

Species of the week

Stinkhorn fungi

The eggs



These strange looking “eggs” found by Trish Krill will soon erupt into a phallic looking fungus as seen below. They are fertilised by flies that are attracted to them by producing a foul smell of rotting flesh, hence the name, and are usually found by smell rather than sight. Stinkhorns are associated with leaf litter and are found in woods and along hedgerows. In the late nineteenth century ladies used to destroy this fungus when found to stop young boys getting un-natural thoughts about girls. One of these ladies was Charles Darwin’s granddaughter!

Young ladies beware! Fully formed stinkhorns.

