

FUNGI WALK at JORDANS VILLAGE, October 5th 2025

Penny Cullington

Today's walk was planned to be held at Gerrards Cross East Common but on arrival we made the unusual and unprecedented decision to abort and go elsewhere! As co-leader Jesper Launder checked the Common out on his way to the car park and realised that we were going to be wasting our time – there was virtually no fungi visible, he then suggested a quick change of plan: to move to nearby Jordans Village where he luckily has ongoing permission to lead walks there at will. So it was back in the cars and out with the satnavs and off to park around the Green at Jordans! So by 10.20 we were exploring the Green and finding a few odd bits, then down the road to an adjacent wood which had been largely devastated in the infamous 1987 storm then replanted. So apart from some mature Beech at the eastern end which had luckily remained standing, it comprises young mixed deciduous trees with a rather brambly understorey.

The predominant species we found here seemed to be *Armillaria ostoyae* (Dark Honey Fungus) which possibly doesn't bode well for the health of this woodland though the species is thought to be less destructive than the much more common *A. mellea* (Honey Fungus), also in evidence here however. Examples were frequently handed to us in all stages of development and were still puzzling some attendees even towards the end of the morning. (Sorry, no photos to share.) Next on the abundance list here was *Amanita rubescens* (Blusher) which was equally confusing, coming in all shapes and sizes – even miniscule though fully expanded. The identity of the strangest of these specimens was not sorted until Jesper did some research online because the whole fruit body was clearly affected by some parasitic fungal organism which had utterly altered its appearance. Not until cut in half lengthways could one see that it must have had a cap, gills and stem, and Jesper discovered a very similar image online attacking *A. rubescens*. He was even able to confirm that the spores of this beastie, *Mycogone rosea*, matched the online details! New to the county, there are around 30 records on FRDBI (national database online).

Right: *Mycogone rosea* affecting *Amanita rubescens*. (JL)



We found just a few other mycorrhizals here with quite a few examples of *Lactarius quietus* (Oak Bug Milkcap) obviously associating with the young Oaks. This is a useful species to share with the more inexperienced to point out the significance of smell when identifying: the distinctive rubbery oily smell which we often refer to as 'the *quietus* smell' is found not only in some other Milkcaps but also in a few other genera as well. (The photo here was taken not today but at Stoke Common.)

Left: *Lactarius quietus* (PC)

Two *Russula* (Brittlegill) species were also in this area, both quite common and both probably associating with Oak here as well though unlike the *Lactarius* above they are not host specific. *Russula aeruginea* (Green Brittlegill) is (unhelpfully) not the only green species in the genus but a ferrous sulphate crystal rubbed on the stem shows a slow pale salmon reaction

(visible on the LH stem) whereas other contenders have a distinctly different reaction. There are other differences but the crystal really helps. ***Russula fragilis*** (Fragile Brittlegill) can also have green colours (seen in the RH cap) but is more often purplish pink and has one unique feature: the outer margin of the gills are finely serrate (jagged) – best seen with a x10 handlens. My photo is not good enough to show this well but it was obvious at the time!

Below left: ***Russula aeruginea*** (SJE);



Below right: ***Russula fragilis*** (PC)



We have photos to share of two other nice finds in this area. One was a cluster of furry stemmed mushrooms on a piece of wood; this we all agreed was ***Flammulina velutipes*** (Velvet Shank) though it is normally found late in the season – even into winter when flecked with ice or snow, so it was a bit of a surprise today. Its clustered habit on wood, pale orange cap and distinctive stem which darkens towards the base makes it an easy one to recognise. On a stump someone spotted the really tiny orange caps of ***Mycena acicula*** (Orange Bonnet) – one of the few Bonnets one can name with certainty in the field. It frequents woody litter and though the cap is orange it has a distinctly yellow stem, thus separating it from the quite similar *Rickenella fibula* (Orange Moss-cap) which is entirely orange. However, that species, also small, is always found in moss – not woody debris, and also has clearly decurrent gills, missing in this *Mycena*. What was unusual was to find quite this number of fruit bodies in close proximity – usually it's just one, or two if you're lucky!



Above: ***Mycena acicula***, and right: ***Flammulina velutipes*** (JP)

We now moved on to the more interesting area where the mature Beeches remained and straight away started finding an array of specialist mycorrhizal species in the roadside verges. Jesper, who frequents the area, had high hopes that this would be the case and was proved correct. Here we found not only *Hebeloma sinapizans* (Bitter Poisonpie) – featured in my previous report on Pullingshill Wood, another Beechwood hotspot – but several species of *Cortinarius* (Webcap) including some striking members of Section *Phlegmacium* – large chunky beasts with sticky caps, dry stems and often a wide platform-like base to the stem. The most impressive of these were ***Cortinarius amoenolens*** (Blueleg Webcap) with purple colours, and ***Cortinarius bergeronii*** (Chalky Webcap) with yellow colours. Neither are particularly common and both are host specific to Beech with a preference for calcareous soil.



Above left: *Cortinarius amoenolens*, and right: *Cortinarius bergeronii* (JL)

So we ended up with a list of around 80 species – much more successful than if we'd stayed at Gerrards Cross Common for the morning – with some interesting things found. Thank you for coming and coping with our somewhat disrupted start(!) and a *big* thank you to Jesper not only for inviting us to Jordans but for his tireless work on identifications afterwards. A big thank you too to the photographers who sent me photos so promptly – it makes all the difference. I've added a few more below for your interest. For more detail of what we found see the separate list.

Photographers

BW = Barry Webb; JL = Jesper Launder; JP = Jordy Payne; PC = Penny Cullington; SJE = Sarah Ebdon

Right: *Lachnum* sp, probably *L. virgineum* but not checked microscopically,
Below: *Trichia varia*, a species of slime mould (BW)



Below: a stunning close-up view of the Crust species *Mycoacia uda*. (BW)



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