

FSO NEWSLETTER 2025-6

From the President, JUDY WEBB

The defining feature of the spring and summer 2025 was a severe drought with four heatwaves and August with the driest soils on record. The prospect of a good autumn for fungi looked poor, seeing as the fruiting bodies of most are over 90% water. Rain from the end of August began to bring some species up. What were the first responders? Early on in September it was the year of the Brown Roll-rim *Paxillus involutus*. Hundreds of these brown caps with the furry in-rolled rim were everywhere (more than ever seen before) near birches in woods (mycorrhizal with the roots) and this year not even one Shaggy Parasol emerged in woods where I normally see hundreds. No puff-balls either.

Later on in October in woods with hazel it turned to the year of the Fiery Milk-caps *Lactarius pyrogalus*, which have inconspicuous buff-brown caps and pinky-orange-tinted gills. I found hundreds in places I had never seen them before and always associated with the roots of Hazel trees. Milk-caps produce whitish exudate called milk if you break the cap. None are poisonous and sometimes to identify the milk-cap one is instructed to taste (and then spit out) the milk. Some are tasteless, some sweetish and some are unbelievably strong and hot-tasting like chilli. The Fiery Milk-cap comes in the last category and it will give a burning sensation that lasts a long time, hence its name.



Brown Roll-rims, under birches

Fiery Milk-caps from under Hazel, note milk on damaged gills.

I was hoping there would be enough rainfall by the end of October or beginning of November to bring up exciting grassland fungi as I am very keen on them all: waxcaps, fairy clubs, earth-tongues and pink-gills especially. These are only frequent in low-nutrient (usually old, unimproved) grassland that is properly managed by close grazing or mowing (as in churchyards). I have a fond memory of Richard Fortey showing me exciting things (including the first and only time I have seen the Yellow-foot Waxcap *Cuphophyllus flavipes*) in a neatly mown churchyard in the Nettlebed area. The quality and conservation importance of any grassland for these special types of fungi can be assessed by its score in the 'CHEGD' scale, where you add up the species numbers in each group you find. So C-clavarioids like white or yellow spindles, H- waxcaps, usually *Hygrocybe* spp., E- *Entolomas* or pink-gills, G- earth tongues like *Geoglossum*, *Trichoglossum* spp. and *Microglossum* spp., D-*Dermolomas* like the Crazy Caps and perhaps including here the Fanvaults, *Hodophilus* spp. The higher the CHEGD score, the more important the grassland in conservation terms. Plantlife have been running their 'Waxcap Watch' initiative and have a colourful introduction to all these, available at:

https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Waxcaps_GrasslandFungiGuideManagement.pdf

Apparently Britain has more valuable waxcap grasslands than any other European country. As in most fungi groups, DNA analysis is showing that some species e.g. the Blackening Waxcap known as *Hygrocybe conica*, might in fact be a group of similar species. The rare Olive Earthtongues I try to record annually at Aston Rowant on the Warren have been split to four species and the one at Aston

Rowant is the one with not olive, but beautiful turquoise, stipes; so possibly *Microglossum tenebrosum*. But I really need to get this verified by DNA analysis so it is fabulous we now have the help of Daisy Yiangou with achieving more accurate answers to our fungal queries. Sadly, there was not enough rain by the latter part of November for the Aston Rowant Olive Earth-tongues to put in an appearance in autumn 2025; I'm hoping for a less drought-afflicted autumn next year to get a specimen for DNA. However it seems to have been a really good autumn for the small brown smelly Fanvaults, *Hodophilus* spp.; see my Aston Rowant survey accounts. It has been a sad year for me with the loss of Richard Fortey, but time to say thank-you to the FSO committee and all members on forays for an enjoyable autumn of surveys, I'm sure he would be pleased we are all carrying on and having fun.



Olive earth-tongues with turquoise stipes found at Aston Rowant NNR in 2020 (Judy Webb)

OBITUARY: CHRISTOPHER HOSKIN

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of one of our most stalwart photographers at the end of 2025, aged only 49. Christopher was a highly regarded mathematician who worked in IT but was known to most of us because of his great interest in a wide variety of aspects of the natural world, and in photographing it (see p. 3). As well as being a key member of the committee of the Ashmolean Natural History Society, and of the FSO, he was a member of the Hardy Orchid Society and was intrigued by the role of fungi in orchid reproduction, nurturing orchids, recording and acting as a guardian for them locally, and propagating and maintaining them on his own lawn in Kidlington.



