

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 66 August 2012



Trametes versicolor . Canon EOS . Exposure auto. Location not given.

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.

If you would like to submit an article or question for the next Newsletter contact Tom Kirby, 4 Bishopton Crossings, Stillington, TS21 1NJ. Tel: 01740 630179 E-mail: tectak@aol.com. Foray Consultant, Andy McLay.



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The Wider World

We all prefer to live in a comfort zone of our own creation; and do, if we are lucky enough. This is true of organisations as well as individuals. The NEFSG now sits quite comfortably in its ranking amongst Field Mycology groups, having been through a prolonged but necessary gestation period. Now, of course, comes the tricky bit.

But first, what evidence is there for the vaunted success of the NEFSG. Well, we can congratulate ourselves on still being here after almost fifteen years. Not only existing, but thriving. Membership closed last year with 61 members, admittedly not all participating, but willing enough to donate the membership fee to simply be involved. The Membership fee in 1997 was £6.00 for an individual and £8.00 for a couple. So it is today. We have not felt the need to increase subs for fifteen years.

How does this compare with other similar groups? Comparing like for like is not easy, but it is worth noting that the ABFG membership is now £30.00 and BMS membership is currently £31.00.

Field Mycology groups, particularly in Scotland, have similar but varying fees to the NEFSG. The **Fife** group asks for £5.00 but is only connected to members via their web-site.

South East Scotland group charge £4.00 per household with two newsletters per annum.

Grampian Group issues a yearly Newsletter with a £5.00 fee.

In England, and closer to us, the **Mid-Yorkshire Group** has a £10.00 individual fee and a £15.00 "family" membership with "regular" but unspecified newsletters.

Staffordshire Group relies upon a web-site, as do many other groups, to inform their £5.00 paid up members, but they do issue a yearly Newsletter.

The large **Cotswold** group have a little more involved fee structure. Subscription rates for 2012: £5.00 per single person / £7.00 per couple living at the same address. Family membership is charged at £3.00 per address + £2.00 per head (e.g. 2 adults + 2 children = £11).

We are, then, comfortably similar to most groups but perhaps a little over-generous in Newsletter frequency. Comments please.

We can also be happy in the knowledge that our main business, that of recording accurately identified species, is well on track. We now have over **13,000** records in the CATE2 database. There are in excess of **20,000** of "our" records in the FRDBI database but many of these pre-date the NEFSG. To compare with other groups by using the similar "filters" of time and location is difficult but here goes. **Yorkshire NE and NW** combined manage about **10,000** records.

From the South of the UK, **Norfolk Group** manages **71, 000** whilst **Lincoln County** as a whole, musters around **55,000**. Nottingham shows **11,000** records and **Cheshire** about **5,000**. Size matters and the **Cotswold** group is huge, as their records reflect...some **88,000**. This is not a competition but these CATE2 sourced records do give some idea of the work put in by all participating members of the NEFSG. A pat on the back is permitted.

Finally, a little comparison of the *modus operandi* of other groups indicates that the NEFSG enjoys an enviable placing in the overall care, foray planning and coverage of our territory. There are other groups which carry out far more planned or "official" forays in each year but when consideration is given to excellent work put in by Alan Bunn and his Extra Territorial group and the off-plan forays run by NEFSG members we are confident that we are fulfilling our role as conservationists and are raising the profile of Field Mycology.

Our coming efforts will be channelled more in to the esoteric territory of Microscopy and the identification of species using keys, books and enthusiasm! If any among you wish to volunteer your services in this area, please contact the Committee.

TAK

Minutes of the North Eastern Fungus Study Group Committee meeting held on 25th May 2012 at Cath / Dave Gille's abode.

Members present Alan Bunn, Dominique Colbeck, Cath Gille, Tom Kirby, Alan Simkins and Alan Legg.

1. Apologies for absence: Val Standen

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: Approved

3. Matters arising from previous Minutes of 13th November 2010

5ii). Article by Andy McL. on why descriptions of substrate were essential for labels has as yet not been submitted for Newsletter publication.

