

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 53 April 2009



Lentinellus cochleatus, Lartington Hall, July 08

Olympus E510 with 35mm macro lens, aperture priority, f9.5, 1/15sec

Photo David Smith

Alan Bunn goes to Kindrogan	Page 2	Alan Bunn
The Dune Foray at North Gare-08/11/08	Page 3	Tom Kirby
Minutes of the 12th AGM	Page 5	The Secretary
The WINNER of the Great Winter Competition 08	Page 6	Tom Kirby
EVENTS INFORMATION 2009	Page 7	The Committee
The revised NEFSG Constitution	Page 11	Alan Bunn
The NEFSG membership Form	Page 12	Alan Bunn
Just when you thought it was all over....	Page 13	Tom Kirby
The NEFSG RECORDING SHEET...finally.	Page 14	BW and GS
A sample SPECIMEN RECORD SHEET	Page 15	Aubrey Colling



Affiliated to the Association
of British Fungus Groups



Affiliated to the British
Mycological Society

This Newsletter is produced
with the assistance of Durham
Wildlife Trust



Field Studies Council 'Identifying Fungi' course 12-19 September at Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire

I attended this course at Kindrogan in order to improve my ability to identify the many fungi we find on our forays. The course was led by Liz Holden an active field mycologist involved in fungal survey work across Scotland. In addition, the course was described in the FSC brochure as for beginners, this description plus the chance to foray in Scotland seemed to suit my needs.

On arriving at Kindrogan Centre I reported to the reception, booked into my room and then found the laboratory we were using for the week's indoor work. Here I met Liz, our leader, and five other course members who were setting up their equipment, some of which looked too sophisticated for beginners!

Subsequently I found out these 'beginners' were considerably more advanced than I was. Three of these were Geoffrey Kibby, fungus expert, author and senior editor of the Journal of Field Mycology; Alan Hills BMS referee for Boletes and Derek Schafer BMS Referee for Coprinus species.

Each day consisted of a morning /early afternoon foray into local territory and the majority of the remainder of day was laboratory based, with most evenings including a presentation by Liz on differing fungal topics; additionally, of course, refreshment breaks, however, most evening session finished at around 9 o'clock. The specimens collected earlier each day were examined/ studied and when identified logged onto cards and left on display in the laboratory, and each day the 'real goodies' were highlighted and written onto the whiteboard. Having the experts on the course added an extra dimension and it was reassuring to find them 'user friendly' to the few beginners, such as myself, who were always asking for identification of species. On forays the members split, either individually or into small groups, and reported back to the minibus at the specified meeting time – subsequent lab study of specimens confirmed some real rarities.

The whiteboard list of interesting/ rarities reached over 40 species and had 6 new UK records: *Cortinarius diosmus*, *Inocybe relicina*, *Russula pubescens*, *Paxillus obscurusporus*, *Hydnum ellipsosporum* and a *Russula* in the *Xerampelina* group. Rare (*) and very rare (**) finds were *Cortinarius terpoichores**; *Pholiota pinicola**; *Russula renidens*** (only 2nd UK record); *Russula postiana*** (2nd & 3rd records for UK); *Phaeocollybia lugubris**; *Coprinopsis pachyderma**; and *Russula fusconigra***.

To sum up the week, it was a very good combination of excellent teaching and superb forays where the fruitbodies and species were in abundance. The other members of the course made the experience very pleasurable and provided many happy memories. Liz Holden, the course leader, worked very hard all week and provided a good balance between helping us beginners and relating to the fungi experts; I learnt several skills on the course and now feel that when I apply these, I shall start to improve my ID skills. Additionally, whilst on the course I found my sense of smell and taste buds are not tuned into fungi identification – I had only a slight reaction to *Lactarius pyrogalus* (=firemilk) milk when encouraged by Liz to use my taste buds!

Alan Bunn

Alan's experience at the Kindrogan Field Centre will prove useful. There are relatively few such opportunities available to amateur mycologists and even fewer that can be attended without incurring personal expense. There is also a time element which many of us are acutely aware of, being busy with the business of living!

To have an envoy of the NEFSG attend the Kindrogan event is a bonus. No doubt those who attended the "open forum" in March will have benefited enormously from the report by Alan and will, perhaps, feel more inclined to take up the opportunity which such courses provide in the future. Whilst the NEFSG cannot provide help pruning the roses or cutting the grass, it may be that a financial stimulus will help those who would like to attend such courses. This will be raised at the next AGM....be there!

TAK

The Dune Foray at North Gare-08/11/08

On the Thursday before this late foray, Alan Bunn and I did a little reconnoitre. Just a precaution, you understand, so as to have some idea of what we could be expected to find and where. The weather was unforgiving, with lashings of swirling rain mixed with sea fret. It was also bitterly cold and the dunes presented a desolate vista. Nonetheless, we marched resolutely along the windswept shoreline and dipped into the dunes for shelter as required. Slowly but surely we built up an encouraging list of finds, reassuring ourselves that on the day of the foray more eyes would result in an interesting day. It was all worth it.

The Saturday began brightly and the coastal conditions had changed beyond belief. The wind continued to blow steadily on-shore but was not so chilly now. Everyone turned up within a few minutes of each other (except for one....you know who you are) and we were off.

