**Rutland Natural History Society**

**PLANT GALL REPORT FOR 2023 Recorder Roy Lemmon**

It is difficult to know how the weather affects plant gall production as it is undoubtedly a complex affair. In 2023, after a dry initial two months, with February recording just 23% of the expected rainfall, the year ended up with some 135% of the expected total rainfall.

The number of galls caused by *Chromista* and micro-fungi were up on 2022 by an appreciable amount; but while the number of Rust species galls was a little down, the number of reports, i.e. places where they occurred was well up. These observations tie up with the wetter year conditions of 2023.

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The number of galls on Oak, mostly caused by Gall Wasps, were down by a third over the year although some of the reported numbers were up. There was one new addition to our County list in the Dyer’s Gall, caused by the asexual state of *Andricus* *infectorius*; but on the other hand, no Silk Button Galls were found. Small numbers of Smooth Spangle and Common Spangle Galls were seen.

Our thanks go out to those members who have sent in records.