Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

News Sheet N^{o} 36: Spring 2020

The dramatic spores of *Endophragmia elliptica* of a very common fungus that causes black patches on dead herbaceous stems and sometimes on dead twigs and branches. Photo Mike Stroud.

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President:	**Ted Blackwell**
Chairman:	**Roger Evans**
Recorder:	**Jo Weightman**
Secretary:	**Mike Stroud**
Treasurer:	**Charles Hunter**

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Editor's Notes

Front Cover photograph: The dramatic spores of *Endophragmia elliptica.*
Back Cover photograph: Discussion time for the Group on Broadmoor Common.

The items on pages 15 - 16 about Dr. Bull is a reminder of our local fungal heritage, a copy of the poster is displayed on a notice board in the porch of Breinton church. Further information about Dr. Bull can be found in past new sheet No. 19 Spring 2010 page 7
(see HSFG web page. http://www.herefordfungi.org/news%20sheet%20links.htm)

In this edition we have two items from peoples gardens, so in these times of restricted movement have a look around your own, be it big or small.Then you to can send some pictures of your finds even if you can not identify them.

Thanks once against to Jo Weightman for her recorder's report.
Thanks also to ALL the contributors to the news sheet providing the words and pictures without them the news sheets would not be possible.

Q: Why did the Fungi leave the party? A: There wasn't mushroom.
Q: Why did the Mushroom get invited to all the parties? A: 'Cuz he's a fungi!
Q: Why do Toadstools grow so close together? A: They don't need Mushroom.
Q: What would a mushroom car say?A: Shroom shroom!
Q: Which vegetable goes best with jacket potatos? A: Button Mushrooms.
Q: What room has no doors, no walls, no floor and no ceiling? A: A mushroom.
Q: What room can be eaten? A: A mushroom!
Q: What's an airplanes favorite mushroom? A: Air-portabela.
Q: Why does Ms. Mushroom go out with Mr. Mushroom? A: Because he is a fungi (fun guy)!
Q: What did the fungi say when he was offered seconds at dinner? A: "No thanks, I don't have mushroom left in my stomach."
Q: Where do mushrooms come from? A: Mushy rooms.
Q: What's the only room you can't have in your house? A: A mushroom.
Q: What did the mushroom say to the other mushroom? A: There's not that mush room in here.
Q: What do you get if you cross a toadstool and a full suitcase? A: Not mushroom for your holiday clothes!

source: http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/foodjokes/mushroomjokes.html

Just remember if I don't get some articles for the next news sheet you'll be getting more of these Jokes.

If you have any items or suggestions for future issues of the news sheet please forward them to my email address. **graham.park1@btinternet.com** Tel 01873 856641

HALF-YEAR REPORT Jo Weightman, Recorder (2nd half year 2019)

What a year –another long baking summer, followed by seemingly continuous rain bringing water-logged ground and floods in its wake. But the fungi loved it and sprang up in great numbers after years in retreat. We were contacted by members of the public who were amazed by the number and diversity of fungi in their garden.

THE FORAYS

Halesend Wood 04. 09. 2019. 33 new site records.

Halesend Wood SSSI lies on Silurian Limestone and has a rich assemblage of broad-leaved trees and shrubs. The western lower side of the wood was initially very exciting. An unfamiliar and intriguing, bright orange, more or less poroid resupinate on the underside of a fallen ash branch near the starting point was later identified for us by Alick Henrici as *Lindneria trachyspora*. There are only a handful of records of this species in the Fungarium at Kew and it thought to be rare nationally – surely it is too conspicuous to be overlooked. **K**. A few yards further on was a large bracket perched atypically on a tall stout stipe (Fig 1). It looked exotic and exciting but after saner consideration turned out to be an abnormal growth of *Pseudoinonotus dryadeus*. Nothing further on any note was found on the lower western slopes. Members who went higher returned bearing:

Fig.1. *Pseudoinonotus dryadeus*. An unusually stipitate form in Halesend Wood in September. Photo Rob Rowe.

Entoloma sinuatum - a substantial white toadstool distinguished in the field by the colour of its gills which, unusually for an Entoloma, are yellow before they turn pink. It occurs in deciduous woodland often under oak or beech.

Lactarius azonites is one of the red-staining milk-caps. When broken it yields a white milk which changes colour on exposure to the air, staining the gills and flesh red. The cap colour is a cloudy mixture of pale browns and whitish tones.

Lactarius zonarius is a large ochre-yellow milkcap with fine brown zones at the margin. It seems to have been having a `year` as a few days later I found clusters of it by the roadside near Wigmore Rolls. Interestingly I recall a similar roadside flush in Kent many years ago.

Tricholoma sejunctum – the cap colour, greenish yellow with darker streaks, reads like one of the death cap *Amanita phalloides*. However the resemblance ends there as this species has no ring or volva. The gills and stipe of *T. sejunctum* are white but may have yellow tones.

