

Cotswold Fungus Group AGM 2017



Meeting Minutes

Date: 1st April 2017

Venue: Great Barn at Great Wood, Stanton Fitzwarren

Those present were as follows: Dave Champion (DC Chairman), Jason Doe (JD Recorder), Lee Hayward (LH Secretary), John Roberts (JR Treasurer), Tanya Gray Jones (TGJ Data Manager), Mary Hunt (MH), Colin Pinchen (CP), Cherie Gordon Eales (CGE), Rosemary Davies (RD), Michelle Debieux (MD), Stuart Peoples (SP), Moira Peoples (MP), Bob Wills (RW).

Introduction & Welcome by Dave Champion followed by items numbered as per the agenda (See Appendix 1). The current CFG Constitution is shown in appendix 2. Each item below was covered by the name in brackets:

1) Apologies (LH)

None Received.

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

The accounts were very healthy as was Membership numbers.

Intention to start a Microscopy Club

Intention to run a Photo Competition with the winning photos being used for a calendar.

We supplied samples of *Russula emetica/nobilis* for a Red Squirrel Study being conducted for the BBC.

Proposed new positions on CFG were both carried:

Position 1 - Data Manager -Tanya Gray Jones.

Position 2 - Recorder - Jason Doe (John R remaining as Head Recorder)

AGM agreed that constitution did not need to be changed to reflect these positions.

3) Chairman's Report (DC)

DC happy with the growth of the group, and particularly happy with the success of the facebook page, which is very active and currently has over 130 members.

4) Treasurer's Report (JR)

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 - web hosting, which was paid for the next two years (01/2017 - 01/2019) as it was cost effective to do so. This means that there will be no further payment for web hosting next year. We (CFG) are also hosting three further websites who are paying us to do so, thus making our hosting payment very low.

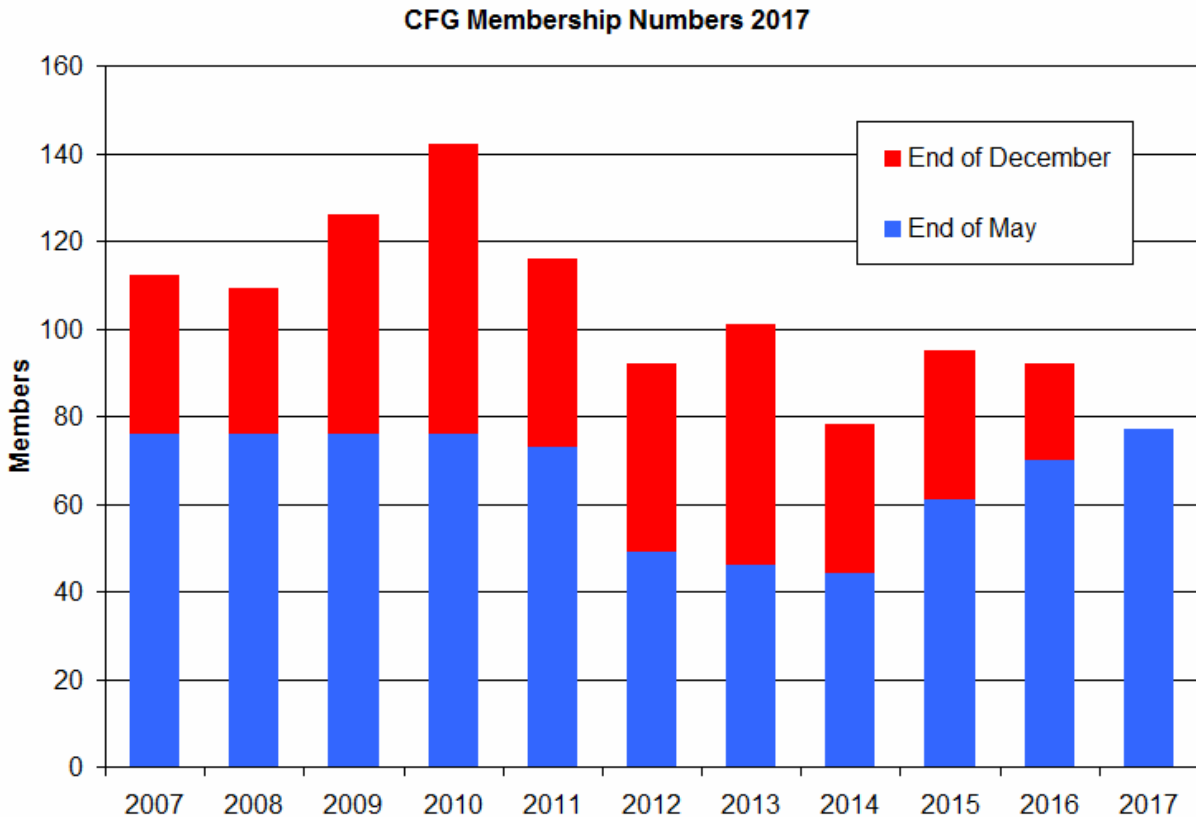
Detailed accounts were presented and, in summary, the up-to-date accounts are:

Opening Balance = £1770.13

Closing balance (as of 27/03/2017) = £1661.27

5) Membership Report: (LH)

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 currently have 78 paid members (last year 60 at this time). End of May number tends to be indicative of returning members etc, whereas Autumn membership more dependent on weather & TV/press coverage of fungi etc.

