

Joint BFG / Chesham & District Natural History Society Foray  
Chesham Bois Common  
October 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

Report by Penny Cullington

A good sized group of about twenty (half and half from the two groups involved) met up to foray this Common, a new site for BFG. Despite the continuing poor foraging conditions in this area we managed the longest list of species so far on a foray this season, this reflecting the difference it makes having more pairs of eyes searching. It is becoming apparent that this autumn is a disastrous year for mycorrhizal species (those which grow in symbiosis with trees), and this was backed up today by their virtual absence - no Amanitas, Boletes, Lactarius (Milkcaps) or Cortinarius (Webcaps), and just a couple of Russulas (Brittlegills), one Inocybe (Fibre-cap) and one Hebeloma (Poisonpie). Much of the list, therefore, comprises species which grow on litter or decaying wood, with many specimens of *Mycena* (Bonnetts) and *Psathyrella* (Brittlestems) collected. It was nice to see a couple of waxcap species coming up in the grassy area around the perimeter of the Common, but perhaps the most interesting sight was the amazing number of *Macrotyphula juncea* (Slender Club) carpeting the ground in hundreds under the trees in the area just across the road and nearer to the village and growing on the stems of fallen rotting leaves – a species easy to miss as it appears to the less experienced eye be more akin to some form of plant rather than fungus. See the photo below.

For more details see the complete list.



*Macrotyphula juncea* (Slender Club) coming up in droves on the leaf litter at Chesham Common