Christopher had been fascinated by Britain's orchids since being given a copy of V. S. Summerhayes' 1951 classic *Wild Orchids of Britain* as a teenager. Gentle and unassuming, he lived in or near Oxford for most of his adult life, studying mathematics, working in IT and enjoying nature when time allowed. As a keen conservationist, he was twice Chair of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire, and until recently organised its speaker programme. He was a very early member of its Rare Plants Group (now the Oxfordshire Flora Group) and was the Oxfordshire Flora Guardian for the Lizard Orchid, protecting one

on a site within walking distance of his home. It is characteristic of this family for the plant to rely on a fungal partnership for its germination and, although it does develop green leaves, probably continues to receive fungal support for its continuing life. This plant is still there, and reproducing, as a living testimonial to his care.
(Photograph by permission of his brother Robert.)

Here are a couple of examples of Christopher's work producing fungal photograph records for the FSO, of both rare (Lion's Mane, *Hericium erinaceum*), and common species (Grooved Bonnet, (*Mycena polygramma*).

C. M. Jackson-Houlston



THE FIRST FUNGAL ROAD VERGE NATURE RESERVE FOR THE COUNTY?

In the rainy year of 2023, a very diverse set of fungi popped up underneath some oak trees on a road verge in Kidlington. I had noted over 200 White saddles *Helvella crispa* and a closer look revealed a white *Tricholoma*, a *Hygrophorus*, *Hebeloma*, Wood Blewits, *Russula*, the uncommon Bearded Milkcap *Lactarius mairei* and a very interesting ring of lilac/ buff *Cortinarius* sp. Nothing quite matched it in all my books so a small portion was included in a set of fungi going for DNA analysis kindly facilitated by an FSO member. The answer came back as *Cortinarius lividomalvaceus*. A web-search on that name produced only a paper about this species from France, so it could be extremely rare. The verge is next to an ancient parish boundary hedge line, with the mature oaks as the main evidence. Contact with the County Council Road Verge officers plus sending in a fungus list and photo evidence resulted in a visit from an officer in autumn 2025. Sadly the *Cortinarius* had not appeared this year due to the drought, but she was sufficiently convinced to put the verge forward for consideration for designation. Normal close mowing favours fungal fruiting, but the site is being encroached on by cherry laurel bushes and the protective fence is broken resulting in car parking encroachment from the car wash nearby. The oaks have recently been severely pruned back. Hopefully better management of the oaks and other issues will be resolved in future to ensure the fungi continue to thrive. I might do a 'Notable Trees of Kidlington' walk this autumn and this verge will definitely be an interesting stop on the route.

Judy Webb



Cortinarius lividomalvaceus on a road verge in Kidlington.



26.10.2023 Judy Webb

SURVEYS & PUBLIC EVENT REPORTS

Cothill Fen Woods 27.4.2025.

This valuable SSSI site is often afflicted by dryness in the spring, and was unproductive of fungi. As this is a continuing problem, the Survey Planning Committee has decided not to include a spring survey in the programme calendar for 2026, though an *ad hoc* visit here or elsewhere early in the year would not be ruled out.

Judy Webb/CJH

Grey's Court, Henley 28.9.2025. Joint with Thames Valley Fungus Group

There was a fine turnout of members for both fungus groups for this joint survey of the varied habitats of a National Trust property with gardens, meadowland with a pond, verges with pine trees and mixed woodland. Not surprisingly, this produced a list of 67 fungi, some of which challenged the identification skills of both groups. Mike Harrison and Judy Webb were the leaders, aided by the expertise of a new TVFG recruit, Jonathan Webb, who spotted a Giant Polypore at the foot of a Beech, unluckily for the tree. He also found a neat, smart family of an unrecognised blue-grey *Cortinarius*, though sadly this may remain unnamed. Another one of his finds was *Russula recondita*. The specific part of the scientific name means 'hidden' or 'forgotten'. In other words, although this is a reasonably sized Brittle Gill, it tends not to attract attention, which may explain the paucity of records (214 on NBN). It is fawn, with a white stipe, and clear striation from the gills at the edge of the cap, so, if you see something answering this description, it might be worth another look.

