

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 61 April 2011



Pleurotus pulmonarius, Ingleton Woods, August 2008

Nikon D200 with Tamron 90mm macro lens, aperture priority, f22, 6sec.

David Smith

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The NEFSG actively encourages contributions from the membership for publication in this Newsletter. The content of submitted articles is the responsibility of the author. The views, comments, opinions or statements contained in published articles are not necessarily those of the NEFSG or of the editorial personnel. The NEFSG reserves the right to refuse publication of any material considered offensive or dangerously inaccurate. For further information or if you would like to submit an article or question for the next Newsletter, please contact the Group Consultant: Alan Legg at 36, Carleton Drive, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 9QP. Tel: 01325 350834.

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North Eastern Fungus Study Group Minutes of the 14th AGM held at Rainton Meadows on Saturday 5th March 2011 commencing at 11.a.m.

1 Apologies for absence:

Gordon Beakes, Pat Wood, Alan Simkins, Gwen Humble, Bill Hall, Cath Gillie, Joan Vickers, Gordon Simpson, Rachel Richards and Phil Sanderson. 20 members attended.

In the absence of the Chairman Tom Kirby chaired the meeting.

2 Minutes of the 13th AGM meeting: Accepted as accurate.

3 Matters arising from the previous AGM Minutes No matters raised.

4 Confirmed Programme for 2011 events

Note all meetings start at 11am except the Social Lunch, the commencement time of which will be published in the Newsletter issued shortly before this event..

Sat. 14th May – Spring foray at Gibside NT (AMCL)

Sat. 30th July – Social lunch at the Pub at Hudswell, Richmond

Sat. 20th August – Havannah/Three Hills north of the Tyne – (Dominique Colbeck organising)

Sat. 10th September – Milkwellburn Wood, south of Tyne (KC)

Sat. 24th Raven Gill, Comondale, N York Moors (AS)

Sat. 8th October – Sunnyside Farm, Weardale (TK)

Sat. 22nd October – Mulgrave Woods on coast north of Whitby (AB/Paul Forster)

Sat. 5th November– Bolam Lake, Ponteland nr Wallington Hall (AMCL)

More information for these trips will be included in the Newsletters which will be issued shortly before the events and where possible will include information of territory type.

5 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that 'we were doing very well' and there was £380 in our Bank account. We had had a surge of new members towards the end of 2010, although only a few of these had attended forays but it was hoped more would attend in 2011.

The accounts presented to the AGM were accepted.

6 Election of Officers

The stand-in Chairman noted that following the wishes of Gordon Simpson and Babs Walton to be relieved of committee commitment. Six committee members remained. These six were all willing to seek re-election to the following posts Alan Simkins, Chairman, Tom Kirby, Treasurer and Alan Bunn, Secretary, Alan Legg, Keith Cunningham and Andy McLay committee members. The meeting agreed to reappoint the proposed committee.

Following these appointments details were given expanding the roles of AL, A McL and KC; for example AL is consultant on identification of species and acts as verifier for all records sent to the BMS and ABFG databases. Inputting data into the BMS database has consumed much time from Gordon and Babs and they wish to be a loss to the committee. As a result of this Tom K. agreed to check with Paul Kirk, BMS, as to whether there had been any improvements which would reduce the time required to input records.

It was stressed that there were opportunities for additional helpers for the committee where specific tasks had been identified. Keith Tulip offered to input records into the databases.

7 Report on the survey

Tom K. gave a brief report on the survey he had issued to those members on e-mail (the vast majority) and agreed to produce a more comprehensive report for the Newsletter..

8 Winter indoor meetings

It was proposed that we should have two meetings and that the committee would decide dates and venues and advertise these in the Newsletter. Regarding subjects it was proposed that we have a session on identification of genera, however, Alan Legg suggested that the Group did not have an appropriate person to lead such a session. Consequently the Secretary agreed to prepare a Powerpoint presentation with photographs of the Top 100 species as defined by the Collins book with the objective of aiming to become familiar with these 100 species which often provide up to half of the species seen on our forays. The other session would be microscope use and Keith Tulip agreed that we could use his microscope / computer link to ensure all members could see the same view.