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).

6) Secretary's Report: (LH)

By paying 2 years web hosting for the multiple domain package, thus allowing us to host other sites, we have decreased the price we pay substantially.

Microscopy club started this year. We have had one session with about 20 attendees. This initial session was paid for by the group.

The Photo competition was very successful. It was won by Dave Champion.

Species Records - there is a need for a separate meeting soon (TGJ, JD, JR, LH) to address species recording from group forays. This is THE major consideration this year in my (LH) opinion.

The main additional group expense for this year is likely to be the purchase of a decent GPS for accurate location recording (circa £200)

Pretty much everything is now in place as I envisaged it to be: Forays, Public Days, Talks/Presentations, Library, Website, Facebook, Microscopy Club, Photo Competition. I don't intend implementing anything major or new this year, unless anyone has any ideas they would like to see in the CFG?

My personal thanks to Tanya (TGJ) for all the work she has done in the background, on the recording program (working title FungiForm) and photo competition, which were very much a joint effort, and we put a lot of work into these.

7) Election of CFG Committee (LH)

The committee leading up to this AGM was as follows:

Chairman:	Dave Champion
Treasurer:	John Roberts
Secretary:	Lee Hayward
Recorder:	John Roberts
Recorder:	Jason Doe
Membership secretary:	Lee Hayward
Foray Organiser:	Lee Hayward
Website & Data Controller:	Lee Hayward
Date Manager:	Tanya Gray Jones
Facebook Administrators:	Dave Champion, Mary Hunt

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 and Carried.

LH asked if anyone present would like to assist in any way with the running of CFG?

8) Changes to the Constitution (LH)

LH proposed that the wording of Aim(a) of the CFG constitution (see appendix 2) be changed to make it clear that recording of species data is not a guaranteed deliverable, but merely a courtesy that we will try our best to fulfil. The current wording is:

- The Aims of the Group shall be to: (a) Record the fungi of the general area

LH proposed changing this to:

- The Aims of the Group shall be to: (a) Record, when considered suitable, the fungi of the general area (or similar wording).

CP proposed that this wording may be clearer:

- The Aims of the Group shall be to: (a) Record, when in a position to do so, the fungi of the general area

The change was put to a vote and unanimously approved. LH will modify the constitution and circulate a draft version for final approval by those present at the AGM.

9) CFG Schedule for 2017 (LH)

Foray program for the whole of 2017 has been finalised, and published on the website. The January 2018 Westonbirt foray/picnic has been finalised.

There are two confirmed public forays:

- Westonbirt on National Fungus Day. This foray is our main group fundraiser, Westonbirt - I've invited (and been accepted) from CFG/DFG/NSBFG. Same format as last year - Group foray / Public forays / Fungus display & info / Fungus Groups Picnic in adjacent rooms in Education Centre. This was really successful last year.
- Batsford Arboretum, we do for costs plus lunch only.

We have organised another joint foray with NSBFG at Inwoods, near Bradford-on-Avon in the Autumn. This has been confirmed.

We have introduced two new forays this year at Stratford Park, Stroud & Randwick Woods,

Lectures/Presentations/Talks/Walks already confirmed in 2017/2018:

- Presentation followed by Foray for Swindon Borough Council (Great Wood) LH
- Running a full day "Fungi for Beginners" course for Glos WT (Lower Woods) LH
- Morning lecture followed by afternoon foray at Cirencester Royal Ag Uni. LH
- Fungus Walk for Westonbirt Staff/Volunteers LH
- Fungus Walk for Harvest Event at Berkeley Castle LH
- Presentation for group at English Bicknor, FoD LH
- Presentation for Marlborough Gardening Assoc LH

LH declined and after dinner talk for the Rotary Club (as it required too much additional work to create ad-hoc 30 minute talk).

There will definitely be further Microscopy Club sessions throughout 2017.

The Photo Competition will be repeated this year. It will be run from early January 2018 to allow more time to organise creation/production/delivery of the CFG Calendar.

10) Any Other Business? (LH)

LH raised the issue of Bioblitzes, and whether we (CFG or individuals) should attend them or advertise them? (The issue being that they are generally held in the summer when there are often very few fungi around).

LH asked whether CFG members/associates should be informed of additional / supplementary events, such as talks and forays run by CFG for councils, trusts & commissions for which CFG members / associates can attend?

The general consensus was that people should be made aware of both events and Bioblitzes. It was suggested (CP) that these be placed on the CFG website.

The meeting was closed.

Annual General Meeting 2017

Date: 1st April 2017 at 14:00pm

Location: Great Barn at Great Wood, Stanton Park

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 2017.**
- 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