10) Information boards at sites in East Cleveland. The Chairman reported that he was still actively pursuing this topic. There was £300 to £400 available for the production of these posters which would be illustrated with exclusively fungi images. The funds are not available after August 2013 and AS was working to a likely deadline of the Autumn of this year. There were two possible sites: Skelton Beck and Lockwood Beck Reservoir – both of which have their associated planning problems. The main issue is whether planning consent is needed. If YES it means the proposals cannot proceed because the fee for this is about £350 and the funding body will not fund statutory consents like this. If either or both of these Information boards go ahead the Chairman and the Treasurer agreed to prepare their contents.

11d) Pen Portrait requests – the Secretary agreed to request some more of these from members.

4). Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that the financial situation was sound despite a situation where several members who had not paid 2012 subscriptions – the Secretary agreed to write to these members requesting payment of subscriptions by the end of June. It was agreed that for 2013 the Treasurer would take over responsibility for subscription collection from the Secretary. The situation regarding indoor meetings such as committee meetings, AGMs, microscope workshops, PowerPoint presentations etc. Was discussed. Rainton Meadows has traditionally been our venue for these, although today's meeting had created an organisational problem from a combination of Committee attendees and suitable available dates. It was agreed that the issue of venue for meetings of the type described above would be investigated by Chairman and Treasurer and that as Keith Cunningham is not on the committee now, if NEFSG required a room at Rainton Meadows we would contact the appropriate person at DWT direct. Chairman to confirm this with DWT.

Tom outlined the issue of the role of our leaders on forays. Under the recently agreed procedure agreed with the ABFG nominated foray leaders would be ABFG members for the specific year of the foray and we should be adequately covered for insurance. In a situation whereby an authorised foray leader, at the last minute, was unable to make the foray, it was assumed that another ABFG member would take over the leadership of the foray.

5). Progress on the format of indoor meetings i.e. topics, speakers etc.

Dominique brought along a note from Keith Tulip expressing concern regarding the lack of format and other issues of the microscope meeting earlier this year. Keith's comments were discussed and received general support as being valid. Currently Tom is attempting to book Gordon Beakes for themed teach-in on microscopy and if successful Tom would act as master of ceremonies on the day, but previously, via the Newsletter, seek out what members would like to achieve from such an event.

At the 2012 AGM Cath Gille suggested that we should attempt to involve new members by 'buddying' them with established members so that they could at least learn the procedures involved in our forays.

This was considered by the committee and it was agreed to attempt this at future meetings. To assist this the Secretary agreed to write to new members to inform them of this process and ask them, at forays, to make themselves known as new members so they can be assisted.

6). Progress on inputting NEFSG records to BMS and ABFG databases.

Inputting records to the ABFG database seems to be progressing satisfactorily and all records should be sent initially to Tom, who subsequently sends them to Alan Legg for confirming. The situation regarding NEFSG records that need sending to the BMS database is not as simple and currently several aspects of the NEFSG procedure for this are unknown or unclear. Tom agreed to make contact with Andy McLay. (Contact has been made following the committee meeting and this has clarified many of the issues causing concern)

7). Remaining forays/indoor meetings for 2012

The arrangements for the following forays are progressing well and are dispersed within the NEFSG study area so we are hoping for a good turnout.

Saturday 28th July Social Lunch at Durham Pumphouse restaurant - Tom K.

Saturday 18th Aug – Sutton Bank, area around the car park, N Yorks – Alan Simkins

Saturday 8th September Flass Vale - Val Standen

Saturday 22nd September- Holy Stone Common 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 – Tom to contact Gordon Beakes

8). Any Other Business

a) Reciprocal trip for German mycologists. This was discussed and the problems of suitable accommodation and venue were considered. Cath Gille agreed to investigate these issues with Kielder being a possible location.

