

# Chesworth Farm Fungus Foray

## 2 November 2024

Despite initial pessimism about the lack of the usual soil growing fungi we were very thrilled to find a field spattered with waxcaps, including the iconic pink *Ballerinas*. Almost equally as exciting was the group of Devil's Fingers that Tim Thomas showed us in the old orchard.

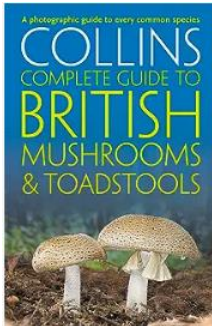
Here are some of the species we saw, more or less in the order we found them, with my best attempt at identification (without prolonged study of original material). The sites are CENTRE: by the Volunteer Centre, PATH: the verges and hedgerows by the path to New Town Nine Acres, 9ACRES: the Nine Acre field itself and then WHEAT: Wheatrick Field and finally BACK: the Back Field and ORCHARD: the orchard.

Scientific name	English name	Site	Frequency	Certainty	Comment
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket	CENTRE	Once	Certain	A thin flexible bracket tiered on wood with a grey undersurface.
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	PATH	Frequent	Certain	Various shapes and sizes but all with widely spaced pink gills.
<i>Laccaria species</i>	a deceiver	PATH	Once	Uncertain	A deceiver with bluer gills and a deformed cap with a small ring of gills on top.
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff	PATH	Occasional	Certain	Looking like a snuffed out wick of a candle.
<i>Clavulina cinerea</i>	Grey Coral	PATH	Once	Probably	In earth under bushes. Looks like coral.
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkey Tail	PATH	Occasional	Certain	Thin flexible bracket with small white pores underneath
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain crust	PATH and WHEAT	Occasional	Certain	Small very thin tiered orange bracket in tiers on dead wood with smooth orange undersurface.
<i>Mycena vitilis</i>	Snapping Bonnet	PATH	Occasional	Certain	Small bonnet that snaps audibly when stem pulled
<i>Mycena species</i>	a Bonnet	PATH	Occasional	Uncertain	There were possibly several species, one of which was possibly the Common Bonnet.
<i>Galerina marginata</i>	Funeral Bell	PATH	Once	Certain	A group on top of a gate. Orang-brown bell-shaped caps. Very poisonous.

<i>Pluteus</i>	a shield	PATH	Once	Uncertain	Small white cap and pink gills suggesting a shield fungus.
<i>Russula species</i>	a brittlegill	PATH	Occasional	Uncertain	Mottled reddish/purple cap and slightly pink stem with no rind and very brittle gills. Could have been a number of things.
<i>Tricholoma sulphureum</i>	Sulphur Knight	PATH	Once	Certain	Substantial yellowish mushroom with no ring but distinct gaseous smell.
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's Cakes	PATH	Occasional	Certain	Black hemispheres on dead ash logs. Concentric hemispheres inside and home to many bugs.
<i>Cortinarius species</i>	A webcap	PATH	Once	Uncertain	A group in the grass in rather battered condition. There are a large number of webcaps!
<i>Porpolomopsis calyptriformis</i>	Pink Waxcap	9ACRES	Occasional	Certain	Several patches of these iconic fungi. An excellent find!! We probably saw about 8 of them.
<i>Hygrocybe psittacina</i>	Parrot Waxcap	9ACRES	Once	Probably	One found with greenish tinge but the green/yellow contrast can be stronger. Needs another survey!
<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>	Blackening Waxcap	9ACRES	Occasional	Certain	Conical cap with black-streaked stem. Whole body goes black eventually.
<i>Hygrocybe irrigata</i>	Slimy Waxcap	9ACRES	Frequent	Certain	Dull grey-brown medium size waxcap with both cap and stem VERY slimy.
<i>Hygrocybe species</i>	a small red waxcap	9ACRES	Occasional	Uncertain	One of many small species.
<i>Hygrocybe species</i>	A red waxcap	9ACRES	Occasional	Uncertain	A medium sized species.
<i>Hygrocybe ceracea</i>	Butter waxcap	9ACRES	Occasional	Possibly	Could be this.
<i>Hygrocybe citrinovirens</i>	Citrine Waxcap	9ACRES	Once	Possibly	Distinctly paler yellow.
<i>Hygrocybe pratensis</i>	Meadow waxcap	9ACRES	Once	Probably	One large one.
<i>Porpoloma species</i>	a meadowcap	9ACRES	Occasional	Uncertain	Looks different!

<i>Panaeolus foenisecii</i>	Brown Mottlegill	WHEAT	Occasional	Possibly	Tall black/brown with thin springy stems. Needs closer comparison with Turf Mottlegill.
<i>Calvatia gigantea</i>	Giant Puffball	BACK	Once	Certain	One practically over.
<i>Clathrus archeri</i>	Devil's Fingers	ORCHARD	Once	Certain	5 claws - a great surprise. I have seen it in Sedgwick Park and Cricketfield Rd. years ago.
<i>Stropharia caerulea</i>	Blue Roundhead	ORCHARD	Once	Probably	One of two species.
<i>Lepista nuda</i>	Wood Blewitt	ORCHARD	Once	Probably	Might be confused with the Field Blewitt.
<i>Crepidotus epibyrus</i>	Oysterling	ORCHARD	Once	Possibly	Small, soft, delicate oyster like bracket on a stem.
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus	ORCHARD	Once	Possibly	Just the stems left. Difficult to tell exact species.

If you are interested in learning more about fungi this is a good reference that is reasonably comprehensive but not overwhelming:



[Collins Complete British Mushrooms and Toadstools: The essential photograph guide to Britain's fungi: Amazon.co.uk: Sterry, Paul, Hughes, Barry: 9780007232246: Books](#)

There is of course a huge amount of information available on the internet. Try putting in one of the names of the species we saw into a search engine. Most searches will give a link to [www.First-Nature.com](http://www.First-Nature.com) , which I always find to be informative and reliable. For instance: [Trametes versicolor, Turkeytail fungus \(first-nature.com\)](#)

Feel free to mail me about the foray or any other fungi you have seen. [jonathanHsimons@outlook.com](mailto:jonathanHsimons@outlook.com)

**Jonathan Simons 3/11/2024**



Armillaria.JPG



Bjerkandera\_adusta1.JPG



Bjerkandera\_adusta2.JPG



Calvatia\_giganea.JPG



Clathrus\_archeri.JPG



Galerina\_marginata1.JPG



Galerina\_marginata2.JPG



Hygrocybe\_conica.JPG



Hygrocybe\_irrigata.JPG



Hygrocybe\_pratensis.JPG



Hygrocybe\_red.JPG



Hygrocybe\_red\_small.JPG



Hygrocybe\_species1.JPG



Hygrocybe\_yellow\_and blackening.JPG



Laccaria\_species1.JPG



Laccaria\_species2.JPG



Panaeolus.JPG



Porpolomopsis\_calyptiformis.JPG