

## **BMS Recording Network News**

**November 2021**

To: BMS Recording Network Contacts  
Cc: BMS Field Mycology & Conservation Committee members  
  
From: Nathan Smith, BMS Recording Network Coordinator

### **1. Upcoming Online Talk on Below Ground Fungi**

Carol Hobart will be giving an online talk entitled 'A Truffler's Tale - Hypogeous Historical Snippets & Truffle Fungi in the UK' at 19.30 on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Carol Hobart is Chair of the British Mycological Society's Field Mycology & Conservation Committee and has particular expertise and interest in hypogeous fungi, developed over the last 17 years. In this talk, Carol will offer a chance to find out about the hypogeous (below ground) truffles and their diverse forms in the UK - some common, some rare. She will also discuss the history of truffle collection, as far back as the Greeks. The talk is open to all, particularly those interested in fungi who may not be experts.

This talk promises to be both extremely exciting and invaluable and is certainly a wonderful talk to finish the year on.

Tickets can be acquired for free from: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/217950514857>

If you would like to suggest any ideas for future talks or online events, please email me at [cwe.smith@gmail.com](mailto:cwe.smith@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto:cwe.smith@gmail.com).

### **3. BMS Events**

Booking is now open for BMS Field Events in 2022 as well as this years Annual Open Meeting. For more details of the events, please see the events listing attached (along with booking form) or visit <https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/library/events>.

### **4. Group Leaders' Meeting**

The Group Leaders Meeting is looking to make a triumphant return next year on the 24-26 June 2022. I'm currently putting together the programme and looking for speakers. It would be fantastic to have as many groups as possible represented this year so contact me at [cwe.smith@gmail.com](mailto:cwe.smith@gmail.com) if you would like to propose a talk or workshop.

## 5. Michael David Waterman 1940–2021

In May this year members of West Weald Fungus Recording Group were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mike, our popular and talented Group Recorder. He had been a feature of our forays for some twenty years in his trademark frayed coat and pullover, often emerging from deep in the undergrowth holding out yet another prize specimen.

Since taking over as sole recorder in 2013, Mike had poured huge effort into gathering together and cleaning up all of WWFRG's records since its inception in 1993. He had nearly completed this task by the time that he died, and some 26,000 of these records have now been accepted onto FRDBI2, winning praise from Stuart Skeetes for their quality. Several hundred more are due to follow soon.

Mike was the son of a fruit farmer and grew up on at least two farms in Sussex and Kent. This may have inspired his interest in natural history and also his practical skills such as carpentry.

He was educated at Eastbourne College and studied mathematics at Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge, then went on to do a master's degree at University College, London.

His working life was spent in various parts of GEC Ltd, where he worked mainly on guidance systems for rockets, initially ELDO and later Ariane 1-4. Apart from work, he was a keen observer of artificial satellites and for some time in the 1980s he was involved in a project observing the decay of satellites as a means of examining the structure of the upper atmosphere. In the last two years he observed most of the Starlink satellites.

Mike's involvement with fungi arose from an initial interest in foraging for food, sparked by Richard Mabey's book 'Food for Free'. This soon turned into an enthusiasm for mycology, and by the 1980s he was leading public forays (in 1987 he was leader of the first public foray that I ever attended) and he became a member of the BMS.



*A photo "typical of Mike, at a bioblitz in 2017, with the West Weald Display boards behind him"*

He joined WWFRG in 2002 and was soon leading and recording several forays for us each year, something he was also doing for Thames Valley Group. He was a delegate at the two most recent BMS Groups Network Meetings, representing both groups.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, as part of UK Fungus Day, we celebrated Mike's life with a foray on his home patch, Yateley Common near Camberley, Surrey, where he had lived and recorded for forty years.

We met up with his wife, Susan, who has provided much of the biographical information given here. We were joined by representatives of Camberley Natural History Society, of which Mike was also a stalwart member.

While those of us who knew Mike will never forget him, anyone else can appreciate his legacy to mycology as it now can be seen on FRDBI2.

*Dick Alder*