

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 65 April 2012



Onygena equina on ram's horn. Castleton 01-02-12 North Yorkshire. Exposure Auto, Canon 40D 18-200 Canon zoom
Paul Forster

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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 identity queries please contact the Group Consultant: Alan Legg at 36, Carleton Drive, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 9QP. Tel: 01325 350834. Membership Sec.: Alan Bunn, 60 Roseberry Crescent, Great Ayton, North Yorks. TS9 6EP. Tel. 01642724955 E-mail: alanbunn456@btinternet.com Chairman: Alan Simkins.

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TO IMPORTANT MATTERS.

The NEFSG Newsletter is not exactly what it says on the tin. "News" is a very variable commodity which in the context of a quarterly magazine, can mean anything from articles on purely mycological matters to essential information on the location of organised forays, culinary capers and identity crises. Because of the need to keep some order within these hallowed pages, this opener will attempt to get the important matters out of the way before the more enjoyable stuff rivets your attention.

So first of all can we all welcome the new members which 2011 to 2012 has sent our way. At the time of writing we are some sixty strong and showing no signs of imminent collapse. With this many members we can expect great things in the coming year, particularly considering that historically there has been an almost linear relationship between the number of members, the number of contributing members and the number of records submitted. Of course, each year brings a renewed plea from the committee to the membership....please get involved. There are now forays planned in the year with sufficiently diverse locations to ensure that **all members can attend at least one event.**

We have begun to take more seriously the much requested pleas for instructional "classes" in microscopy which though showing low attendance initially, will pick up as more members are made aware of the pleasure in identification of species from scratch. The Library has some excellent books for loan and needs only a phone call to the writer to determine a mutually acceptable collection arrangement. **The library list appears later in this Newsletter.**

All members who CAN use the latest version of the Validation Recording Sheet **should now please do so.** This EXCEL spread sheet makes recording simple and foolproof as unacceptable terms are not permitted. Accordingly, the records are compatible with both the BMS and the ABFG databases with the minimum of time consuming alteration. Ultimately, it will become possible to produce our own records using the on-line recording facility of CATE2, holding them on-line until approved by AWL, at which point editing and correction completed, they can be submitted at the press of a button....in theory!

We now have three members' representatives colluding with the committee in order to ascertain the needs of those who may be reticent to come forward with suggestions at the AGM or via the Newsletter. Cath Gillie, Val Standen and Dom Colback will help you to find your way around. **Many thanks to each.**

The vexed question of foray "ownership" and insurance cover has been addressed. Most of you will be aware that an arrangement has been approved and made with the ABFG which has advantages all round. Any member who proposes a foray and has the proposal accepted is said to "own" the foray. There has been some silent concern regarding the definition of ownership. Internally, it simply means that your foray will be detailed by you in terms of the necessary permissions and car-parking arrangements. You will also collect the Identification slips and submit the Validation Recording Sheet to the writer after the foray. These are not onerous tasks. The problem was insurance liability when non-ABFG members "ran" a foray. From now on, **any member who "owns" a foray will receive one year's membership of the ABFG completely free of charge, which includes the ABFG quarterly Newsletter.** Problem solved. It is hoped that members who receive this valuable bonus will continue with their ABFG membership as a charitable gesture, but this hope is just that. No commitment necessary.

It is very difficult to please all of the people all of the time but that is only a reason to continue trying. The phenomenon of new members who join never to be seen again causes some concern amongst the Committee, so the yearly "jolly" was introduced. Originally, the idea of a once-a-year social event was just to give ourselves a pat-on-the-back and to renew acquaintance with members not seen, for diverse reasons, throughout the year. As the event was, and is, open to spouses a new dimension was introduced. The format worked well but numbers attending were always variable due to the travel distance for some. A coach was considered but that presented problems of logistics as well as cost. This year the best worse option is being trialled. Three venues were suggested. Members could choose where they would like to go. Options were Tan Hill Inn, the Wainstones Restaurant at Great Ayton and the Pump House at Durham. The Pump House won on votes (eleven voted out of 60) and so democracy dictates (I love that expression) that the Pump House it is. Places will be reserved for twenty, for lunch on SATURDAY JULY 28th. **Please notify the writer as soon as possible of your intent as numbers may be limited.** These functions are always enjoyable so make the effort. Your presence is requested. RSVP.

Finally, can we encourage those members who are webnetty-enabled to use the NEFSG web-site. By now, all those who wish to do so should have obtained their "password" from Keith Cunningham. The web-site carries all past newsletters and so gives access to the various articles and keys written by members for members. There is also space allocated for members' photographs which could become a valuable resource provided they are of sufficiently high resolution (300k) and are correctly identified. **Please note that even those members who do not have home access to a computer can access the web-site at most libraries.**

TAK

Notes at the end of 2011

2011 was not a memorable mycological year as far as I was concerned. This was doubtless partly my own fault as I found it difficult to get to as many forays as usual and found myself preoccupied with other matters for much of the time.

Looking through my rough record book, however, I do find I have noted a few items of interest especially in the latter part of the year. Most of these are local to my own neighbourhood but may chime with observations made elsewhere by other members. If such turns out to be the case it would be useful if such collectors would try to acquire the habit of writing record notes for this Newsletter. Not enough members seem prepared to make their own contributions to it. Such people may well feel that what they have to say is not worthy of mention but to them I say let others be the judges. It is never too early or late to make a start and we all learn by doing, not by sitting on our hands. For example, my rough notes record three collections from different local sites, made at the end of July and the beginning of August, of the fairly common toadstool, *Amanita ceciliae*, formerly known as *A. inaurata* and before that as *A. strangulata*. I first encountered this on the back cover of the classic Collins handbook by Lange & Hora which was the amateur mycologist's bible when I started collecting in 1970. My first collection was from Loftus cemetery on September 3 1971. It is often described as uncommon but, in these parts, is frequently found accompanying or substituting for *A. rubescens* in oak/beech woodland.

