

# Buckinghamshire Fungus Group

## National Fungus Day Display and Foray – October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

Penny Cullington

### Display at Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury

For National Fungus Day this year our group put on a display of fresh fungi for members of the public on the Saturday, returning to our old stamping ground in Aylesbury after a lapse of several years when we've tried out other venues. The recent rain meant that there was a profusion of fungi for collecting in the local woods, and we arrived laden with specimens at 9.30 ready for the mad rush to get everything set out and named in time for an 11.00 kick-off. As well as the central table with collections of over 100 different species there were display boards adorned with posters and photos, a table for children to colour and make badges, Derek set up his microscope with monitor screen and laid out a selection of books and information, and our much admired large screen with over 200 named fungi photos changing every 10 seconds greeted visitors as they entered. The BMS banners together with leaflets, more handouts and packets of mushroom spawn to give away completed the picture, and we were rewarded by much enthusiasm and appreciation for our efforts by all who came. The only disappointment was that visitor numbers rather dwindled by the afternoon possibly due to competition from a heavily policed demonstration taking place elsewhere in Aylesbury. Come 4.00 the big clear-up started, and with the valiant efforts of the few brave BFG members still on hand we had the whole room cleared in half an hour – quite a feat.



My thanks to all those who went out collecting, who helped us set up and then stayed to chat to the public, and especially to Claudi and Roger who stuck it to the bitter end – without them Derek and I would have been a good deal more exhausted by the end. We were well pleased with the end result though did have some regrets that not more people had come to enjoy it.



The little lad on the left in his Fly agaric leggings kept us all entertained and stayed for well over an hour – a mycologist in the making? (PC)