

Joint BFG / Woodland Trust Foray at Penn Wood on Oct 7th 2012

Penny Cullington

A small group of BFG members were joined this afternoon by some enthusiastic novices who had learnt of the event through the Woodland Trust website, so a good sized group of about 30 of us met in the Penn Street Village Hall in the hope of collecting enough specimens to make some form of display afterwards. Once into the wood diligent searching was required as is becoming the norm around this area this season, but having some sharp-eyed children soon paid off and though many species found were represented by just one or two fruitbodies we did at least manage a list of 55 species.

It was of course too early in the season to find any waxcaps for which this site is now well known, but it was good to see at least a few specimens of *Amanita muscaria* (Fly Agaric) and *Amanita citrina* (False Deathcap), and also useful to be able to point out with their help the importance of collecting right to the base of a fruitbody to avoid missing the give-away volva and with it the danger of collecting a potentially deadly poisonous mushroom.

This site has a substantial fungi list, but new things are always likely to be found, even in an unproductive season such as we seem to be experiencing. Thus we added another four agaric species new to the wood: *Mycena polygramma* (Grooved Bonnet) was found with remarkably distinct ridges on the stem giving away its identity in the field (this is a relatively common species so surprising it's not turned up here before), also a small *Agaricus* with purple tinge to the cap was identified later by Derek as *Agaricus dulcidulus*. Also I was handed two fruitbodies which I took away to look at later, one was the unusual *Psathyrella obtusata* and the other an uncommon Fibrecap named *Inocybe xanthomelas*.

It was gratifying to be able to set out a small display for our efforts, and everyone enjoyed the books we'd brought along together with a demonstration of spore prints and some photos. Altogether a worthwhile and enjoyable event.

See the complete list for details.