As suggested above, the main 2011 season produced little startling but it did have the virtue of being mild enough to extend well into December. Early in that month I collected *Helvella crispa* and *Inocybe auricoma* in Flatts Wood, Barnard Castle. *Lepista* species tend to be late-fruiting and I was pleased to be able to collect *L. nuda* on November 11 alongside a local footpath. Its inedible relative, *L. sordida*, also turned up in similar places on Nov. 17 and 19 and the prized *L. saeva* provided the basis of enjoyable lunches on Nov. 16 and Dec. 11.

Finally on New Year's Eve, Ros and I took a walk in South Park, Darlington and noted three new colonies of Sulphur Tuft, *Hypholoma fasciculare*, and a single fruit-body of *Gymnopilus junonius*, recognisable despite being a little the worse for wear, on the stump of an indeterminate tree.

More Thoughts on *Scutellinia*

My Latin Dictionary informs me that, for the Romans, *scutella* signified "a bowl". Perhaps they also used *scutellinia* for a little bowl. It is many decades since I last used "Lewis & Short" but we have here a fairly obvious derivation for our very familiar "eyelash" fungi. My own detailed records of discomycetes date roughly from the publication of *Microfungi on Miscellaneous*

Substrates by Martin and Pam Ellis which first appeared in 1988. Presumably, before the late 80s, I had assumed that specimens of all such fungi had to be of *Scutellinia scutellata* and hadn't kept exhaustive records anyway. Tom's article in NEFSG Newsletter 64 prompted me to look through the records I do have and I found the following totals, listed (no doubt including some of the NEFSG records) in descending order:

S. scutellata

23 records, including 9 identified as being of "var. *cervorum*", from various sites.

S. trechispora

14 records (from 13 different sites between 1988 and 2009.)

S. subhirtella

9 records, (including one from 1987, identified by Brian Spooner at Kew as possibly the second British record).

S. cejpilii (formerly known as *S. hirta*)

8 records – including one from 1/11/1987 collected by myself from Falling Foss woods, North Yorks. and determined at Kew.

S. Legaliae

1 record – identified at Kew as being new to Britain and collected by me from Deepdale, Barnard Castle. on 23/07/1996.

S. pseudotrechispora

1 record – identified at Kew, from Falstone Forest and collected by me on 12/07/2000.

S. umbrosum

1 record, determined by Brian Spooner, from Kilton Woods, Loftus in September 1989.

In addition, I have three records of "*Cheilymenia crucipila*", presumably since then, reassigned as *Scutellinia crucipila*.

One can, of course, draw no conclusions from such a small sample of records but it is interesting to note that all these taxa are listed among the 16 most commonly recorded according to Tom's tabulation. No doubt there are more species in northern Britain just waiting to be collected.

AWL 01/02/2012

Identification of dried fungi found on the wintering forays near Teesside .



The very dry weather since early January 2012 has restricted the range of species found by the members who have been foraying weekly during the period mid-Jan. to mid. - April. At the end of January we found several fruiting bodies of *Encoelia furfuracea* on fallen branches of Alder, (left) unfortunately they were immature and as a way of keeping the specimens fresh the branches were placed with their bases in water. Four days later, when we were meeting again, we observed that the fruiting bodies were expanded and were more comparable to



mature specimens of this species (right- Paul Forster).

In mid-February we came across a hard, orange specimen growing on a narrow branch from which we were unable to collect any spores (below). As the NEFSG's Indoor meeting was on



the 18th March it was decided to take the specimen to the 'experts' for identification, - unfortunately an answer was not forthcoming. Learning from the previous experience with the *Encoelia furfuracea* specimen, the wood was placed with its base in water. Examination of the specimen after a few hours showed

that the portion in water was swollen and had changed to a softer specimen (right) and was slightly more yellow than the original. Spores were recovered from the swollen



portion and these were consistent with the spores of *Dacrymyces stillatus*. . Coincidentally, when the hydrated specimen was left in a warm atmosphere overnight it reverted back to the dried version.



