

Gardening Group Report for November by Sue

A damp and dreary afternoon seemed appropriate for our talk on Autumn Fungi, by Naturist Field Group, fungi specialist, Jill Cunningham.

There are reported to be 5 million species which are divided into three main areas, decay, parasitic and mycorrhizal partnership, most like icebergs are mainly underground

Amanita, poisonous, and basal vulva or frill. Milkcap, secretes milk from the gills. Parasols can be up to a foot across. Waxcap - Lartington Hall has bright waxcaps, blue ones can be found in West Cemetery. Bonnet, mainly in woodland, tiny, little fungi. Coprimus, grows mainly on dung, inky black fins which liquefy. Honey fungus kills trees, spreading through the garden. Blewitts, edible, but needs cooking for a long time to get rid of the sulphur smell.

When picking mushrooms, cut or squeeze, if the colour changes, yellow is poison. Caps with gills, Bolettes, sponge underneath, Liberty caps, if found picking these you can be fined, better known as magic mushroom. Edibles - Oyster, Cantrell, Hedgehog, Stinkhorn, Morels, Puff Balls, Common crusts, Chicken of the woods, Jelly fungi, Hard fungi.

Best advice get a good book or join a fungi forage with an expert.

Not only did Jill show give us a wonderful slide show featuring all the fungi she spoke of, but also brought a display of many of the fungi which she had collected the previous day.

Next Meeting - Stainton Village Hall. 1.45pm.

6th December. - Howard Leslie, wreath making. Materials will be supplied, but if you have secateurs please bring them along.

2020

3rd January. - **No meeting**

7th February. - To be confirmed

6th March. - Wallington Hall, to see the crocus lawn, 100,000 purple and yellow crocuses

3rd April. - Keeley Metcalfe, Planting principles for year-round interest. Awaiting confirmation.

1st May. - Himalayan Garden

