

Bealeswood Common Wildlife

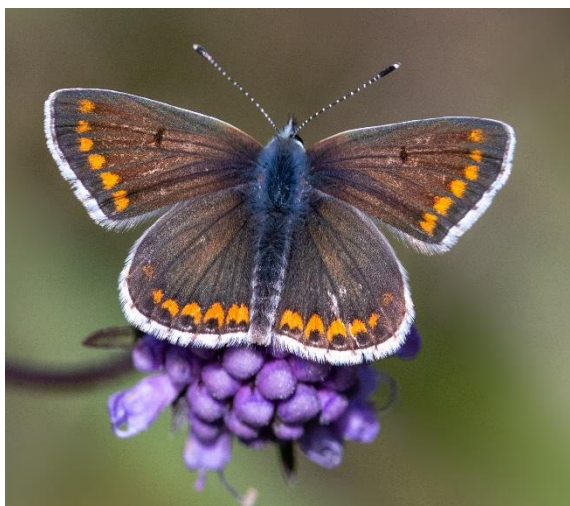
Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG), October 2024

See membership at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,

John Keats, To Autumn, Winchester, Sep 19th 1819



Brown Argus on Devil's-Bit Scabious *Alex Potts*



Alex Potts

Comma on Michelmas Daisy

A very wet autumn begrudged us a few hours of warmth and sunshine; sufficient for late broods of Brown Argus and Comma to appear on the wing.



Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillar on Hoary Willowherb

A three-inch-long caterpillar, an Elephant Hawk-moth, was Alex Pott's notable find near the pond. The caterpillar's profile resembles an elephant's trunk, hence the name. False hypnotic 'eyes' ward off predators. The pink-striped adult moth was featured in our August notice.

The first nature walk of the month offered our community contact with the Common's small mammals. Led by Dr Roger Trout, our very own

leading national expert, it is disappointing to report a poor attendance given the preparation effort. Children would have learned so much. Eighteen traps were set overnight, each carefully provisioned with warm bed straw, a food mix of cereals for mice or voles and meal worms for insectivorous shrews. The small walk party was treated to intimate views of Bank and Short-tailed Voles, Yellow-necked and Wood mice and two Common Shrews. Roger gave a masterclass in the identification of these tricky species before releasing them back into the wild, ably assisted by his young



Common Shrew

Bank Vole

Yellow-necked Mouse

Alan Cox

grandchildren. In the collage opposite the mouse in life is much larger than the other two. Mice have large ears, pointed face and long, hairless tails. Voles feature small ears, blunt face and short hairy tails. Shrews are tiny with very pointed faces.

Manda Adolph, our fungi expert, earlier found the first of the eagerly anticipated waxcaps (Snowy, Parrot and Blackening) for which Bealeswood's ancient grassland is gaining renown. Just three days later disaster struck when the much-needed annual meadow cut hit trouble. Even though Waverley's experienced and diligent contractor lowered tyre pressures, reducing the impact of his rig on the soft ground, there was widespread damage which may take years to restore. The grassland fungi expected in the following days did not appear. It is a surmise, nevertheless in line with current research on mycorrhizal messaging, that the mycelium network, warned of danger, arrested meadow fungal fruiting for this year at least.

Undaunted Manda's preparation for her lead of the fungal walk two weeks later turned to



Blushing Rosette

Manda Adolph

study the woodland understorey. A total of 59 species were located including 20 new records: proof of the diversity within these ancient woodland rides. The walk group of 13, spanned all ages from 9 to 84, and they all enjoyed an absorbing morning getting to grips with 30 of these finds. The

highlight perhaps was when Manda held aloft a beautiful mushroom and explained that it was from the *amanita* genus, the most toxic of British mushrooms.



