

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 48 March 2008



Colour variation in *Tremella mesenterica*

Photo Tom Kirby 2002

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Mycological Society

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Editorial

We are now in our tenth year. The NEFSG, one could safely say, has come of age. Since its inception, the Group has retained a core membership of friends and like minded people. The Newsletter is a major component in the structural integrity of the Group, and we rely upon it for its published information, short stories and details of forays, social outings and future events. In turn, we rely upon the members who give up their time to write the articles, take photographs for inclusion and help in the organising of all the elements which come together to produce this worthy organ. It is the "coming together" bit that this Editorial is all about.

Firstly, though, it is worth mentioning why it is necessary to write this Editorial at all! Do not worry, gentle readers, (*Oh God, he's back! Ed.*) we have not handed over the running of the Asylum to the inmates. No, no. Those of you who attended the January 2008 AGM will be aware that it is a pre-requisite of any well constituted interest group to turn-over the committee with regularity to prevent metaphorical stagnation.....this awareness may have been deduced by simply being present at the AGM, but more likely, one hopes, by the expressed wishes of the Committee to keep the Group interested, informed and **involved**.

Accordingly, the Committee announced that changes were due. The details can be found in the Minutes, published a little later in this Newsletter. Though the Committee is constitutionally open to de-selection in due course, some changes were imperative, as circumstances often dictate. So whilst thanks are due to everyone involved for their time freely given over the years, this editorial wishes to record special gratitude to Keith Cunningham, who has relinquished the reins of editorial power with immediate effect. Thank you, Keith, for all your good work.

Fortunately, we are not losing Keith in any sense other than by title. The committee is pleased to note that Keith's continued presence will ensure that the Newsletter remains the NEFSG's primary information source, and that the printing of the Newsletter will continue to reside in his safe hands.

Consideration was given at the last committee meeting regarding the absolute necessity, or otherwise, for classical editorial control. A consensus was reached and it was loosely agreed that provided that the Newsletter was as far as possible technically correct, then the editing role could be somewhat curtailed.

What this means is that the corrective editorial role will be by proof-reading on a pre-press basis.

The production of the newsletter will become a three-part operation, that of composition, proof reading and printing. This arrangement is very satisfactory and means that the writer (*Oh God...it IS him! Ed.*) will put together the whole of the Newsletter in a first draft form, Alan Legg will then cast his critical eye over the assemblage, and duly correct, eliminate or grudgingly permit. Once satisfactory, the tattered remains will be passed to Keith for printing and distribution.

It should work very well, but *this* Newsletter is essentially on a first trial run....so please be tolerant of any failings!

Having ploughed your way through to this point I hope you will excuse a plea. For the new plan to work, we need input from you, the Membership. I make no apologies for going back to the beginning of this page. You may feel that the Committee gives the impression that within the ranks of the NEFSG individual members need to "do" more than just "be" members. This is a misconception but in any group such as ours, the membership is what makes us what we are. Our survival and continued success depends upon us all. The collecting and collating of records is indisputably the core business of the group and in this endeavour we have excelled. Is this enough?

Not everyone feels able to submit articles to the newsletter but what is important is that those members who *can* contribute *do* contribute, for the benefit of all.

As our Chairman, Gordon, has often said, in his opinion the NEFSG is one of the best "societies" he is involved with....and he should know! We have now built up a substantial mycological database, we have maintained membership at much the same level for the past ten years and we have benefited as individuals, to varying degrees, from the wisdom and expertise of those around us. Knowledge at all levels is a precious thing provided it is shared.....so send in your VALUED contributions to the Newsletter NOW!

Send your contributions to Tom Kirby or Alan Legg
Any content, any format, any medium, any delivery method.

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36 Carleton Drive,
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Co.Durham
DL3 9QP

North Eastern Fungus Study Group
Minutes of the Eleventh AGM held at Rainton Meadows
on Saturday 12TH January 2008 at 11.a.m.

1. Apologies for absence:

Christine Meek, Catherine Gillie, Pat Wood, Peter Holmes, Phil Sanderson, Doug McCutcheon, Gayle & Chris Lowe, Aubrey and Edith Colling, Vince Jones, 12 members attended.

2. Election of Officers:

Alan Bunn proposed the re-election of Gordon Simpson as Chairperson, Alan Legg as Group Leader, Tom Kirby as Treasurer, Keith Cunningham as Newsletter Editor, Andy McLay as Foray Organiser and Babs Walton as Secretary. The motion was seconded and carried.

