

Chesworth Fungus Walk 16 November 2019


The original date for our annual foray was in September but following a very dry summer there was very little of fungal interest around and for the first time we decided to postpone the event. October turned out to be very good for fungi but our re-arranged date in November followed a very wet couple of weeks and we feared there would be nothing left.


There were thin pickings around the main building but following the hint from one of the Friends we crossed Kerves Lane to the meadows by the Horn Brook. We were rewarded with a fascinating variety of species.


Here is the list of species in more or less the order we found them. Some of the identifications are to genus only. Speculative species are marked thus: ?



Jonathan Simons 17/11/2019

Locations added by Tim Thomas. Reference photographs by John Ritson (JR) and David Verrall (DV)

Crepidotus mollis	Peeling Oysterling	Small fungi on dead wood with gills under the caps like small oyster mushrooms. This skin of the cap of this species can be peeled back although we did not attempt this feat.	On laid hedge – The Warren
Stereum hirsutum	Hairy Curtain Crust	Golden yellow underside to this very common encrustation of dead wood.	On laid hedge – The Warren
Trametes versicolor	Turkeytail	Very common bracket on dead wood with fan-like structure with concentric coloured zones.	On laid hedge – The Warren
Trametes hirsuta	Hairy Turkeytail	Thicker and hairier but less colourful than the commoner species	On laid hedge – The Warren
Xylaria hypoxylon	Candlesnuff	Common on dead tree-stumps	“Two poo-bin Triangle” western corner
Lepista sordida	Sordid Blewitt	One under small trees with lilac cap and gills. Less chunky than the Wood or Field Blewitt (see later)	“Two poo-bin Triangle” western corner
Laccaria laccata	Deceiver (DV) 	Common small pinkish-brown fungi with widely spaced gills. Several sizes and shapes can lead to the confusion alluded to in the name.	Under the “Three Oaks” near the bird screen
Tremella mesenterica	Yellow Brain	This fascinating species is actually parasitic on another fungus and is often found on hazel.	Under the “Three Oaks” near the bird screen

Mycena species	A Bonnet	Small delicate looking fungi but with very twangy stems and light coloured gills. There are many species to choose from!	Under the "Three Oaks" near the bird screen
Lepista nuda ?	Wood Blewitt (DV) 	Despite finding this in grass I think that on reflection the ones we found were Wood Blewitts rather than Field Blewitts. Further study needed!	Under the "Three Oaks" near the bird screen
Clitocybe nebularis	Clouded Agaric	There were a few on Kerves Lane but then a magnificent ring of over 10m diameter in the meadow. One of the most prominent species at this time of the year. (Look out also for Trooping Funnel on longer stems and upturned caps)	Kerves Lane Field
Psathyrella species	A Mottlegill	Growing in grass and possibly on buried dung the Mottlegills are distinguished by having dark gills which on closer inspection are seen to be mottled.	Kerves Lane Field
Hygrocybe virginea ?	Snowy Waxcap (JR) 	The two meadows on the other side of Kerves Lane proved very fruitful for waxcaps. We saw seemingly three different shapes of white waxcap. The first was very chunky.	Kerves Lane Field
Hygrocybe russicoria ?	Cedarwood Waxcap	The second was of more conventional shape and seemed as if it might have had the 'cedar-wood' smell of <i>H.russicoria</i> . The last were very small and collapsible.	Kerves Lane Field
Hygrocybe ceracea ?	Butter Waxcap (JR) 	There was a good sprinkling of yellow waxcaps. There are several species but this is the most likely.	Kerves Lane Field
Hygrocybe coccinea?	Scarlet Waxcap (DV) 	There were medium-sized scarlet waxcaps, some of them with yellow shades but also a good patch of uniformly small scarlet waxcaps on long stalks.	Kerves Lane Field
Hygrocybe conica	Blackening Waxcap (see pic above)	No doubt about this with its conical shape and black cap and stem.	Kerves Lane Field

Hygrocybe psitticina	Parrot Waxcap (JR) 	This species is very slimy and is difficult to hold. It comes in all sorts of shades of yellow and green. One here was an intense blue-green the like of which I had not seen before. (Unfortunately it dried a paler tone before I could photograph it.) Pic here by JR	Kerves Lane Field
Hygocybe ?	A Waxcap? (JR) 	One very curious fungus was found about 9cm high with white bloated stem and smaller dark-pink cap, with rolled over edge concealing pinkish gills.	Kerves Lane Field
Lactarius tabidus	Birch Milkcap ?	Not obviously with birch but a number of specimens in the larch area. The cap had a central depression with a small point.	Kerves Lane Field
Calocera viscosa	Yellow Stagshorn (JR) 	On a larch log	Kerves Lane Field
Collybia butyracea	Buttercap (JR) 	A very common species with brown greasy cap and fibrous stem.	Kerves Lane Field
Lepista flaccida	Tawny Funnel (JR) 	Good-size specimens growing in part of a ring	Kerves Lane Field
Cordyceps militaris	Scarlet Caterpillar Club (DV) 	Small bright orange clubs. A great find. Just two or three in one spot. Parasitic on buried insect larvae.	Kerves Lane Field
Lycoperdon pratense	Meadow Puffball	Chunky puffballs with a squat pedicel which often persist after the spores are shed.	Kerves Lane Field

<p>Pluteus cervinus ?</p>	<p>Deer Shield (DV)</p> 	<p>There were several stout fungi with dark brown caps and dark-pink gills and sturdy white stem growing in the grass at the side of the track. This seemed much like The Deer Shield. However it grows exclusively on wood. I should have excavated to find if there was something hidden below.</p>	<p>Gravel Pit field</p>
<p>Volvariella gloiocephala</p>	<p>Stubble Rosegill (DV)</p> 	<p>Two large and distinctive specimens in the grass.</p>	<p>Gravel Pit field & Kerves Lane field</p>