Leccinum crocipodium. All Herefordshire records for this species date from the millennium apart from two in the 1990s under the earlier name of *Boletus nigrescens*. I warm to this earlier name as the fungus blackens when cut and on handling. The stipe is yellow with concolorous floccules often arranged in lines – often looking like the netted pattern found on the stipes of some species of Boletus.

Hergest Croft and Park Wood 25. 09. 2019. Hergest Croft – 15 new site records; Park Wood – 16 new site records.

A rather cold and wet day but rewarding. Although it was a bit early for grassland fungi, the lawns already had a number of clubs and waxcaps, the latter including *Hygrocybe calyptriformis* and *H. citrinovirens*. The field between the garden and Park Wood had a colony of *H. intermedia*. *Cyanoboletus* (*Boletus*) *pulverulentus* was frequent under the conifers edging the lawns. In the arboretum several young grey and white fruitbodies growing

at the base of a living Lawson`s cypress 'Wisselii' presented a puzzle which was eventually solved by Dr Martyn Aisworth at RBG Kew who identified it as *Postia balsamea*. (Fig.2). A*grocybe rivulosa* was first listed on the old FRDBI in 2004, since when it has spread widely across the UK. It reached Herefordshire in 2007 and has now been recorded at eight sites. It grows sometimes in great abundance on wood chip piles. The large bell-shaped cap is a dingy cream in colour and radially wrinkled.
Amanita submembranacea was recorded in Park Wood. It is one of the 'pie-crust' Amanitas and with a few large fragments of veil on the cap, zigzag markings on the stipe and a greyish brown volva. A new site record, it is an occasional species in the county. Almost the last species found was *Strobilomyces strobilaceus* the Old Man of the Woods and undoubtedly the Find of the Day. Although very distinctive it can be easily missed. With soft shaggy black scales on the grey cap, it blends into the woodland scene (Fig. 3).

Fig.2. *Postia balsamea* growing at the base of a living Lawson`s cypress Wisselii in the Arboretum at Hergest Croft in September. Insert showing the underside. Photo Mike Stroud.

Fig. 3. *Strobilomyces strobilaceus*, The Old Man of the Woods and the only shaggy British bolete. Park Wood, Hergest Croft.
Photo Mike Stroud.

Brockhampton Park and Woods Foray 02. 10. 2019. 33 new site records.
This was an all-day foray giving us time to explore the mixed woodland near the car park in the morning and the sheep-grazed parkland in the afternoon. I am yet again surprised by the number of new site records made at a site that has been surveyed many times before.

In the woodland common dead wood and litter species were dominant. We recorded fourteen Mycenas including the diminutive *M. hiemalis* which grows among the moss on living trees when the host is well wetted. *Stereum subtomentosum* (Fig. 4) is bigger and more handsome than its fellow Stereums. The zones in yellow / orange / brown tones appear more clearly marked, at least until coated with algae. It is often narrowly attached to its host and then appears stipitate. Bruising or nibbling the cap margin causes a strong yellow staining. *Allophylaria macrospora* is a small white disc that mostly occurs on rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium* stems but can be found on other hosts. 3rd vice county record for a rarely recorded species.

Fig. 4. *Stereum subtomentosum,* a thin, beautifully zonate species, often narrowly attached, which stains yellow when bruised. Brockhampton Park.
Photo Mike Stroud.

In the Park there were a number of waxcaps again including *Hygrocybe calyptriformis* and *H. citrinovirens*. A cedar was host to *Postia balsamea,* the bracket first seen on the previous foray.

Thanks to Heather Colls the list included some lichen records some of which, although common, were new to site. The fine old pear tree in the park hosted several lichenicolous (lichen –loving) fungi. Heather`s comment, "Three on one pear tree. Super!" One of them, *Laetisaria lichenicola* was a county first.

Broadmoor Common Foray 23. 10. 2019. 70 species recorded.
This was the Group's first visit to this site, which lies just to the east of Haugh Wood. The grassland is kept open by seasonal cutting and the area we looked at was fringed with oak woodland with some ash and birch and with willow in damper areas. The main interest on the day was concentrated in these wooded margins.

Fig. 5. *Clitocybe odora*, a very beautiful blue-green species with a strong aniseed smell. Broadmoor Common
Photo Mike Stroud.

Most of the fungi recorded were common saprophytes typical of the habitat. Mycenas in particular were well represented and the blue-green aniseed-smelling *Clitocybe odora* was enjoyed (Fig.5).
Pluteus phlebophorus was present with its brown, characteristically wrinkled cap (Fig 6). Some mycorrhizals were still appearing, among them the rather uncommon *Boletus impolitus*. This is a bolete with no conspicuous visual characters but identification is rapid once the stipe base has been sniffed and the smell of iodine detected. Both of the milkcaps associated with oak were seen. *Lactarius quietus* is well known, *Lactarius serifluus* (formerly *L. subumbonatus*) less so. The cap is uniformly dark brown, the gills pale ochre, the milk watery and the smell mealy.