3. Minutes of the last AGM meeting:

Accepted as accurate.

4. Matters arising: -

Website

Tom Kirby will now liaise with Bernhard Otto on this.

Manheim Trip

Members to be contacted.

5. Suggested 2008 Programme:

08th March - Micro Photography - Alan Bunn - Rainton Meadow
03rd May - Belsay Estate - Tom Kirby
14th June - Social Luncheon - Tom Kirby - Blakey Ridge
19th July - Lartington Hall - Gordon Simpson
20th Sept - Cropton Forest - Gordon Simpson
27th Sept - Hudswell Wood - Alan Legg - Round Howe
18th Oct - Lockwood Beck & Castleton Moor - Andy McLay
25th Oct - Blanchland - Keith Cunningham
08th Nov - North Gare (Dunes) - Tom Kirby and Alan Bunn

6. Treasurer's Report: There is negligible change to last year's figures so again, there is no need for the subscriptions to be increased this year. There is still a surplus of £300.

7. A.O.B.

(a) The Group: It was decided that the title of Group Leader along with some other committee member titles were no longer necessary. Titles of committee members will be limited to Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary with other members having more fluid responsibilities.

(b) Discussion on Foray start times concluded that forays should be scheduled to DEPART from meeting place at 11:00 am PROMPT.

8. Date of the 12th AGM: 11.am Saturday 10th Jan 2009 @ Rainton Meadows.

Any suggestions for foray venues are welcome. Please contact any committee member with details. Whilst we cannot promise an immediate response all suggestions will be considered on merit. If you have been on a foray why not write in and tell us about it! Photographs are always welcome.

The Great Winter 2007 Competition

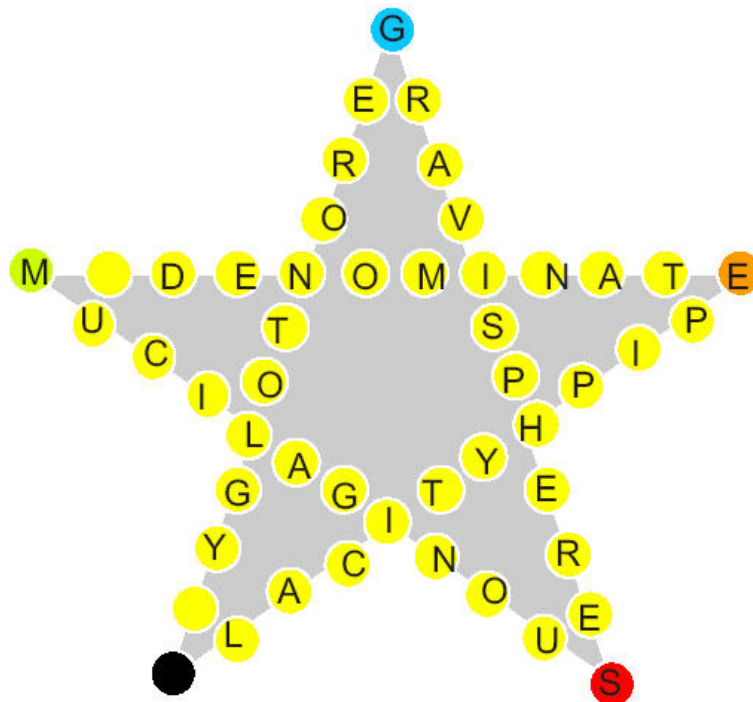
Now I know it wasn't easy...but I think it was just ONE word that prevented the Competition being solved. Yep...that's right, NOBODY managed to get it right. I intend making next year's competition with multi-choice answers! Because of the huge distance between success and failure this year, I think it is best to ROLL-OVER the prize until next year. So, be advised, next year's prize is £50-00 cash!

The answer to the 2007 Competition is published below. It seems that "gravispheres" was the problem. I have since looked up the word in different sources and find the simplest is the best:

"The spherical region of space dominated by the gravitational field of a celestial body."

This is from the Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. So there.

The Answer



Archie McAdam's Keys to the British Genera of Agarics and Boleti

For those who are struggling with the identification of fungi, we have a copy of the above keys. The work runs to some 100 pages in Adobe Acrobat format but hard copies can be produced for those who require this form. Alan Bunn is field-testing the Keys this year....and Archie has expressed his pleasure that we are finding his efforts useful. Please contact Tom Kirby for further information.