9 Any Other Business

i) Keith Cunningham noted that the issue of publication of the late Dorothy Wolfe's paintings of fungi was still being pursued.

ii) Ron Pattinson commented that although recent publicity had highlighted proposals for forest sales this was not new as this had been occurring year on year in recent years.

iii) Babs W. requested that the Agenda for the AGM should be issued in the week prior to the meeting. Secretary to action.

iv) Dominique Colbeck detailed his discussions with Newcastle City Council regarding the 20th August foray at Havannah/Three Hills. Insurance cover is OK if all participants are NEFSG members.

v) Paul Forster queried what appeared to be duplications on some of the provisional species lists. This was explained as occurring when a species has been found on two differing substrates or two habitats.

vi) Tom K. noted the difficulty of sorting specimens at the end of forays and he proposed that we purchase some 750mm x 750mm trays with various size inner sections. He recommended we purchase 15 at a cost of £45 - this was approved by the members at the meeting. Additionally, on the record sheets used on forays there is a need to identify substrates where possible as this information can often be very useful in identifying fungi species.

8 Date of the next Annual General Meeting

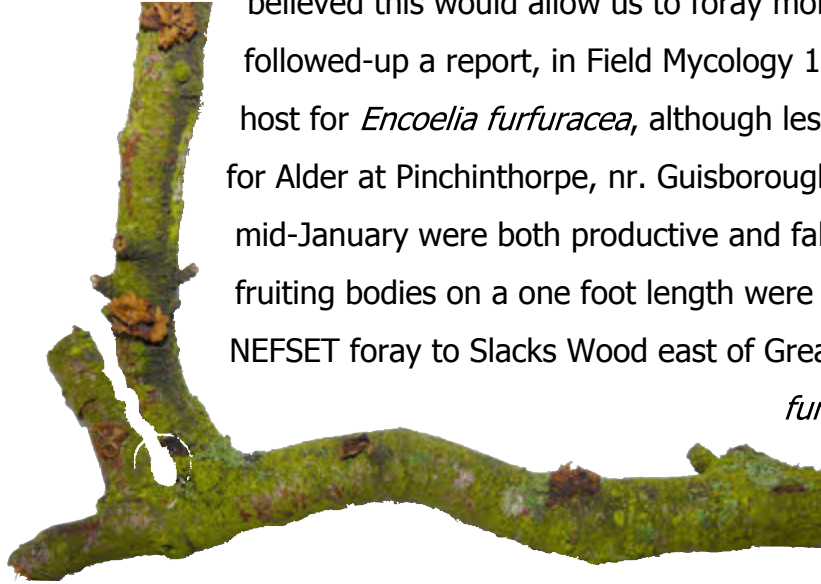
The 2012 AGM will be held on Saturday March 3rd 2012 at Rainton Meadows commencing at 11-00a.m.

Alan Bunn

Hon. Sec.

Report from the winter fungus study group operating around Teesside in VC62

During the very wintry conditions of late I enquired of local Teesside NEFSG members as to whether they would be interested in participating in a weekly wintering fungus forays. All members contacted expressed an interest and so NEFSET (North Eastern Fungus Study Extra Territorials. Note Territorials, NOT Terrestrials) was born. The name was Tom's suggestion who



believed this would allow us to foray more widely! Prior to our first foray I had followed-up a report, in Field Mycology 11(1) Feb 2010 p.23, that Alder was a host for *Encoelia furfuracea*, although less likely than Hazel. Visits to two sites for Alder at Pinchinthorpe, nr. Guisborough and Basselton Wood at Thornaby in mid-January were both productive and fallen twigs with up to six *E. furfuracea* fruiting bodies on a one foot length were found on both sites (left). On a later NEFSET foray to Slacks Wood east of Great Ayton we found evidence for *E. fur-*

furfuracea on Hazel and observed the phenomenon of 'black glue' sticking overlapping branches together (below right. PF). Subsequently

David Smith discovered a literature paper by Ainsworth and Rayner on the role of *Hymenochaete corrugata* in this process.