Fig 6. *Pluteus phlebophorus*, a species characterised by the wrinkling of the cap cuticle. Broadmoor Common. Photo Mike Stroud.

Pezizella parilis is a small whitish to cream-coloured disco that occurs on a wide variety of dead wood of broadleaf trees. It was first recorded in Herefordshire in Fishpool Valley on the Croft Castle Estate in 2016. Although described as "not uncommon", this is only a second record for the County.

Credenhill Park Wood Foray 06. 11. 2019. 28 new site records.
It should have been an all-day foray.

We all set out along the track circling the wood on the eastern side and some of us took the challengingly muddy footpath up to the Iron Age fort. The intention was to picnic there but rain arrived in force causing us return in haste and hungry to the car park. Some members had retreated home and kindly left their collections by the cars.

The steep banks beside the track proved a good hunting ground. There were several Inocybes including the form of *I. cincinnata* which has dark gill edges (formerly known as *I. cincinnata* var*. major*, a fairly common species and *Inocybe phaeodisca* var. *geophylloides* which is less often recorded. The cap of this variety is mycenoid with pale brown colours (not dark at the centre as the specific name reflects) and the stipe has pinkish tones above. 1st county record for this variety.

Mycorrhizal species were few and far between. *Russula fuscorubroides* (Fig.7) is no longer the national rarity it was thought to be when first recorded in the Mortimer Forest in 2004 and where it has since occurred regularly. This is the second time it has been recorded at Credenhill. The cap and stipe are a deep red purple and the spores a fairly pale yellow.

A small dingy yellow *Otidea* was locally abundant on the bank. In colour it was good for *O. alutacea* but the spores of the Credenhill specimen were too small for this species. Thanks are due to Peter Roberts who found that Brian Spooner and Mariko Parslow had recently published a small-spored variety as part of the *O. alutacea* complex, a distinction which is supported by DNA sequencing. 1st VC36 record.

Fig.7. *Russula fuscorubroides* is a species associated with spruce on acid soils. It has dark red-purple colours and pale yellow spores. Credenhill Park Wood in November. Photo Mike Stroud.

Upper Grange, Bacton and Bacton Woodland Foray 20. 11. 2019. 4 new site records at Upper Grange; 61 records in Bacton Woodland.

We were as usual at Upper Grange invited by Sue and Charles Hunter to foray in their garden and fields. In addition a neighbour had kindly given permission for us to survey his woodland just up the hill.

At Upper Grange many fungi had been seen in the grounds a fortnight previously but most of these had succumbed to the drenching conditions. Nevertheless a good number of litter and dead wood species and a few mycorrhizal.fungi were found. Most had been previously recorded but *Tricholoma saponaceum* and *Lactarius serifluus* were only making their second appearance. Sadly no *Xerocomus chrysonemus* which had made its first county appearance here in October.

The wood a short distance up the lane was dominated by hazel coppice with abundant oak and ash standards and managed with wide rides. Species found were, with the exception of the mycorrhizal *Laccaria* species, all saprophytes of the litter or dead wood. Recent rains had encouraged Mycenas in particular and now that December was almost upon us it was worthwhile turning over the wet dead leaves to find *Mycena polyadelpha* and *M. smithiana*. Both are exceedingly small fungi, extremely so on the day, and have very few gills. The first is white, the second the palest pink. *Lepiota castanea* is another a litter species with a 2-3 cm a yellowish cap covered with chestnut brown scales. Like virtually all the small Lepiotas it needed to be checked under the microscope. *Galerina marginata* was confirmed by its smooth stipe and ring distinguishing it from the very similar *Kuehneromyces mutabilis* (not recorded) which is has an untidily scaly stipe and ring. As the first is poisonous and the second edible, the distinction has its importance.

It was a very cold dank day but all was forgotten when we sat down to a delicious lunch in a lovely fire-lit room. Our warm thanks to Sue and Charles for their welcome and hospitality.

Haugh Wood Foray 04. 12. 2019. 8 new site records.

This was the last foray of the year and an all day event. The pattern is to foray in the morning if the weather is kind and meet up in Woolhope Hillage Hall for lunch with an indoor meeting to follow. The weather was on our side and we searched in the north side of the wood.

Dead wood and litter species had responded well to the nearly continuous rainfall of recent weeks and some such as *Cantharellus tubaeformis* were locally abundant. A few others were surprising first records. It did feel strange to be placing an asterisk beside the widespread and usually common *Crepidotus mollis* (the 'Crep' with a gelatinous-feeling cap and a transparent peelable skin).*Trichaptum abietinum*, a saprophyte of fallen conifer trunks, was at its best (Fig. 8).

There are a number of similar species which occur on dead, often buried cones, some only occurring in the spring, others occurring in the autumn also. Field identification depends on knowing which tree the cone comes from but the specimen collected lacked its cone. Under the microscope it proved to be *Strobilurus esculentus,* so the cone would have been from a spruce *Picea.*

Fig. 8. *Trichaptum abietinum* is a common species on fallen conifer trunks. Photo Mike Stroud.