MANNHEIM TRIP

Babs Walton

The invitation for this trip appeared on page 10 of the November Newsletter 46.

At the AGM in January four people were keen to take advantage of this kind invitation from Bernhard Otto to visit his group in Germany, the 'Mykologischer Arbeitskreis Rhein-Neckar', or 'MAK' (which sounds a much better name to my ears!) in October.

Since then I have contacted members to enquire if there were others who would like to go. We are now a group of ten.

Tom Kirby has found a good return flight deal and has organised transport to and from Manchester Airport so excitement about the visit is growing. At the date of printing we are all booked up for our flights. We will keep you all informed of our progress.

A Letter from Michael Jordan of the ABFG

I recently received a letter from Michael Jordan following an enquiry I had made to him regarding access to the on-line ABFG database. It is a matter of record that the NEFSG are considering adding the records of our group to this rapidly expanding resource.

It is not that there are insurmountable objections to this course of action but the Committee has discussed the issues involved and decided, recently, to adopt a "wait and see" policy.

A cautious approach to the dissemination of the NEFSG records is necessary. Quite apart from the issue of "ownership" of the individual records, there is a not unnatural wish to see that the final published information is as accurate as possible. Whilst we have had good reason to be satisfied that our records have been scrutinised and judged before inputting, there will always be some errors. This is particularly and, perhaps inconsequentialy, truer of those finds which are "common".

Stating the obvious, from the sheer bulk of records submitted to ANY database, there will be a significantly higher proportion of "common" finds than those classified as "rare". Now whilst it is rewarding and even exciting to make rare finds, the job of recording and collating must make no distinction between the rare and the common....except in one sense. The degree of error in mistaking a *Collybia dryophila* for a *Collybia peronata*, for example, is statistically insignificant, especially as both are more often than not found in similar locations and with similar year on year frequency. Any such errors in identification by individual collectors would probably balance out (although that does not excuse the mistaken identity!) in time. This is particularly true if the proliferation of both species leads to but a cursory glance and a hastily jotted down record. That is the way of things at the grass-root field mycology level. With "rare" finds MUCH greater care is

required in identification...and established procedures make this so.

Can you hear the crescendo of protest rising? Then it is likely that you are an ardent mycologist with a dedicated and professional attitude to your hobby or even more likely, your vocation. Do you hear not a whimper? Then the chances are you are a dedicated field mycologist who greatly enjoys the hobby and genuinely wishes to contribute to the mycological knowledge base in the best way possible.

Can these two worthy sectors be usefully amalgamated into a single complimentary whole?

To answer this question affirmatively requires assurances from both sides. The dedicated mycologist must give recognition to the efforts of the less skilled enthusiast, and must encourage and assist, with patience and advice. The grass-root hobbyist must persevere at whatever level he or she has attained, and must keep recording.

In the original letter received from Michael Jordan it was apparent that concern over accuracy of the records was an issue. Fear over misinformation in published records is never going to go away though it will be of greater significance to the professional mycologist than to the amateur, yet it is upon the amateur (a not entirely justified term) that both the BMS and the ABFG databases depend.

After we had sought permission to publish the letter in its entirety by way of allaying any such fears, Michael sent the document following. It better outlines the position and progress of the ABFG database and argues for its acceptance on merit.

The NEFSG is currently open to the views of the membership on the issue of submission of the NEFSG records to the ABFG. It should be noted that the views of the membership will, as always, be taken into account but not by clairvoyant means! Please comment on the situation by committing your thoughts to paper. All such communications will be assumed permissible for publication.

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DATABASE

We need to touch on the new ABFG database because I gather that it will be high on the agenda at the British Mycological Society in-house group meeting in June. The ABFG is not invited to participate in that meeting so this is the only opportunity we have, face to face, to balance the arguments.

The decision by the Board of Trustee is not simply to impose a duplicate product or make change for the sake of change. It is to move conservation of fungi forward through, I hope, better application of the data that local groups work to provide.

I can précis the rationale in terms of 4 elements:

1. **Choice.** In 2007 we had reached a point where the ABFG represented about 4/5th of UK mycological field interest and it was felt, with those numbers in mind that ABFG members should have the opportunity to deliver and control data through their own organisation as distinct from routing it through an organisation over which they have little or no influence. But this was not the first option considered.