Otherwise, we mustered a good varied crop of agarics, and an assortment of others, such as the Bluebell Blackspot (*Uromyces muscari*) and the Bracken Map (*Rhopoglyphus filicinus*). Both of these encourage the less experienced visitor to broaden his or her interest further, since they favour a limited range of hosts. Judy Webb's Yellowfoot Dapperling *Lepiota ventriospora* (synonym *magnispora*) is a noteworthy fungus with only 208 NBN records but although it is striking, it belongs to a difficult group. One particularly striking find was the White Domecap, seemingly commoner this year than usual (*Lyophyllum connatum* in old money, recently changed to *Leucocybe connata*). This shining all-white ground-dweller demands notice, and a couple of the small wood-loving Shields are always welcome, in this case the Yellow and Fleecy Shields (*Pluteus chrysophaeus*, *P. hispidulus*), distinguished by colour and texture.

CJH

Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtney 5.10.2025 UK Fungus Day event with talk and display table

This is the FSO's biggest public open event. Traditionally, Professor Richard Fortey gave an introduction to fungi using the examples brought in by the committee. Now this role will be taken by a committee member available on the day, in this case CJH. Although the numbers of members of the public attending were a little lower than in recent years, there was still a healthy audience of about 80, and interest in the specimens on the table continued all of the sunny afternoon, with our new President, Judy Webb, Secretary Julia Huggins, website and publicity guru Linda Seward and others in attendance. Linda fascinated both members and visitors with her demonstration of the luminescence of Sulphur Tuft gills under her UV torch, even on a sunny afternoon. We played down the offer of a fungal walk this year, for the sake of the fungi.

An innovation was a free one-hour introductory session for young people on drawing and painting fungi run by CJH in the education shelter. Three budding artists came along, with attendant adults. Each student selected one or more models from examples shown on the display table and worked with pencil and coloured crayons to produce one or more pictures, some with indications of habitat. As advertised, the results were posted on the FSO website up till Christmas. The students concentrated well, enjoyed the session, and they and visitors supported the idea of repeating this feature in coming visits. The FSO and the Arboretum provided materials.

CJH

Wild Oakingham Farm, Nuffield 6.10.2025.

Four FSO members met in early October on our second visit to Wild Oakingham, a rewilding project near Henley-on-Thames. The owner, Jane Ibrahim, has invited us to survey both grassy and woodland areas of this quiet and extensive estate to monitor the effects of rewilding. The survey date was fairly early in a season taking its time to get underway—we identified 21 species. However, it

was pleasing to find fungi indicative of rich sources in our area, such as two of the ‘bleeding bonnets’, (*Mycena crocata* and *M. haematopus*), woodlanders such as the Ivory Woodwax (*Hygrophorus eburneus*), and the notorious ‘magic mushroom’, the Liberty Cap (*Psilocybe semilanceata*) in the grass—but only one specimen, so would-be illegal consumers need not rush to the site. Our thanks go to Jane Ibrahim and Linda Seward for facilitating this visit, and also to Linda Seward as leader.

CJH

Beacon Hill, Aston Rowant 12.10.2025

Mid October is usually the best time for fungi and the severe drought earlier in the year was mitigated by rain from late August, so we were pleased to find so many on Beacon Hill. First identified was a tiny Fibrecap, the scaly *Inocybe hystrix* in clay oakwoods, and then we were lucky to find a late cap of rare Devil’s Bolete *Rubroboletus satanas* in the root zone of its host beeches on chalk, the blood red pores and stipe still showing well.



Scaly Fibrecap *Inocybe hystrix*



Keith Cohen and Judy Webb examining a late specimen of the spectacular Devil’s Bolete. (Photo: Linda Seward)

I sought out a bracket fungus on dead whitebeam that had been puzzling me. I had worked out it might be the rare *Trametes trogii*, but no doubt DNA will give us a definitive answer. It had particularly intricate gill patterning on the underside, as seen in this photo by Linda Seward (right).

