

Saturday 14 September - Tatton Park

OK so I have taken up the 'FungalpunkDave' challenge to jot down a review of the days foraging - bear with me I am a new hand to review writing - but there's nothing like giving it a go to become an old hand!

Having been of several of Dave's public walks before I was not quite a newbie and had a good idea of what to expect - and wasn't disappointed when I walked in the gates to find Dave and Gill doing exactly what they said they would be - mooching around a bit seeing what's about. Typically 'the list' of sightings had already started to grow!

Meeting up with a few more 'fungalpunk friends' we did our own thing while our leader Dave did the introductions, health and safety spiel and a bit of basic fungal biology to a suitable enthusiastic group of Friends of the Earth bods who were joining the day up to lunch time.



Might be worth mentioning at this point as the mooch drifted away from the gates and into the park proper that I was not really aware of just how large Tatton park is - its vast!! Loads of opportunity to get a good long 'list' of sightings - was 100 an unrealistic target??

I'm not going to just reproduce 'the list' of sightings - that can be found on Fungal Friends sightings pages. One thing that really 'does it for me' is the amazing variety of form, colour and structure to be found in fungi - and we weren't disappointed on this walk! To give a flavour we saw:

Large fungi



Even larger fungi



Small fungi



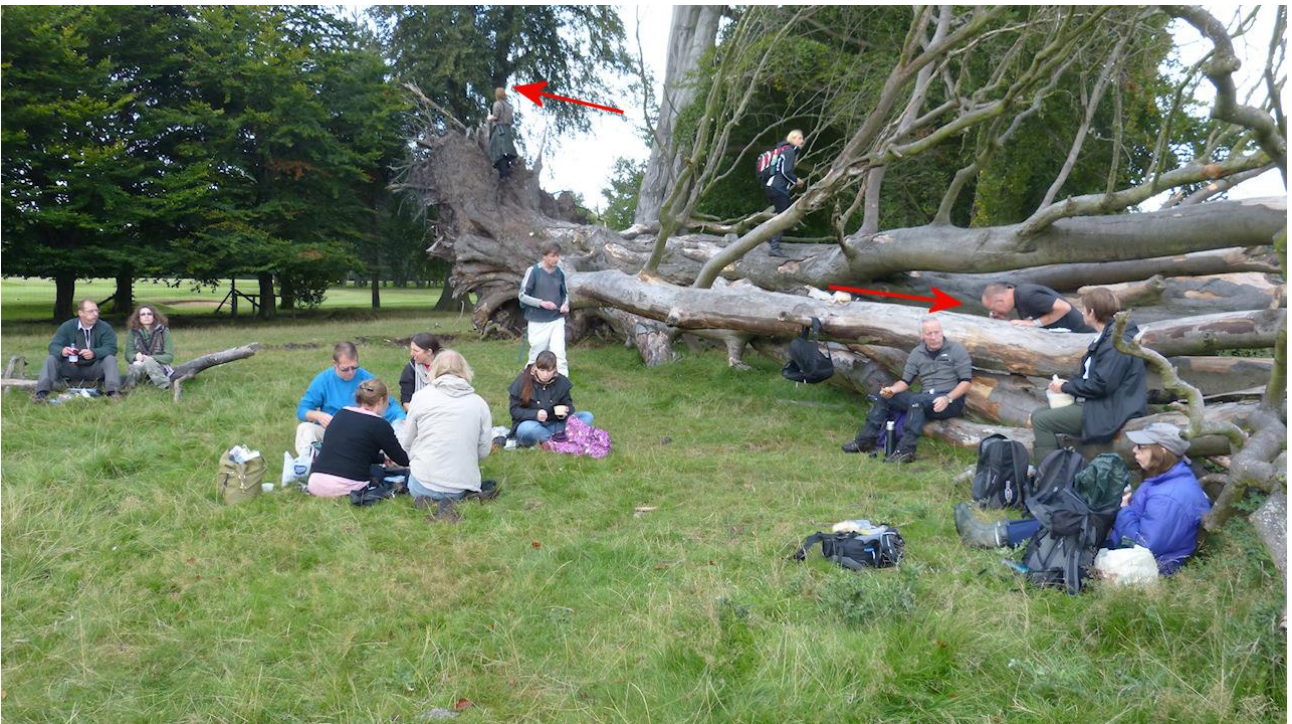
And yes you've guessed it . . .