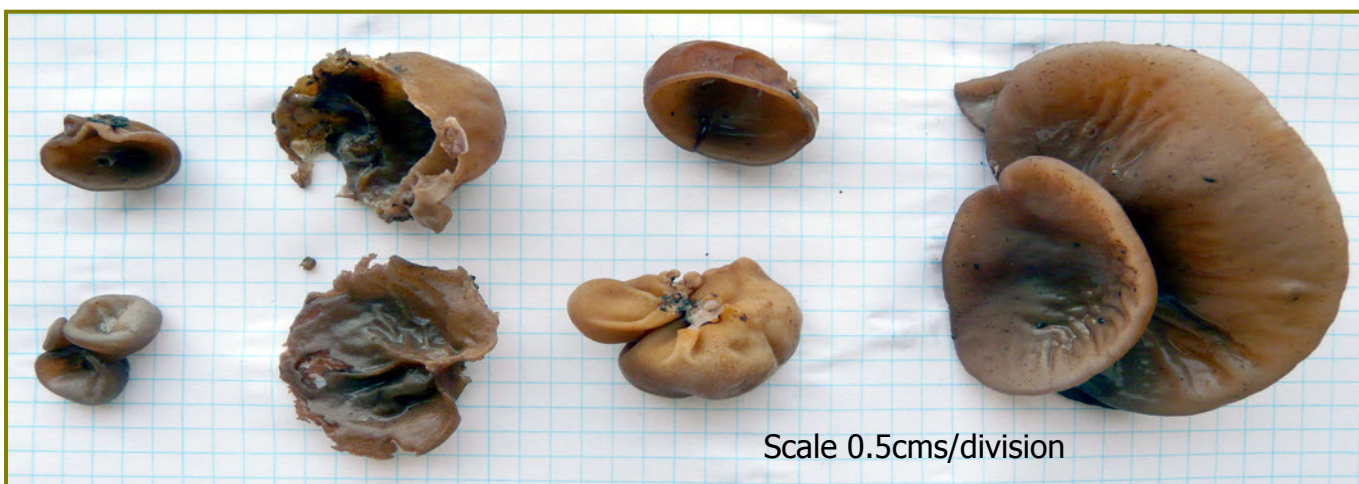
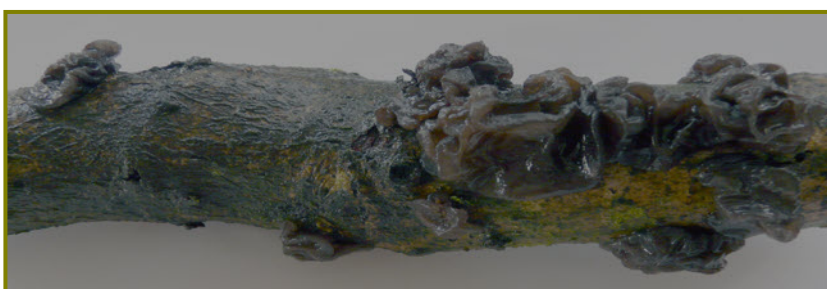
In mid-March we had a foray into the woodland near Ingleby Arncliffe and, amongst some branches cut from trees, we found several branches which looked as though they had been splattered with shiny black paint. It was not obvious why these branches looked as they did so we left the mystery as it was.

Shortly afterwards we found another area with branches splattered with black patches so we decided to take away some examples of the blackened areas for further study. Two of the team present proceeded to do the 'soak it in water trick' and were very surprised with the results! A series which were hydrated for different times are shown in the pictures (left, top to bottom).

The top picture shows two sections of as-found material, next down shows the same two specimens after 5 mins. hydration, and the bottom of the group, 12 hours hydration. The pictures below show an original dry specimen on a thicker branch and the same specimen after only 1 hour hydration.

We found we were able to find spores from several of the hydrated samples and these along with the appearance of the wetted specimens were consistent with the origin of the 'black paint' being very dry *Exidia glandulosa*.

It is well known that *Auricularia auricula-judae* can be hydrated when found in a dry state and this was confirmed with the specimens shown in right. The top picture shows specimens of *Auricularia auricula-judae* of various sizes and mostly in a dry state; the lower picture shows the same specimens after soaking overnight. Clearly the *Auricularia auricula-judae* specimens have increased in size (below and over), but have not expanded as much as the *Exidia glandulosa*.





The above set of treatments shows that very dry specimens can be re-hydrated so that the material can be visually recognised and then confirmed by spore examination. Without the water soaking treatment we would have not been able to identify the *Dacrymyces stillatus* and *Exidia glandulosa*; the hydration of the *Encoelia furfuracea* enabled Paul to take a very creditable photograph of this fungus species.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, all our forays have been undertaken in very dry conditions and in comparison with last year we have not found as many different species. In view of appearance of the *Dacrymyces stillatus* and *Exidia glandulosa* when dry it would seem likely that we could have missed several species which were in a similar state. For example *Ascocoryne cylichnium*, *A. sarcoides*, *Neobulgaria pura*, *Tremella mesentrica* have rarely been found this year whereas last year they were found more regularly.

Compiled by Alan Bunn with help from other forayers of the group.

A very strange case of mis taken identity [pun]

I tell this tale in my capacity as a mycological dilettante....but be warned, I have read a book!

Last year at Gibside, a sliver of bark sample I had taken was left forlornly in my basket after all contents had been disgorged into the trays of wonder back in the foray HQ.

I recalled a member (you know who you are) telling me that on/in the bark was *Diatrype disciformis*. For no reason that I can recall I decided to have a poke about of a Sunday morning to extricate some spores. They are known to be easy pickings.

Once on a slide I got the urge to check them out with my new tablet thingy (an iPad of sorts) and so consulted the interwebbernetty. What I had was not *D. disciformis* but *Melogramma campylosporum*.

Diatrype disciformis



Melogramma campylosporum



That very day I encouraged my wife outside with a promise of a good walk and an ice-cream, so off to Gibside we went. There I found that what I thought was *Fagus sp.* was in fact, Hornbeam. *M. Campylosporum* seems to favour Hornbeam. I took another sample and on returning home checked it out again in my Fungi of Switzerland.

Yep, definitely *M. Campylosporum* (= *Melogramma bulliardii*). I also took a sample from a fallen beech bough of what most would identify as *D. disciformis*and so it proved to be. There is no moral to this story except, perhaps, do not always believe what you think you see. Further investigation revealed that many others have reported this identity error over an undetermined period. (<http://www.abfg.org/bap/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=333>) Though the spores are markedly different, the host is enough to set the antennae twitching.

TAK

Meet Mr. and Mrs. Waxcap!

Though not how we would wish to have portrayed our hosts on the Sunnyside Farm Foray, the Sentances have a highly developed sense of humour and are tolerant of the idiosyncrasies of the Press! This is the press cutting from the Weardale Gazette. The Sentances can't wait for the next foray.....though numbers may be limited to one bottle per person.
Article below as printed!

