

NWFG Forayer's report for 2017

1. March saw a good number of us turn up for to hear Stuart Skeates expound on the new BMS recording database. At the end of January this year, we had 896 records on the database out of a total of 40,973, with some still to go on. When I refer to the records on FRDBI at this stage I am solely referring to those on FRDBI 1. Our foray around Risley Moss in February after the AGM Ali was to find the very attractive *Caloscypha fulgens*, Spring Orange Peel fungus, with just 21 records on FRDBI 1. Interestingly, Tony shortly after when searching Ainsdale for morels, found this again. The other record for this species made in March 2017 was from the west midlands, by John Bingham.

2. April – Ainsdale NNR (Tony Carter) (51 + 2 myxomycetes)

One of the incentives for the early foray at this set is to find the morels. This year they were not abundant but *Verpa conica* was found together with *Morchella elata*. The latter genus of Black Morels is one undergoing much taxonomic scrutiny and re-ordering: work in progress.

Mucronella calva found there was a nice example of a toothed resupinate on Pine.

Irene worked up a brown coloured *Psathyrella* growing singly or in pairs, on dead stems or in soil, namely *P. fatua*, with only 31 records.

Ramularia endophylla, as small ascomycete on dead oak leaf, is one of among 200 in this genus identified by Jeanette. It has had over 20 synonyms such as *Mycosphaerella*. Always nice to find *Strobilurus tenacellus* on Pine cones as well.

3. May - Rostherne Mere (Tim Rogers) 34 sp + 1 myxomycete

This was an early season visit but despite this some interesting records of smaller species. An *Entoloma rusticoides* has only 11 records nationally. The tiny *Marasmius saccharinus* has 8 records.

Bertia moriformis was a small black Ascomycete growing on wood, resembling tiny black mulberries, for which there are 11 records. *Mycosphaerella equiseti* on *Equisetum* has 8 records. The members deserve commending for their assiduous work here.

4. June – Moor Piece (Irene Ridge) 20 species + 2 myxomycetes

An unpopular time of year but this being a wet site was thought to offer scope for an early summer foray with the additional incentive to recheck for the presence of the *Phallus duplicatus*, which indeed rewardingly was showing at the time of the visit, as well as *Phallus impudicus*, at the egg stage. The earlier records had been in August so this illustrates the vagaries of fungal fruiting. The Bog Beacon, *Mitrula paludosa* was also showing, and again earlier than in previous years.

One relatively unfamiliar species to many was *Sphagnurus paluster*, a little brown job growing associated with Sphagnum moss.

5. July – Smithills Hall (John Watt)

Some members have recorded from here some years back, but this site also has to be distinguished from the new Woodland Trust land just to the west of Smithills Hall. One young lady turned up for her Duke of Edinburgh project late on account of public transport but was happy to join us and had a good introduction to mycology. The foray started near the old Smithills Hall and followed Raveden Clough up and down. There are many beech trees, both living and lying on the ground dead providing good dead wood substrate. The site has the drawback of being heavily colonised by Rhododendron and now Himalayan Balsam, so with some apprehension, we nevertheless managed to identify some 41 species. I was particularly pleased to find *Hymenoscyphus albicans*, the benign form

saprotrophic on dead Ash petioles, and that it was not the *H. fraxinus*. It was a challenge to confirm the absence of croziers characteristic of the latter. Irene had a record of *Flammulaster subincarnatus* with 55 records previously.

6. August – Hay Bridge NR (Mike Hall)

A good number of members and associates turned up to explore this lovely site led by Mike Hall, a month earlier than the year before, with a total of 81 species being recorded.

There were 7 species of *Russula*, though one may need to consider *R. cyanoxantha* var *peltereaui* as a variant; 7 *Mycena* species and of the 3 *Inocybe* sp, *I. xanthomelas* as more unusual with 61 records. A *Pholiota lucifera* with 21 records; another one to look out for on Holly leaves was *Microthyrium ciliatum* which also has an Ivy variant. A lowly *Psathyrella* turned out to match *P. cortinarioides*, for which there are 3 validated records in UK so it has been sent on to Kew. (JW)

7. 3 September ‘Beginners’ Foray– Moore NR (Paul Hamlyn) 63 species

Three different species of *Leptosphaeria* looking all rather similar in the field, two on nettle and one on *Phragmites*. *Hypocrea aureoviridis* an interesting find though more common than the one later to be found at Wigan Flashes. *Nectriopsis rexiana* an anamorphic state which is parasitic on *Trichia decipiens* identified by John T.