I was very pleased Keith Cohen found a few examples of the rare Big Blue Pink-gill (*Entoloma bloxamii* group) in very short grassland on the summit of Beacon Hill. Progressing to the beechwoods on the chalk and clay cap of Little London Wood we were treated to a wealth of species. Blushers (*Amanita rubescens*) were frequent as were deadwood fungi. Brittle-gills (*Russula* spp.) were everywhere. I particularly liked the granular-furry topped red *Russula* (below), strongly bright blue with the guaiac chemical test provided by Caroline.



Other beautiful pink to red Russulas were discovered and most defied identification, despite using chemicals and hours with books at home. Some we were fairly confident of were the Flirt, *Russula vesca*, with pink cap cuticle retreating from cap edges to show gills, but DNA might give us some answers on others that were very puzzling. I was able to identify a non-descript specimen as the Bitter Almond Brittle-gill, *Russula grata*, by its marzipan smell and the Blue-band Brittle-gill *Russula chloroides* by the greenish tint to the white gills.

Judy Webb

Nippers Grove, Gallowstree Common 15.10.2025

Four FSO surveyors, plus guests, explored Nippers Grove in unpromising weather. We concentrated on agarics, though more of interest would also have been found in other kinds of fungi, given time and expertise. One notable example was the Powderpuff Bracket, *Postia pyrogaster*. CJH was glad to find *Hortiboletus engelii*, the Orangefoot Bolete, identifiable by the orange patch in the middle of the flesh at the base of the stipe. Our total came to 66, from 40 genera, including a wealth of examples from large, attractive groups which were in woefully short supply in the 2024 season, notably 7 species of *Amanita* and 10 of *Russula*. Among the former were both the common Grisettes, *A. fulva* and *A. vaginata*. There was a False Deathcap, *Amanita citrina*, though no real ones, but instead we discovered the equally deadly Destroying Angel, *Amanita virosa*. This is not a common find, though others occurred elsewhere in the area this year. The Brittle-gills included species less commonly found in a generally calcareous Oxfordshire, for example, the Purple Swamp Brittle-gill (*R. nitida*) and the Bloody Brittle-gill (*R. sanguinaria*).

We are used to feeling a warm glow at being able to identify two small Fibrecaps, so similar that they were once lumped together as simply colour varieties, one white and one lilac, of *Inocybe geophylla*. Linda Seward, our recorder for the day, pointed out that advances in nomenclature, through the use of DNA, meant that they had been further divided. Thus, on the advice she obtained from Geoffrey Kibby, the small lilac group we found are now to be classified as *I. ionolepis*. She also enlisted the help of Mario Tortelli in determining two of the Russulas. Here is her photo of two very different species growing close together, illustrating the presence of an abundance, for once, of early large agarics: these are Fly Agaric and Ugly Milkcap, *Amanita muscaria* and *Lactarius turpis*.



College Wood and Common Wood, Woodcote, 19.10.2025. Joint meeting with Woodcote Commoners.

This joint meeting once again enjoyed sunny weather for the lively meeting of good numbers of local people, including many children, and of FSO members, four of whom were kept busy identifying and recording a wealth of fungi. This year we attempted to pass rapidly through Common Wood on the way to College Wood, with only partial success, but we were able to spread out and record over more of the site. The only worrying feature was encountering foragers with a large quantity of fungi gathered, without the permission of the site owners, for eating. Some attempts at ecological and social education were at least attempted.

The survey recorded 51 species of 30 genera, with plentiful representation of key groups such as *Amanita* (5), *Lactarius* (4) and *Russula* (6). The turquoise staining of wood by the Green Elf Cup (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*) and the cups of Hare's Ear (*Otida onotica*) growing straight out of the litter both attracted particular attention. Our thanks go to Liam and the Commoners for giving permission for and arranging this visit.

Bladon Heath, 26.10.2025.