North Gare has turned itself into a Nature Reserve, a Golf course and a municipal rubbish tipping ground. The latter is unofficial. Because of the flat nature of the coastal plain, the golf course makes the best use of the lie of the land....and grassland fungi make the best use of the golf course. (I don't play golf, so apologies to any who do...it's just a personal preference).

As we walked along the well-trodden grassy pathway to the dune slacks there were a number of golf balls in evidence which on closer inspection turned out to be *Bovista plumbea*. We found this little species regularly throughout the day, blown free of their anchorage having some time ago off-loaded their spores.



It was easy to jump to the wrong conclusion every time a small, round specimen appeared, because the smaller *Lycoperdon lividum* also put in several appearances.

Geoglossum cookeanum was quite prolific along the route, but difficult to see against the sparse grass and dark cindery soil. We made several finds extending into the short-cropped golf course grass. It was when looking for the black earth-tongues "over the fence" that the bluish-lilac *Lepista nuda* made an early appearance. Though we were to find many more *L. nuda* that day, Babs also managed to find *L. saeva* with the much pinker gills and paler flesh.

On our Thursday preamble, Alan and I had marked an outcropping of *Cyathus olla* (above left) with a pink plastic bottle, in order to more easily find them again. We need not have bothered. Quite apart from the sudden and recent proliferation of pink plastic bottles, there were more of these attractive "bird's nest" fungi than you could shake a stick at. Photographers fell to the ground at the site (sight?) of them. They are very photogenic, especially in such quantity. There must be a highly attractive micro-eco-system here, in spite of what can be very harsh weather conditions.

In the same substrate (cinder, sand and shingle-shell, interspersed with Marram Grass, *Ammophila arenaria*) we came across one, and some say two, nice little finds. Alan B. took back *Omphalina pyxidata* (right) for spore checking, and so did I. So did Aubrey. It later seems, however, that Aubrey and I independently arrived at the same conclusion in



AWL Notes..

Omphalina pyxidata

7-8 (-10)X(4.5) 5-6 FUNGA
NORDICA.

NB. Smell indistinct 2008

Clitocybe barbularum

5-7X3-4 FUNGA NORDICA

NB. Smell mealy.

These are clear distinctions.
Note also the BMS Records.

O. Pyxidata 213 records.

C. Barbularum 24 records.

that what we had taken back was *Clitocybe barbularum* ! This is not to in any way disavow Alan B. of his find! The two species are very similar at first glance...especially if you think that *L. lividum* is a golf ball. On the day we decided to record both and investigate later before confirming. (See left)

Of course, there are always those that get away...and this (right) is probably one of them. It looks suspiciously like

Inocybe serotina but it appears that everyone thought we were finding *Psathyrella ammophila* and so no one took a sample! This is the typical stance adopted by *I. serotina*, buried quite deeply in the sand and barely noticeable due to the particles sticking to the cap. Because there were no samples taken on the day, this specimen



could not be included in the records. Comments welcome!

All in all, this was a most enjoyable foray, with plenty to think about and much polemical play. We were blessed with fine weather yet again, though the winds forced us into the bosom of the dunes when we sat down for lunch. Total taxa will be somewhere in the mid-twenties, which is excellent going for a late foray in an environment like this.

TAK



I was pleased to find this beautiful specimen on the Castle Eden Dene foray in November. This find which, thank goodness, I managed to identify and another which I did not (see page 13) were sent to try out the ABFG Identification service. This is the reply.

“The fruit body has a dimitic construction: thin walled, clamped generative hyphae and thick walled skeletal hyphae with additional pigmented hyphae in the thin pileal surface - this structural arrangement applies to both species. There are however, macroscopic distinctions in that the hard fomitoid phase differs between the two: the trama and context in *I. resinosa* remain whitish to

pale dirty yellowish, those of *I. benzoinum* go fairly quickly dark brown. The former condition applies to your specimen. The exudation of resin transforms a tomentose upper surface when young into the characteristic hard crust that is at first glossy but then dries, dulls and becomes roughened with those typical radial furrows seen in your material. In spite of lack of spores, which would provide full confirmation, taking these elements into account I (identifier not identified!) feel that your assumption is accurate and that this is *I. resinosa*. “ So there!

TAK

**North Eastern Fungus Study Group Minutes of the 12th AGM held at Rainton Meadows on
Saturday 10th January 2009 at 11.a.m.**

1 Apologies for absence:

Alan Legg, Aubrey & Edith Colling, Christine & Hewitt Ellis and Vince Jones.

10 members attended.

2 Election of Officers

Gordon Simpson advised the meeting that he would resign as Chairman as from the 2010 AGM. The following were proposed as the officers: Chairman - Gordon Simpson; Treasurer - Tom Kirby; and Secretary- Alan Bunn. Committee members elected were: Keith Cunningham, Andy McLay, Alan Simkins, Alan Legg and Babs Walton.

Because the Group now has only 3 Officers and not 6 as previously, the Constitution, section 4, has been amended to reflect these change.

3 Minutes of the 10th AGM meeting:

Accepted as accurate.

4 Matters arising: -

(a) Website: See details in January 2009 Newsletter

(b) Manheim Trip: see details in January 2009 Newsletter.

