



WEST WEALD FUNGUS RECORDING GROUP AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2025



*All forays start at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise and usually end by 1pm.
Children are welcome but these events are not suitable for dogs.*

SEPTEMBER

THU 4th PETWORTH HOUSE, PETWORTH, W.SUSSEX, GU28 0AG

This is a further survey of the private gardens of the house. It is limited to five experienced recorders and details will not be circulated generally.

SUN 7th THE MENS, WISBOROUGH GREEN, WEST SUSSEX, RH14 0HR

Sussex Wildlife Trust site, ancient woodland. Park in the small, often muddy car park (or near it) in Crimborne Lane, just south of its junction with the A272, at a marked crossroads, about two miles west of Wisborough Green. TQ023237

WED 10th UNSTEAD WETLANDS RESERVE, GODALMING, SURREY, GU5 0BW

Run by volunteers, a hived-off section of a waterworks with ponds created on old settlement beds, a wooded edge. Parking is limited, please let us know that you are coming and you will be informed of the arrangements. The site is in Trunley Heath Road, just north of the junction with Tilthams Corner Road. SU995465

SUN 14th NEWDIGATE BRICKWORKS RESERVE, NEWDIGATE, SURREY, RH5 5DN

Newdigate is east of the A24, midway between Dorking and Horsham. The Surrey Wildlife Trust reserve is on a former brickworks with several old claypits plus areas of woodland and meadow. Baseline records are needed. Head north out of Newdigate village on Parkgate Rod, shortly turn right into New Barn Lane, find Mulberry estate on the left, keep left to the large car park of the reserve at TQ203427

WED 17th HOLMBURY HILL, HOLMBURY St. MARY, SURREY, RH5 6NW

Part of the vast area of the greensand hills with access controlled by the Friends of the Hurtwood. Meeting point not as last year: Hurtwood car park no.14, Radnor Lane, Holmbury St. Mary. Off the western side of B2126 Horsham Road about a mile north of Holmbury village centre. Car park is opposite the YHA hostel. TQ1040 4500.

SUN 21st WEST DEAN WOODS, WEST DEAN, Nr. CHICHESTER, W. SUSSEX, PO18 0RU

A rather isolated Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve, superb woodland with rare fungi. On a very long lane heading northwards from the A286 opposite the Selsey Arms, just west of West Dean Gardens. Follow the lane for about two miles until you see a gate on the right with a SWT logo. Parking is at some distance down a track from here at SU845154

THU 25th MICROSCOPE WORKSHOP, RHS WISLEY GARDENS, SURREY, GU23 6QB

This session will be conducted at the new Hilltop Centre by Jassy Drakulic and Bob Skipper. Numbers will be limited to 12; places have already been offered and most likely will have been filled by the time this programme is published. Joining instruction will be sent to those participating.

SUN 28th BANSTEAD DOWNS, BANSTEAD, SURREY, SM2 5PD

Hoping to survey the downland part that we failed to visit in 2023 when torrential rain shortened the foray. Park on High Down Lane, which is the approach road to Highdown Prison. The lane leads off the eastern side of the B2218 Sutton Lane, just north of Banstead and south of Sutton General Hospital. TQ260617.

OCTOBER

THU 2nd TITLESFOLD COPSE, THE HAVEN, Nr. RUDGEWICK, W. SUSSEX, RH14 9BG

A return to this rare, large hornbeam wood on a private estate. The entrance to the estate drive is between brick pillars, just north of The Haven hamlet on the eastern side of Haven Road. This runs from the A281 at Rudgewick to the A29 north of Billingshurst. Follow the drive to a right bend around a garage, continue until you enter woodland at Keepers Wood. Turn left here and find a group of commercial vehicles at a bend. Parking will be sorted here. Appx. TQ092313.

SAT 4th UK FUNGUS DAY

Members are arranging their own public events, including Jonathan Simons at Graffham Common, Sara Shepley at Winkworth Arboretum. Consult the leader if you wish to join in.