This site was the most productive of the year, with over 100 species recorded, and the survey was led by Keith Cohen, who also revisited the site later without the group. Both agarics and other kinds of fungi were recorded in quantities, with a fine suite of varieties in several key groups, including 6 coprinoids, 5 species of *Lactarius*, 8 of *Mycena*, 5 of *Pluteus*, and 8 of *Russula*. The area of the site that the whole group surveyed was closed canopy plantation with mature pines near the car park, and then ground that had recently been cleared of its tree crop—stark, from the recent forestry work there, but productive of great variety.

Interesting finds included the scarce and elegant, though extremely slimy, *Hygrophorus personii*, a Woodwax which CJH recognised from another survey with TVFG earlier in the year (below left, CJH). Another was a species of no visual charm whatsoever, but a significant record: *Hypoxylon perforatum*, from a twig (below right, KC). A stump provided a neat textbook example of different stages of the fruiting bodies of the pale, glutinous Sticky Scalycap,, *Pholiota gummosa*.



One fungus we seldom record was the Cinnamon Bracket *Hapalopilus rutilans* /*nidulans*, a small but very poisonous light brown bracket (portfolio photo below, Keith Cohen). This produces a white rot in its tree hosts, but, more positively, a violet dye that is foreshadowed in the field by its reaction to a drop of ammonia or KOH (below, top left). For many of us, a most striking climax was the brilliant *Melastiza cornubiensis* [aka *chateri*] lighting up bare earth near birch trees with scarlet-orange cups fringed with dark hairs, as if scorched. Its English name, Orange Cup, does not do the colour justice. CJH

Pictures: Keith Cohen



CJH



Aston Upthorpe 2.11.2025



Given the overall biological richness of this old downland site, the fungal finds for the day were rather limited, but fast-draining hillsides are not always ideal for mycelium. There were some intriguing but uncertain fruitbodies, and also familiar grassland species such as the Blackening Waxcap (*Hygrocybe conica*) and Snowy Waxcap (*Cuphophyllus virgineus* in both its white and fawn variants, the latter being var. *ochraceopallidus*). The Smoky Roundhead, *Stropharia inuncta*, was there, with its neat little dark waistband. Rather surprisingly, the Blue Roundhead, *Stropharia cyanea*, appeared at the top of the slope, perhaps an indicator of the increasing process of scrubbing up in part of the site. The most striking find was the statuesque Stubble Rosegill (*Volvopluteus gloiocephalus*) both in young form at the top of the slope (left), and near the gate into the hillside. However, it is not good news, as this is a species characteristic of agricultural sites, as the name suggests, and therefore associated with more disturbance than one would hope for on old calcareous grassland. CJH

Thanks to Chris Crocker for a morning of hectic note-taking and listing, and the photo of the Rosegill.

Brazier's Park, Ipsden. 3.11.2025

Heather Banyard once again facilitated a visit to the grounds of this private community. There were charming colonies of an elegant small inkcap, *Coprinopsis jonesii*, the Bonfire Inkcap (below, left; photo CJH), and a neat cluster of *Pholiota adiposa*, the Golden Scalycap, a Beech associate (below, right; photo Chris Crocker). Neither is rare, but they are not very commonly recorded. The Redlead Roundhead here, *Leratiomyces ceres*, is a species we usually see without fail at our Arboretum meeting, but seldom elsewhere.



As well as the woodland species, we were also able to explore some of the extensive grassland and its characteristic fungi, such as *Entoloma sericeum* (Silky Pinkgill) and the cheerful yellow *Bolbitius titubans* (Yellow Fieldcap).

CJH/Judy Webb

Aston Rowant, The Warren and Bald Hill, pre-AGM. 9.11.2025.

