

**Harcourt Arboretum
8 October 2023**

UK Fungus Day was hot and sunny, perfect for attracting people to Harcourt Arboretum to celebrate UK fungi on National Fungus Day. The FSO team had gathered specimens from their gardens and local woods for the display table which virtually groaned with every type of fungus imaginable—from big brackets to delicate corals, and from colourful boletes to agarics, large and small. All of the fungi were later returned to woods and gardens so they could spore and regenerate for next year's celebration.



At 1:15, a sizeable audience gathered in the sunshine to await a talk by our President, Professor Richard Fortey, who is seen here surveying the audience before speaking.



Professor Fortey illustrated his talk with specimens from the display table, including this *Calvatia gigantea* (Giant Puffball).

Or was he actually saying, "Alas poor Yorick?"

Below are some of the parasol mushrooms that Professor Fortey used for his talk. *Macrolepiota procera* (Common Parasol) is the largest, flaunting a snakeskin stem topped with a frilly ring.



After the talk, the audience was organised into five groups who were taken around the Arboretum by FSO leaders to look for fungi. A reasonable variety of fungi were found despite the dry conditions that prevailed.

Chlorophyllum rachodes (Shaggy Parasols) were found in large groups all over the Arboretum, including this lovely group of six.



Ramaria stricta (Upright Coral) could be found in bright yellow swathes under the conifers near the entrance to the Arboretum.



Geastrum triplex (Collared Earthstar) is always a wonderful fungus to show to beginners on fungus walks. These were found under conifers in leaf litter near the entrance to the Arboretum.



The day ended with many people studying the specimens on the display table and talking to the Committee. It was great putting faces to names. We also encouraged a few people to join. It was an excellent day for mycologists and a great way to celebrate UK Fungus Day 2023.