THU 9th CHANCTONBURY RING, Nr. STEYNING, W. SUSSEX, BN44 3DR

This well-known landmark feature of the South Downs is part of the 6000-acre Wiston Estate. It involves a steep climb to the ring of beech trees itself, but an alternative area of wet woodland can be surveyed by the less mobile. The public car park is just before Great Barn Farm on Chanctonbury Ring Road (narrow!) off the south side of the A283, about two miles east of the roundabout with the A29 at Washington. TQ146125

SUN 12th OLD COPSE, St. LEONARD'S FOREST, HORSHAM, W. SUSSEX, RH13 6PF

Beautiful lakeside site in a private area of the forest. Small parking area (or roadside) on Grouse Lane, Mannings Heath, about 100m north of its junction with Hammerpond Road. TQ220294

WED 15th EPSOM COMMON, EPSOM, SURREY, KT19 8HQ

A large area of woodland, grassland and ponds that is continuous with Ashted Common and includes the historic Epsom Wells. We may concentrate on an area of woodland with old oak pollards. Meet at the Stew Pond Car Park, on the south side of the B280 Christchurch Road, where farmland ends, about 1km east of the crossroad with the A243. TQ183611.

SAT 18th EBERNOE COMMON, Nr. PETWORTH, W. SUSSEX, GU28 9LD

Our first-ever site in 1993. New areas have been added since then and we hope to visit the most recent one this time. From the A283 between North Chapel and Petworth, take the signposted, winding lane through the hamlet. Soon after crossing the cricket pitch turn right onto the track signposted to the church and park in its car park. SU975279.

WED 22nd WARNHAM NATURE RESERVE, HORSHAM, W. SUSSEX, RH12 2RA

This is a fungus walk for the Friends of Warnham Reserve, led by Jonathan Simons. A **limited number** of WWFRG members will be invited to assist with the recording, details nearer the time. Car park at the reserve entrance, beside B2237 Warnham Road just off the A24, north-west of Horsham centre. TQ168324

SUN 26th PUTTENHAM COMMON, PUTTENHAM Nr. FARNHAM, SURREY, GU3 1BE

A return to the site of last year's bioblitz and our first efforts at recording areas where new management schemes are in progress. Meet as before at Top Car Park, on the north side of Suffield Lane at a bend just before the steep descent down to The Tarn crossroads. SU920462.

WED 29th MARE HILL, WITLEY, SURREY, GU8 5NZ

Steep hillside heathland site, opposite National Trust's Witley Common but here managed by Waverley Borough Council. Parking by – or possibly behind - barrier on the eastern side of Roke Lane, off A286 Haslemere Road, at crossroads about 2km west of Milford roundabout. SU935399

NOVEMBER

SAT 1st WISTON PARK, Nr. STEYNING, W. SUSSEX, BN44 3DZ

The home park of the Wiston Estate is extensive sheep-grazed grassland with old trees. Meet at the Wiston Estate Office, Wiston Park, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3DZ. Grid ref TQ15661233. What3Words: *surnames.flicks.blueberry*.

If you come in through Steyning and then along Mouse Lane, be careful of the huge pot-holes!

If you come in off the A283 between Steyning and Washington the entrance is signposted 'Wilton Park'. You will need to come through the security gates for Wiston House so just buzz them at the gate and say you're going to the estate office and they'll let you through, you'll need to come through two security gates and the office is on the other side.