Back in 2000, when the ABFG was building up field membership numbers, there was an FCF proposal for an independent data management Trust, made up as a non-political 'level playing field' of ABFG/BMS and others. The response from the BMS was negative and since then various overtures from here to discuss the data issue have gone unanswered.

2. **Quality.** This database has been developed with a brilliant cutting-edge control system that allows for deposition and analysis of records online in a way that has not been available. You now have nine or ten interrelated search and sort functions. It also gives recorders the *ability* to upload and manage their own data. It is nonsense, by the way, to suggest that quality will in some way suffer.

3. **Track record.** Accession of data to a database is a first step. The importance in terms of conservation is how that data is then managed and I think there are very few people, looking back at the Important Fungus Areas project, the Biodiversity Action Plan project and above all the Red Data list project, who believe that these have been handled well. This database will give the ABFG influence over data projects in order to get them better managed in the future. I would like to see proper management rules put in place with far more openness than we have now.

4. **Endorsement.** Having looked at the elements that I've mentioned, the National Biodiversity Network Trust decided to put its support behind this database. They feel that any theoretical inconvenience of having 2 national fungus datasets is outweighed by the potential benefits. Any argument that in some way this impedes mycological conservation is a non-starter. The NBN Trust would

never have backed the database otherwise. They are supporting it because they believe that the ABFG can move things forward.

The database is here to stay. A lot of serious thought and money has gone into it. How much influence the ABFG can bring to bear now depends on how much support it gets. It has already received 30,000 records by way of endorsement but that is still small beer.

Some of you will be attending the BMS June meeting and, let's not kid ourselves, there will be fierce opposition because this database breaks a monopoly. There will I am sure be all kinds of cogent arguments in favour of restricting accession of data to the FRDBI, one way or another.

I do have to tell you, because I agreed to do so, that in the context of 7 years of non-communication, within days of the ABFG database going online I received an email proposing that the BMS should take ABFG data and 'incorporate a stub record in the FRDBI comprising each name and ABFG record number'. And I received an example of how it would work. The ABFG record would be noted as a new entry in the FRDBI on the BMS web site and this would then take you to the individual data record page as it opens up on the ABFG database. In other words, a little more candidly, the ABFG dataset would end up *de facto* on the BMS website, and it doesn't take rocket science to work out where that would have led.

Others may also choose to imitate the ABFG database. But whether this would do anything to resolve the shortcomings in data application is another matter were we to revert back to a monopoly.

I will end with this thought about monopolies. If everyone in town is obliged to shop at Tesco then its management dictates what you get on the shelves. Open up a Sainsbury's or a Waitrose and the consumer reaps the benefit. I am proud of what we have achieved for field mycology and conservation and much of ABFG initiative has been subsequently imitated – supposedly the sincerest form of flattery. I am confident that we have delivered a high quality product, the best of what a database needs to offer. I hope the ABFG national database will be judged and supported on its own merit, not on political or spurious conservation arguments. So I would ask you, if you are a recorder or are responsible for data, to think as a Tesco shopper.

BOOK REVIEW

The Genus *Russula* in Great Britain with synoptic keys to species

For anyone who likes the medium-large fleshy toadstools of the order Russulales, it is now comparatively easy and inexpensive to make a start on serious individual study. In *Lactarius* we already have two recent guides: "The Genus *Lactarius*" which forms Volume Two of the Fungi of Northern Europe series, and Ronnie Raynor's posthumous study of the genus *Lactarius*, recently published by RBG Edinburgh as Volume Nine of the British Fungus Flora.

These are now complemented by Geoff Kibby's inexpensive study of *Russula* published privately and available from the author in one of two possible ways. If, like me, you are old-fashioned, send a cheque for £18.00 to G. Kibby at 56, Bodnant Gardens, Raynor's Park, London SW20 0UD to cover postage and packing as well as the cost of the book. Alternatively you may pay via PayPal to dgscience@ aol.com . My copy arrived within a fortnight.

The A4 paperback is attractively arranged and printed on good quality paper with a plasticised cover. It has keys to and descriptions of over 160 species and, as a bonus, there are the author's own photographs of over 60 species on 37 plates along with a few coloured photomicrographs. There is a brief Introduction followed by an explanation of how to use the synoptic keys found next in the book. After the species descriptions are useful short sections on: excluded, uncertain and difficult species, preparing specimens for examination with a microscope, and drying techniques. There follows a useful one-page sample *Russula* Recording Sheet photocopyable to accompany herbarium specimens.

