



Penmoelallt... a woodland lost in time.



FUNGI



Way Station 6

www.merthyrnats.org.uk

GPS location: N 51°46.49

W 003°25.59

O.S co-ordinates SO017 094



Lets Find Some Fungi!

When you find Fungi around Penmoelallt there are several things you can do:



Take a Photograph of it.



Look up what sort of fungi it is.



Draw your Fungi!



Drawing fungi can be challenging, there are lots of different types of fungi with lots of different shapes, sized and markings. So when you find one, look up what it is and then get drawing! If you can identify the fungi then label your drawing, you can even colour it in so it looks just like the real thing!



If you touch a mushroom or any other fungi - WASH AND DRY YOUR HANDS as soon as you can - they can be poisonous!



If you are sure the Fungi you are about to touch is safe you could choose one small piece and make a spore print!

If you have ever found a mushroom or toadstool and tried to keep it, then you will know that they don't last that long! They can shrivel up or rot away once they are picked leaving you asking "Please sir, can I have some *spore?*" However, each mushroom produces spores which you can use to keep a picture of your fungi! So don't be a *spore* loser and try this out!

You will need:

A freshly picked mushroom.

A piece of white paper or card.

A glass to cover your mushroom

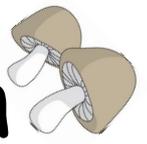
And some hairspray (yes really hairspray!).

What you have to do:

1. Pick a mushroom, (make sure its a safe one first!) and take it home.
2. Carefully break off the long stem, so you are just left with the cap or top of the mushroom.
3. Put the mushroom on the paper or card with the cap facing the paper so the mushroom is upside down.
4. Cover the mushroom with your glass and leave it overnight.
5. In the morning, remove the glass and the mushroom and you will find the spores have left a pattern on the paper or card!
6. Keep this pattern by spraying hairspray over it to preserve it.



Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, without whose help, the Penmoelallt Woodland Project would not have been possible.



FUNGI: Some Information

What are Fungi?

Scientists used to think Fungi were plants and so were part of the Plant Kingdom. Then it was discovered that fungi are actually more like animals than plants! However, scientists decided fungi are so unique that they are actually a in a kingdom of their own!

Fungi are all around, some fungi are helpful like the fungi used in quorn, soy sauce and yeast. Other fungi can be trouble like fungi that causes mould and athletes foot. The most famous fungi though must be Mushrooms!

What are Mushrooms?

Mushrooms are easily spotted so we think that is all there is! But... they are the fruit of the fungi. The rest of the fungi is like a web called the "mycelium" and is usually hidden in the soil, a tree or dead leaves. The top of the mushroom is called the "cap" and it is under this cap that the spores are made.

Spores are how fungi reproduce, they are like fungi seeds.

Some mushrooms are also edible like the mushrooms you get on pizzas, **BUT** be careful there are lots of poisonous mushrooms out there too, never eat a mushroom unless you defiantly know its safe,

Did you know?

- Some mushrooms can release 2.7 billion spores a day!
- Some mushrooms, like the stinkhorns, smell of rotting meat: this attracts flies, which then carry the spores away.
- Fungi that live on trees can damage and kill the tree (parasitic) or just live in the tree and help it grow (symbiotic).
- Some wild mushrooms are poisonous: one called the Death Cap may cause about 90% of deaths from mushroom or toadstool poisoning.



FUNGI you can find today!



The *Boring Brown Bolete* (*Boletus subtomentosus*) has a pale green or brown cap which is usually 4-10cms wide, they can grow up to 8cm tall.

Did you know?

The Boring Brown Bolete is edible but lacks taste which is why it has picked up the name Boring Brown Bolete.

The *Honey Fungus* (*Armillaria*) are yellow and brown in colour and typically grow on wood in small, dense groups of varying sizes. Honey Fungus is edible and is considered a delicacy in Ukraine .

Did you know?

The largest single organism of Honey Fungus, that's connected underground, covers more than 3.4 square miles!



The *Birch Bracket* (*Piptoporus betulinus*) are pale with a smooth greyish brown top surface and white underside. The Birch Bracket as you might have guessed grow on Birch trees!

Did you know?

The Birch Bracket was carried by "Ötzi the Iceman" the 5,000 year old mummy found in Tyrol, probably used to start fires.

Remember to keep the Countryside Code!

- Be Safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates & property as you find them.
- Leave machinery and livestock alone.
- Protect plants & animals and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.

You want to know more?

Visit these websites:

- www.sciencenewsforkids.org/articles/20050713/Feature1.asp
- www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/interactives/science/