This survey replaced the one scheduled for Cookley Green, as clashing timetables prevented that from taking place, and the AGM, in the meeting room at Aston Rowant, followed a brief search for fungi. The targets for this November survey were the grasslands in the reserve to look for waxcaps

and other grassland specialists. Luckily there had been enough rain to bring a good few up. The waxcap on the right is probably *Hygrocybe intermedia* (photo: Keith Cohen). The first grasslands we looked at were on the steep slopes of the Warren where Mouse-pee Pink-gills (*Entoloma incanum*) with their striking blue-green stipes were found and smelled to check for mousy aroma, surviving despite sheep grazing in that compartment. Every clump of sheep dung seemed to sprout Egghead Mottlegills, *Panaeolus semiovatus*. In reversion grassland on the top of Bald Hill (no sheep) we found lots of fungi, first a troop of unusual black Common Earthtongues (*Geoglossum cookeanum*). Then for me the most exciting here were the rare, small, brown, moth-ball scented Stinking Fanvaults, *Hodophilus* species (possibly two or three species, gone for DNA). There were colourful Snowy, Blackening, Fibrous and Parrot waxcaps with some Fairy Clubs, such as white and Golden Spindles (*Clavulinopsis* sp.) with rare Beige Coral *Clavulinopsis umbrinella*, a highlight of the survey. A second reversion grassland field produced a troop of black Hairy Earthtongues (*Trichoglossum hirsutum*) and a ring of the Earthy Powdercap (*Cystoderma amianthinum*).



Small brown smelly Fanvault *Hodophilus* sp.



Beige Coral *Clavulinopsis umbrinella*

Judy Webb

Tackley Heath, 16.11.2025 The last survey of the season is often a bit of a flop, but now the onset of frosts is increasingly late this one attracted a good number of enthusiasts eager for their last fungus fix of the season. This new site for the FSO is an area of old wood pasture where most of the fungi were associated with young or older trees or leaf litter. However, there were grassland traces such as the Parrot Waxcap, currently being split into several species, but familiar as *Gliophorus* (earlier *Hygrocybe*) *psittacina*. Looking up we encountered a spectacular orange encrusting growth on the underside of a dead attached oak branch. Immediately noticeable were the red-orange drops oozing out at points of damage. This turned out to be the Bleeding oak Crust, *Stereum gausapatum*. Indications of the mycological interest of the site included two club fungi usually characteristic of old woodland, and also found at Bladon Heath three weeks earlier: *Macrotyphula fistulosa* and *M. juncea* (Pipe Club and Slender Club). Interestingly, since Brittle-gills too are often fungi that appear early in the season, we were still able to find at least six kinds, though which species some of them actually were may remain mysterious, at least while



waiting for DNA results. This grey-green and spectacularly slimy example is still the most puzzling of the finds.

Many pairs of eyes produced a total of at least 54 species, from 21 genera, with a wide mix of agarics and other fungal forms. The 5 Bonnets (yes, under 10% of the list were *Mycena* species) included the charming dark-blue little barrels of *M. corticola* trooping up a large mossy trunk, accompanied by a group exactly the same shape and colour in fawn; there is a similar fawn-coloured species, but this probably wasn't it, rather, a colour variation of this Steely Bonnet colony. One of the first finds was a group of a pretty, pale versions of the Scarlet Bonnet, *Atheniella adonis*, growing in the leaf litter. This species has had a name shift separating it from its former *Mycena* congeners. Even with its alias, it only musters 274 NBN Atlas records, although it's not all that uncommon, and appeared elsewhere earlier in the season. It is as fragile as many of its relatives, but its rose-pink colouration makes it stand out from the dark earth-mould. Another nominally rare find was the Smoky Domecap, *Lyophyllum* (aka *Calocybe*) *gangraenosum*, with 122 NBN records. If the lack of reporting of the previous species is along the lines of 'it's a *Mycena*', this one probably suffers from being a modest small pale greyish species that bruises a grubby black (hence the specific name). The English name is more attractive. The quirkiest find was the acorn cup, *Ciboria batschiana*, which appears as a neat little set of fawn, stalked cups on acorns. Though it only musters 251 NBN records, it attracts huge opprobrium in France as a forest pest. No wonder it too has aliases.

We will certainly consider a visit earlier in the year for 2026

Text and photos, Keith Cohen, CJH & JW



Tackley Heath woodland floor



Atheniella adonis



Bleeding Oak Crust *Stereum gausapatum*

FUNGI AT HOME

Wendy Maceachrane

Some Consolation

This Autumn, due to having hip surgery, I was unable to go on any FSO walks or surveys.