WED 5th BLACKHEATH, WONERSH, Nr. GUILDFORD, SURREY, GU4 8RB

An extensive greensand site of heathland and pine plantation, with some old fungus records but none by WWFRG. Meet in the main car park, at the end of a short eastward lane from the crossroads at the end of Sampleoak Lane, 1km south of Chilworth Railway Station. TQ036462

SAT 8th RAMSTER GARDENS, CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY, GU8 4SW

This notable arboretum is open to the public for much of the year. Last Autumn, a fine show of waxcaps appeared on its lawns. The entrance is signposted, on the western side of the A283 Petworth Road about two miles south of Chiddingfold village and a short distance from the Sussex border. There is a small café on site where we hope to take our lunch. Entrance at SU951333

THU 13th KNEPP CASTLE, WEST GRINSTEAD, W. SUSSEX, RH13 8LJ

This foray is by invitation only and no more places are available. Sorry!

SAT 15th RICKHURST REWS, DUNSFOLD, SURREY, GU8 4NR

A welcome return to this private 16-acre area of ancient woodland within the great Chiddingfold Forest Complex. Meet at Rams Cottage, the only house on the western side of Rams Lane, which is off the Alfold Road about a mile south-east of Dunsfold Common. Parking will be in the cottage forecourt, or in the lane if necessary. TQ015352

TUE 18th LAVINGTON ESTATE, EAST LAVINGTON, WEST SUSSEX, GU28 0NQ

Something of a recce of this new site, and an alternative for some members to the Hatchlands foray on Thursday this week. From Midhurst or Petworth take the A272 to Halfway Bridge. Turn south to Graffham. Go through the village towards the Downs. After 3 ½ miles turn left at junction by big Horse Chestnut signposted Lavington Estate. Go through gate which should be unlocked. The estate office is a mile down the lane. SU938168

THU 20th HATCHLANDS PARK, EAST CLANDON, Nr. GUILDFORD, SURREY, GU4 7RT

Our Spring visit this year coincided with severe drought, but we hope for better things in late November. This is a National Trust property, so bring membership cards if you have them, but WWFRG will be allowed in free. Meet in the car park, at the end of a long driveway. Signposted, on the southern side of the A246 Epsom Road from Guildford to Leatherhead, just east of East Clandon village. TQ066518

SUN 23rd LYNCHMERE COMMON, LYNCHMERE, W. SUSSEX, GU27 3NE

Our October visit last year also seemed to coincide with drought, so perhaps late November will be more productive here, too. Meet at the entrance gate midway on a un-named lane that runs NW to SE from the southern side off B2131 Liphook Road, west of Haslemere (NOT Lynchmere Road, which runs NE to SW). SU 865315

A 'pre-Christmas' lunch party will take place at a nearby pub after the foray. Details before the day.

WED 26th DENMANS GARDENS, FONTWELL, Nr BOGNOR REGIS, W. SX, BN18 0SU

As well as the gardens, we are being offered an adjacent area of woodland to survey. Follow the tourist road signs on the A27 to the gardens, on the southern side of the road, just west of Fontwell Park racecourse. Large car park, a café and shop. Meet at the entrance. SU945070

SAT 29th BEALESWOOD COMMON, DOCKENFIELD, Nr FRENHAM, SY, GU10 4EX

Another misfortune last year when this site's waxcaps were thwarted by a late mowing. However, we did find several other fungi of interest in the woodland areas surrounding the grassland. Like Lynchmere, this site is on the border with Hampshire, and it is managed by the parish council. Dockenfield village lies between the A325 at Bucks Horn Oak the A287 at Frenham. Parking is at the Bluebell pub at Batts Corner, Dockenfield, SU820411

It is hoped that some people will be interested in lunch or just a drink at the pub afterwards, since we are kindly being given use of the car park. Details later.

DECEMBER

WED 3rd OXSHOTT HEATH, Nr. ESHER, SURREY, KT22 0NX

11am Start. An overdue revisiting of this site notable for its remarkable 'Starfish Fungus' (*Aseroe rubra*) first discovered here in 1993 and fruiting ever since. It is mostly woodland, birch and pine. Brian Spooner will lead. The car park is on the northern side of Sandy Lane, a short distance from its junction with the A244 Copsem Lane, only half a mile south of the major roundabout with the A3. TQ139617.