I don't pretend to know much about Russulas or even to like them much but I have made a start on using my own copy of this book. Already by July 12, with its help, I have managed to pin down the identity of a regularly appearing local *Russula* known to me since 2002, as *R. exalbicans*, a species to be found with birch early in the summer months.

Some rare fungi found in Hertfordshire in 2007

Kerry Robinson and Alan Legg

I only gradually became aware of Kerry's mycological interests and her special love of the small cup fungi we still call discomycetes. Several years ago, she wrote an account of a search for dune fungi. So few people become interested in small discos and fungi of unusual habitats such as dunes that I wrote her a letter of encouragement. Kerry's response was immediate, heartfelt and brimming with enthusiasm. Since then, despite meeting only a few times, we have kept up a regular correspondence telling each other of our most recent discoveries in our respective back yards. Hertfordshire, along with most southern areas of Britain, has a much richer fungus flora than we do so Kerry's discoveries rapidly outstripped mine. Even in the more richly endowed south-eastern mycological world, most collectors are preoccupied with larger fungi so, even though I now have much less to offer and Kerry has a much busier life, we still enjoy comparing notes.

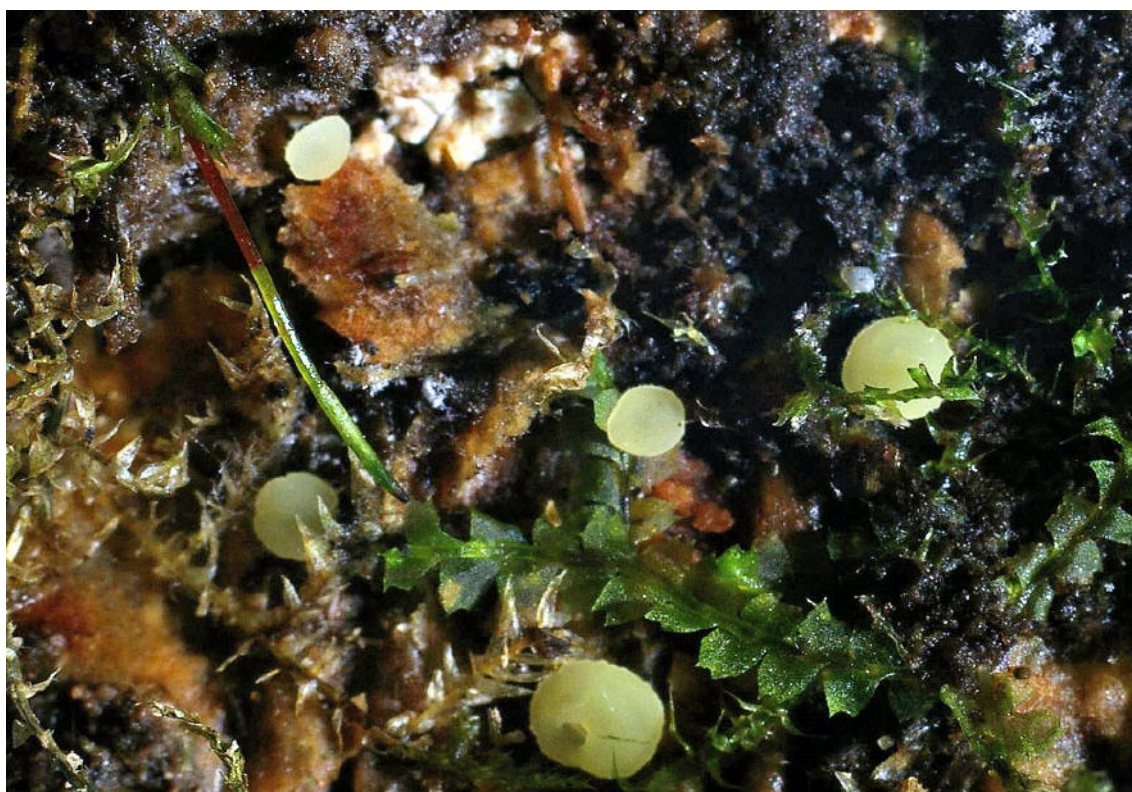
In this article Kerry has generously shared information about and images of three of the rare fungi she found in 2007. I do hope NEFSG members will appreciate her kindness in giving us an exclusive look at some of the special fungi she has found so recently. I don't expect any of them to be found in the North East just yet but I hope the pictures and descriptions will encourage members to search locally. Who knows what we may turn up? During the ten years of our existence we have already logged hundreds of species unknown from this region before. Some of them may have been here for a long time but it is up to people like us to extend knowledge of our local fungus flora. No-one else will do it for us.