— Waxcaps of — Weardale



Anne and Robert Sentance of Frosterley, hosted the event.



A *hygrocybe splendidissima*.

WEARDALE was under the scrutiny of the North Eastern Fungus Study Group (NEFSG) over one weekend earlier this month when members of the mycological group met on the fells with the intention of recording the specialised fungi in the locality.

The group detected and recorded the species which are known to be prevalent on the fells; of particular interest was the wax-cap fungi which can provide spectacularly colourful displays against the drab autumnal pastureland. The recorded finds will be subjected to checks on identification before being submitted to the British Mycological Society and the Association of British Fungus Groups for inclusion in national databases. The NEFSG was established over ten years ago by Alan Legg, a much respected figure in mycological circles; the group has prospered and now has some 50 active members. The work of the group is a vital part of the National conservation programme and is part of an ongoing and established procedure.

Robert and Anne Sentance of Sunnyside Farm, Frosterley, hosted the event and provided local knowledge of the environs.

Photographs-Gordon Simpson

This article is not solely about fungi.

I do not know how many photographs I receive by email asking me if I can identify the subject. On the last day of February I received over 30 pictures with some from abroad.

Many people are aware that identifying wildlife from a photograph is far from ideal. The scale may not be given so blades of grass or dead leaves may provide a clue for the size of the subject. On some occasions I have tried lying down to see the underside of the specimen but this does not work.

The person taking the photograph is rarely aware of the identification features of a specimen so the crucial information is omitted.

Many years ago I was sent a flower for identification. The photographer had just taken a picture of one flower that filled the frame. Suddenly I realised it was one of many flowers that grow on the plant one above the other. It was Heath Milkwort, *Polygala serpyllifolia*. Each flower is about 5mm long yet on my computer the flowers were 400mm long. Normally I identify this plant on acid soils at a distance of 2m away and I do not look at the flowers in great detail. The foliage is the key feature for identification.

I have encountered similar problems with photographs of microfungi when there is no means of checking the scale. My philosophy is let people send photographs but inform them of the problems. In this way the person is encouraged to help provide records and they might find a rarity or join a natural history society.

Sometimes I receive photographs which give me a great deal of pleasure. Dr Gordon Beakes has had specimens of *Guepinia helvelloides* brought to him by his class members whilst foraging in Chopwell Wood. I told him that I would like to know the location so that I can take conservation action.

Much to my surprise, whilst I was leading a foray in Chopwell Wood on 10 Oct 2010, this rare fungus had been found by Louise Wellington who is a member of Gordon's classes. She sent an email to Gordon asking for the identification of the specimen. Gordon informed me, so on a day when everything was covered in treacherous ice in November, I met Louise's partner and he showed me the site.

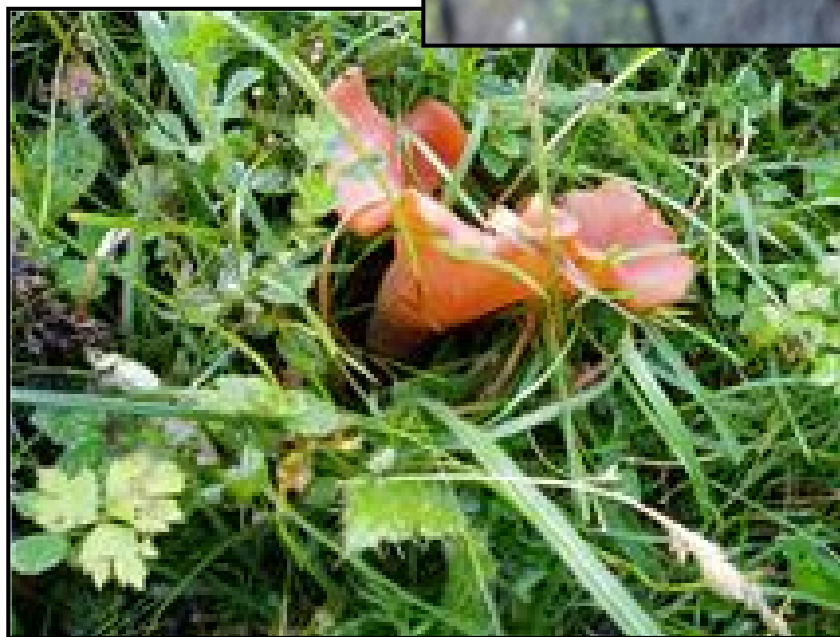
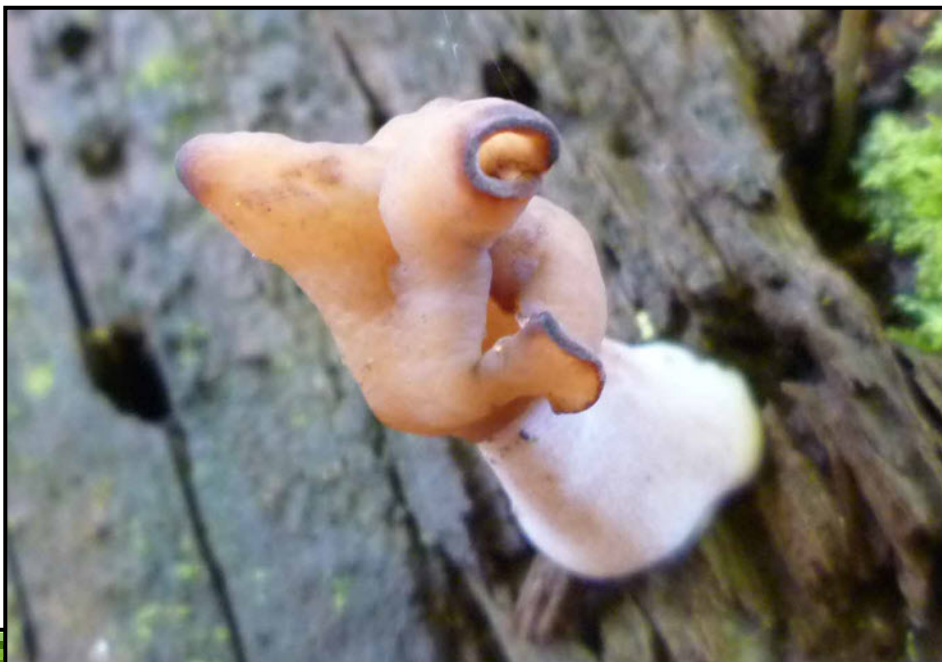
Last autumn before the annual foray in Chopwell Wood I went with Malcolm Gallimore to the site before the foray. The *Guepinia helvelloides* was fruiting though just past its prime; but now I can protect the area from forest operations and cover the vicinity with conifer chippings which the fungus grows on.

