



The fungus *Phyllotopsis nidulans* photographed in The Sling. (photo: I Julian)

Readers of my previous articles for the magazine must think that I am over enthusiastic about fungi, but last autumn was a very good season for many varieties. The local meadows provided plenty of Parasol and Horse Mushrooms whilst Havant Thicket provided Chanterelles and Stansted delivered Horn of Plenty Mushrooms for the gourmets. Meanwhile there were various rarer specimens to be found including Bird's Nest Fungi, Verdigris Toadstool, Tawny Grisette and Magpie Fungus in the Sling, and all within 200 yards of the Finchdean Road entrance. However, the rarest find was also in the Sling and is sometimes called Orange Mock

Oyster. Its official name is *Phyllotopsis nidulans*, and it has only ever been recorded twice in Hampshire (yes, I know that Stansted is in W Sussex!), and about twenty-five times in the whole of the UK. It occurs much more frequently on the continent, but it requires a lot of imagination to think how the spores have managed to reach our locality.

Spring is already showing signs of its approach, our resident birds are pairing up and the early flowers are appearing. Once again, with lengthening hours of daylight, we can look forward to nature getting into its annual routine. Please continue to let me know of anything of interest that you come across (Tel: 023 92413287)

Jim Berry



Do You Need A Gardener?

Garden Wonders is a Garden Maintenance Agency providing professional, local gardeners selected and vetted by horticultural professional and qualified Garden Designer, Debra Foster (www.debrafoster.co.uk). Our gardeners are certainly not "jobbers"! Therefore, all gardening tasks are carried out correctly and efficiently and a character reference for your gardener is automatically provided. For more information:

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boundaries and I must assure you that before anything is decided there will be a consultation period. This is not going to happen imminently and we do have lots of time to talk to the powers that will be making the decisions so I will keep you informed.

We are still awaiting the decision on the Southdowns National Park and again I will keep you all posted when I am aware of anything that affects the village.

One of the things that I have been very actively involved with within the village is the roads and pavements. I am sure you all have been waiting with bated breath to see how long the patching work will last. This, I have been assured is a revolutionary way of repairing tarmac. Only time will tell, but I have contacted Hampshire Highways about resurfacing the whole area from the Castle Stores, around the Green and up to the Church on the Green. I am still waiting for the reply.

The pavements have also been on my agenda and that also is still being discussed, so by the time I write my next article, hopefully I will be able to update you.

Please remember that I am only too pleased to help with anything that may be a problem and perhaps help solve it

Marge Harvey

MINDING YOUR Qs AND As

Saturday February 28th saw a hearty band of intellectuals sharpening their pencils in the parish hall, Links Lane ready to do battle at the RCA's family quiz and jazz night.

Helped by the steady flow of New World wines demonstrated by The Ivy Wine Warehouse, Emsworth, some ten teams poured over a picture round and answered questions on a range of subjects covering geography, food and general knowledge.

New RCA chairman, Steve Green was the jovial quizmaster, with committee member, Mike King setting and marking the questions.

The fact that the eventual winners, The Yeah But No Buts were made up largely of other Committee members and their spouses was purely coincidental, but they received the appropriate barracking nevertheless.

A good, fun time was had by all. Don't miss it when it comes round again.