The three fungi in question are presented here in chronological order of collection in 2007. Much of the accompanying information was originally provided in note form by Kerry.

Calycina venceslai

This beautiful species is so ill-known in Britain that the BMS Checklist contains only two old records, both under the generic name of *Cystopezizella*, both from Scotland and neither with a collection date!

Kerry found her material on March 21st 2007 growing amongst moss on very rotten wood at Box Wood on the outskirts of Stevenage. It was examined by Brian Spooner at Kew and identified by him.





Hypoxylon subticiense

This recently recognised species of *Hypoxylon* was described by J.M. Ju and J. D. Rogers only in 1996 and already has several British records though none from further north than Suffolk. Kerry collected the second British record from Waterford Heath on November 13th 2005 and, in 2007, twice more from Hertfordshire. In August 2007, she also found it in Hatfield Forest in Essex. The collection

illustrated here was from Bassus Green near Walkern and found in July 2007, growing on a dead deciduous branch.

Kerry thinks the fungus must be spreading rapidly rather than being merely previously overlooked. Perhaps it will eventually turn up in our own patch.

Aleuria cestricea



This very small relative of the well-known Orange Peel Fungus was first described in 1928 from bare clayey soil. There are only three records on the BMS database. One is from Sussex but there is no date of collection and neither collector nor determiner is named. The other two are said to have been made by our late postal member, Fred Remblance. They are given for VCs 63 and 64 but have only very sketchy site details and identical collection dates – October 5th 1995. I suspect that they may both refer to the same collection and therefore have to be regarded with circumspection.

About twenty species and varieties of *Aleuria* were accepted as British in the 1985 Ascomycete Checklist, some from vegetation and others from soil, but most have only very few records.

At any rate, the collection made by

Kerry was from the edge of a path in Sherrard's Park Wood, Welwyn, Herts. on August 1st 2007. It was determined by Brian Spooner and material kept in the Kew herbarium as K(M)153977. *Aleuria cestricea* was characterised by Brian as a scarce species with reticulated spores. These are described in *Nordic Macromycetes I* (2000) as measuring 10 – 11 x 5 – 7 microns.

Do watch out for groups of very small Orange Peel fungi with the largest no more than a centimetre in diameter. You may very well have *Aleuria cestricea*! Make sure the material gets quickly to someone who can make a rapid microscopic check!

FORAYS AND FUNCTIONS 2008

MAY 3RD. BELLINGHAM?

It is usually a simple matter to organise Forays once the venue has been chosen....in fact, choosing the location is the hardest part. This year is no different. After some gnashing of teeth, some of us still have some, the committee came up with a provisional list. We try to balance out locations so that ALL members get a good chance of attending SOME forays, distance being the primary consideration.

Historically, we have tended to choose locations within a relatively small radius of Darlington, for no particular reason except that it "feels" central. The trouble is that members from the more northern outskirts have to travel a considerable distance for forays to the south and *vice-versa*. This year we **had** chosen two venues, Belsay Hall in Northumberland and for our "social" outing, The Lion Inn at Blakey Ridge on the North Yorkshire Moors.

These two locations seemed to provide a good balance for the outlying membership. All that was necessary was to secure permission to foray at Belsay and to book our summer lunch at The Lion Inn.



I have to report that after four months of trying to secure permission to foray in the grounds of Belsay Hall permission has finally been....denied! In fairness, the reasons given are perfectly valid and understandable if a little late in coming! More on The Lion Inn later.

So....under pressure of time an alternative has been found for our MAY 3rd foray. We are going to Bellingham. For those of you too far south to have heard of Bellingham it is a charming village similar in size and character to Helmsley. Bellingham is 5 miles west of the A68, at about the same latitude as Kielder. It is located in a hook of the Northumberland Forest Park on the River North Tyne.

