

BMS Recording Network News

May 2022

To: BMS Recording Network Contacts
Cc: BMS Field Mycology & Conservation Committee members

From: Nathan Smith, BMS Recording Network Coordinator

1. Upcoming Online Talk: “Investigating *Magnaporthe oryzae*”

The **BMS Talk** on 15 June will be given by Nick Talbot, from The Sainsbury Laboratory. Nick will outline recent research into how this fungus causes a devastating food crop disease that claims enough rice to feed 60 million people each year. For a taster, watch The Sainsbury Laboratory’s animation about the fungus’s ‘appressorium’: https://youtu.be/1R8hfjr_RGo

Book via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/352562753687>

2. BMS Recording Network News

Articles and news any size (but particularly those under 500 words) are also requested for future editions of the *BMS Recording Network News*. Please share upcoming events, news, and mycological top tips and tricks. Please send articles to myself at cwe.smith@gmail.com.

3. Group Leaders Meeting

I’m looking forward to taking part in the Group Leaders Meeting later in June. I’ll be talking and answering questions about the BMS’s new, 3-year strategy and leading a group discussion “Recording Groups and the BMS: How to move forward?”. I’m keen to hear about the benefits and issues experienced by fungus groups affiliated with the BMS and I’d also like to know what groups think BMS could do to support, and help us work together effectively. I’d like to come away from the meeting with my head (and notebook!) full of information and insight that will help BMS develop a plan for working more closely and collaboratively with local groups. I know that a number of groups won’t be represented at the meeting, so I’ll be in touch soon after to ensure all views are included. If you’re not going to be at the meeting, and want to send me topics to raise in this discussion, please do email me: emma@britmysoc.info

Emma Thompson
Scientific Communications & Development Officer, BMS

4. **Developing resources for newcomers to field mycology**

A Working Group of the British Mycological Society's *Fungal Education & Outreach Committee* is looking to develop a suite of resources for newcomers to field mycology to encourage and support learning and enable a clearer pathway into the subject. The Working Group have created a survey to gather feedback on the information, tools and resources newcomers to field mycology are seeking; the existing resources; the potential gaps. You can find the survey here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/mycology-newcomers/> Please share the survey link with your group, friends and colleagues who could offer their feedback.

5. **Featuring in the BMS members' newsletter**

I'd like to feature news and updates from local fungus groups in the quarterly BMS members' newsletter, to raise awareness of the great work being done to identify, record, conserve and promote fungi. If you have some recent news, an event open to the public, guides or resources, or anything else that you'd like to publicise and share with other fungi enthusiasts, please do tell me about it by email. The newsletter is a digital publication, so I can include highlights and link to further information on websites or elsewhere. The next issue is due out in late June, which is a fast turnaround from now – but do send me something if you can! If not for June, then definitely for later issues. emma@britmycolsoc.info

Emma Thompson
Scientific Communications & Development Officer, BMS

6. **Fungus Groups and UK Fungus Day**

UK Fungus Day will be on 8th October 2022 – please send information about your UK Fungus Day events and activities to Norman at ukfungusday@britmycolsoc.info

Our theme for this year's UK Fungus Day is *Connections & Connectivity*. We've been contacting nature organisations, museums and visitor attractions around the country to encourage them to get involved, and hope that some might team up with local fungus groups to work together to engage wider audiences. *Funding to support UK Fungus Day activities is available up to a maximum of £150. The event details including time, place and activity, the materials required and a breakdown of the costs will need to be supplied on the UK Fungus Day Funding Application Form. There are limited funds so early application is encouraged!* Contact Norman at ukfungusday@britmycolsoc.info

7. **New Recording Group: Gloucestershire Fungus Recording & Research Group**

A new Fungus Group is being formed in Gloucestershire with the emphasis on recording and to be involved in more research, identification sharing and analysis. To be known as 'Gloucestershire Fungus Recording & Research Group' (GFRRG), keen local amateur mycologist Tony Hardware is seeking like-minded individuals to join him in moving the recording of fungi in a new direction. The group will not impinge on any other Fungus Groups in the area as the aims are different, such as this group won't be organising public forays, visiting popular sites or other similar events.

The object of the GFRRG is to study, record and confirm fungi from the key classes of fungi, such as Basidiomycota and Ascomycota but is not restricted from other types or classes. It is also a longer-term aim to become self-sufficient in DNA sequencing and analysis acquired through training, purchase of suitable equipment and chemicals. To potentially expanding this as a service to other similarly minded volunteer fungus research groups or individual field mycologists. Collection of voucher material will be encouraged if deemed advantageous to science. It is to also encourage a greater awareness and understanding of fungal conservation in the community and sharing of research data, trends and observations with other fungus groups. It is also aims to collaborate between field and academic/institutional taxonomists. The GFRRG is dedicated to confirming and recording fungi through experienced or enthusiastic volunteer field mycologists during Field Study Days/Weeks. Collecting will be discouraged. Areas to be covered include county boundaries of Gloucestershire VC 33 (East) and VC 34 (West) - excluding the Forest of Dean and areas between The Severn and The Wye rivers.

Fungi identified and generating suitable interest on Field Study Days will be provided to the BMS via their FRDBI database (Fungal Records Database of Britain and Ireland) and to any other interested professional organisations. Habitat studies and other trends, observations etc., will also be written up for publication, if accepted.

Sites to be studied will be selected by members of the group and may include annual visits to some special sites. Due to the need to visit private sites and avoidance of interference with farm animals, wildfowl etc., dogs will not be allowed. Health & Safety is covered at each event using a Risk Assessment prior to starting.

Subscriptions: £10.00/yr – to cover support costs such as hosting of members' only website, access fees, group DNA analysis requests and any other general admin. expenses. To join the group please provide a brief mycology CV of your experience, qualifications, etc. Prospective interested members with limited experience but willing to learn are still encouraged to join on an individual basis where help and support will be given.

There are many ancient and wet woodlands, heathlands, quarries, parks and natural grasslands within the County, most of which reside in the Cotswolds, an Area of Natural Beauty, the third largest in the UK. There are countless sites not surveyed or not covered for many years. The opportunity for finding, recording and reporting across the county is endless and where in the West of the county (other than the Forest of Dean) it has not been actively covered before.

To join and become a inaugural member and share in-depth knowledge of Fungi and identification then please contact Tony Hardware by email: gloucfungusrrg@gmail.com or Telephone 07487 858610. A backgrounder of his experiences, etc., can be found via his Fungi Blog at: tonyhardwarefungifinds.blogspot.com. He recently surveyed The Isles of Scilly helping to identify two new species of agarics for the UK and most of Europe as well as 154 other species.

Tony Hardware