

# FUNGI IN SCHOOLS

for  
CHILDREN  
TEACHERS  
PARENTS

and other  
interested parties



## FIRST FORAY

In January we looked at a mushroom bought from a shop and in April we tried to make spore prints also from a 'shop mushroom' because at this time of year there is not very much to find even if you do go out and look in the woods and fields.

Things get more exciting from about July and August — the time will depend on the weather which should be 'not too dry' and 'not too wet'; 'not too hot nor too cold', i.e. it has to be 'just right'. By September there should be plenty of fungi for you to find. This is the season of the **Fungus Foray** which is just a special name for a walk through the woods to look for fungi. If you have never been on one before you may wonder what you should take with you.

The first essential is some **FOOD** as you may be out all day and it is hungry work looking for toadstools.

The second is **WATERPROOF CLOTHING** (mac and wellies) as it does often seem to rain, this may help to make the toadstools grow but also makes the paths very muddy.

The third (some people may say I have my priorities wrong — you can look this word up in a dictionary) is your **COLLECTING GEAR**. You will need:

- 1 **a small flat-bottomed basket** — if you take one that is too large it can get rather heavy by the end of the day.
- 2 **a dibber or small stick** — this is to help you dig up the toadstool gently and carefully and not just snap off the stem like a beginner. The experts do not like to be asked to name toadstools with broken stems and can get quite fierce if often asked to do so.
- 3 **a note book and pencil** to write down names and other important things. There is even a special one with waterproof paper that I found at one shop.

*These are illustrated in the photograph on the back cover.*

To help you start on your first **Fungus Foray** there will be a special section for you at the Oxshott foray, to be held on Sunday morning, 27th September, 1987. Look, in the parking place, for a stick with a flag showing the two friendly frogs (see top of page). We hope that one of us will be able to draw the frogs on a flag — but even if we cannot — the stick will be there.

**Next time:** Truffles, Dogs and something to eat



**FIRST FORAY**  
you will need food,  
mac and wellies,  
empty basket,  
notebook and pencil,  
small stick or dibber,  
warm damp weather.

(Photo: G. Godwin)