

Sightings for October 2013.

Common Funnel (*Clitocybe gibba*) beside the main ride in the new wood, between Bluebell Wood and the bridleway junction. Cap was about 8cm across with decurrent gills running down the stem. Sighted by Dave & Sue Booth on the 6th October 2013. I found many smaller funnel type fungi in the adjacent wood edge. There are several funnel type fungi, making ID difficult, common funnel is the most likely choice. New Image added to Fungi Gallery.

Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*), about 10 groups of this small clustered fungi found on the ancient beech tree (signature tree) in Bluebell Wood, this is the 3rd species of fungus to appear on this tree. A very varied species, the exact species of Honey Fungus is difficult to identify. Honey fungus was found in the wood last October at another location but this one was of a different appearance hence a second image added to the Fungi Gallery. (Sighted on 15th October 2013). A second visit a week later and the Honey Fungus had spread and the caps flattened, producing a group about 5 feet tall on the rear of the tree, see the 'Photo of the Month'.

Other reappearing fungi sighted in Bluebell Wood in October were: Candlesnuff, Common and Stump Puffballs. 51 Shaggy Parasols were found beside the main path, near the 'signature tree', in a 15 foot wide fairy ring. The Porcelain Fungus, sighted last October, also reappeared on the same tree again. The Golden Scalycap which was last sighted on the 31st October 2011 also made reappearance in the same hollow of the dead ash tree. Tiny white Fairy Inkcaps were also seen again in several locations.

Sightings for September 2013

This month marks the second anniversary of my fungi survey. To date 34 species have been identified and photographed, only 2 of these were in the New Wood, all the others were sighted in the Old (Bluebell) Wood (however 3 of these were along the adjacent ride path). The **Giant Polypore** (*Meripilus giganteus*) made its annual reappearance on the 'Signature tree' although not as large as previous years. The **Artist's Bracket** (*Ganoderma applanatum*) which first appeared on the same tree in October 2011 and has remained present since then, has recently expanded and produced a new white layer of pores which I suitably annotated with 'FoLW' and have placed this better image on the website to replace the original one.

I will continue to monitor the wood, mainly in the autumn, but will only report any new species of fungi found and update any images if better examples are found.

Sightings for August 2013

Dryad's Saddle (*Polyporus squamosus*) at map location H4, on a fallen ash tree. Second one found in the old wood, first was on 20 June 2013, This one was much newer with distinct markings, so new image placed on website to replace the previous June image. (Sighted 6 August 2013).

Giant Polypore (*Meripilus giganteus*). Three new sightings of this species at map locations J5 (x2) & F6. Previously found at 2 locations in early September 2011 & 2012. (Sighted 6 August 2013).

Shaggy Bracket (*Inonotus hibpidus*) at the Stoke Road entrance gate on the eastern boundary of the wood. About 5 metres up a large ash tree. Sample was fresh (about 1 week old) and still had the weeping amber liquid, similar to the Oak Bracket fungi. This is the 2nd sighting of this species but much lower than the 20th July 2013 one, hence I was able to get a better image which had a 'knobbly' appearance completely different than the first one, as seen in this latest image. This one was also spotted by Dave Booth. (Sighted 10 August 2013).

Sightings for July 2013

Shaggy or Hairy Bracket (*Inonotus hibpidus*) at map location J4, 40ft up an ash tree. The hairy upper surface of this bracket distinguishes it readily from Beefsteak Fungus. *Inonotus hispidus* is quite rare; it occurs mainly on trunks of broad-leaved trees, and in particular ash and apple trees, often high up. This annual bracket fungus appears in mid to late summer, and the fruitbodies expand, darken, developing a thinner rounded edge before blackening. The brackets decay and will usually have fallen off their host trees by late autumn. Well spotted by Dave & Sue Booth. (Sighted 20 July 2013).

Oak Bracket (*Inonotus dryadeus*) at map location G4, on the base of an oak tree at the path bend. A distinguishing feature of this orange-brown bracket fungus is that its felted surface exudes amber droplets when fresh. Although commonly referred to as the Oak Bracket, it also occurs sometimes on beech, birch and alder trees. One of the most beautiful of bracket fungi, the Oak Bracket looks like runny honey oozing from set honey. It is not as tasty as honey! The cap is up to 40cm across and typically 10 to 15cm thick, the orange-brown brackets become irregularly shaped as the fruitbody matures. Occasionally they occur in tiers of three or more brackets. Luckily this was probably just a few days old when found. (Sighted 22 July 2013).

Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) at map location F5 on the base of a large beech tree, referred to as the 'signature tree'. This species has been spotted several times previously in the old wood and is the 3rd species to appear on this particular tree, beating the annual Giant Polypore. An attractive fungus which is variable in size, shape and colour. I revisited the site 4 days later to find that the fungi had 'gone', as this is a tasty, edible fungi, I guess someone took it home to eat! (Sighted 22 July 2013).

Sightings for June 2013

Dryad's Saddle (*Polyporus squamosus*) at map location G4, on the base of a dead, 20ft. ash tree trunk. This image was taken when the fungi was probably about a week old and past its best. Individual caps are soft and grow to between 10 and 60cm in diameter and are 5 to 50mm thick. Often in tiers, the caps are attached to the host tree by a very short lateral stem. This fungus deteriorates fairly quickly but has distinctive markings on its upper surface. The name Dryad's saddle refers to 'woodland nymphs', creatures in [Greek mythology](#) called [Dryads](#) who could conceivably fit and ride on this mushroom. (Sighted 20 June 2013).

No sightings for February through May 2013

Sightings for January 2013

Jelly Ear (*Auricularia auricular - judae*) at map location F6, beside the path on a dead fallen branch. The original name for this fungi was Jews Ear (the clue is in its scientific name !). There were several appearances of these fungi in the wood although this one was unusual being a pale purple/grey colour instead of the usual dark purple. Also the branch was covered in dozens of fruitbodies which is uncommon for this species. A new image added to show the variation from the previously sighted one. (Sighted 9th January 2013).

Turkeytail & Hairy Curtain Crust. There were several sightings of these previously sighted fungi in Bluebell Wood; the most prolific was at the wooden sleeper across the path exit point (map location F6). The Turkeytail are the small white & brown shell shaped brackets and the hairy curtain crusts are the small orange/brown brackets. Both of these will probably remain for most of the winter before decaying. (Sighted 9th January 2013).

Heavy snow during the second half of the month made checking for any new fungi rather pointless, a visit to the woods on the 28th revealed no further sightings.