Guepinia helvelloides also grows near forest roads where limestone has been used as topping to seal the road surface. Yet another photograph was sent to me last year by Brian Athey who assists me on the Hamsterley foray. He had walked possible routes on the weekend before the foray and found something he could not identify. Yes it was *Guepinia helvelloides* but he did not take a map

reference. On request, he described the area using email and I walked both road verges for 1 mile and found one large specimen. I told Malcolm Gallimore where it was and how I had marked the site and he found another specimen 100m. away but on the opposite side of the road. This illustrates that now and again something exciting turns up.

Under other wildlife subjects I received a photograph of a bumble-bee seen at Simonside near Rothbury. It was the Wood Bumble-bee that is colonising Britain in the south. At that time the most northerly record was at York. It looks like the common sandy-coloured bumble-bee but it has a white backside. The same photographer this year has sent me two photographs of note. One was a hoverfly seen in Wark and it is known along the south coast of England. I asked if the gardener had bought potted shrubs that had been grown in S. England but, so far, I have not had an answer. The second photograph had me baffled and lots of research yielded the identification of a woolly, white sawfly caterpillar which is spreading north using its food plant, the Alder.

Back to fungi. Louise Wellington sent me a photograph of a fungus I had never seen before. She had identified it as **Gyromitra infula** (Right. TAK, Poland. Original picture previously published in Newsletter 63, page 6). I arranged to meet her on 29 Aug 2011



at Acomb near Hexham and I was taken to the specimen. I took a small piece for a microscopical check and the spores matched the description. The piece has been sent to Kew Gardens. I wonder if I had not shown interest in Louise's find at Chopwell Wood would she have contacted me about her second find.

I estimate that out of 20 photographs which I receive one makes me excited. I have been sent pictures of *Suillus cavipes* from a site I know at Thrunton Wood, *Gomphidius roseus* growing in N. Yorkshire, *Spathularia flava* growing near my house, *Hygrocybe calyptriformis* sent by a person I do not know but it was growing

in Newcastle, *Fomitopsis pinicola* from a site of which I am aware in Kielder Forest, *Cortinarius bolaris* on National Trust land and *Ramaria abietina* from Evenwood. I hope a few more surprises may come my way. GS

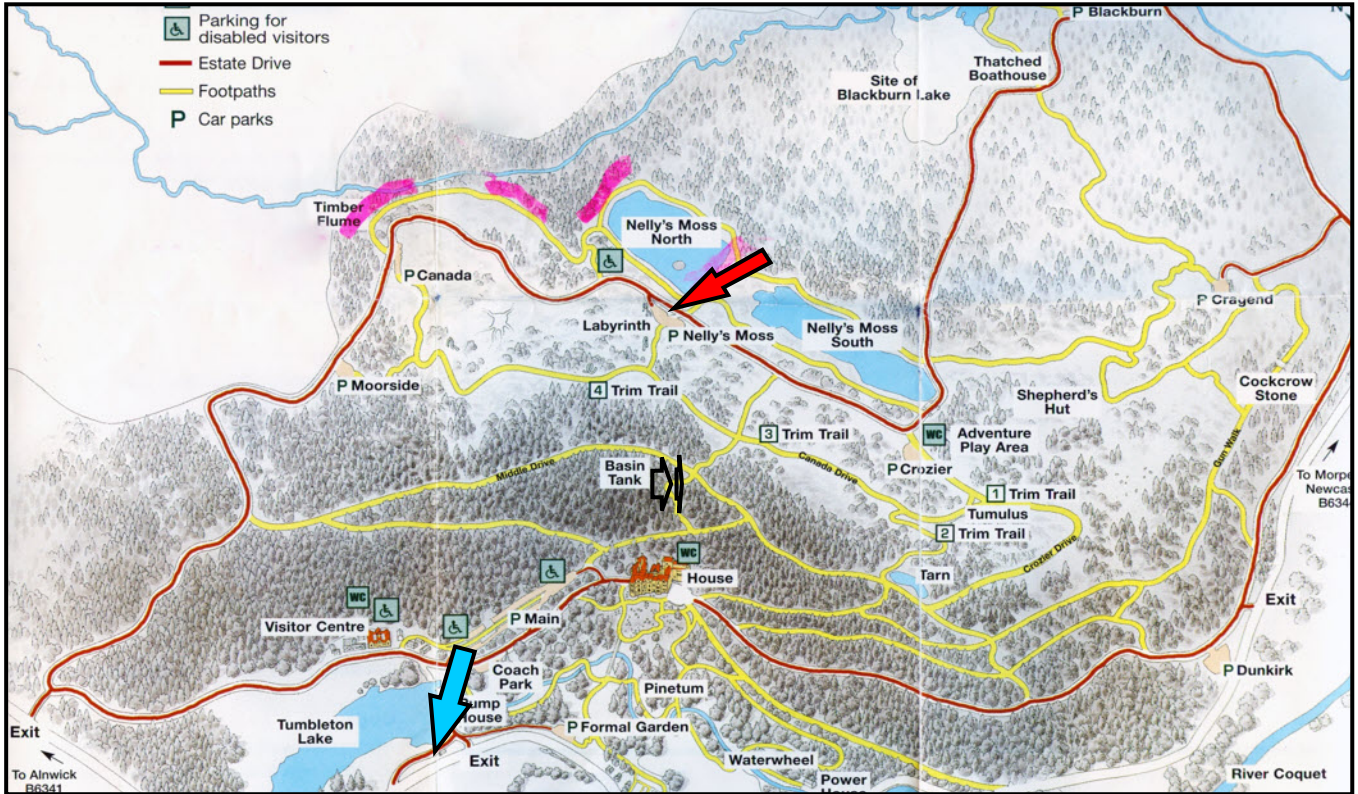
Guepinia helvelloides (above). Picture in low resolution. See Notes below.