(c) Access to Newsletters on the website – it was agreed to restrict this access to members only by password protection.

5 Confirmed Programme for 2009 events:

10th Jan. - AGM at Rainton Meadows

7th March - Open Forum at Rainton Meadows

25th April - Tunstall Foray – Tom Kirby

13th June - Social Luncheon at Pinchinthorpe Hall - Tom Kirby

25th July - Dryderdale Foray - Gordon Simpson

12th Sept. - Kildale Foray - Tom Kirby

26th Sept. - Derwent Valley Foray - Andy McLay

11th Oct. - Loftus Wood (**Sunday**) – Alan Legg and Alan Simkins

24th Oct. - Weardale, Carrs Farm – Keith Cunningham

7th Nov. - Castle Eden Dene - Tom Kirby

All the above meetings start at 11-00 a.m.

After some discussion it was agreed to publicise the Kildale Foray with a view to encouraging public access with a limit of around 20. The objective of this was to increase interest in mycology and encourage membership of NEFSG. Cath Gillie (CG) to contact press, AB to provide CG with appropriate photos for publicity and undertake to receive phone calls from potential participants.

6 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that as of Jan. 1st the Group has £567 in-hand and that last year's figure was £523, Future expenditure was discussed. The Group's website will take funds for setting-up and on-going costs when established. Currently the website requires: Application form for membership (Sec. to produce); photographs of fungi from members; information on forays; and links to other fungi related websites. Cost estimates for website are £200 to build site and £69 annual fee. KC/TK/AB to coordinate development of site.

7 A.O.B.

(a) As a result of the secretary change the annual reminder for subs was not included in the January Newsletter. It was agreed to include the reminder in the March Newsletter with a deadline for subs at the end of June.

(b) Alan Legg had suggested (via TK) that the Group should produce its own designed Christmas cards. Following some discussion during which those present highlighted difficulties they had encountered with similar ventures it was agreed the Group should consider a small production for notelets

(c) Copies of the fungus recording/description sheet that Aubrey Colling was using were distributed and after discussion it was agreed it had several benefits which could be useful to members. This sheet and the new form for members' records will be published in the next Newsletter.

(d) GS offered to attempt some identifications of photographs of fungi which a friend of CG had taken.

(e) the Chairman expressed the Groups thanks to Babs Walton for her several years work as Secretary

8 Date of the next Annual General Meeting

Saturday 9th January 2010 at Rainton Meadows, commencing at 11-00 a.m.

The Great Winter '08 Competition

What a response!!!! I now have the measure of you all! This year's lucky winner is:

CHRISTINE MEEK

Fifty pounds is on its way....well done to all those who entered and lost....it is better to have entered and lost etc...etc.

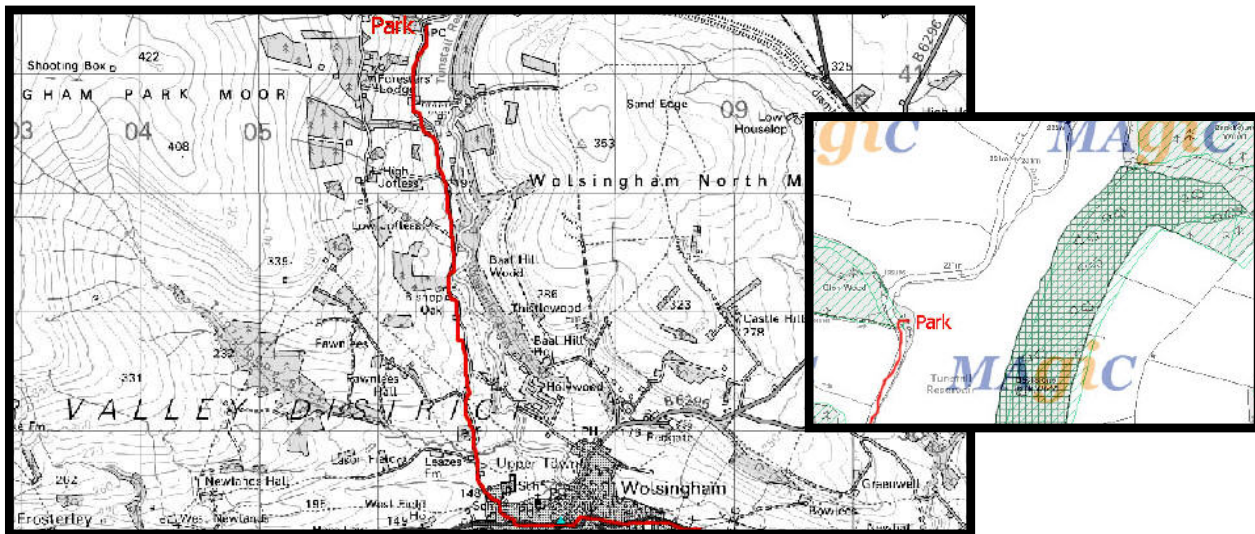
Better luck next year....watch this space.

Answer below.