Common Bonnet

Zoe Thomas



Zoe Thomas

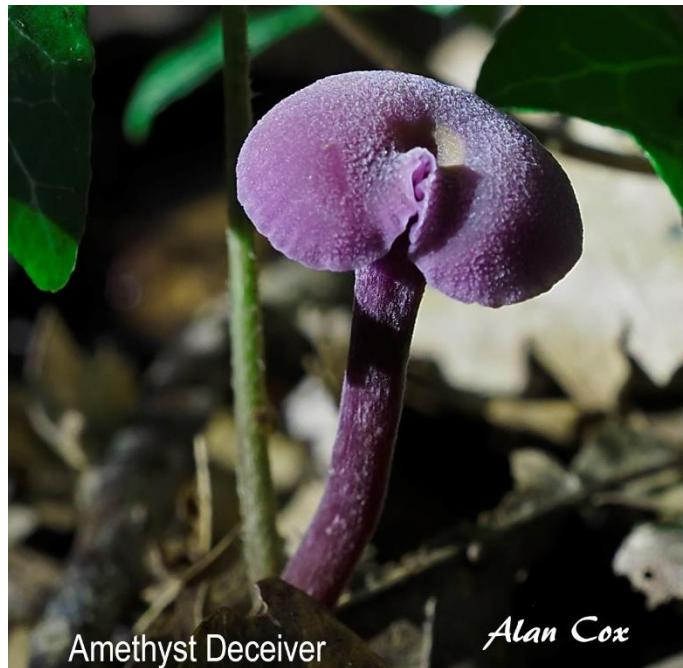
Candlesnuff



Zoe Thomas

False Deathcap

In fact, a *False Deathcap* closely resembling its true namesake which kills if eaten.



Amethyst Deceiver

Alan Cox

Nature's Seasons Calendar 2025

Its creation inspired by Bealeswood nature photography, the third calendar by Alex and Alan, is now on sale at Frensham Village shop (£9.00), or orders can be taken by mailing alanfjcox@gmail.com. All profits to Frensham Churches.

Nature Walks Programme 2025

Informal, family-friendly events, please send your suggestions for field walks you would like organised to Friends of Bealeswood Common albosence@yahoo.com.

Working Party

Sunday 17th November. 10:00 am. Meet at this noticeboard, suitably clothed and shod. Work gloves recommended but tools supplied. Refreshments will be provided. Each year we hold a working party to help with the habitat management on the



Bealeswood's own Halloween Labyrinth Spider with graveyard

Alex Potts

Common. We shall focus on cutting back branches and scrub that have encroached onto the grassland areas. Led by Waverley Countryside Warden: Vicky Keller.

Photos: Alex Potts, Manda Adolph, Zoe Thomas and Alan Cox

BWRG

28th October, 2024

Website Annex

Accession List of Fungi

Bealeswood Nature Walk

Leader: Manda Adolph

October 26th 2024

Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Where Seen
Butter Cap	<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	1 bridlepath west of noticeboard
Common laccaria	<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	1 bridlepath west of noticeboard
Chicken of the Woods	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	1 bridlepath west of noticeboard
Wood Blewit	<i>Lepista nuda</i>	1 bridlepath west of noticeboard
Common Bonnet	<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	1 bridlepath west of noticeboard
White Knight	<i>Tricholoma album</i>	1 bridlepath west of noticeboard
Stag's Horn or Candlesnuff	<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	1 bridlepath west of noticeboard
Netted Crust	<i>Byssomerulius corium</i>	2 woodland west
Stocking Webcap	<i>Cortinarius torvus</i>	2 woodland west
White Saddle	<i>Helvella crispa</i>	2 woodland west
Elfin Saddle	<i>Helvella lacunosa</i>	2 woodland west
Amethyst Deceiver	<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	2 woodland west
Jelly Baby	<i>Leotia lubica</i>	2 woodland west
Bitter Oysterling	<i>Panellus stipticus</i>	2 woodland west
Yellow Club	<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>	2 woodland west
Common Earthball	<i>Sclerderma citrinum</i>	2 woodland west
Turkeytail	<i>Trametes vericolor</i>	2 woodland west
Sulphur Knight	<i>Tricholoma sulphureum</i>	2 woodland west
Yellow Stagshorn	<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	2 woodland west or 3 woodland east
False Deathcap	<i>Amanita citrina</i>	3 woodland east
Golden Spindles	<i>Clavulinopsis fusiformis</i>	3 woodland east
Poison Pie	<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i>	3 woodland east
Sulphur tuft	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	3 woodland east
Hare's Ear	<i>Otidea onotica</i>	3 woodland east
Blackening Russula	<i>Russula nigricans</i>	3 woodland east
Clouded Funnel	<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	4 around west arisings dump
Tawney Funnel	<i>Lepista flaccida</i>	4 around west arisings dump
Apricot Club	<i>Clavulinopsis luteoalba</i>	5 veteran oak Lake Lane entrance
Variable Webcap	<i>Cortinarius anomalus</i>	5 veteran oak Lake Lane entrance
Blackening Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>	5 veteran oak Lake Lane entrance

Blue font indicates new sighting 2024