

FUNGI WALK at TAPLOW COURT on September 29th 2021

Penny Cullington

Taplow Court adjoins the Cliveden Estate and this was the group's first visit here. 16 members plus 3 from BMERK met up and were shown around this beautiful site consisting of formal lawns, walled gardens and parkland with woodland periphery where mature Oak and Sweet Chestnut predominate, with some mature Cedar also. There was little to be found in the gardens though the area looked potentially very promising for waxcaps etc, so a visit later in the season may possibly be laid on. The woodland we visited was also not very productive today but this is a large site and we refrained from exploring the steep sided woodland area leading down to the Jubilee River as we ran out of time. At least we have provided the owners with a basic list of just under 50 species for the site – one not previously recorded for fungi.

Below are some photos of a few interesting finds, also some shots of the group at work. Today's visit was a bit experimental being on a weekday but support showed that there could well be a demand for more midweek walks – something we'll consider for the future if numbers of attendees continue to be on the rise as they appear to be at present. Thank you for coming today – it was certainly a privilege to explore this impressive place and we look forward to returning here in the future when hopefully fungi will be more prolific.

Photographers

CB = Claudia Bernardini; PC = Penny Cullington



Left (CB) and above (PC) a bracket found on an Apple trunk which could not be identified by us in the field. This appeared to Derek to be a large species of *Tyromyces* /*Postia*, being quite soft above with tiny pores below which were exuding droplets and remained unchanged in colour when pressed. This proved to be the case when he worked on it at home, though it has now been moved to a different genus. *Aurantiporus fissilis* (Greasy Bracket). Described as 'occasional', rarely on *Malus*, we have 3 previous county records from Burnham Beeches where it was probably on Beech.

Right, at the base of a huge Oak we found this large bracket more than a foot across, identified by Derek as *Pseudoinonotus dryadeus*. This is a species parasitic on Oak and occasionally also found on Sweet Chestnut.



Above and right, in a flowerbed we found *Hygrophoropsis rufa*, an unusual species of False Chanterelle which is a strikingly darker orange than the much more common *H. aurantiaca*.(CB)



Left, *Crinipellis scabella* (Hairy Parachute) found amongst grass stems and litter near one of the Cedars., and looking confusingly similar to *Marasmius rotula* (Collared Parachute) which was abundant in the same area. We have only three previous records of this quite unusual grassland species, one of which was from the adjacent Cliveden Estate when we visited in 2007. Note the lack of collar to which the gill attach in *M. rotula*, also the brown shades in the cap which with the stem is covered in diagnostic fine rust coloured hairs (not really visible here). (PC)



Above, the uncommon *Ganoderma lucidum* (Lacquered Bracket) found growing on the roots of Cedar – not a commonly recorded host for the species. We have just three previous records. Note the typical white fine pored underside of all members of the genus - visible in the upturned smaller specimen – which turns brown when touched or scratched. The species is unusual in having a stem – seen also on the smaller specimen. (PC)



Above, the group assembled and listening to discussion over the identity of an *Agaricus* (Mushroom).)CB)