Notes. Gordon correctly points out the many difficulties presented in identification when using photographic evidence only. Often, though, a photograph will be indication enough for a trained eye to suggest a search area. After that, it is down to the finder to take the process further. One further problem with pictures, particularly those sent by e-mail, is that of resolution. Too high a resolution is wasteful as most viewing devices produce excellent quality down to about 500 Kb. A 10 Mb. Picture takes a long time to send and process. For the Newsletter publication 300Kb is ideal. TAK

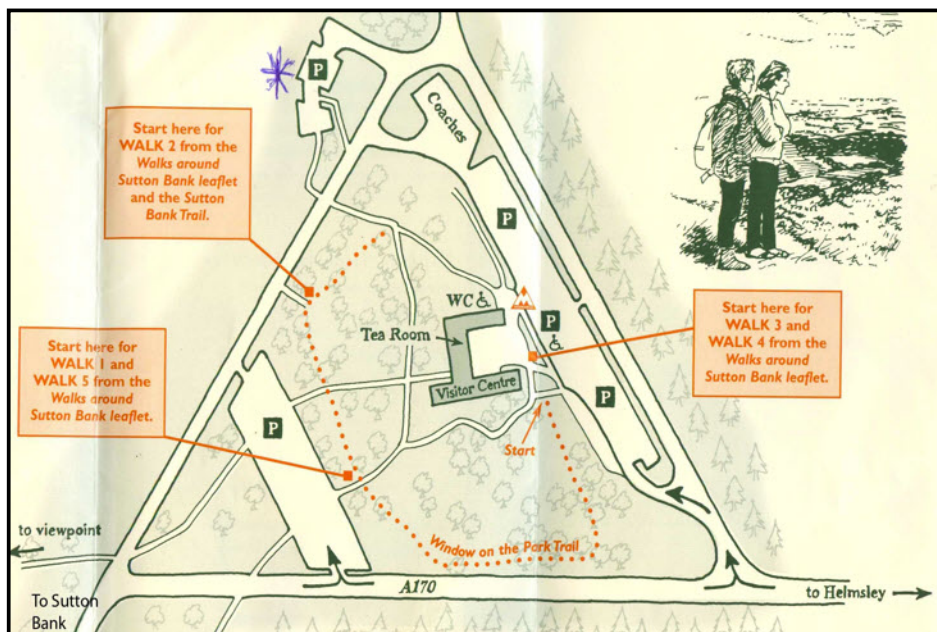
Forays & Events

Spring Foray MAY 12th.

Cragside- Nelly's Moss Lake area. Arrive 10:30 for 11:00 start at the car park indicated by the RED arrow.



Cragside is a beautiful location and at this time of the year is well worth a visit just to witness Spring unfurling. Cragside is on the B6341, 15 miles north-west of Morpeth on Coldstream road (A697). Turn left on to B6341 at Moorhouse Crossroads, entrance 3 miles on left. An entry voucher is attached to this Newsletter. Participating members should arrive at the BLUE arrow and present the voucher for free entry. Could NT members please use their own membership cards, NOT the voucher.



**Sutton Bank Top
Foray Saturday
18th. August. Put
it in your diary. It
is a long way off!**

Travel on the A170 either from Thirsk or Helmsley. The ascent up Sutton Bank from Thirsk is steep. Meet at 10:30 for a prompt 11:00 start. The location of the Car Park is subtly marked with an asterisk. DO NOT PUT MONEY IN THE PAY AND DISPLAY as arrangements have been made. Public toilets are on site and we may have the benefit of a room for display, post-foray.

There are many possible forays from the Car Park comprising broadleaved and/or coniferous woodland.

Season to Taste...

From our captive Mycophage, Jon Bemrose, a recipe for

Cep Mousse

For 4 servings.

4 ramekin pots approx. size 150ml

Ingredients:

20g of dried ceps (soaked in 1/2 pint - 250ml of hot water)

1 teaspoon of cornflour

3 large free range eggs

12-20 girolles/chanterelles (fresh or frozen) or you could use morels in spring!

1 potato - approx size of a tennis ball, peel, then cut into matchsticks, dried on kitchen towel.

4 oz/100g broad beans, shelled and blanched.

150-200ml double cream.

1cm depth oil in a frying pan, heated.