The unbranched, white club *Clavaria acuta* grows singly in both unimproved grassland and deciduous woodland. It is shorter and more slender than the similar *Clavaria fragilis* which grows in clusters. The short stalk is floccose and can be yellowish grey in colour.

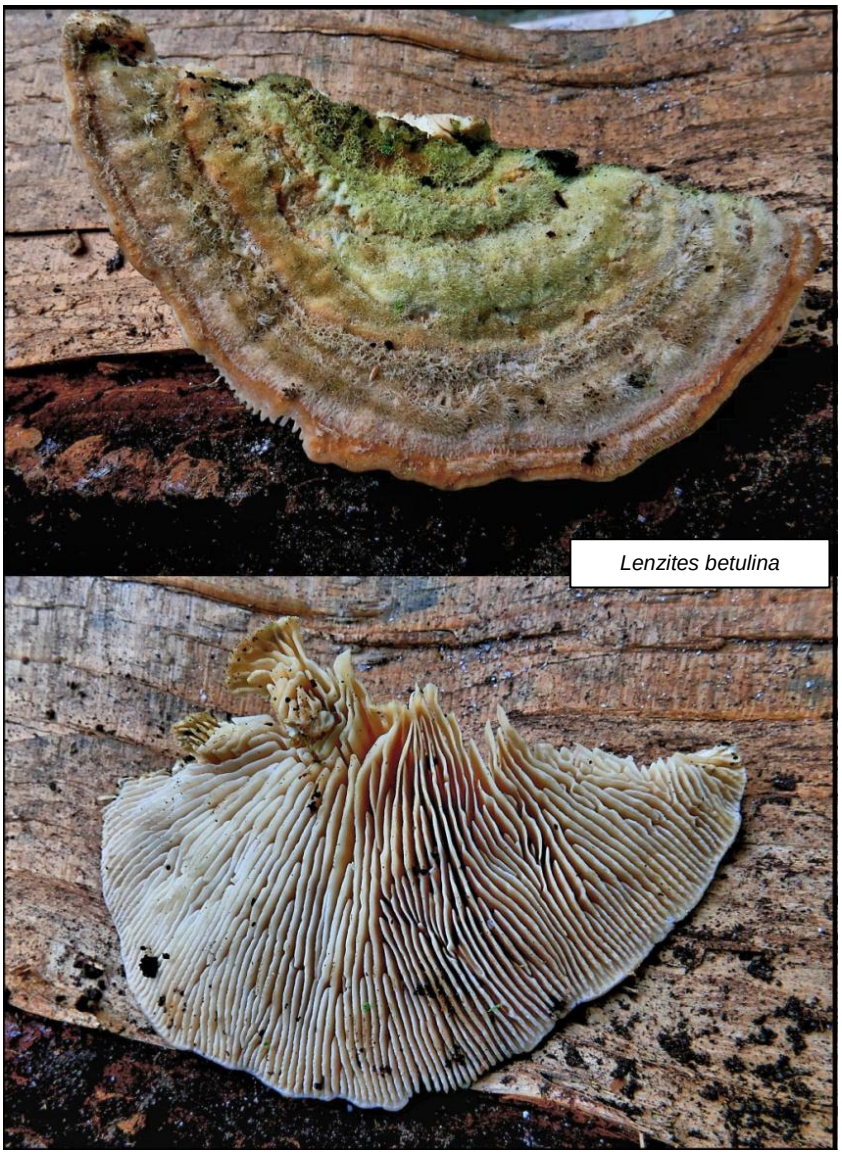
Leucopaxillus giganteus is occasionally seen in the county, with just a dozen or so records since 1977. Like the above species, it occurs in grassland and in clearings in woodland, often in rings. As its specific name implies, it is not easily missed, with a majestic maximum recorded diameter of 40cm although at even half that size, it is more than a handful. It is a creamy white species, funnel-like with decurrent gills like a *Clitocybe* (spore differences) and a short thick stipe.

We all gathered in the Woolhope Village Hall for lunch followed by an excellent talk from our Chairman Roger Evans on the reproductive life of fungi and some displays of fungi brought by members.

OUTREACH DAYS

Queenswood National Fungus Day 5. 10. 2019.

By the end of National Fungus Day the display tables were loaded with fungi that amazed visitors with their diversity and number. There were puffballs *Lycoperdon* spp, clubs *Clavulina coralloides*, inkcaps *Coprinus disseminatus*, hedgehogs *Hydnum repandum* and *H. rufescens*, piggyback species *Asterophora parasitica*, black buttons *Bulgaria inquinans*, a jelly *Calocera viscosa*, good smells *Clitocybe odora* and bad smells *Tricholoma sulphureum*, wonders *Helvella crispa*, very common spp *Hypholoma fasciculare* and the less so but with a survival story to tell *Schizophyllum commune*, the colourful *Leratiomyces ceres* with a distribution story to tell, the petite beauty *Mycena acicula* and the odd dog stinkhorn *Mutinus caninus*.