C	I	N	E	R	I	A
E			T			M
T	N	A	I	D	A	R
R			Z			E
A	D	E	N	O	I	D
T			E			I
A	M	Y	L	O	I	D

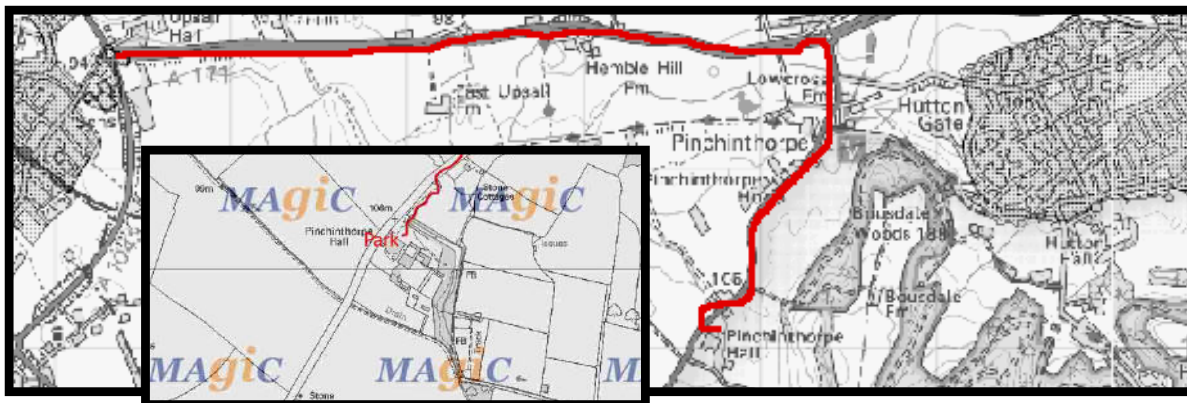
The 2009 Events Information

TUNSTALL FORAY-25th APRIL



From Wolsingham take the signposted road, B6299, north to Tunstall Reservoir. Continue until the reservoir is in sight driving along the west shore and then park in the allocated wooded area. Grid Ref. NZ065 412.

THE NEFSG SOCIAL LUNCHEON AND LEISURELY FORAY- PINCHINTHORPE HALL AND WOODS. 13th JUNE

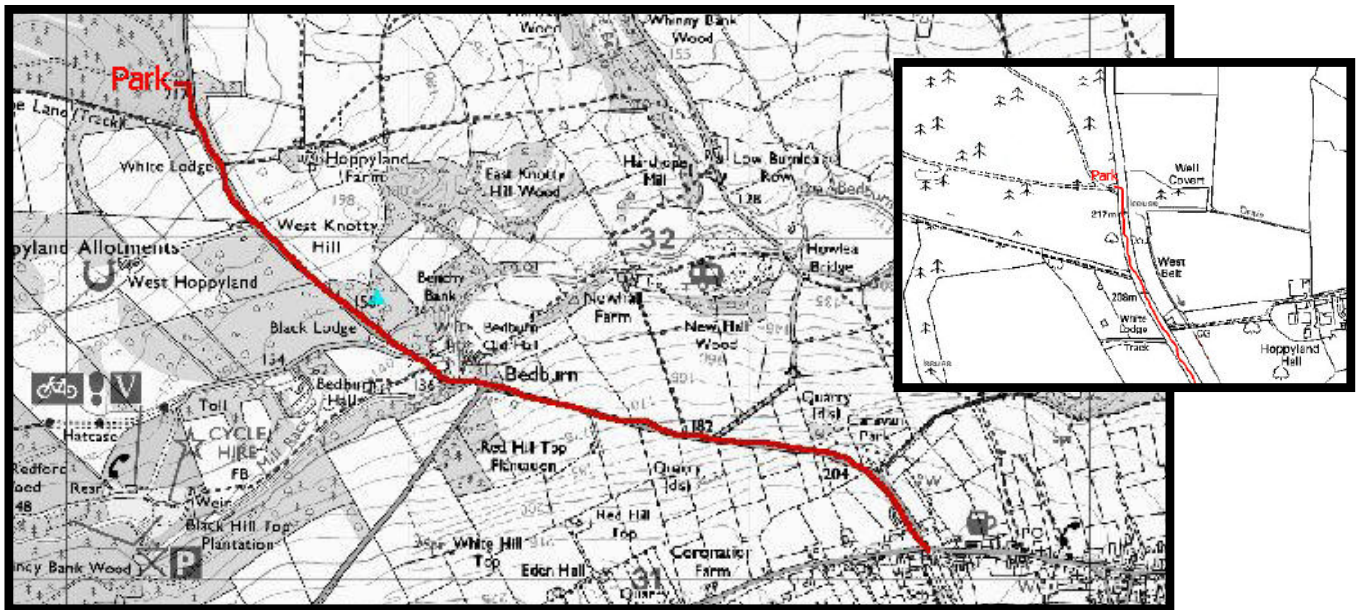


To encourage those who regularly do not attend this excellent jolly, there is an additional reason why you should attend this one....it is Her Majesty the Queen's Official Birthday..... Surely now irresistible!