Salt, pepper, maybe some celery salt if you like.

A tray large enough to hold the ramekins and water (a bain marie).

4 "Italian style" pasta bowls to serve (but you can use a plate!). Warm.



Method: Soak the ceps for 20+ minutes, then squeeze out but reserve all the juice. Pre-heat oven to 160-180 deg. C. (gas 3-4) and lightly grease the ramekins with butter or olive oil.

Chop the ceps into approx 3mm bits.

Beat the eggs with half the cream, a pinch of salt and pepper, and a touch of the soaked cep juice.

Check the seasoning. Now quickly toss the chopped ceps in the cornflour (helps them keep mixed) and mix into the eggs.

Pour the mix into the ramekins to approx 3-5 mm below the rim. Put ramekins into your tray.

Now add hot water to the tray 3/4 way up the side of the ramekins. Put into oven for 20-30 mins. until set.

Whilst pots are in the oven, shell the broad beans, poach the girolles in the reserved cep stock, and add the beans.

Raise the heat then add the cream, reduce to coating thickness, at the same time heat the oil in separate pan and fry the potato matchsticks until golden. Drain on kitchen paper.

Now take the ramekins of mousse and ease out/upend on to the warmed bowls, pour over the cream, girolle/bean sauce, and garnish with the crisp potato straws.

Notes. Tip from Jon. Chanterelles available frozen but good from Lidl.

Jon Bemrose 2012

North Eastern Fungus Study Group Minutes of the 15th AGM held at Rainton Meadows on Saturday 3rd March 2012 commencing at 11.a.m.

1 Apologies for absence:

Pat Wood, Aubrey and Edith Colling, Joan Vickers, Babs Walton, Vic Fairbrother and Alan Legg. A total of 11 members attended.

2 Minutes of the 14th AGM meeting: Accepted as accurate.

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

4 Confirmed Programme for 2012 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.

Saturday 12th May Craggside, Nelly's Mosses Lakes – Mike Cruse (Beckie, NT warden and Andy McL to assist with arrangements)

Saturday 28th July Social Lunch at Venue to be arranged - Tom K.

Saturday 18th Aug – Sutton Bank, area around the car park, N Yorks –A Simkins –please note change of date from previously notified date.

Saturday 8th September Flass Vale, Durham City - Val Standen

Saturday 22nd September- Holy Stone Wood Keith T.

Saturday 6th October – Rievaulx Abbey nr. Helmsley, N Yorks AB/AS

Saturday 20th October – PowHill Country Park, Derwent Reservoir - Andy McL

Saturday 27th October- Havannah/Three Hills Dominique Colback

Saturday 3rd November- Finchale Priory, North city of Durham – Tom K

Saturday 10th November – Duncombe Park, Helmsley, N Yorks P Forster/AB/DS

Saturday 24th November – indoor meeting at Rainton Meadows – TK to contact G Beakes

Saturday 16th February 2013 – indoor meeting at Rainton Meadows, topic to be decided.

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.

Concerning these events it was agreed at the AGM that the Group would pay a fee for the hire of the Church Hall accommodation for the Flass Vale event and the car park fees for the Finchale Priory event.

Tom noted that he would prefer to have more votes for the venues for the Social Lunch – currently the Pump House venue seems most popular

5 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that we were in a good financial health with around £300 in the Account. This was despite having approximately one third of the subscriptions outstanding. The Treasurer proposed that we should not accumulate funds but that we should spend money on such items as books, microscopes and other items which would be used by the general membership. The Accounts presented to the AGM were accepted.

The Treasurer agreed to write a note for a Newsletter covering the discussion on this topic.

Tom noted that the Groups' Microscope had not been returned following the recent Microscopy meeting, and Tom listed possible members who could have borrowed the instrument. The Secretary agreed to enquire of these members in order to discover the instruments current location.

6 Topics for the AGM from the Committee meeting of November 2011

a) Currently a few NEFSG members subscribe to the Association of British Fungus Groups (ABFG) which results in some insurance cover for our Forays. The nature of this cover and the understanding of the rules and regulations involved an extended discussion at the meeting which covered a wide range of issues, one of which was the effect on Insurance cover when non-NEFSG members (i.e. visitors) were on forays.

In concluding this item Tom Kirby agreed to seek information and clarification from Michael Jordon of the ABFG on the Insurance cover.

7. Election of Officers

Keith Cunningham had requested at the November committee meeting that he wished to resign from the Committee as from this AGM. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes should record a big thank you to Keith for his contributions over many years. The remaining five committee members are all willing to seek re-election to the following posts - Alan Simkins, Chairman; Tom Kirby, Treasurer and Alan Bunn, Secretary. Alan Legg, and Andy McLay committee members. The meeting agreed to reappoint the proposed committee.

8. Topic for the AGM from the Committee meeting of November 2011

After discussion at the November 2011 committee meeting it was agreed that appointment of additional members to the Committee would be beneficial. Principally these additional members would act as a link between the officials (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) and the membership. During discussion on this item a few ideas were raised which will be discussed in more depth at the next committee meeting in May. We were very fortunate that three members agreed to join the committee:- Cath Gillie, Val Standen and Dom Colback. Cath and Val will job-share but will ensure that at least one of them attends each committee meeting.

9 Any Other Business

a) Following item 8 two proposals were put forward, which in discussion, seemed to gather a lot of support. One proposal was that we should attempt to create a 'buddy' system between new members and more well established members and secondly that on forays we should consider splitting into, say 4 groups, with a competent mycologist 'leading' each group and foraying into different areas on the site. At the Gibside foray last year the latter proposal was effectively followed and did seem to increase the extent of the area forayed with an increase in species list total.

