

Fungi in Bonfield Ghyll November 4th 2023



Bonfield Ghyll itself is a small tributary of the River Riccal, and Bonfield Ghyll Farm is a small cattle and sheep farm on its eastern bank. The farm is surrounded by moorland and nestles in a cleft in Pockley Moor, and consists of several fields and a narrow strip of old mixed woodland. Our hosts David and Trudi Sanderson live off grid, with electricity supplied by their Archimedes screw in Bonfield Ghyll and a few solar panels. They take great care to manage the farm in an ecologically sustainable way, and their fields are a treasure trove of waxcap fungi, and the woods support lots of other interesting fungi too.

On a damp misty day, 14 of us met up on the verge by Bonfield Ghyll Farm and made our way across 3 fields down to the Ghyll. The sun came out and David and Trudi joined us and we continued through the farm, then up through the woodland out onto the moor, recording fungi as we went. In those first fields we found lots of Yellow club fungi *Clavulinopsis helvola*, as well as the slightly softer more orange coloured Apricot Clubs - *Clavulinopsis luteoalba*. There were lots of small pale toffee coloured waxcaps with a hint of purple and green underneath that at first we thought were Parrot Waxcaps, but turned out to be Heath Waxcaps - *Gliophorus laeta*. Waxcaps, though brightly coloured in yellow orange and red and the subject of several keys, are also rather tricky to identify. However, Sam carried the laminated key in the rain, and we heroically gathered round to work through the key and try and decide if the specimen was sticky all over, just in parts, exactly what colour each part was, what type of gills it had, and whether it had a smell of any sort, all in the hope of pinning a name to each new specimen we found. The commonest in these

first fields were *Gliophorus laeta* , a yellow/ orange one called The Spangle Waxcap *Hygrocybe insipida* , and the small white one called the Snowy Waxcap – *Hygrocybe virginea* . There were also several *Entoloma* species with pink gills. These have really interesting angled spores, but are notoriously difficult to actually identify in the field **and** under the microscope. Fortunately one of the ones we found had beautiful star shaped spores, so could only be the Star Pinkgill – *Entoloma confederum*. There were probably many more species there but we didn't manage to identify them. In the cleft at the bottom of a large Birch tree growing almost in the small stream running down into the Ghyll, there was an impressive group of orange brown fungi. This was The Alder Scaly Cap – *Pholiota alnicola*. This has just a few small scales around the margin of its rather slimy cap and usually grows on Alder but is also known from Birch.

In the woods we found very different sorts of fungi. There were several Brittle Gills – such as the red *Russula emetica* under pine, and the yellow *Russula ochroleuca* under Birch or Oak. There were several different types of Milkcaps - *Lactarius* that bleed different colours of milk when broken. There were many short stemmed, flat topped milkcaps, that had rich dark brown caps with paler edges They have the unlikely name of Liver Milkcap - *Lactarius hepaticus* and are found under conifers. Under Birch we found the smaller much paler pinkish beige milkcaps that smelt of coconut - *Lactarius glyciomus* . Then there were the Fiery Milkcaps, also under Birch, whose milk is eye wateringly hot on the tongue and gives you a nasty surprise after a few seconds! One pine tree had tier upon tier of thin bracket fungi with purplish edges all up and around its trunk. This was *Trichaptum abietinum* -The Purplepore Bracket

Out on the moor we had a picnic in a grouse butt as the clouds gathered again and rain started. We headed north west along the moorland track with the bonus of finding lots of black Earth Tongues emerging from the short turf. There were 2 species there - *Geoglossum fallax* and *Geoglossum cookianum* . We then turned east down across a further 2 fields back towards the farm and these fields were awash with both waxcap fungi and pouring rain. We found numerous chunky Meadow Waxcaps – *Cuphophyllus praetensis*, big groups of bright red Scarlet Waxcaps- *Hygrocybe coccinea* and lots of big dark Crimson Waxcaps – *Hygrocybe punicea*. A real treat!

By now we were well soaked so we called it a day. Our thanks to David and Trudi for their kindness in allowing us to share this special spot.

Rhona Sutherland

14/11/2023

Bonfield Ghyll NEFSG FORAY Nov 4th 2023 Ryenats

Common Name	Fungus name
Grisette	<i>Amanita vaginata</i>
Conifercone Cap	<i>Baeospora myosura</i>
Bay Bolete	<i>Boletus badius</i>
Grey Puffball	<i>Bovista plumbea</i>
Meadow Coral	<i>Clavulinopsis corniculata</i>
Yellow Club	<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>
Apricot Club	<i>Clavulinopsis luteoalba</i>
Meadow Waxcap	<i>Cuphophyllus pratensis</i>
Earthy Powdercap	<i>Cystoderma amianthinum</i>
Star Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma conferendum</i>
Birch Jelly	<i>Exidia repanda</i>
Hoof Fungus	<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>
	0 <i>Geoglossum cookeanum</i>
Deceptive Earthtongue	<i>Geoglossum fallax</i>
Scarlet Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>
Spangle Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe insipida</i>
Heath Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe laeta</i>
Crimson Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>
Cedarwood Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</i>
Snowy Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe virginea</i>
Sulphur Tuft	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>
Coconut Milkcap	<i>Lactarius glyciosmus</i>
Liver Milkcap	<i>Lactarius hepaticus</i>
Fiery Milkcap	<i>Lactarius pyrogalus</i>
Birch Milkcap	<i>Lactarius tabidus</i>
Ugly Milkcap	<i>Lactarius turpis</i>
Stump Puffball	<i>Lycoperdon pyriforme</i>
Turf Mottlegill	<i>Panaeolus fimicola</i>
Wrinkled Crust	<i>Phlebia radiata</i>
Alder Scalycap	<i>Pholiota alnicola</i>
Birch Polypore	<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>
Crimped Gill	<i>Plicaturopsis crispa</i>
Magic Mushroom / Liberty Cap	<i>Psilocybe semilanceata</i>
Butter Cap	<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>
Sickener	<i>Russula emetica</i>
Ochre Brittlegill	<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>
Dung Roundhead	<i>Stropharia semiglobata</i>
Turkeytail	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
Purplepore Bracket	<i>Trichaptum abietinum</i>
Birch Knight	<i>Tricholoma fulvum</i>
Scurfy Twiglet	<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>
Candlesnuff Fungus	<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>