Take the Marton-in-Cleveland to Guisborough road and turn off towards Pinchinthorpe about a mile west of Guisborough. You will pass, on your left heading South, the Pinchinthorpe Country Park where we shall foray after lunch. Continue for about a mile and you will see the brown information sign indicating that the Pinchinthorpe Hall entrance is on your left. It comes up on you suddenly and it is a sharp turn into the car-park. Pinchinthorpe Hall is a great venue and gave us a fabulous lunch several years back. It has changed hands twice since our last visit but my wife and I felt it incumbent upon us to check it out before arranging the luncheon. Accordingly, we dined there right royally in your interests and can report that the fare was excellent....three courses for £12.95 or two courses and a pint of REAL ALE (or a glass of wine) sourced from the many small brewers in The North Yorkshire Brewers Federation. Afterwards, we shall take a leisurely foray/stroll along the disused railway track of the Guisborough branch line, which is now an excellent country park. There is a well defined pathway, toilets and ample free parking.

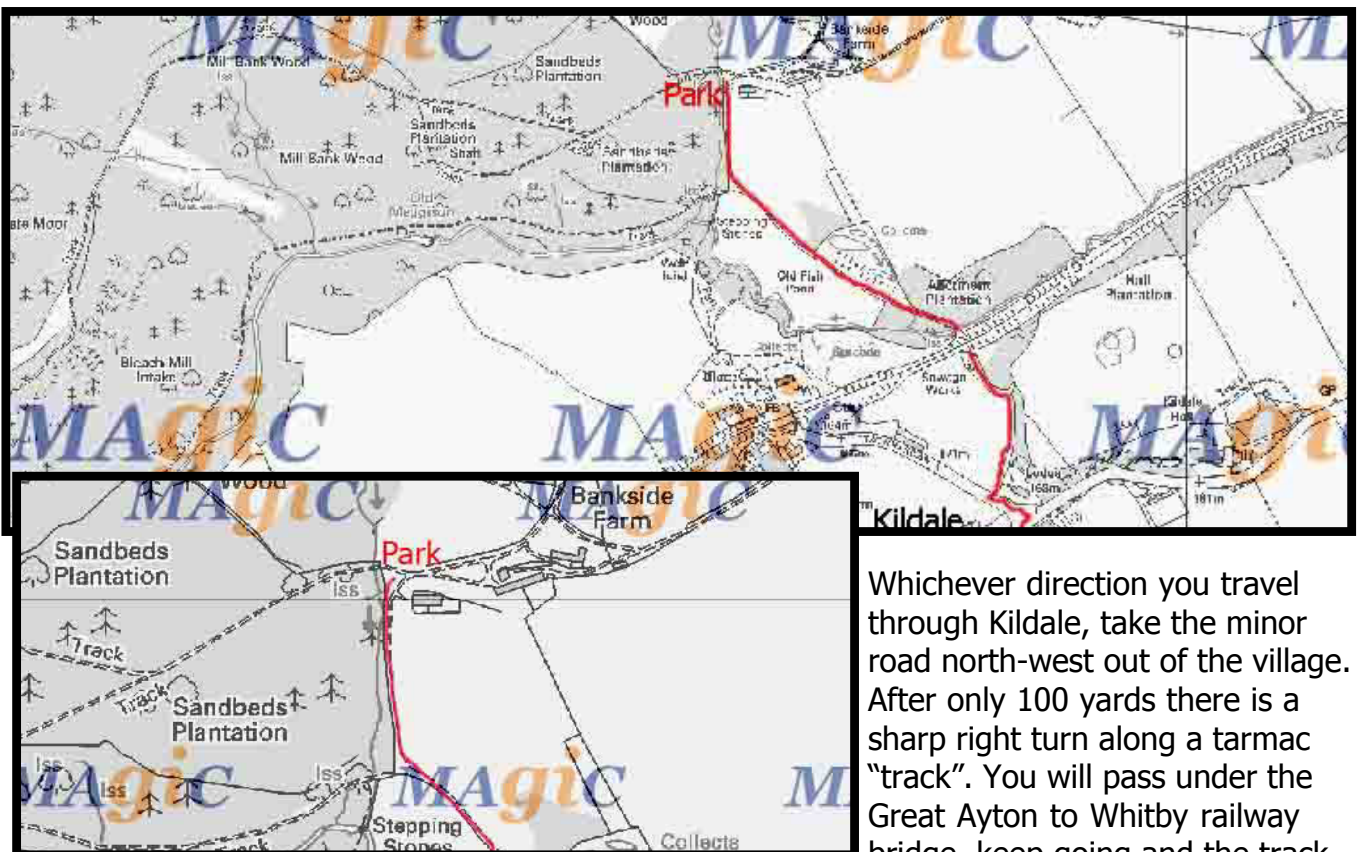
Please note! The luncheon is booked for eighteen souls and arrival should be by 12:00 noon. It is essential that we know how many of you will attend as soon as possible. Contact me on 01740 630179 or e-mail me at tectak@aol.com
Tom Kirby

DRYDERDALE FORAY-25TH JULY



Head towards Hamsterley Forest east entrance through Bedburn, but do not enter the forest on your left, just keep going up the bank. Continue until you come to the Hoppyland Farm entrance on your right with White Lodge on your left. After a few hundred yards there is a pull-in on the left. Park here but pull in well off the roadside. Grid reference NZ 093 324