Our first foray was to Clay Bank nr. Great Broughton and this produced 24 species including *Radulomyces confluens* (confirmed by AL); *Trametes gibbosa*; *Lachnellula occidentalis* and *Chaetosphaerella phaestroma*.

Dundale Beck Wood on the Easby to Kildale road was our third foray (Slacks Wood, see above, was our second).

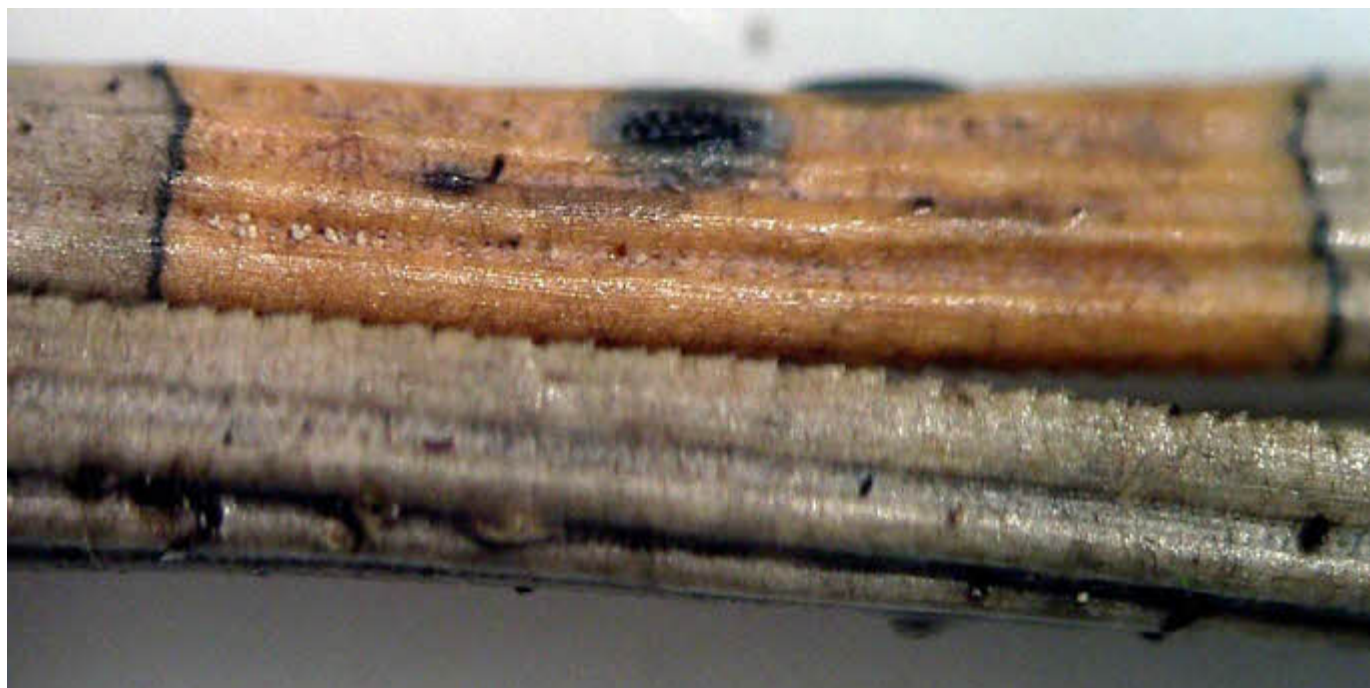
Evidence for *Hymenochaete corrugata* on hazel was found with the characteristic 'black glue' joints. Also there was convincing visual evidence for *E. furfuracea* on Hazel in this wood. *Tremella mesenterica* was found on Honeysuckle stems and several dry specimens were collected which unfortunately did not yield any spores.



Sandbeds Plantation nr. Kildale in mid-February. proved to be a very productive site (and very wet underfoot!). Highlights were a metre length of cut timber covered on one side with *Pleurotus ostreatus*; other highlights were *Cryptocoryneum condensatum* (only 5 historic records for VC62 on the BMS database) and *Schizophyllum commune* (thanks to AL for identifying the latter two specimens).

