



# Fabulous Fungi Hunt

On a cold but sunny afternoon on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December the Living Churchyard Group met to discover some “Fabulous Fungi” in St John’s Churchyard.

Toadstools and mushrooms have been very good this autumn due to the damp, warm conditions. Most are beneficial, playing a vital role in the ecosystem by feeding on dead material and releasing nutrients back in to the soil. Some are poisonous if eaten so we were careful how we touched them. We had a thrilling time as all ages walked round the churchyard finding a number of different toadstools. Some species were edible, but we didn’t risk it as we are all novices! Many were very beautiful, especially underneath. We found one species that had pale violet gills that subtly changed colour when moved.

*Agaricus bisporus*



*Agaricus augustus*



A frozen toadstool



*Laccaria amethystina* (Amethyst mushroom)







Edible mushroom: *Agaricus augustus*

Aren't they amazing!

Also called "The Prince". Maybe they should be called "Princess" with this frilly skirt!

Some of the group, the children were still hunting.



One I found elsewhere: Fly Agaric



Some other species

Tubular Lichen *Hypogymnia tubulosa*



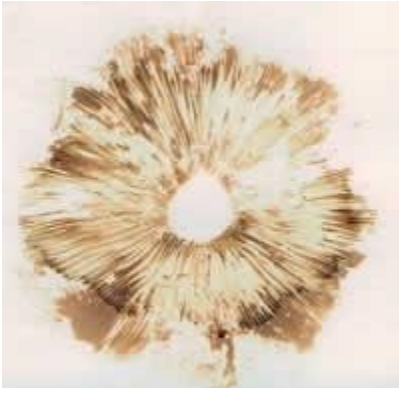
Parasitic jelly fungus family, called "Leafy Brain,"  
*Tremella foliacea*. Apparently quite rare!



We also found a badger trail that led from the Boreham road, round some trees and ended at a bees nest in the ground which the badger(s) had dug out and left chunks of perfect hexagonal bee comb lying about the hole.

After an hour or so we were a bit cold so we shared flasks of hot spiced apple juice and finished with a prayer.

Some of us took toadstool caps home to lay on a piece of white paper overnight to see what spore patterns are left next morning.



Spore pattern



One of the younger children  
found a Christmas Angel!