Lenzites betulina is a small bracket fungus distinguished by having 'gills' or plates on the underside. It used to be fairly common but is rarely recorded today (Fig.9).
The woods at Queenswood had come up trumps.

Fig. 9. *Lenzites betulina,* a bracket fungus with a gill-like hymenium, Queenswood
Photo Mike Stroud.

Queenswood Study Day 3.11.2019.

The same site as above but a month later. Interestingly only half of the October species were re-recorded in November and many different ones. All of the species found were common and typical of the fungus flora at Queenswood. This was not disappointing but a bonus for those who attended and making their first steps into the world of fungi.

OTHER RECORDS

Phlebia subochracea (Fig.10), a warty, chrome yellow corticioid on the underside of a fallen branch in a regularly flooded area. Probably common in dried-out ponds. Bodenham Lake, Jo Weightman, 20.09.19. 2nd VC record.

Fig. 10. *Phlebia subochracea*. A species that occurs on the underside of logs in dried-up ponds. Photo taken at Brown Moss, Shropshire Jo Weightman.

Chlorophyllum brunneum (Fig.11) is fairly recently separated from the shaggy parasol complex. The large bulbous base has a conspicuously flat top. Often in clumps. We can expect more records as it becomes better known. Yarpole Churchyard, Ted Blackwell, 4.10.2019.

Fig. 11. *Chlorophyllum brunneum* is a shaggy parasol characterised by the flat top of the basal bulb. Photo Jo Weightman.

Fig. 12. *Amanita strobiliformis* is a robust Amanita with very soft and soon lost velar remains on the cap. Stoke Lacy. Photo Andrew Fielder.

Amanita strobiliformis (Fig.12) is a large Amanita of calcareous -soils with characteristically flat, soft veil remains on the cap when fresh. This example was on disturbed ground with oak and birch. It was last recorded in Herefordshire in the nineteenth century and a surprising find in this location. Stoke Lacy, coll. Andrew Fielder, det. Geoffrey Kibby, 8.10.2019. 3rd VC36 record.

Xerocomus chrysonemus is characterised by the yellow flesh in the stipe and conspicuous bright yellow mycelium. I was very excited when saw it for the first time ever during a foray in Shropshire and could not believe my eyes when a few days later it turned up in one of the Upper Grange, Bacton collections. Coll. Charles Hunter, 23.10.2019. 1st VC36 record.

Paurocotylis pila (Figs.13a & b) is a bright red truffle-like ascomycete from New Zealand which is spreading across Britain. Under yew, Cradley churchyard, reported by Cherry Greenway, 31.10. 2019 and again, under cypress, Shobdon, Tim Kaye, 11.12.2019. 1st and 2nd VC36 records.

Fig. 13a). .*Paurocotylis pila* 1. A fresh specimen, Bishops Castle, Shropshire. Photo Rob Rowe

Fig. 13b). *Paurocotylis pila* 2. A damaged specimen showing the white inside flesh. Photo Cherry Greenway.

Hygrophorus persoonii (Fig.14) is a sturdy species with a viscid, dingy grey brown cap and zigzag bands on the stipe below a white apex, mycorrhizal with oak. The cap flushes green with KOH. Croft Castle drive, John Bingham, 3.10.2019. 1st Herefordshire record.

Fig.14. *Hygrophorus persoonii* showing the well-marked zigzag pattern on the stipe. Found under the large oaks along the drive up to Croft Castle. Photo John Bingham.

Lepiota lilacea (Figs 15a & b) has scales varying from pale pinkish brown to dark brown with a faint lilaceous tinge on a whitish cap. The dark underside to the muff-like ring is a key character. A woodland species sometimes found in garden pots. In a greenhouse, Rushall, 10.10.2019, coll. Jean Wynne-Jones, det. Alick Henrici. 1st VC36 collection of an uncommon species. (deposited at RBG Kew)**.**

Fig. 15a. *Lepiota lilacea* showing the dark underside of the ring. Photo Francis Wynne-Jones.

Fig. 15b *Lepiota lilacea*. Found in a greenhouse. Photo Francis Wynne-Jones.

UPDATES

Podoscypha multizonata - a very uncommon species nationally. John Bingham has checked the site on the Croft Castle Estate where he first found this species in November 2005 and reports that it is fruiting again. 13.09.2019.

Geastrum britannicum - Sheila Spence has checked the site in Ashperton Churchyard where this new species was found in November 2013. It has now been found at six locations in the county, all bar one under yew, the odd one out being under an unidentified conifer. 28.10. 2019.

