

Natural Danehill

This is an interesting month in the churchyard. This year one of the rare orchids has produced a bumper crop of flowers, but you will have to look for them. From a distance all you will see is a green spike, but approach closely, preferably on your knees and you will find each spike is a beautiful string of flowers, Autumn Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*). Hopefully some will still be flowering in early October.



Coming soon will be the autumn fungi, as the fungi underground produce 'fruiting bodies' above ground when the weather conditions are right. We have just received a much Covid-delayed report of a survey by Natural England in October 2020. Fifty nine species of waxcap were found on High Weald grasslands with 24 species identified in our tiny churchyard. The churchyard is such a hotspot for rare species because it has escaped 'improvement'. Moss has been allowed to grow in the grass, herbicides and fertilisers have never been applied leading to a nutrient poor grassland that is ideal for these rare species. Species particularly mentioned in the report were crimson waxcap, glutinous waxcap, yellow foot waxcap and several pinkgill species. Our rarest waxcap, the pink waxcap (*Hygrocybe calyptiformis*) was not found this time, so look out this year and if you do see it please report it. There is an excellent guide to waxcaps at plantlife.org.uk



(full address:- https://www.plantlife.org.uk/application/files/6915/0460/9899/Waxcap_ID_guide_low_res_website.pdf)

On the next page is the full list of fungi found in the 2020 Natural England survey.

2020 grassland fungi records

Common Name	Scientific Name
Blackening Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>
Clustered domecap	<i>Lyophyllum decastes</i>
Cream Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma sericellum</i>
Crimson Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>
Drab bonnet	<i>Mycena aetites</i>
fairy ring mushroom	<i>Marasmius oreades</i>
Funnel sp.	<i>Clitocybe flaccida</i>
Glutinous Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe glutinipes</i> var. <i>glutinipes</i>
Golden Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe chlorophane</i>
Heath Waxcap	<i>Gliophorus laetus</i> (<i>Hygrocybe laeta</i> var. <i>laeta</i>)
Honey Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe reidii</i>
Meadow Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe pratensis</i>
Mealy Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma prunuloides</i>
Orange Mosscap	<i>Rickenella fibula</i>
Parrot Waxcap	<i>Gliophorus psittacinus</i> (<i>Hygrocybe psittacina</i>)
Peppery bolete	<i>Chalciporus piperatus</i>
Pink Waxcap	<i>Porpolomopsis calyptriformis</i> (<i>Hygrocybe calyptriformis</i>)
Pinkgill sp.	<i>Entoloma clandestinum</i>
Pinkgill sp.	<i>Entoloma cf lividocyanulum</i>