

Buckinghamshire Fungus Group
Our AGM and the future of the group - 2013

Dear BFG members,

Our AGM was held on Sunday May 26th, and was attended by ten people. Firstly we'd like to thank those members who sent apologies together with support and encouragement for the continuation of the group – this was much appreciated. Secondly we hope you will be pleased to read that BFG will be continuing to function much as before, and a full foray programme for this autumn is now confirmed and if not already on our website it will be so very shortly. The planned house moves by both Derek and Penny are still not signed and sealed; in any event, they intend that this year's forays will still be led by either one or both of them. It is inevitable, however, that Derek (planning to move to Monmouthshire) will play a much less active part in the group's activities thereafter. We are delighted, however, that he has accepted the new role of the group's President, thus ensuring his continued interest and support for the group and its recording work, and also that he will still lead some forays for us in future. We take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication, enthusiasm, expertise and leadership – BFG was founded nearly fifteen years ago by him, aided by Penny, and we all owe him an immense debt of gratitude.

Derek's role of Secretary will now transfer to Penny (planning to move just over the border into Oxfordshire thus still within easy reach of foray sites), and Justin Long has accepted the position of Treasurer (this job previously also fulfilled by Derek). Other positions of responsibility for the group remain as before, however it was agreed at Penny's suggestion that the annual Newsletter – for which she was editor for the last ten years – should now cease to exist in its present form. The main reasons for this are (a) the cost of producing it will now increase considerably (Derek's excellent printing equipment will no longer be available to us), and (b) Penny is finding the task of writing, collating and editing articles too onerous and time-consuming. The way forward for the group's communication is clearly via our website - a much more economical and convenient tool which is already making the main bulk of the newsletter (Derek's report on the season) superfluous as for the last year or so a report with interesting photos together with the complete species list of each foray is available online within a week of the event.

This move does not necessarily herald the end of Penny's and other's articles which we are informed are always popular with members. We would like to see our website being used much more regularly as the main information tool for members, and the possibilities for development of the site are endless under the guidance of our efficient and enthusiastic webmaster Peter Davis. We will continue to circulate foray programmes etc by email (and snailmail for those not online), and also plan this season to circulate foray reminders a week before each event in an attempt to raise the numbers at our still rather thinly attended forays. However, the website should now be considered as members' first port of call for information, and any suggestions for improvements / innovations to the site would be gratefully received.

Thank you for reading through this letter. We hope for a really good fruiting of fungi this autumn and look forward to seeing you come September. In the event of fruiting starting really early (this can happen some years in June, July or August) we may well put on a couple of last minute forays, when we'll be in touch again by email and of course via the website!

With best wishes from your BFG committee.