

Fungus survey – Saturday 7 November 2015

On the Volunteering Day on 7 November we were joined by Anne Andrews who came to survey the Woodlands for fungus. We were probably a little late in the year to see everything that might be growing there, but she nevertheless found a number of interesting specimens. Many of these were tiny, but when we looked at them through a magnifying glass they were beautiful – tiny gills radiating below a little cap, for example. Where I recall the place we found them I have noted it.

Here is what she found:

Lycoperdon pyriforme - Stump Puffball - usually on stumps or bases of trees dead or alive. These were close to the Seren Park gate.

Clitocybe nebularis - Clouded Funnel - tends to grow in rings or long lines under most deciduous trees, and growing here on the steep bank to the left of the path from the gate to the mound.

Amanita rubescens - Blusher - so named because turns red when touched or damaged. Related to well-known Fly Agaric, growing on the bank further up the path.

Trochila ilicina - Holly Speckle - little black dots on dead holly, everywhere below the holly trees.

Daldinia concentrica - King Alfred's Cakes or Crampball, formally thought to cure cramp, mostly only on dead Ash. We found some of these on the hillside close to the Vanbrugh Castle fence, but mostly on the benches at Lasseter Place.

Xylaria hypoxylon - Candle Snuff - small black stalks with white tips on dead wood. We found these at Lasseter Place and also near the Seren Park gate.

Mycena hiemalis - no English name. Very small toadstools, on dead wood, pale fawn with darker brown centre, in the Glade, close to where we plan the wildlife pond.

Trametes versicolor - Turkeytail. Small brown brackets on a dead branch. In very poor condition so I could be wrong.

Crepidotus lundellii – a small fungus with pink/brown gills attached to a branch without a stem.

Mycena adscendens - Frosty Bonnet. Very small white specimen toadstool.

2 unidentified *Myxomycetes* (Slime Moulds) at Lasseter Place (and much prettier than the name suggests).

The 2 v tiny yellow ones on a dead stalk do not have gills so are *ascomycetes* (related to cup fungi). My best guess is that they are a *Hymenoscyphus* of some sort.

The white "Paint" on dead twigs is almost certainly *Hyphodontia sambuci* which grows on other trees as well as Elder.

If you want to get an idea of what each looks like, just cut and paste the Latin name and Google it.

Anne would be grateful if, when in the Woodlands on one of the volunteering days, we notice any interesting fungi we take a photo (if it is large enough) or a specimen and let Frank or me have it. We will get it to Anne for identification.

We would all like to thank her for coming out on a wet Saturday morning and sharing her time and knowledge with us. We look forward to developing the Westcombe Woodlands fungi list.

Nigel Duncan