Our final foray in February was to Errington Wood nr. New Marske. This portion of the wood has a good concentration of pine and for 2 ½ hours we enjoyed finding a good range of species, but did not progress more than 200 yards from the car park! *Lophordermium pinastri* were found on the fallen pine needles (see below) and two specimens of *Strobilurus tenacellus* (Pinecone Cap) were found amongst the pine litter. This site produced more unidentified species than any of the other sites visited.

In the 8 weekly meetings we have forayed, 2 ½ hours per session, we have produced some 222 records representing approximately 133 species. The members attending these forays are



finding them enjoyable and worthwhile for the learning of identities of new species and creating site records for the ABFG and BMS.

Additionally there is the buzz and some satisfaction when we find a rarely recorded species for VC62. An example of this was *Oncopodiella trigonella* recently collected and identified by David Smith (confirmed by AL). This species has not previously been recorded in the BMS database for VC62 and there are only 12 records for the whole of the UK in this database.

Alan Bunn

***Grifola frondosa* rot...an observation by Doug McCutcheon**



The above picture was taken at the base of a mature oak tree and portrays the fact that although there were no visible signs of decay on the outside of the tree the following picture shows the tree recently felled with at least 50% of the heartwood rotten or nearly so.



Season to Taste...

Jon's Mushroom Pasties.

This recipe will allow you to create another of Jon Bemrose's delicious diversions.

Untried by the Committee of the NEFSG, this recipe is published in the certain knowledge that at the time of writing Jon was alive and well. The lack of a specific picture should not be taken as an indication that the recipe is in any way a figment of Jon's imagination....but to fill the space a picture of a generic pastie is included.



Ingredients:

Makes 8 pasties (very tasty)

500g (1lb) Sweet potatoes, peeled & chopped into 3cm (1 inch) chunks

2 cloves garlic (thinly sliced)

500g (1lb) sliced mushrooms of your choice
salt & white pepper

Chilli (fresh)chopped finely.

500g (1lb) onions, peeled & sliced (halved through to root then sliced into half rings thinly approx. 1mm)

1/2 block 125g (1/4lb) butter

1 block ready made puff pastry (500g)

50ml milk and 1 egg beaten together for sealing and glazing.

Method:

Place 2/3rds approx (75g) of butter in a pan and add sliced onions, cook on a low heat for a couple of hours (Yes! that long!) stirring occasionally.

This is to cook out most of the moisture so the natural sugars start to brown. You can do it faster but then might burn them . You want very soft onions with a golden toffee colour and taste. Season with salt and white pepper. Let cool.

Boil the sweet potatoes with the garlic until tender, drain through a sieve and mash with remaining butter. Season and add chilli to taste. Let cool.

Gently cook the sliced mushrooms in a little oil/butter to soften and reduce moisture. Then cool.

Cut the puff pastry into 4 quarters. Roll each quarter into a rectangle approx. 3 times length to width, approx. 3mm thick, then cut each of these in half on the short diameter for 8 slightly elongated pieces. (I find

this easier than trying to keep the whole block rolled neatly)

Divide the caramelised onion between the 8 pastry pieces, and spread leaving 2cms. at the edge clear. Do the same with sweet potato mash. Top with the cooked sliced mushrooms.

Now brush the clear part of the pastry with the beaten egg and milk mix.

Fold over the pastry, try to ease any trapped air out to the edges, and seal/crimp the edges (a floured fork is an easy idea for this)

Place the pasties on a lightly greased & floured baking tray, glaze the top with remaining egg/milk mix. You can sprinkle with a few sesame seeds & sea salt crystals.

Bake in preheated oven 200 degrees (approx gas 7) for around 30 mins until golden and crisp. Allow to rest and cool slightly before serving as filling is very hot! (but you could eat cold later)

Serve with a selection of dressed salad leaves. (or just dunk in a big splodge of ketchup or chunky pickles)

Extras:

You could sprinkle the glazed tops with poppy seeds. You could add some peas or sweetcorn kernels to the filling.