KILDALE FORAY-12TH SEPTEMBER

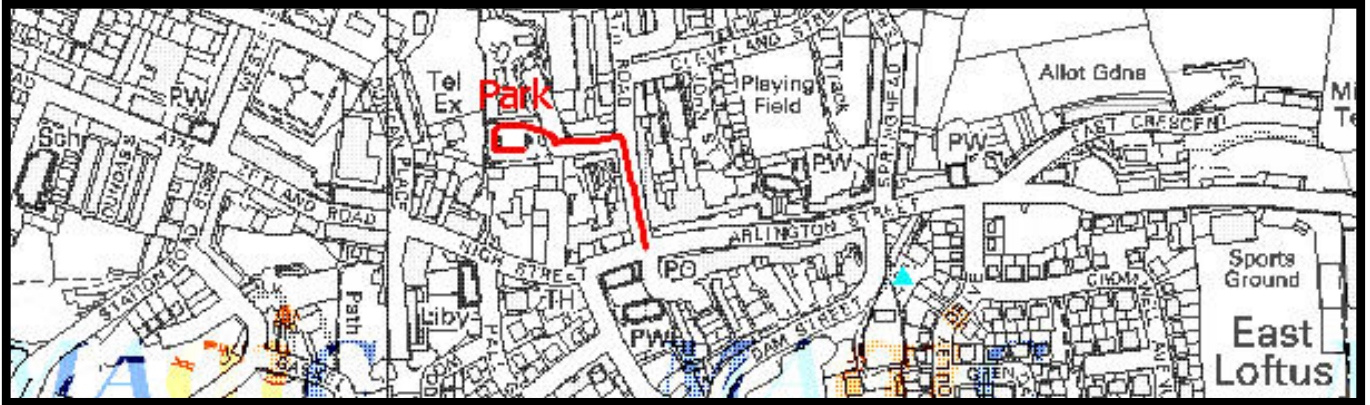


Whichever direction you travel through Kildale, take the minor road north-west out of the village. After only 100 yards there is a sharp right turn along a tarmac "track". You will pass under the Great Ayton to Whitby railway bridge, keep going and the track

will go through an open grassy area with an ascent up the edge of a conifer plantation. There is a cluster of small houses after about two hundred yards and a forest entrance gate with a "No Parking" sign. Park here but with consideration. The path is good and level for some considerable distance.

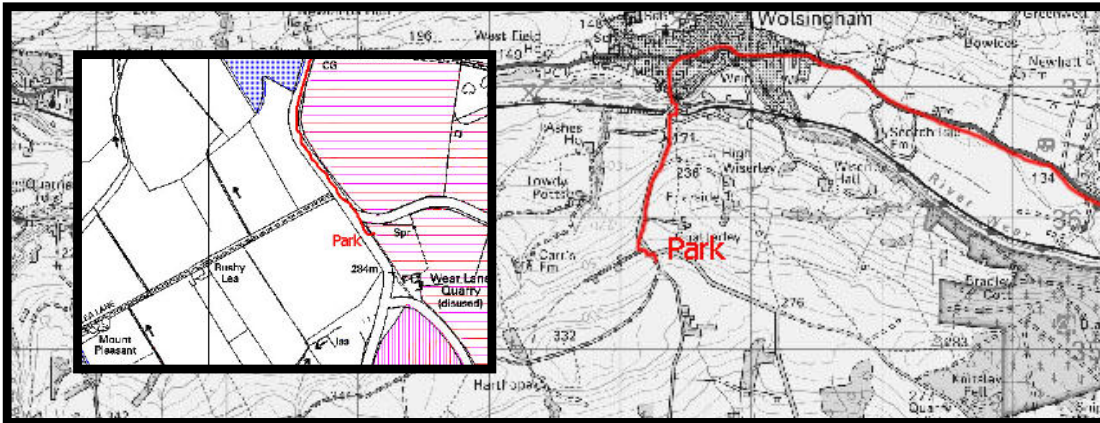
There is a small cafe in Kildale with unpredictable opening hours and a small shop selling almost everything but again, uncertain in its mission statement. Grid reference NZ 603 100.

LOFTUS WOOD FORAY-SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER



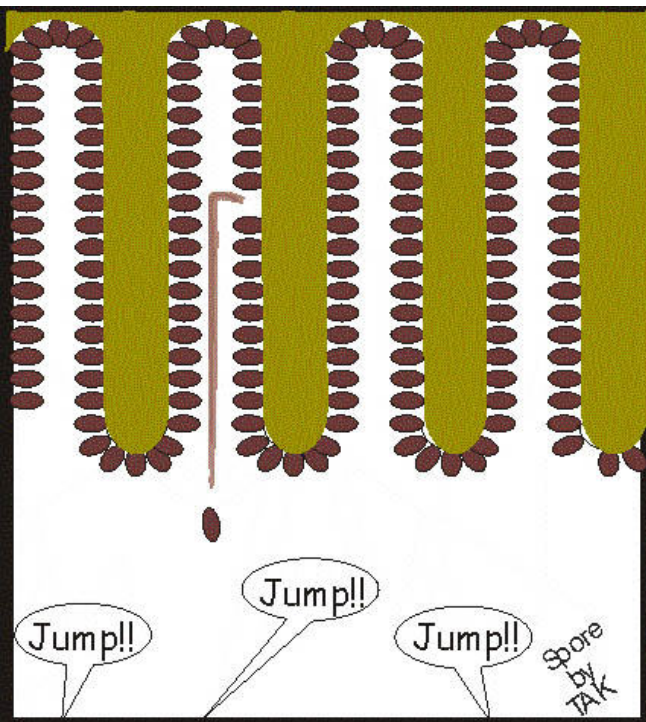
Note that this is a SUNDAY foray! Locate the Town Hall (TH) on Loftus High Street and turn into North Road just east of the Town hall across the road. Turn left off North Road into the car park. Grid reference NZ 716 179

CARR'S FARM WAXCAP FORAY-24th OCTOBER



From the A68 take the A689 to Wolsingham. Turn left to Hamsterley and travel 1.6km to where the road veers left but go straight on and park immediately on the left at NZ07283567 or where you can further on.

