gloucestershire (VC34) and North Wiltshire (VC7).
- (b) Interact with neighbouring county-based local fungus recording groups (Forest of Dean, Gwent, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, South Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, etc).
- (c) Encourage an interest in the importance of fungi in everyday life, wherever possible.
- (d) Develop a greater understanding of fungi through forays, talks and workshops open to members of the group.
- (e) Increase the awareness of fungi through contact with local members of both professional and amateur groups that have environmental interests.
- (f) Promote the conservation of fungi and of threatened habitats of rare and endangered fungi.

Membership: Shall be open to all individuals who support the aims of the group.

Subscription: Shall be charged as necessary and at a rate decided by the Committee, agreed at the AGM, to cover the general running costs and Public Liability Insurance of the group's activities and membership.

Committee: The officers of the group shall hold the positions of: Chairman; Foray Organiser; Secretary; Recorder; Membership Secretary; Treasurer; Web Manager & Data Controller; and Facebook Administrator; together with such other members as elected at the Annual General Meeting, or deemed necessary by the committee.

Meetings: An AGM shall be held within 15 months of the previous AGM to receive an annual report, accounts of the previous year and to elect officers.

Voting: Shall be by a simple majority of members present.

Finance: All money received shall be devoted to the aims of the group and shall be paid into a bank in the name of Cotswold Fungus Group. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all income and expenditure and provide a report for each committee meeting and financial statement to the AGM.

Dissolution: In the event of the group being dissolved any remaining funds will be distributed, at the discretion of the committee, to benefit groups with similar aims operating in the region.

Intellectual Property: The Intellectual Property rights for fungus foray data compiled by and for the group shall be held by the Recorder. All rights of the individual collector / identifier shall be ceded to the Recorder on compiling the foray list.

Data Protection Act: The group is registered under the appropriate legislation in the name of the current Data Controller. Details of members will not be disclosed to any commercial organisation.

Amendment to the Constitution: The Constitution may be altered as and when necessary by a simple majority at any AGM for which members must be notified at least 14 days in advance.

The above was accepted and agreed at the Annual General Meeting dated 16-05-2015