

## **Guilfield Area - 8/10/2019**

**Organiser Maureen Preen**

The weather forecast was terrible, but we were blessed with a beautiful warm sunny day as 34 of us gathered in Guilfield Churchyard, where mycologist Les Hughes, of Coalbrookdale, explained about Arched Earthstars of which there were dozens under the yews. I had seen these in 2000 when Don Jones led a field trip, and they were the reason I agreed to lead this outing, so it was very satisfying to hear many comments of "I've never seen those before."

We later split into 3 groups, and I'm indebted to Sue Southam and Roy Turner, who I 'volunteered' to help. Roy led the mycologist and his group around Gaer Fawr, while Sue took her group into Trawscoed Woods, where during my recce I was enchanted to find lots of short chains of the 3-winged nuts of hornbeam. Known as iron wood, hornbeam was used for the cogs, axles and spokes of machines before iron took its place.

For those wanting a flat walk, I led my group over the bridge across the Bele Brook and through the meadows to the track leading to the Lodge. We crossed the main road, went up Celyn Lane and around Granllyn Pool, where we were glad to rescue a Pale Tussock caterpillar which was crossing the road.

We all gathered at the King's Head to display the fungus finds which Les took home to identify - apart from the *Phallus impudicus* which someone was wicked enough to include in her collection. Fortunately we were allowed to use the picnic table for the display, before repairing to the pub for a really amazing tea.

Maureen Preen