You could add some chopped nuts to the filling.

You could add your choice of cheese to the filling.

You could add your some wilted wild garlic or spinach to the filling.

Or if a meat eater, some diced crispy bacon or diced cooked chicken goes in well.

JB

What do you think of it so far?

Since the conception of the NEFSG it has been considered to be an imperative that the Membership be involved in all aspects of the group activities. To this end, the Committee regularly pauses for reflection and listens to the views of the members. It has to said, that in common with all groups such as ours, there is a tendency to assume that if there are few complaints from the members means then all is satisfactory. This is an error in analysis.

Of course, an error such as this can be caused by many things, but significantly it is more often than not due to insufficient data....or to put it another way, if no one rages nothing changes!

Over the past several months, and following a questionnaire distributed to our members by e-mail (with the request that those without the facility be included by word of mouth) the results of this exercise in democratic involvement trickled in.

We are currently running with a membership of some 54 souls, of whom approximately 43 were sent the questionnaire. There were 23 replies and non spoiled!

Below is a simple statistical analysis of information gleaned from the replies. The information is published without comment or further explanation but some conclusions were drawn and will appear at the end of this article.

Purely as a filter a colour coding is shown. Over 50%, under 75%. Over 75%. Under 50%

When asked:	Yes (%)
Do you feel that forays are distributed fairly within our operational area?	84
Do you want more forays and field meetings?	72
Do you feel that you are uninterested in some group activities?	11
Do you want more workshop-based meetings?	50
Do you want more hands-on help with identification of your finds?	66
Would you prefer the Newsletter to contain more ...photography?	50
....learned articles?	66
....information on microscopy?	55
....general interest articles?	72
....light articles for beginners?	83
....keys and information sources?	88
....cartoons and humorous content?	61
...news from other sources?	27
...reader's (member's) contributions?	55
...reader's (member's) questions?	11
...competitions?	22
...none of the above, just the venues?	
Is the Newsletter suitable for purpose?	96
Would the one member (4% of 23!) who said "NO" to the last question become involved with advising on the Newsletter format?	0
Do you visit the NEFSG web-siteweekly?	17
....monthly?	11
....never?	22
....intermittently?	11
....only when needed?	39
Is the Web-site suitable for purpose?	92
Would the two members (8% of 23!) who said "NO" to the last question become involved with advising on the web-site format?	0

From the above, there are some conclusions which can be drawn which will only confirm the democratic process, whilst others will help to bring about changes.

It is possible to deduce that the membership believe that distribution of foray locations is just fine (84% said so). This is a confirmatory result and the Committee will just carry on with the current system of allocation. Similarly, it would seem that the Newsletter and the Web-site are considered to be fit for purpose but could still be improved. Significantly, there is a demand *from those who participated in the survey*, for more articles of a light nature for "beginners", and not entirely paradoxically a wish to see more Keys published.

TAK

We are an insular lot! There would seem to be no wish to be fed news from other sources and this may well be a reflection of the requirement for more home-grown wisdom. The Committee will take note.

Leading on from this is the puzzling lack of interest in the publishing of member's questions, with the implied follow on being the publishing of answers to such questions. It may well be that the delay factor, question to answer, would be too great and that our astute group have decided that the facility would be of no practical use. So be it.

It is with some cerebral relief that the yearly competition will be dispensed with. Interest level was approaching asymptotic zero, leaving just me and my dog standing in favour. You may all stand at ease. The competition is no more.

Now to the Web-site. It was encouraging that all who replied to the questionnaire answered the question regarding the frequency of visits made to the web-site. Astoundingly (to me, anyway) the numbers add up to 100.

Equally astounding was the figure of 22%, being the proportion of members who NEVER visit the web-site, *and this from those who have the facility to do so.* This is a real puzzle and the question "Why?" would surely have been asked if but for one moment this high level of lack of interest had been foreseen. Of course, 88% of respondents DO visit the site, in varying degrees of repetition, but to NEVER visit is a mystery. I hear a thin wail going up.....it sounds like "How?"