For latecomers we will be at NZ065354 at the end of Rushy Lane.



Foraging.....the new shopping!

After the MAK trip to Germany last autumn many of us returned in a state of mild euphoria full of ideas and suggestions which would make the whole of Field Mycology a more satisfying/pleasurable/rewarding experience. The social leanings of the MAK group made alcohol meretricious and almost a pre-requisite for a foray finished. Food was another area of great importance and cake, salads, meat balls and local specialities were all in abundance. The great tables used to display the finds made the perfect end to a great day's adventure...but I for one thought of baskets...yes...baskets.

When foraging, finds are placed in baskets and taken back for identification and display. So I have bought some baskets....or rather YOU have bought some baskets. Forty to be precise. They will be issued to all members who require them on NEFSG forays.

TAK

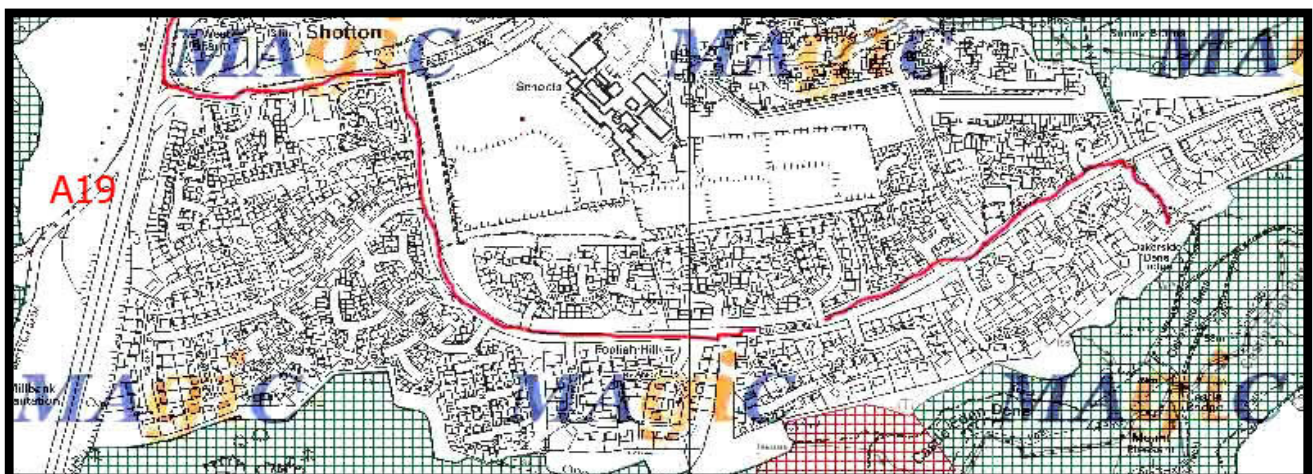
DERWENTSIDE FORAY-26th SEPTEMBER



Travel north on the A694 through Rowlands Gill towards Winlaton Mill. Approaching the turn off to the village on the left, you will see Winlaton Garage. Almost directly opposite there is a large parking area where we will meet. The route shown is for those of you travelling from the north end of the A694 from the A1. On the day we will decide, under the guidance of Andy McLay, which areas to foray. There are visitor centres in both directions along the River Derwent pathside, Thornley Woodlands Centre to the West and Swallwell Visitor Centre to the East. Because the Butterfly Bridge over the river was washed away in the September rains we may decide to relocate after the original meet so be there at 10:30 a.m. for further instructions ! Grid reference NZ186609.

CASTLE EDEN DENE FORAY with NATURAL ENGLAND-7th. NOVEMBER

This is our last foray of 2009 but it will not be our last at this location. By the time this foray comes



around we should be used to using the new procedure whilst foraying....that is to say the use of collecting baskets. We have kindly been offered the facilities of the Natural England centre located and clearly sign posted off the southbound A19 down from the Peterlee roundabout. So if you are travelling NORTH you need to take the exit on the roundabout and drive south to the Shotton turn off. The brown information sign will take you to the Centre where there is good parking. There are steep ascents/ descents on this foray. Toilets are available at the centre.

