



COURSE PROGRAMMES (see p3-5).

This will be a mix of presentations, activities and outside forays in different locations over several weeks to see fungi in different habitat and soil types with different fruiting dates. As the appearance of fungi is highly unpredictable and dependent on weather, we reserve the right to cancel or postpone these days!

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR? This is for complete beginners and for those who have dabbled with fungi over the years but never had time to spend on it or with someone to help develop their id skills. Note: limited numbers!

COURSE FEE for single standalone days or series inc refreshments

- **Suffolk Naturalists' Society members** @ £25 per day
- **Non-SNS members** @ £50/day booked or £130 for all three days

If you can't make the first introductory date 16th Oct, try booking on either of the two (shorter) intro days being held at Shimpling Hall Farm on 10 & 24 Oct <https://shimplingparkfarm.co.uk/whats-on/>

TO BOOK: See booking form on p6

FUNGI IDENTIFICATION

– THREE DAYS (or standalone single days) FOR ENTHUSIASTIC BEGINNERS

In collaboration with Suffolk Naturalists' Society

9.00-4pm 16th & 23rd October, 5th November 2025

At Mildenhall nr Sudbury & Raydon Wood

Juliet Hawkins, an enthusiastic amateur and fungi recorder, will provide an introduction to helping you attain or improve the following skills in the field and back at home with respect to the 'easier' macrofungi with gills and pores:

- To know what fungi features and field clues to look for
- To assess and describe a mushroom – and understand the terminology
- To use simple identification keys based on spore colour and to try some keys for specific genera including Milkcaps, Boletes and Agaricus
- To take the 'right' photos that will help identify fungi
- To know where to get more help from apps/internet
- To identify some macrofungi to genus, and sometimes to species, such as Milkcaps, Boletes, Funnel, Blewits, Waxcaps, Parasols, Puffballs.
- To submit records online
- To briefly touch on edibility of fungi – or not!
- To know when to give up on difficult species or to get further training!

As October gives way to November, we will discover different fungi that fruit later in the year. The course will not turn you into an expert overnight but is intended to make you feel more confident about identifying fungi. Also, the courses cannot begin to cover all genera – there are so many!

Some feedback from 2024 courses run by Juliet Hawkins

Juliet's enthusiasm is infectious.... Brilliantly delivered – serious but not too overwhelming!
(Ruth, artist)

I loved the whole day! Learnt SO much! Spent all night thinking of the fungi we had seen. Such fun. I am a convert! (Phillippa)

I very much enjoyed being on the receiving end of your contagious enthusiasm and your lightly carried knowledge which immediately made me feel it was totally acceptable not to know anything! As always, you speak so well - I would definitely recommend it. (Lucy, farmer & woodland owner)

Really fun, informative day – good pace! Got me excited about fungi again! (Jenny, conservation adviser)

... the venue and company excellent. Dick fell asleep on the sofa as soon as we got in! Fungi work can be very tiring. (Sandy, musician)

Very enjoyable, not too much information to take in on a vast subject. (Dick, retired)



Juliet Hawkins is an enthusiastic amateur with a passion for fungi – who has dabbled for years – and is keen to encourage people new to mycology ... and maybe set up a South Suffolk fungi group.

Day 1: Introduction to Autumn Fungi identification

Thursday 16 October 9am to 4pm at the Tudor Barn, Mildenhurst, CO10 9NY

9am	Arrive, coffee – and more coffee mid-morning.
9.15am	Introductory talk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's in a name? • How do fungi live? • What to take on a fungi foray • Books, phones, apps • Recording your finds
	Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing fungi ... to aid identification • <i>Course participants will be given fungi specimens to describe and key out – or use fresh specimens they have brought themselves</i>
	Quick pre-lunch outside foray – and indoors to look at finds
	Talk: To eat or not to eat?
12.30-4pm	<i>BYO picnic lunch – Juliet will be having mushroom soup of course</i>
	Foray in mixed farmland habitats – identify in the field and back indoors



Day 2: Introduction to Woodland & Grassland Fungi identification

Thursday 23rd October 9am to 4pm at the Tudor Barn, Mildenhall, CO10 9NY

9am	<i>Arrive, coffee – and more coffee later in morning</i>
9.15am	Introductory presentation talk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different fungi genera including the most typical of the season eg the 'Mushrooms', Boletes, Milkcaps, Brittlegills, Parasols, Amanitas, Knights, Funnels, Blewits, Clubs, Corals, Earthstars and Puffballs • Easier differences to see in the field • Reference to their edibility – or not!
	Talk with activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing some of the fungi ... to aid identification • <i>Course participants will be given fungi specimens to describe – or use fresh(!) specimens they have brought themselves</i>
12-4pm	Afternoon foray in woodland, grassland and other habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Location in private woodland in Mildenhall Thicks SSSI, kind permission of Lady Getty</i> • <i>BYO picnic lunch</i> • <i>Depending on weather and location, we will process finds and identify back at Mildenhall or in a shed in a wood</i>



Day 3: Introduction to woodland fungi identification

Wednesday 5th November 9am to 4pm at Raydon Wood, nr Hadleigh by kind permission James Buckle – *exact access/parking details will be given later*

9am	<p>Arrive, coffee from a thermos and flapjacks.</p> <p><i>This is the loveliest private ancient woodland nature reserve wood, sensitively managed by woodland managers Graham Sayell and Steve Withers. Lots of different species of fungi can be found here associated with the diverse range of tree species, with dead wood, veteran trees, and wide grassy rides.</i></p>
9.15am	<p>Introductory talk in a shed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different fungi genera most likely to encounter • Easier differences to see in the field
	<p>Talk with activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing and identifying some of the fungi • <i>Course participants will be given fungi specimens to describe – or use fresh(!) specimens they have brought themselves</i>
Finish 4pm	<p>Morning & afternoon foray in woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BYO picnic lunch</i> • <i>We will identify specimens in the wood and back at the wood shed</i>



BOOKING

COURSE FEE

- **Suffolk Naturalists' Society members** @ £25 per day
- **Non-SNS members** @ £50/day booked or £130 for all three days.
- *Note that the discount SNS receives more than pays for a year's SNS £20 membership! Check-out <https://sns.org.uk/join/>*
- If you can't make all the days, don't worry as each day can stand-alone.
- Numbers will be strictly limited to a small manageable number.
- (If you can't make the first introductory day on 16th October, try booking on either of two shorter introductory days that Juliet is running at Shimpling Hall Farm on 10th and 24th October <https://shimplingparkfarm.co.uk/whats-on/> - note this is completely independent of Suffolk Naturalists' Society.)
- If you can't make any of the days, let us know you're interested for another time/year, another year and we'll put you on a list.

Please email Juliet Hawkins @ gfhawkinsltd@outlook.com (enquiries 01787 247235) with the following details:

- *Name of course applicant(s):*
- *Mobile contact:*
- *Suffolk Naturalist Society member?*
- *Please indicate whether you wish to join Suffolk Naturalists' Society (the discount you receive more than pays for a year's SNS membership!)*
- *Day(s) you wish to book:*
- *Fungi experience/level of knowledge eg complete beginner, have dabbled for years:*
- *Key interest:*
- *Any mobility issues:*

On receipt of this, Juliet will email you with provisional reservation and request for full payment via bank transfer for payment within 24 hours, and what to bring with you. **Check your junk folder if you don't hear from Juliet within a day or two.**