We may as well tackle this one now. The question keeps getting asked "What is the password for the Member's Section on the site?" Some are STILL unclear. You have a UNIQUE password which you can get from Keith Cunningham. E-mail him on kcunn@talktalk.net to get yours!

Now to the bulky part of the survey. All expressed percentages in yellow indicate a MAJORITY in favour, but without the extreme requirements of an over 75% response. It is a relief that practically all the categories which commanded a majority positive response are asking for those things which are possible, and the committee will note that most would like more of everything. Democracy...great, isn't it?....but....there was one bear-trap in the questionnaire which was not set, and for humane reasons.

When asked if the Newsletter should contain more members' contributions the response was a cautious 55%, but a majority nonetheless. The question, had it been asked, would be along the lines of "Would you be prepared to contribute an article to the Newsletter", and though this may sound cynical, it is almost certain that the response would be similar to the asked questions "Would you be prepared to advise on the Web-site format?" and "Would you be prepared to advise on the Newsletter format?". As you can see, the answer was 0%.

Many respondents (seven) added notes to the returned questionnaire. It would be of no great advantage to publish them here but a resume is possible. There were no extreme views. A member wrote that whilst interest in mycology was germane, not all aspects of the discipline were of equal interest, and that certain aspects he could dispense with. Graciously, and with obvious sincerity, this member had come to an arrangement with himself whereby he would attend such events as he felt were useful, and not attend the rest. We can ask for no more.

Other members were munificent in their praise for the group, the committee, our ethos and our dedication. Long may we continue.

Overwhelmingly, if seven added notes can achieve overwhelming-ness, there was an expressed gratitude for the continued presence of the NEFSG which was most encouraging.
Thank you all for your replies.

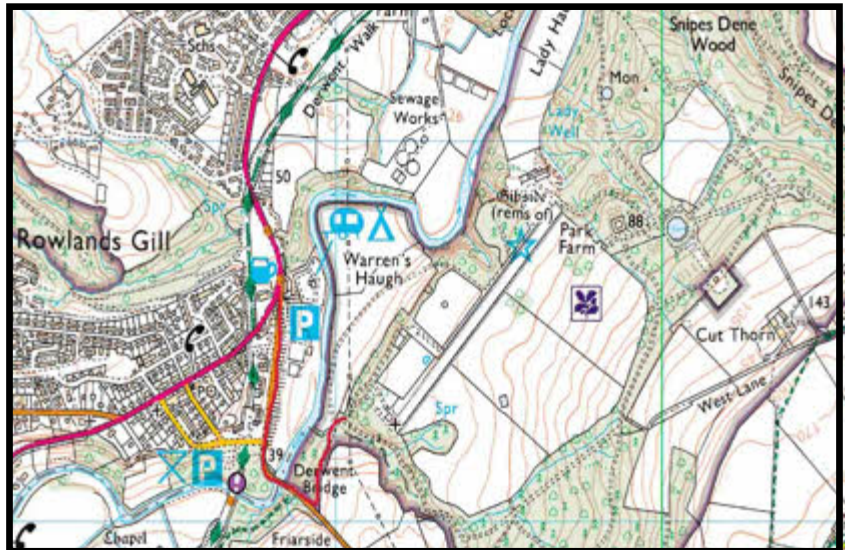
Tom (on behalf of the Committee of the NEFSG)