Some consolation came in the form of fungi that appeared in our garden. Most years on both lawns some Snowy Waxcaps (*Cuphophyllus virgineus*) come up but this year there were over 40 fruiting bodies that stayed for a number of weeks, even surviving several frosts (see below, left).

A single enormous Jelly Ear (*Auricularia auricula-judae*) was a surprise growing up through pebbles on the roots of a felled Oregon Grape (below, right, photos WM).



On the front, 60-year-plus old lawn, *Marasmius oreades* (Fairy Ring Champignon) made its usual entry in very large numbers.

Not seen before, on the edge of the front lawn a Cavalier sprang up. Probably *Melanoleuca polioleuca*. This fruiting body lasted for some weeks.

Missing this year were, *Lepiota cristata* (Stinking Dapperling), *Kuehneromyces mutabilis* (Sheathed Woodtuft), normally found on a felled ornamental cherry tree, and *Gliophorus psittacinus* (The Parrot) – an occasional lawn visitor.

Overall, a good compensation for not joining in the surveys.

Pluteus caesiotincta

This charming and fugitive little Rosegill (no specific English name) cropped up on a recce at Enstone to assess one site for its potential for a survey in 2026, at the request of the local natural history group. The Rosegill is sufficiently unusual not to have an English name. It has 441 records on the NBN Atlas (which suggest that it is uncommon but not vanishingly rare). However, its global status is more precarious, according to redlist.info/iucn/species-view. It is in several Red Lists, e.g. red-listed in Switzerland (Vulnerable) (Senn-Irlet et al. 2007), Finland (Endangered) (Hyvärinen et al. 2019), and Germany (threat of unknown extent) (Dämmrich et al. 2016). Sites with *Volvariella caesiotincta* should be protected and coarse woody debris should be left. It is important to leave a high amount of living and dead trees. Enacting and continuing monitoring its localities would also be desirable. We are, therefore, planning to include this site in our programme for the coming season.

C. M. Jackson-Houlston

FUNGI ABROAD

From our own correspondents in Antarctica and Australia

Fungi in the Polar South

On an expedition cruise to Antarctica in December I was not expecting to find fungi. Although over 1,000 non-lichenised fungi have been recorded, almost all are microscopic, living in soil, penguin guano and glacial ice. A handful of basidiomycete macrofungi have been found in the South Shetland

Islands, the first record being *Omphalina antarctica* (now *Arrhenia antarctica*) on Deception Island in 1956. Our final landing was in fact on Deception Island, but my foray produced no finds. I had better luck in the Tierra del Fuego National Park, where I found Darwin's Fungus, *Cyttaria darwinii*. It is an ascomycete growing exclusively on southern beech, resembling yellow golf balls. The fungus is known locally as Indian Bread as it was historically eaten by the Yamana Indians, and still is by the few who remain. The only other fungus I spotted was Yellow Brain, *Tremella mesenterica*. I have previously found it 250 metres from my house, so I can claim to have found the same species in locations 8,000 miles apart.

Chris Crocker



Cyttaria darwinii

Darwin's Fungus

Chris Crocker



An Australian veiled Stinkhorn
Renee Watson

DRAFT FSO PROGRAMME 2026

27 September Tubney Wood. Leader: JW Recorder: JW

4 October Greys Court, NT. Leader: CJH Recorders: CJH and TVFG. Joint TVFG survey. National Trust site, and car park charge. Site charge house only; woods and fields free.

10 October Tackley Common. Leader: KC: Recorder: tbc

11 October UK Fungus Day, Harcourt Arboretum. Committee team, but no survey.

14/15 or 21/22 October New Copse, Gallowstree Common. Leader: CJH
Recorder: JH Joint TVFG survey. TBC

18 October Radley Large Wood. Leader: JH Recorder: JW

25 October Enstone. Leader: CJH Recorder: JH

1 November Bladon Heath Leader: KC Recorder: tbc

8 November Shirburn Hill Leader: JW Recorder: CC

15 November Aston Rowant plus microscopy session. Leader and Recorder: JW

22 November Aston Rowant AGM and short survey. Leader and Recorder: JW

JW = Judy Webb, CJH = Caroline Jackson-Houlston, KC = Keith Cohen, JH = Julia Huggins, CC = Chris Crocker