Coming in to Bellingham from the A68 you will see the Northern Garage and the Police Station on the left. Immediately opposite is an insignificant wooden sign to

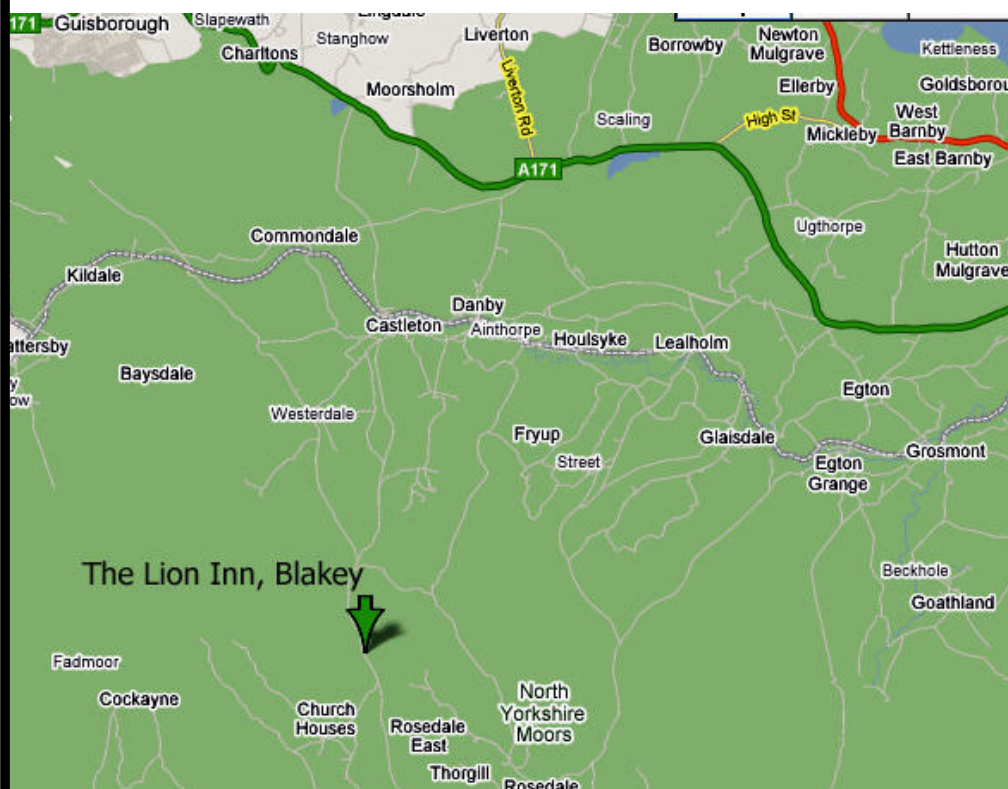
Hareshaw Linn. Turn right as indicated and drive 60 yards to the car Park. The intention is to walk all the way to Hareshaw Linn itself. It is an easy 1.5 Km but it is hoped that there will be so much to interest us we may not make it!

The route follows a maintained path in a cleft valley north out of Bellingham and begins with thickets of birch, giving way to ancient woodland comprising mostly Oak and Ash with random placings of conifers. The path is coarse-paved for most of its length and is carpeted in a lush vegetation of mosses, lichens and flowering woodland species. Blue bells are in abundance. The Burn which runs up through the valley is crossed by many small bridges paid for by the people of Bellingham to give access to this special eco-system. We will make an 11 a.m. prompt start from the car-park. Lunch along the way at one of the many cleared areas beside the Burn.

JUNE 14TH.- SOCIAL LUNCH AT THE LION INN, BLAKEY RIDGE

For those of you who have never been to The Lion Inn, you may realise why after this visit! For those of you who have been before, it is difficult not to feel a certain affection for the old, very old, place. Dating back to the 16th century, and standing at a height of 1325 feet on the North Yorks Moors, the Lion Inn has been responsible for many of the failed attempts at the Lyke Wake Walk. Various known locally as the Red Lion, The White Lion (with a stone white lion outside to verify) or just The Lion, its official name. It matters not to the postman as there is nothing else around for at least five miles. The food is legendary, and though it has had many changes of ownership, in this department it has always excelled. It is a very popular restaurant on Mother's day, and quite popular the day after when offspring return to collect the dears.

