

# Grassland Fungi Course Report

The grassland fungi identification course ran from the 10–11th October 2013, with 15 attendees. Day one was spent at Treborth Botanic Gardens where Debbie Evans, the course leader, put on a fantastic spread of colourful fungal specimens.



After a short introduction to grassland fungi, Debbie used the specimens to introduce us to the various characters used to help identify the species.

Senses of smell, touch, sight and even taste were deployed to recognise the waxcap fungi specimens. Some attendees with more acute senses were able to perceive the subtle scent of Russian leather, but most were more familiar with the garlic scents of other specimens. A brief search of the

gardens yielded a surprising number of grassland fungi, despite the attentions of a keen lawn mower the previous day.

Debbie's display specimens included several Fairy Clubs, Earth Tongues and Pinkgills in addition to an impressive 29 different Waxcaps!

Day two found the attendees heading up towards Cefn Du, an upland field complex above Llanberis. The weather could have been better, with strong winds challenging even the most well-clothed person. However, a wide variety of interesting fungi kept people's enthusiasm going through the day. Several clumps of

the rare Violet Club *Clavaria zollingeri* were observed, sprouting from the ground in an unworldly fashion. We also had the opportunity to taste a fresh *Hygrocybe mucronella* (Bitter Waxcap) discovering it tasted similar to a 9-volt battery!



In total 19 different waxcaps, 8 species of Fairy Club, an Earth Tongue and three *Entoloma* were found at Cefn Du. Several other fungi were seen including *Mycena adonis*, with its incredible pinkish-apricot coloration, marking a suitable end to a highly enjoyable two-day long identification course.