Even smaller fungi



Are you getting the amazing variety of form and colour and structure yet??

The lunchtime picnic was I think the most civilised picnic I have had the pleasure of being at - thanks to those Friends of our good earth - no squashed butties out of pockets for them! Picnic time in Tatton - take a look below - 2 intrepid explorers (is that Mr DiCapreo at the bows of the Titanic??) the rest of us sitting eating - but wait - Mr FungalPunk Dave just can't put that hand lens down - it's probably why he knows all the names and we don't!!

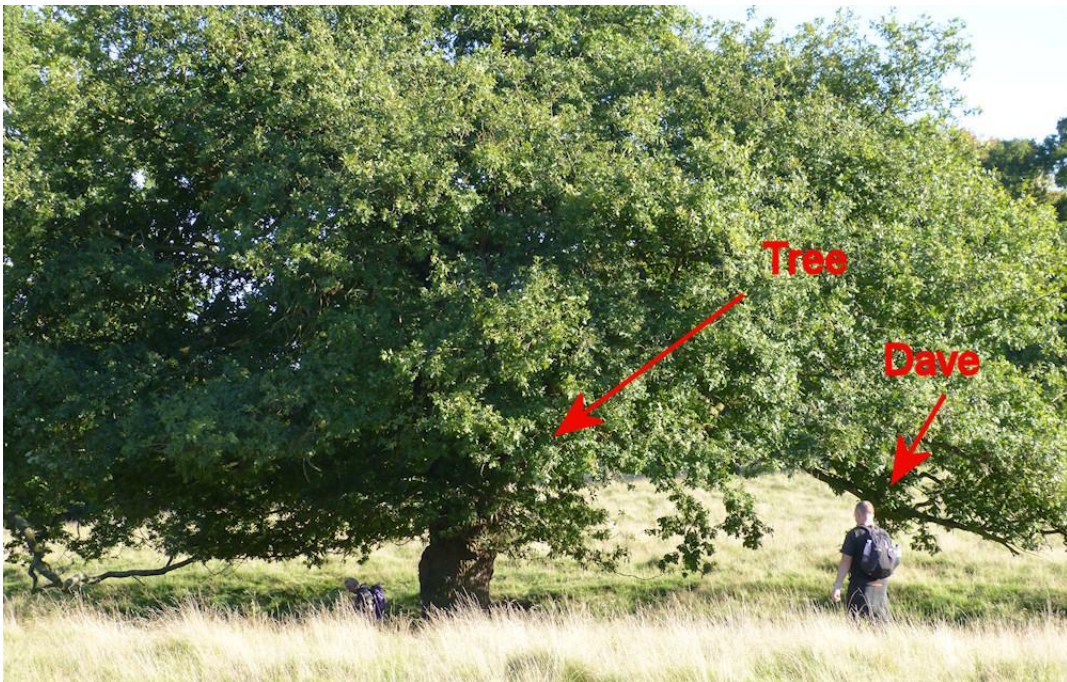


After the FoE left the rest of Tatton was at our mercy (and I was thinking we must have seen most of it by now - how wrong can you be!!) Totting up 'the list' it was obvious 100 was a tad ambitious - so a revised target of 80 species for the day was set - still an amazing number.

Back to those amazing structures



OK quite impressive I grant you - but then so are nature's structures too. We saw massive trees - some more than likely older than the Hall itself, (I felt the need to label this pic so you were in no doubt which was which)



I guess I really ought to mention the Red Deer, the Speckled woods fluttering around us in the late sunshine, oh and the variety of fungi - gills, pores, maze gills, blobs of slime moulds and so I could go on and on (the ice cream van was a great sight too!)

Ok there may be a lot of long, latin names - do I know them all - no but I am picking up a few. There are so many varieties - do I know them all - no but I am picking up a few. Does it matter that I don't know them - no because I can still fully appreciate them and every time I join a walk like this I might just get to know one or two more. Anyone with any interest whatsoever in natural history and their surroundings I believe would be astounded at the amazing world of fungi - Fungal Punk Dave - I doff my cap to you sir - I really don't know how you do it - but I for one am glad you do!!!

And 'the list'? 90 species is a pretty good tally in anybody's book.