TAK

Forays & Events

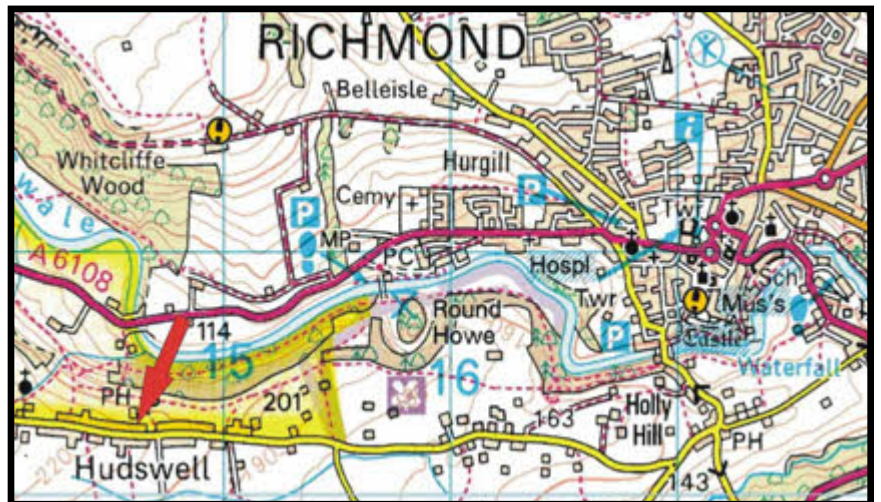
Spring Foray MAY 14th. GIBSIDE

For this foray we will meet in the National Trust public car park at NZ172583 as last year. The entrance to the car park is off the B6314, known as Busty Bank. The location of the entrance is clearly signed at NZ169581. Though the car park is NT the fee has been generously waived for the NEFSG and hopefully Phil Younger, NEFSG member and NT employee will be able to point us in the right direction. This location has a very good mix of grassland and woodland so there should be a wide range of species. There are also toilets, a cafe and a visitor centre.



Summer Jolly at The George and Dragon, Hudswell JULY 30th.

This year we are encouraging as many members as possible to attend our Summer Luncheon at the George and Dragon in Hudswell Village. The Inn was recently bought by private investors, some of whom are members of the NEFSG, in order to save the pub from a sad demise. Happily, the venture has been a success and the business is thriving. There are LIMITED PLACES but we have a block booking for eighteen. It would be a great help if we could notify the Inn in advance of our lunch choices and the menu is published on the next page. Please contact Babs Walton with your requirements by e-mail: the.priory@btinternet.com or by telephone on **01748 850 884** as soon as possible. **Lunch is booked for 12:00 on the day.**



Havanna/Three Hills, August 20th.

This foray is NORTH OF THE TYNE, just off the A1 north of Gosforth. Please note that if you are travelling on the A1 you will need to follow the route as shown.

This foray is on path and short scrub. The walking is relatively flat. The car-park is clearly indicated but if coming from the east you will be tempted to stop by the wooded area, but keep going until you reach the car-park at NZ21508 71883.

All forays commence 11:00 prompt.



The George and Dragon Menu de Jour

JULY 30th. 12:00

Below is a short sample from the George and Dragon Menu. The Pub would much appreciate your order IN ADVANCE by at least a week. The full menu is available on the George and Dragon website

http://www.georgeanddragonhudswell.com/s_printable_menu.asp?menu=1

Home made tomato soup and a sandwich

Sandwich Choice ham, egg or cheese - brown or white bread please state.

£5.00

oooOOooo

Traditional Fish and chips £7.50

oooOOooo

Home-made Lasagne, salad & coleslaw £7.50

oooOOooo

Swaledale Bangers and Mash with vegetables £7.00

oooOOooo

Home made Burger, chips and salad (veggie or beef please state your preference) £6.50

Please notify Babs Walton of your luncheon choice. This will be considered to be your intention to attend!

To phone: 01748 850 884

By e-mail: the.priory@btinternet.com

Please note! We expect to indulge in some light foraying activity after lunch....be prepared

Pen Portrait-Keith Tulip

Born in South Shields, educated at the grammar school, I went off to the University College of North Wales, Bangor, for a degree in Zoology and Marine Biology. Alas! Once in Bangor, I spent more time mountaineering than I did studying. I climbed rocks in Wales, loved snow and ice climbing in Scotland, and had the experience of one alpine season in Austria and Switzerland. A splash of white-water canoeing filled in the gaps. So, on graduating, instead of a biological work, I found myself in the relatively new career of computer programming. I worked in Northumberland, then spent a year and a half in Amsterdam as a contract systems programmer, then a chief programmer. The rest of my working life was with British Gas in its various forms, mostly as Computer Technical Services Manager and finishing as a Software Licensing and Contracts specialist. Once I was working, the mountaineering eased into the more gentle hill walking.