In August 2017 I went to see an intriguing species reported growing on a fallen ash on the Little Doward. I entertained the idea that it might be *Clitocybe americana* (one or two do grow on wood) but made no progress with it so needing guidance I asked Martyn Ainsworth at Kew to look at it. He was positive that it was a *Pleurotus*, possibly *ostreatus* (which it did not resemble) but kept it for sequencing. A recent Czech study on DNA barcode sequences of the oyster fungus complex has established that this specimen was *Pleurotus pulmarius (*Fig. 16). (deposited at RBG Kew)**.**

Fig. 16. *Pleurotus pulmonarius.* An unusually stipitate form collected from a fallen ash log on the Little Doward in 2017. Photo Jo Weightman.

In October 2018 Cherry Greenway contacted me with news of a large group of intriguing toadstools (Fig. 17) she had found in large numbers on wood chips at a site in Coddington. They were small, entirely white, save for yellow tips to the umbonate cap and had a ring on the stipe. We judged them to be a *Leucogaricus* and the microscopy seemed to fit – smooth white dextrinoid spores. As the nearest match was for a rare species of this genus, I sent them to Alick Henrici with our tentative ID. He concurred with the *Leucoagaricus* idea but was unable to reach a conclusion as to species and the material was retained at Kew for DNA analysis. The results arrived in June 2019. Astonishingly it was *Galerina marginata*, a wholly brown species with brown ornamented spores! Alick has now written on albinism in fungi in *Field Mycology* with special reference to the Herefordshire collection. It is common enough to find white examples of coloured fungi but in these instances it is only a matter of 'skin colour' and the spores are unchanged. Very rarely, as in this case, the spores also lose colour and their outer covering which responsible for the ornament is lost. To date, there have been only two known other examples in Britain of a deeply albino *Galerina marginata*, one in Hampshire in 1999 and one in Buckinghamsshire in 2003. G. *marginata* however is not umbonate. The suggestion has been made that this character in the collection might be due to an infection. (deposited at RBG Kew).

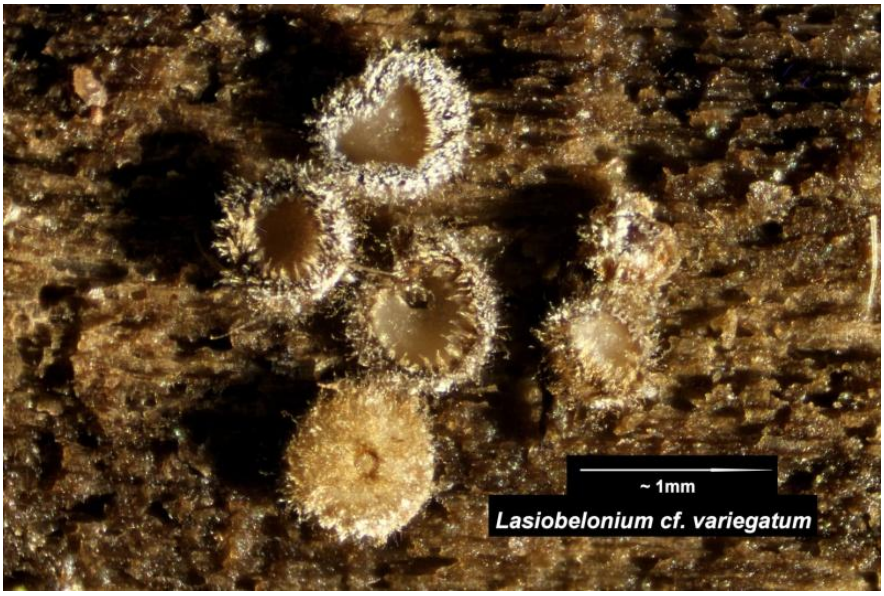
Fig. 17. *Galerina marginata.* A rare totally white form of a normally brown species found at Coddington. Photo Cherry Greenway.

IN THE GARDEN
Shelly & Mike Stroud

We thought that it might be fun to try to follow in the footsteps of various past News Sheet contributors, such as Tom Preece, Mary Hunt & Debbie Evans - to name a few! - with a series of short pieces about one or two of the fungi we have recently found in our garden and local area. Not least, it might demonstrate that you do not need to venture far from home to find specimens of interest, let alone wait until there is an organised foray in order to enjoy the hunt.

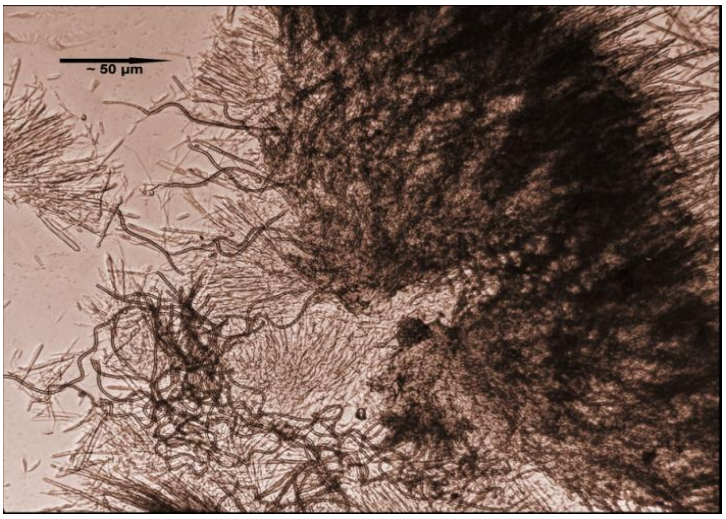
We are rather untidy gardeners and there are innumerable bits of old larch stakes, duckboards (made from old pallets and such like) lying around the vegetable garden. Periodically, we get a good crop of fungal fruiting bodies on some of these.

