

## RUSHBEDS WOOD FORAY

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Leaders Derek Schafer and Penny Cullington

Penny Cullington

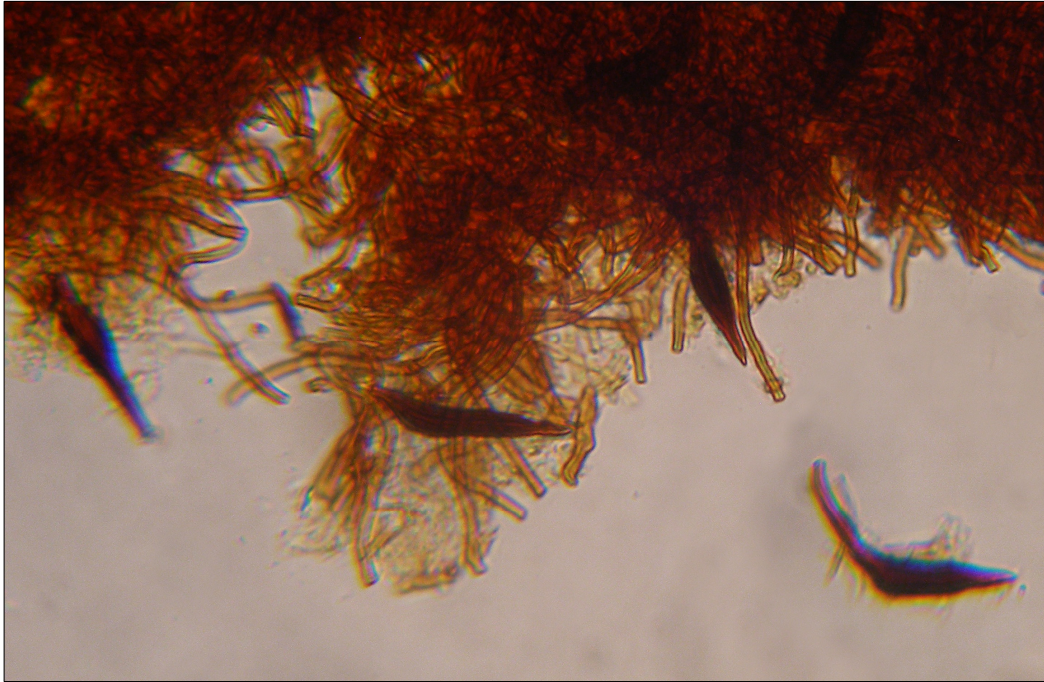
Just six of us enjoyed a warm bright spring morning, and Rushbeds was looking its best with primroses and wood anemone in abundance and bluebells just beginning to put on a show. Other plants were also of interest, as were spring butterflies, and we were serenaded by willow warblers, chiff-chaffs and blackcaps – altogether a delight! Now to the fungi.

The recent dry spell meant nothing was going to be fruiting in profusion, but there was plenty to hold our interest though our final list was short – only 36 species. Only a couple of gilled mushrooms were found, both being springtime specialists: a small clump of *Psathyrella spadiceogrisea* showed early on, and later a few young specimens of *Calocybe gambosa* (St. Georges Mushroom) were found. Along the pathside several specimens of morel were good to see, these being *Mitrophora semilibera* (Semifree Morel), though slugs or mice had already had a taste thus they were not looking their best (the fruitbodies, not the grazers!). A few dried up specimens of *Lycoperdon pruriforme* (Stump Puffball) were still hanging around from last season, but other than that our list comprised brackets and the like, a few corticioids (reminiscent of white paint on wood). Ascomycetes (the spore shooters), some rusts and a couple of slimemoulds. Of particular note amongst the brackets were three less usual species of *Phellinus*: *P. ferruginosus* (Rusty porecrust) - a lookalike of the much more common *P. ferreus* (Cinnamon porecrust) and always needing confirmation with a microscope (see photo below), also *P. pomaceus* (Cushion bracket), a Blackthorn specialist, and *P. ribis* (see photo below), a Spindle specialist. This species has now been moved to the genus *Phylloporia* and is the least common of the three, previously recorded here though with only one record elsewhere in the county.

See the complete list of species for more details.



The clustered brackets of *Phylloporia (Phellinus) ribis* at the base of a spindle tree at Rushbeds Wood



The brown thick-walled sharply pointed setae (hairs), magnified x 400 above, can be found within the context of both *Phellinus ferruginosus* and *P. ferreus*, but in *P. ferreus* they do not occur as here in the subiculum (the lowest layer where the fungus attaches to the wood), thus providing a useful way to separate these two look-alike species.