I lived for 15 years in Durham City, before returning to South Shields, where I live with my partner, Kaye Kossick. Kaye lectures in English at Northumbria University, after having gained her doctorate at Newcastle University on the work of Gerard Manley Hopkins, and has also published on 19th century labouring class poets. Although Kaye has as yet to develop her interest in mycology, we share a love of warm waters and fish-watching, and have had many holidays snorkelling and trying our best with underwater photography. We've been to the Red Sea and Barbados, but for the last six years we've visited Bonaire, an island that was part of the Netherlands Antilles, and has magically clear, protected waters for snorkelling and diving.

I was delighted to be able to take early retirement a few years ago, so now have time to pursue my lifelong interest in food, and do most of the cooking. I was also able to return to my first love, natural history, envisaging myself as a Victorian gentleman naturalist. To this end, I attended many courses, including Northumbrian mammals, bird watching, bats and wild flowers. I spent a few years wandering the coastal cliffs at South Shields, studying the wonderful Magnesian Limestone flora. I could easily have specialised in bats, but decided early on that, at eleven o'clock at night, I'd rather be warm, wrapped round a bottle of wine, than chilled to the bone listening to the squeaks of a bat detector. The courses that really made an impact were Gordon Beake's fungi seminars and field trips. These lasted from 2004 to 2008; yet despite his excellent efforts, I still feel I'm a beginner in the subject.

Encouraged by Gordon Beakes, I joined the BMS, and then Gordon Simpson spotted me as a potential recruit to the NEFSG, for which many thanks. I've always been interested in microscopy, since my first toy plastic microscope as a child. My first real microscope was bought when I was 15, brass, column fine focus, ex Glasgow University. But in 2008 I upgraded to a Brunel SP30, which now connects via a Canon camera directly to my computer. I now need to find out how to prepare mycological material and what to look for. Perhaps microfungi will be an area I'll be looking at. But first let's try getting a few more of the big ones right!



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

No apologies for publishing the final few recorded comments from forays past. It will take some time to build up a new stock.....at least one season!

Look, I think this is an unknown one so there must be more than you said! (Precocious brat on Ormesby once only foray 2004)

Is this a glaucoma? It smells a bit like a bounty-bar. (Reasonable question from a harassed mother of two on a foray in Ancient Forest near Scarborough 2002)

...and that's what they call a veil but in Italy its a famous car that old people used to have (?!) (overheard conversation at Tunstall hills between a brother and sister 8-9 year olds)

...there's some slimy stuff on the grass where the dog's been sick and its called Rupert but its not yellow and there some oranges in it, too. (Friends 7 year old daughter in woods near Boswell 2007)

Amanitas can catch and kill you. (Wide eyed 6 year old reporting the facts as he saw them to a concerned parent! Location and year not recorded)

Is this toadstool a mushroom or is a fungus only on bread? (?) (Adult male with *Clitocybe nebularis*, the twenty third that day in the woods at Thorpe Wood 2008)

My dad said if you pee on a mushroom you can't eat it so they don't pee on the mushrooms in the shops. (Comforting information from a wide-eyed six year old with his incontinent Collie dog at Ormesby 2004)

If that's spermatic I'm ill. (Not all these comments are from children! Adult without portfolio on Red Squirrel Trail Foray 2008)

Beef cake is her patical and we have one captured in our house but we didn't remember to bring it because my mum said it would be dead and that's rare. (Great certainty in a 6 year old on a foray with friends at Stapleton-Croft 2005)

Can this kill you if you cut it up really small and then boil it in some hot water and then mix it some more and then leave it to get cold with some tea and then give it to my sister? (Question time on a foray at Crathorne Hall after a very wet day in 2006. The older (8-9 year old) sister raised her eyes to heaven and said that her brother was very silly because she didn't like cold tea.)

Are there any fungi which are only poisonous to men? (Women's Circle talk and slides, question time 2003)

TAK