8. 17 September Dibbinsdale – (Jeanette Maddy) 110 records

The *Cratarellus cornucopioides* was a pleasing find growing amongst the wood rush on a steep bank by a path, where it had been found previously. With 6 species of *Inocybe*, *I. brunneotomentosa* was a star find. Jeanette notes that it is uncommon – so much so that there is one record in FRDBI 1.

Anthostomella appendiculosa a little black ascomycete with substantially large spores, tony found on Bramble, 2 records. Well observed by John Taylor was *Nectria magnusiana*, parasitic on pyrenomycete host, *Diatrypella favaceae*. Perhaps less common than it used to be was *Claviceps purpurea*, Ergot, on Cock’s Foot grass found by local naturalist who had joined us.

9. 24 September – Clock Face, (Tom Forest) 80 sp + 2 myxomycetes

A good tally for this foray, which is a former colliery site with new woodland and grassland.

Thelephora terrestris made its appearance for the occasion and on Alders, there were the conspicuous *Taphrina alni* and also the less obvious *Taphrina tosquinetii* causing leaf blistering.

Also identified were *Lepista saeva* and *sordida*, two of the three Blewits which being rather variable can cause confusion but have subtle spore size differences, (depending on which reference you use.)

10. Kewsick 29 September – 1 October. A rainy weekend as seems often to be the case but:

Blencathra; 44 species including 8 species of what we may still be calling *Hygrocybes*, and splendidly large specimens of *Helvelella crispa*.

Great Wood; one finding was of *Nectriopsis rexiana*, parasitic on myxomycetes such as *Trichia* spp.

Hutton-in-the-Forest; A new site, pioneered by Mike and Di Hall, produced an impressive 80 species. Here there were 13 species of *Hygrocybe*, including *aurantiosplendens* and *Geoglossum glossianum* and *cookianum*; *Entoloma hebes*, and *Lactarius romagnesii* under oak was a good find.

11. 15 October – Lyme Park, (Tim Rogers) at the same time as Jeanette ran a workshop for local naturalists. 69 species

12. 22 October – Wigan Flashes (Chris Bowden) 63 sp

This new foray sites yielded a nice collection of 4 each of different *Tricholoma* and *Cortinarius* species but the highlight was Lynne's finding of *Hypocrea britdaniae*, which she had probably found a couple of weeks earlier near Stockport. This former find was initially keyed to *H. microspora* but Brian Spooner was able to confirm it to be the species only described in 2012 from Denmark and England. Not so rare but impressive to see was *Boletus pulverulentus* with its dramatic bluing.

13. 29 October – Lytham Hall (Irene Ridge) 90 species.

A relatively new site for the group led by Irene, after one outreach foray she had led there, we went later this year but were still rewarded with 90 species.

A single specimen of *Agaricus xantholepis* was found at the base of a Eucalyptus tree behind the Hall. It had a very strong aniseed smell, yellow staining, and smallish spores, and the specimen sent as a voucher to Kew. A slightly less common *Psathyrella bipellis*, 10 *Mycena* species and 7 waxcaps species, generically speaking.

14. 5 November – Turn Slack Clough (Norman Bamforth)

69 species including 10 waxcaps. Norman found *Neobarya aurantiaca* (9 records on FRDBI 1) parasitic on *Claviceps purpurea*.

15. 12 November - Raven Meols (Tony Carter) 52 sps.

We had good expectations to find the stalked Puffball, *Tulostoma brumale*, an early winter species, hence the epithet, which has just over 300 records nationally but were even more keyed up to find one of the rarer species, *Tulostoma melanocyclum*, with 65 records nationally, many of which are indeed Ainsdale records. So it was great to find the two species alongside each other, and check the photos on the website to see a comparison of the two together there. The latter was much richer brown especially the stipe, which itself was somewhat scaly.

A group of dune species exercised quite a bit, starting with *Myxomphalia maura*, a small rich brown toadstool with slightly decurrent gills, *Omphalina pyxidata*, less dark and with more clearly decurrent gills, and another *Omphalina galericolor*, with only 19 records, very similar looking but with certain identifiable macro and micro differences worked out by our Chairman, Irene. We also found some impressive specimens of *Macrolepiota mastoidea* which required some work-up to differentiate from *M kondradii* and *M. excoriata*, the reference texts not always being helpful or unanimous. So with a total list of 52 species late in the season, these included some interesting finds.