Recently, we found some specimens of the not uncommon Conifer Mazegill, *Gloeophyllum sepiarium*, on some of the old larch fencing posts that had been holding up raspberry canes. This species is a decomposer of conifer deadwood and can grow up to about 12 cm across, but these brackets were only 2-3 cm and still quite young. At this stage they have a nice orange-brown look, but as they mature they darken and may even have a greenish tinge. The orangey, elongated gill-like pores are quite distinctive.



On another rotting bit of wood we found this little asco, which Shelly had a lot of trouble trying to identify. After much head-scratching and muttering, the nearest she could find was *Lasiobelonium cf. variegatum*, the only one of this genus that seems to grow on wood. It is, however, a seldom recorded species (only 19 records on the old FRDBI, none yet on the new one) and usually occurs on dead hardwood, such as *Betula, Fraxinus & Salix.* This timber probably came from an old pallet and we are not sure what it was made of.

The spores were about 10 x 2 µm, sometimes with one septum visible and, as you may be able to see from the photomicrograph on the right there were a lot of brown curly hairs. Although it is a bit frustrating not to be absolutely certain of the ID, we thought that it was quite an interesting find.



Likewise, earlier on last year, growing on an old Field Maple that we had to cut down there were, to the naked eye, what looked like orange blobs. On looking at these through a lens they turned out to be apothecia ca.1.5 mm diameter, which microscopic examination showed to be the infrequently recorded ascomycete, *Pezicula acericola*.

It only goes to show what is right on your doorstep!

Fungi In My Garden

18th March 2020. On a sunny westward facing slope, whilst pruning raspberry canes, I noticed by my boots a couple of tiny golden blobs. Looking closer I saw that each blob was on a stalk about a centimetre tall. I knew they were Cordyceps but not the one our Group occasionally finds, *Cordyceps militaris.* I took a photograph then dug up one specimen (there were six scattered around) with its surrounding soil. I knew Cordyceps grew from a host which can be an underground truffle, pupa or larva and dead insects. It was exciting and gruesomely fascinating slowly and carefully removing the soil and exposing a dead caterpillar, three and a half centimetres long with the fungus growing from its head.

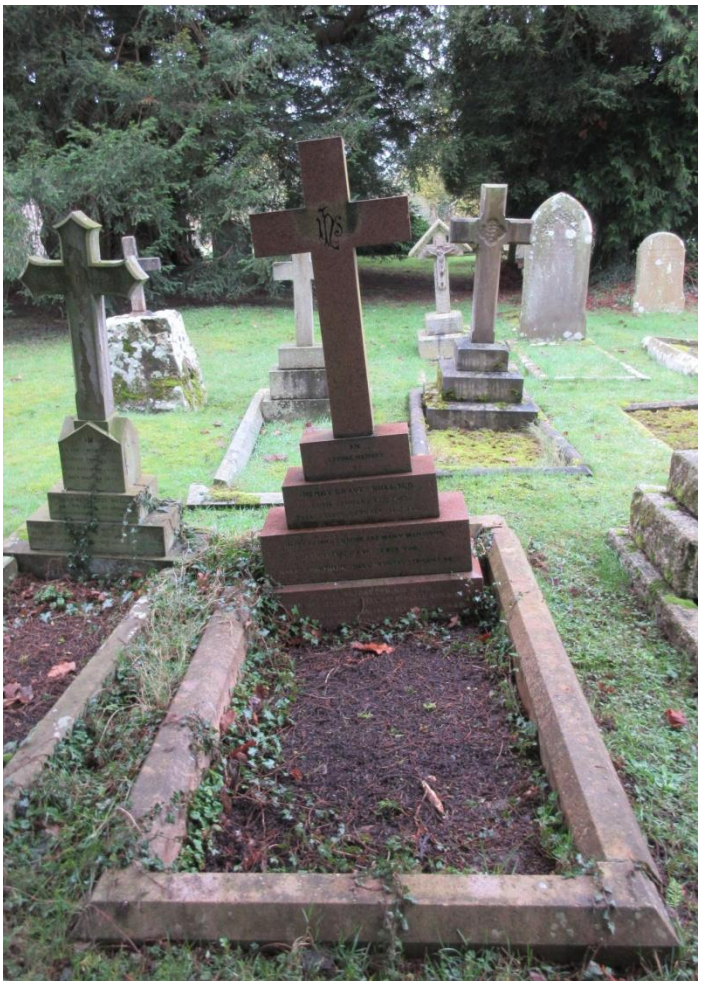
Now to the books for identification. I found it in FUNGI OF SWITZERLAND Vol. 1 Ascomycetes (1984) Breitenbach & Kränzlin, fondly known as 'B & K' : *Cordyceps gracilis* and the host the Common Swift moth. Cordyceps is avidly collected in China for medicinal purposes but I won't be using this one!