The Committee will consider these suggestions at its May meeting.

10 Date of the next Annual General Meeting

The 2013 AGM will be held on Saturday March 2nd 2013 at Rainton Meadows commencing at 11-00a.m. (Venue will be confirmed when finalised)

Alan Bunn (Hon.Sec)

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

Over the last year, requests from members regarding the NEFSG library have increased. Books are available for free loan on request. You will be asked to sign for receipt...that is all. The current list is printed below. If you would like to see a particular book added to this list please contact a Committee Member with details. All reasonable requests will be considered but not necessarily granted. If you have any books which you would like to donate they would be well received.

Micro-Fungi on Land Plants	Ellis and Ellis (New Enlarged Edition)	(ISBN 085546 246 9)
Flora Agaricina Neerlandica		Volume 5. (ISBN 90 5410 495 3)
Recommended English Names for Fungi in the UK		(ISBN 1 873613 99 3)
Keys to the British Species of Russula-	R. W. Rayner.	(3rd edition 1985, Reprint 1997)
Keys to Fungi on Dung	M. J. Richardson, Roy Watling.	(ISBN 0 9527704 2 3)
Keys to the British Genera of Agarics and Boletes	Archie McAdam	(ISBN 978-0-9553100-9-6)
Guide to the Literature for the Identification of British Basidiomycetes		B. Brand, A. Hendrici,
P. Leonard.		(ISBN 0 9527704 5 8)
A Checklist of the Downy Mildews of the British Isles	T. F. Preece	(ISBN 0 9527704 7 4)
A Checklist of the Rust Fungi of the British Isles	D .M. Henderson	(ISBN 0 9527704 4 X)
British Truffles	D. N. Pegler, B. M. Spooner and T. W. K. Young	(ISBN 0 947643 39 7)
Microfungi on Miscellaneous Substrates	Ellis and Ellis	ISBN 085546 248 5)
The Genus Hygrocybe (2nd revised edition)	David Boertman	(ISBN 978-87-983581-7-6)
The Genus Lactarius	Jacob Heilman-Clausen, Annemieke Verbeken & Jan Vesterholt	(ISBN 87-983581-4-6)
British Boletes with Keys to Species	Geoffrey Kibby	
Puffballs	Pegler	
British Fungus Flora 1 Boletes and their Allies	R.Watling & A.E. Hills	(ISBN 1 872291 89 9)
Agarics and Boletes (Keys)	Meinhard Moser	(ISBN 0 950 8486 0 3)
Dictionary of the Fungi	Ainsworth and Bisby	
Fascinated by Fungi	Pat O'Reilly	(ISBN 978-0-9560544-3-2)

Please remember that books are loaned on trust and members should take care to return them in their original condition. Loans may be extended but for periods exceeding one year the borrower should be prepared to return books by their own means should other members request the item. Please note that the original borrower will still be responsible unless the book is returned via the library.

TAK

....it is now!

This end note is to confirm the arrangement put in place to make safe our insurance on forays. For some time now members have been encouraged to propose foray locations, to the benefit of all, whilst at the same time assuming the minor responsibility of "owning" their foray.

What does "owning" a foray entail? Well, not much, really; but the advantages of the arrangement are many.

First of all, should you wish to propose a foray site in your own vicinity, or even a location you feel worth a visit which you have some knowledge of, simply notify any committee member. Now that Val, Dom and Cath walk amongst you this is easier than it was. If your suggestion is taken up you will be contacted and asked to supply information for publication in the Newsletter. We need to know:

- 1) Where to meet. This can be by narrative or by grid reference. If there are complications in the finding of the location these should be detailed.
- 2) What are the car-parking arrangements? Where is the car-park and will there be any costs? Can you organise to mitigate these costs and if not would you like some help?
- 3) What facilities exist at the location? Can we expect to have the use of a room for post-foray display and identification? Can you organise such a facility and if not would you like some help?

Finally, as it is YOUR foray you will prepare the list of finds from the field slips. All members are now asked to submit records using the **Validation Recording Sheet**, but not all members have computers. If you **CAN** use the VRS this will much reduce the workload for others but if you cannot then please submit the list using an accepted hand-written Record Sheet as soon as you can to the writer.

Now this is all very well but what is in it for you? Well, until the NEW arrangement it was all for glory.....but now, you will given ONE YEAR'S free membership of the ABFG (currently £30/annum) and will receive four quarterly newsletters.

Whilst this is a very tempting offer to NEFSG members it is a win for everyone.

NEFSG members are encouraged to own forays, the ABFG gets new members, the NEFSG benefits from local knowledge and most importantly, had you not guessed, the forays are CORRECTLY covered by the ABFG insurance which has always stipulated, not unreasonably, that foray leaders MUST be ABFG members.

The Committee commends this scheme and hopes that NEFSG members who are ALREADY ABFG members will continue to propose forays, and that those NEFSG members who receive their free ABFG membership will continue with their subscription to the ABFG after the year is up. That way NEFSG funds will be maintained in good order for other uses to the benefit of all.

TAK

NEFSG ENTRY VOUCHER TO CRAGSIDE
CONFIRMED GROUP BOOKING MAY 12th.

NT CONTACT BELOW:

val.miller@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Cragside
Rothbury
Morpeth
NE65 7PX
Direct line: +44 (0) 1669 622001**

I have received Group Visit booking information, including Cragside leaflet and guide map.
I have circulated this information to tour leaders / group organisers.

Signed (Group Organiser) ...*T A Kirby*... Date 11/04/2012

Please print name and include title :

Thomas Kirby (Hon Treasurer. NEFSG).....