

## **BMS Recording Network News**

**March 2021**

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

### **1. Upcoming Online Talk from Patricia Fara**

Dr. Patricia Fara will be giving an online talk on the subject of 'Survival of the fittest: The life and struggles of Helen Gwynne-Vaughan' at 19.30 on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

It promises a deeply interesting and informative talk on one of the more colourful characters in the history of British mycology. In this talk, Patricia will discuss the life of Helen Gwynne-Vaughan (1879-1967)—a fungal geneticist and former President of the British Mycological Society. This talk will describe her successes and her setbacks, setting them within the context of contemporary attitudes. In doing so, she casts light on concealed prejudices that survive today, despite equality legislation.

Tickets can be acquired for free from: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/146823983487>

If you would like to suggest any ideas for future talks or online events, please email me at [ns565@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ns565@cam.ac.uk).

### **2. BMS Newsletter**

The next issue of the *BMS Newsletter*, on the theme of 'The Future of Mycology' is now seeking submissions. Additionally, the *BMS Newsletter* welcomes submissions that give an overview on local issues such as commercial picking, land encroachment by developers, environmental shift and profiles on long-term members of recording groups. Articles detailing substantial group news, foray reports, the history of mycology, and all other mycological topics not covered by the other journals of the BMS are also encouraged. Please send articles for the *BMS Newsletter* to myself at [ns565@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ns565@cam.ac.uk) and Norman Porrett at [norman@britmycolsoc.info](mailto:norman@britmycolsoc.info).

### **3. 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 [ns565@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ns565@cam.ac.uk).

#### 4. **White Moulds, Ramularia and Phacellium Anamorphsin Wales and Britain**

The latest in an award-winning series of books on phytoparasitic fungi written by the Welsh Microfungi Group is now available. For those seeking a digital copy, this can be found at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/waxcap/downloads/Chater21-RamulariaWalesCensus.pdf>. Printed copies are also available directly from the group for an extremely modest sum. For more information, see the below message from Debbie Evans and the attached flyer.

Dear Fellow Mycologists,

This is just a message to hopefully promote our new book on "White Moulds, Ramularia and Phacellium Anamorphs, in Wales and Britain: a Guide and Welsh Census Catalogue" which has now been printed. This is the 5th volume in the series covering phytoparasitic microfungi by the Welsh Microfungi Group. I've attached a flier which will give you more information about it and the contents and how to obtain a copy. This group of fungal pathogens are very common, yet very under-recorded. Using the book it should be possible to identify most species found and hopefully generate lots of new records.

There is no similar book available and most specialist books are very expensive as we all know. Thanks to generous help from the BSPP and BMS we are able to sell the books at a very affordable price, thus, at £6.50 plus p&p it's an absolute bargain! (There is some information about our other books on Rust Fungi; Smuts and Allied Fungi; Powdery Mildews; and Downy Mildews & Albugos on the flier. There are still some hard copies of the last 2 volumes available and all are available to download for free from the link on the flier).

Please forward this message and flier to anyone who might be interested.

*Debbie Evans*

#### 5. **New appointment at the BMS**

Dr Emma Thompson joined the BMS as part-time Scientific Communications & Development Officer in March. Emma has an academic background in bioscience and 15 years' experience working in the membership sector, most recently as a research and communications consultant.

Emma will be sharing more about her role and plans for BMS communications shortly on the BMS website. In the meantime, I'm sure you will join in warmly greeting her to the Society and to her new role and in looking forward to the ideas and impact she is sure to bring to the Society.



6. **Waxcap-grassland fungi going through a purple patch\***

*This article originally appeared in Issue 8 of The Deceiver: The Newsletter of the Sorby Fungus Group. Additional articles can be found here:*

<http://www.sorby.org.uk/groups/sorby-fungus-group/>



**Jubilee Waxcap and Violet Coral**

Photos:Rob Foster

I found both of these extremely rare purple-coloured grassland fungi coming up within feet of each other on a sheep pasture in the Dark Peak.

The Jubilee Waxcap *Gliophorus reginaea* –was discovered in the Dark Peak in 2010 and was shown by DNA sequencing to be a species new-to-science. It was described propitiously in 2013, following the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebration; hence its name, though the royal-purple colour makes it even more appropriate. An intensive search during the “Lost and Found” initiative looking for rare fungi found it present in only 24 localities throughout England Ireland and Wales (3 in the Dark Peak). It is sufficiently threatened world-wide to have been proposed for Global Fungal Red List.

The Purple Coral *Clavaria zollingeri* –a beautiful deep amethyst, branched fungus is another species rare enough to be proposed for the Global Fungal Red List, but which I have found in several places in the Dark Peak.



**Iconic Dark Peak waxcap site inadvertently planted with trees**

Photo:Rob Foster

The sheep farms of the Dark Peak are a very special place for waxcap-grassland fungi. Here the last remaining scraps of unimproved grassland survive with their ancient fungal assemblage. The rest have been “improved” by harrowing, reseeding and intensive fertilisation. Ironically now, the remaining grassland – mostly on hill sheep farms – is threatened by well-intended initiatives to re-tree and rewild the landscape. Slopes that have been grazed since the Bronze-Age and before, with their increasingly rare indigenous grassland fungi, are at high risk. Extinction of some fungal species in the UK is a real possibility unless these scarcely recorded or regarded waxcap-grassland species are actively protected and conserved.

*Rob Foster*

*Editor’s Note: Rob Foster and Chris Kelly are particularly keen to draw BMS Recording Group Members’ attention to the worrying loss of CHEG grassland to tree planting schemes in the Peak District, which is being perpetrated by the National Trust and the National Park. The above article has been reprinted in the hope that it might draw members’ attention to it in case this turns out to be a more widespread problem. If you have noted similar developments in your region, please complete the following form:*

*<https://forms.gle/Ctis8rVZztym3GC46> This will enable all records to be gathered centrally in order to ascertain the scale of the problem.*