Cherry Greenway

BEING MINDFUL OF OUR HERITAGE

Ted Blackwell

Among the forty or so Fungus Groups in the UK, our HFSG holds the unique position of having the grave of Dr Henry Graves Bull within our Herefordshire County, located at Breinton. This historic memorial is not only our Heritage but also that of the mycological community both nationally and perhaps worldwide.



It is historically significant because Dr Bull was the pioneer of fungus foraying, The renowned Hereford Forays started in 1868 as an novel field activity of the Hereford Woolhope Club, leading in due course to the formation of the British Mycological Society, and in turn to the international expansion of mycology as a serious scientific discipline alongside botany. This is outlined briefly in the Bull poster to be found elsewhere in this issue, and in a more detailed account by the link: https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/history

Concern has recently been expressed that Bull's grave is in need of maintenance. Upkeep by his family cannot be expected as research has revealed there are no surviving direct descendants. HFSG have therefore commenced enquiries to ascertain the necessary repair procedure, and to assess likely costs and locate possible sources of funding. The item was briefly discussed at our recent AGM on 11th March 2020. Depending on funding from other sources, the HFSG would be willing to contribute a sum to help towards the restoration, in recognition of his importance to mycology.

Dr. Henry Graves Bull (1818 – 1885)

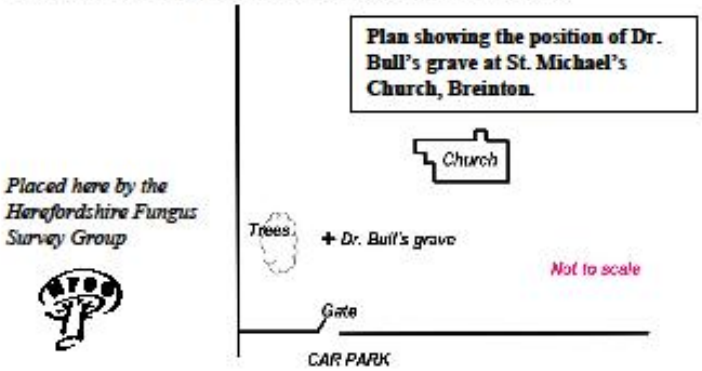
Dr. Henry Bull was a remarkable Hereford personality. In addition to his distinguished professional life as a physician and his close involvement in Victorian Hereford's civic health affairs, he was an active member and an illustrious president of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club of Hereford.

Among his many social activities and lasting achievements he promoted the monumental work of the ***Herefordshire Pomona***, the exquisitely illustrated record of Herefordshire apple and pear varieties which today is regarded as an irreplaceable treasure.

Moreover, to the enduring benefit of mycologists worldwide, he pioneered an interest in fungi by proposing to the Woolhope Club a **"Foray amongst the Funguses"** thereby initiating a series of field meetings for their study, the historic **Woolhope Forays of Hereford.** Many eminent botanists and mycologists from home and abroad were attracted to these 'Forays', which gained such scientific distinction that he is regarded as a key figure in the founding of mycological science which today enters almost every aspect of modern life.

A painting of Amanita muscaria (Fly Agaric)by Dr. Henry Graves Bull. (With permission from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where the original appears in 'Herefordshire Funguses').

Illustration by his daughter, Edith Bull, circa 1880 from the Woolhope Herefordshire Pomona



Placed here by the Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

Auguries of sustenance

A truffled omelette on a plate
Puts all foodies in a state.
A host with guests to feed tonight
Dreams of dishes that delight,
Fungal feasts surpassing fine
Matched with subtly chosen wine.
Reject all thought of gourmet fare
Explore the woods and use what`s there.

A troop of Chanterelles would do
Or Oyster Mushrooms for a stew.
Not Poor Man`s Beefsteak, that`s a food
Never did mankind much good.
A single Blewit, rather small,
Is hardly any use at all,
Nor will two old Plums and Custard
Be the things that cut the mustard.

An Artist`s Bracket on its seat
Is plainly quite unfit to eat.
Pretty soon give up dischuffed
Nothing here but Sulphur Tuft.
Not a sign of Horn of Plenty,
Return with foray basket empty.
Adopt Plan B to fill the pot –
Go and see what Tesco`s got.

He who fain would persevere
And try for better luck next year
Should ever keep two thoughts in mind
Whatever else he chance to find:
Spurn the Cap of Liberty
Lest thou prosecuted be;
And never serve up Poison Pie
As magistrates will wonder why.

Alick Henrici

Discussion time for the Group on Broadmoor Common. Photo Mike Stroud