From our point of view, we are looking at serious moorland. There are very few trees about but the presence of peat bog and marshy land, as well as coarse pasture, may give us some finds. Weather is always the main problem though as it is June we may only have a scattering of snow. We are booked to sit down at 13:00 hrs and there are 14 places available. PLEASE indicate your intentions AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and certainly BEFORE the end of MAY. There is no need to pre-order your lunch



choice as there is always a very large menu available, including excellent vegetarian dishes, all at a very reasonable cost.

Postcode for Sat Nav: YO62 7LQ

From the North: Travel along the A171 from Guisborough towards Whitby. After approx 4 miles turn right towards Castleton. At Castleton cross over the small bridge and into the village. At the T-junction turn right up the High Street. Follow this road out of the village for a further 6 miles over open moorland. The Lion Inn is the next building on this same road.

Cover Photographs

The photographs published on the cover are not subject to copyright. We welcome any contributions from members on the understanding that publishing will put their pictures into the public domain. Please send in your COLOUR photographs in ANY format including negatives, positives (slides), glossy prints or digital (300Kb maximum). Digital photographs are best sent in *.jpeg format but *.pdf or *.bmp are also acceptable. Please include, if possible, the location and date plus camera settings. A reliable identification is ALWAYS necessary!

SEASON TO TASTE.....

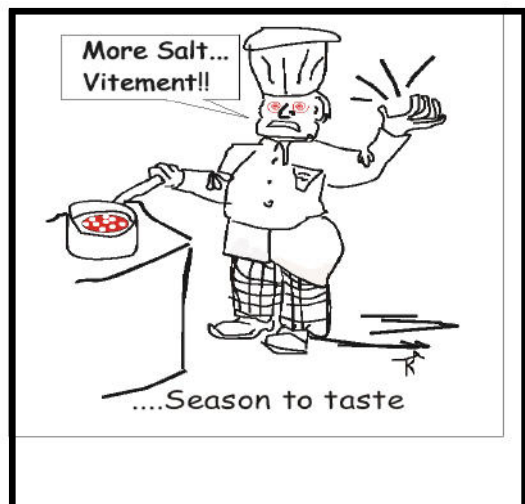
For better or worse a provisional attempt at a COOKERY PAGE is envisaged! A seasonal recipe will be published on the back cover so that it can be quickly found in an emergency! Recipes will be published from member's submissions where possible, from other sources when permission is granted, and from the massive library of the NEFSG when all else fails. The recipes should always include fungi but not necessarily as the main ingredient. All that

is asked is that the recipes have been tried and that hospitalisation was not required afterwards.

To get the ball rolling the recipe following is one that has been well tested.

The qualifying ingredient is *Auricularia Auricula-judae* which can be found in it's dried form, at almost any time of the year, in Chinese supermarkets. Failing this, it can be found clinging grimly to Elder even in spring, though it may well be dessicated. No problem, it is the dried form we require.

This is a "starter" as it would be difficult to eat a bowl full of it, but it does depend upon the texture, not the taste, of the fungi.



Poached Chicken with Fungi Tagliatelle

For 4 people.

2 small chicken supremes, cut into 20mm chunks

$\frac{1}{2}$ pint good chicken stock.

2-whole cups dried *A.auricula-judae* fungi, soaked in $\frac{1}{2}$ pint boiling water for 2 minutes then add $\frac{1}{2}$ pint cold. Leave overnight then cut into 1/4" wide strips.

$\frac{1}{4}$ Pint Double Cream

2 Whole Star Anise

2-3 bay leaves (fresh)

2 tsp. Oyster Sauce.

1-Glass medium white wine

1-Level Tsp. Cornflour

Squeeze Lemon Juice

Salt to season.

A little olive oil for frying.

Method:

Marinate the chicken pieces in white wine and lemon juice for 2-3 hours. Simmer the fungus in the soaking water for 5-10 minutes. Drain off water into a medium saucepan and add the chicken stock, Star Anise, Bay leaves, Oyster Sauce and marinade from the chicken pieces. Cover the fungus in cling film. Boil the sauce to reduce, de-scum regularly. Reduce to $\frac{1}{4}$ pint. Strain through a fine mesh then back in to pan. Dry off the chicken pieces then seal in hot oil. Do not brown. Break the cornflour in a teaspoonful of white wine and add to the sauce with the cream. Simmer then toss in the chicken pieces. Simmer for 5 minutes to cook and thicken then add the fungus strips (tagliatelle). Adjust the seasoning. Serve garnished with a frond of fennel and a little melba toast on the side.