



# Bob Brind-Surch Natures Photos



## Natures Photos

12 Stanion Road  
Brigstock  
Nr Kettering  
Northamptonshire  
NN14 3HW

07983 427202  
01536 373977

[bob@naturesphotos.co.uk](mailto:bob@naturesphotos.co.uk)  
[www.naturesphotos.co.uk](http://www.naturesphotos.co.uk)

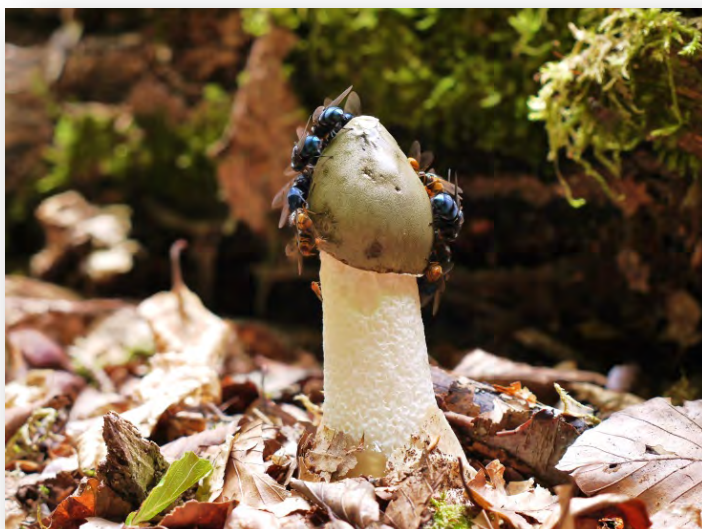
## Fungi Closeup and Macro Photo Workshop

Fungi are the perfect subject for a photographer wanting to capture the close up and macro images. Be warned though it is one of those subjects that can become very addictive and you can easily become hooked. Fungi come in a huge variety of colours, shapes and sizes and the peak autumn season reveals them at their best and as wonderful subjects to photograph. Once you know where to look and have mastered the basic photographic and lighting techniques you will soon be perfecting your skills and capturing great images.

To improve your chances of successfully photographing fungi it helps to understand something of their natural history. For this workshop I have teamed up with Justin Long, an experienced mycologist, who has been studying fungi for around 15 years and is an active member of the Buckinghamshire Fungus Group. He has led the very popular Milton Keynes Parks Trust Adult Education Fungi Forays since 2008, and hosted events, forays and talks on fungi for a wide number of different groups and organisations. In his spare time, he likes nothing more than wandering through the woods in the company of experts in mycology (the study of fungi), or in the company of his wife and three young boys. He is thus the perfect person to introduce us to this exciting subject and from whom to learn more about identifying different types of fungi including the dangers of certain varieties.



I am a teacher with nearly 40 years' experience both as a wildlife photographer and specialist in close up and macro photography. I regularly give talks on this subject to camera clubs and other interested groups. I also lead a number of other specialist workshops often teaming up with experts in their specific field. I thoroughly enjoy helping and supporting others as they experiment with and learn new techniques in wildlife photography.



Macro and close up is a specific and fascinating field of photography which all too often can seem baffling and expensive.

Through this workshop I will attempt to dispel both of these myths and to help you to understand just how easy and fun it is and can

be. I will introduce you to some of my preferred techniques for photographing these surprisingly picturesque subjects looking to take best advantage of what natural light is available as well as how this can be augmented to optimise the settings the subjects are found in. As with all my workshops my aim for this one is quite simple. It is to help you master many of the field techniques required of a competent wildlife



photographer and to come away having improved your technique, your knowledge of the subjects and with some memorable images. As I will be seeking to help you experiment with and learn new techniques I limit the number attending this workshop to a maximum of 8 so that I can spend as much time with each of you as you'd like or want.

One of my earliest inspirations in the field of macro photography was Heather Angel who wrote

*“Nature has an unlimited capacity to intrigue and delight – from the delicate whorls of a seashell, the spiral tendrils of climbing plants, the hairs on a stinging nettle or the hexagonal facets of an insect’s eye.*

*Taking macro photographs is a means not just of recording details but also conveying this beauty and fascination to other people by opening their eyes to details that would otherwise pass unnoticed.”*

Fungi with their myriad colours and forms and which all too often go unnoticed are just such wonderful subjects to capture and share with others. By partnering with Justin for this workshop I can ensure that you will both get to understand the world of fungi and at the same time gain new skills in photographing them.

This particular workshop is based near Milton Keynes where we have an excellent quantity, quality and variety of fungi to work with. It is an area Justin and I know very well and central to most major motorway routes for those travelling from further afield.

## **Photography level and equipment**

Successful macro photography can require some specialist equipment but excellent images can be captured without investing in the expensive lenses and cameras. Some more modern compact cameras with their excellent close up and telephoto performance are equally as effective. Whilst these will be perfectly adequate for this workshop to develop further skills in close up and macro you may benefit from using a DSLR camera and from being fairly conversant with its controls as well as the basic principles of general photography. Unlike many of my workshops where I specify a particular lens the choice for fungi photography is less simple. I generally take 3 lenses - telephoto, macro, and a wide-angle. If you don't have a macro lens a set of extension tubes is more than adequate and indeed is all I often use. Together these will enable you to produce a wide range of styles to suit the species and habitat combinations we will come across.



An electronic flash gun or small reflector will also prove useful for providing a little extra light when required. One of the aspects I will explore on the day is the use of light, both natural and artificially.

Some form of camera support will also prove useful although a conventional tripod is only of any use if it allows you to get down very low. A simple bean bag or even your camera bag or rolled up coat is often more useful to provide a secure rest for your camera.

The day will start with a brief introduction to the techniques and equipment required to photograph fungi and I will pitch my presentation to suit the experience of the group. As we embark on our foray I will assist with direct explanations and demonstrations of relevant techniques plus camera settings, lighting etc.

## Fitness level and clothing required

We will be walking through woodland and using a number of very different locations but none will be very far and all can be accessed from woodland paths. The ground may however be wet and rough underfoot and you would be well advised to wear reasonably strong walking shoes or boots. It is regrettable that this workshop may not be suitable for wheel chair users. If you have any particular requirements please do contact me first at [bob@naturesphotos.co.uk](mailto:bob@naturesphotos.co.uk).

We will hope for a fine reasonably warm day but please wear suitable warm waterproof clothing preferably with plenty of layers so you can remain comfortable if conditions should change. Some of your best shots may be taken sitting or lying on the ground so please be prepared to get dirty !

As we will be visiting a number of different locations you do however need to be able to pack up and transport your camera equipment from location to location. A good camera bag will therefore be useful.

We will stop near a pub for lunch but this is not included in the cost so you are more than welcome to bring sandwiches if you would prefer.



All dates, availability and costs are advertised on my website, [www.naturesphotos.co.uk](http://www.naturesphotos.co.uk).

Other dates may be available if groups wanted to book them. Please contact me for further information.

To book places please visit my website and complete an online booking form or contact me direct, details below.

Telephone 01536 373977 or Mobile 07983 427202 (preferred) or email [bob@naturesphotos.co.uk](mailto:bob@naturesphotos.co.uk).

*Bob Brind-Surch*



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