Constitution of the North Eastern Fungus Study Group
(Updated for the 12th AGM 10th January 2009)

- 1] *The name of the Group shall be: the NORTH EASTERN FUNGUS STUDY GROUP (N.E.F.S.G.)*
- 2] *The Group shall exist to:*
- (i) develop the Members' own interest in, and knowledge of the fungi of the region;*
 - (ii) promote and encourage this interest and knowledge in others through contact with various local wildlife groups;*
 - (iii) record the fungi of North-East England;*
 - (iv) promote the conservation of fungi and of threatened habitats of rare fungi;*
 - (v) promote the education and enjoyment of its Members.*
- 3] *Full Membership shall be available to all interested parties on payment of an annual subscription.*
- 4] *The Group shall have an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the following:-*
- (a) Chairperson*
 - (b) Treasurer*
 - (c) Secretary*
 - (d) other Group members, who may have specific responsibilities, and will either be co-opted onto the Committee or elected on at the Annual General Meeting.*
- A meeting of the Executive Committee requires a quorum of four members.*
- 5] *The Group shall from time to time elect new Officers to the Executive Committee and re-elect other committee members at the same time at an Annual General Meeting, which will be at the beginning of each year.*
- 6] *A General Meeting shall be called by the executive Committee whenever it deems it fit to do so.*
- 7] *A Newsletter shall be published four times a year.*
- 8] *A copy of this constitution shall be made available to any member on request.*
- 9] *No provision of this Constitution shall act as a bar to its amendment if and when necessary, nor shall it prevent the addition or deletion of further provisions such as any change in circumstances may require.*

Dated this day.....2009 Signed: Chairperson.....

Treasurer.....

Secretary.....

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Subscriptions are usually due at the AGM in January but as we changed Secretaries this year the usual reminder was not included in the January Newsletter. An e-mail or letter was sent out to all members as a reminder around early February and this resulted in most members sending in their subs (£6 individual - £8 couple) to the new Secretary at: Alan Bunn, 60 Roseberry Crescent, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS9 6EP tel. no. 01642 724955.

Hopefully this reminder will galvanise those few members who wish to retain their membership but have not remembered to send in their subscription. If you are in this position please send your subscription to the Secretary at the above address ASAP. Unfortunately, if subscriptions are not received by the end of June at the latest we will assume membership is not going to be renewed, and no further newsletters will be sent.

AB

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Application form for UK residents only

Name..... Telephone.....

Address.....

Post Code.....e-mail (if available).....

Are you willing to receive NEFSG Newsletters via e-mail ? Y/N (delete as applicable)

Tick one

Full membership..... £6-00

Family membership.....£8-00

Subscription renewable annually on January 1st

Please return this form together with a cheque to:

Alan Bunn
60 Roseberry Crescent
Great Ayton
Middlesbrough
Cleveland
TS9 6EP

The NEFSG e-mail address for queries etc is nefsg@btinternet.com. Note that although membership records will be stored on a computer database, these are for NEFSG use only and will not be made available to outside organisations.

Just when you thought it was all over.....

Well...this proved to be a bit of a damp squid! Did I say "proved"? Well..no, not quite. So troubled was I by this specimen at Castle Eden Dene, some 4 metres up a Norwegian Maple, that I



almost did myself some indescribable damage getting it down from the company of several of the same.

You can see the two knife cuts where I managed to take a sample, after some serious work. The structure is very woody and tough. At this size, some 250mm across, the thickness is a problem as it was necessary to get a good section

right through the thing to give the chosen few a chance at identifying it.

Alan had a go...and in the event his comments were most probably correct. He decided that what I had here was some kind of anomaly created by a virus or reaction to some other external circumstances. Nonetheless, I sent off another sample to the ABFG and to the BMS using the addresses on the two web-sites.

The ABFG responded very quickly with a definitive...we are not sure but give us some more time and we will get back to you. After some several days the BMS had not responded but the ABFG did get back and were absolutely certain that they had no idea what it was. No spores you see. It didn't have any. So Alan was proven to be correct....Did I say "proved". Well, no, not quite.....I am waiting to see what the BMS says before committing the answer to print.

TAK

Well it is now...

The last two pages of this Newsletter are tear-off sheets. The **Record Sheet** is now FINALLY agreed and passed by the Committee, the Duke of Edinburgh, our postman and Babs.

Please use it for sending in records as it makes life so much easier for those entrusted with the onerous task.

The other sheet is possibly in its embryonic stages but is based upon an **INDIVIDUAL SPECIMEN SHEET** which Aubrey uses. As this is very much for in-the-field use as an *aide memoire* you may feel that you would like to modify it to suit your own...er...memory! That is fine, of course, but significantly the sheet should encourage us all to actually LOOK at what we have found. Committing a description to a written form, and possibly doing a small sketch, is an excellent way of "fixing" your find in your mind. Though we could all improve in this area the sheet will be of great use to the new members, and accordingly I commend it to this house. If you would like "dynamic" copies of either sheet please contact me by e-mail and I will send you the word.doc versions.

TAK

Family	
Species	
Common name	

RP Page Number	
C&D Page Number	
My Book Page Number	

Place Found			Grid Ref.		Date
Habitat					
Features		General Description			Sketch cap and stem
Dimensions					
Cap diameter					
Cap thickness					Sketch Gill attachment
Stem height					
Stem Diameter					
Gills					
Colour		General Descriptive Notes			
Attachment					
If Bracket	Size	L		W	
	Description Pores/gills				
	Attachment				
	General				
Smell					
Taste					
Spores			Microscopic Notes		
Size	Description				
L					
W					
Additional Notes.					