Expected around 12 German visitors if we go ahead, with a Thursday to Tuesday visit and to include visit to Durham.

b) A second point raised by Keith Tulip in his note (see previous Minute 5) concerned to pool of identification expertise within NEFSG and how this could be used by members without the members feeling a botherer or an unwanted irritation. After some discussion it was proposed that Tom Kirby, Dominique, Aubrey, Alan Legg provide the pool of expertise and for the initial trial send specimens to Tom Kirby for pass-on to Alan Legg.

Tom Kirby will write an article on this issue for inclusion in the next Newsletter (deferred until after November Committee Meeting to allow for discussion on logistics of the plan. TAK).

c) The Secretary has an outstanding action to copy the Liz Holden notes from the Kindrogan Fungus course as a PDF so the document can be placed on our members' section of the NEFSG website.

9). Date and place of next Committee meeting

Saturday 17th November 2012 at Tom's abode commencing at 11-00am.

Alan Bunn

Hon Sec

Cooking up a storm...

The following article is to be read as just one view. The view is of the author and not necessarily of the Committee. By its inclusion, other members may be encouraged to submit their opinions for future insertion in the Newsletter. If there are enough opinions expressed then the subject will become an Agenda Item at the next Committee meeting at Tom's house....at which time Stuffed Mushrooms will be served for lunch.

The ABFG Newsletter/magazine, The Forayer, no longer publishes a recipe page. In the Summer Issue a notification indicated that some members of the ABFG had reportedly objected to the hypocrisy of such an item in a magazine which is quintessentially concerned with the conservation of fungi.

Though no such objections have been made to the NEFSG regarding the "Season to Taste..." article regularly appearing in the Newsletter, there is a point or two to be made regarding the ethos of the mycophage!

Fungi are considered, globally, to be food. "Mushrooms" are grown commercially in vast quantities yearly and many hundreds of hopeful foragers vacate to the woods and fields in Autumn to gather the more edible (and some less edible) "wild" species. There is a problem, though. Human nature dictates human behaviour and sadly, one of our less endearing characteristics is greed. To those who gather far beyond sensible requirement we field mycologists have nothing but disdain...unfortunately, those who do so do not read this Newsletter and are unlikely to be interested in mycology. There is nothing we can do about that except to educate as many people, young and old, that we come in to contact with. The inclusion of articles on the consumption of fungi is not likely to cause any noticeable decline in the numbers of species out there provided that there is a complete and total understanding of what constitutes reckless over harvesting.....and you all do understand, don't you?

TAK

Season to Taste...

From our captive Mycophage, Jon Bemrose, a recipe for **MUSHROOM SPAGHETTI**

Ingredients (for two medium servings)

3 or 4 *Lactarius deliciosus*
1 dozen *Laccaria amethystea* caps
1 tablespoon olive oil
15g/a half oz butter
1 clove garlic
50-75ml double cream
1 "thumb thickness" amount of spaghetti
Seasoning
Herbs (if you like. Thyme, dill, oregano)
Parmesan (if you like. Grated or flaked)

Method:

Clean and trim the *Lactarius*, then blanch in simmering water for 5 mins, drain and dry.
Set the spaghetti to boil in lightly salted water (7-8 minutes).

In a frying pan, add the olive oil and butter and gently heat. Do not burn.

Slice the *Lactarius* to preference, pull the caps off the *Laccaria* (discard tough stalks or make stock!), thinly slice the garlic.

Add the mushrooms and garlic to the pan, gently wilt for 5 minutes, then turn up the heat to full.

When sizzling, add a pinch of salt and then fresh ground black pepper with the cream. Allow to simmer and reduce to thicken.

Drain the spaghetti, check the seasoning of the creamed mushrooms and adjust if needed.

Add the spaghetti to the creamed mushrooms and toss all together to combine.

At this stage you may like to add some fresh chopped herbs of your choice, either as an ingredient or as a garnish.

If you are a parmesan fan, you may like to add some now, grated, or flaked as a garnish.

Note that these are strong flavours which will mask the subtle flavours of the mushrooms.

Serve immediately.

Suggested wine: 2011 International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC) :
Silver Medals 2009 Camel Valley Pinot Noir Rose Brut
<http://www.camelvalley.com/home>

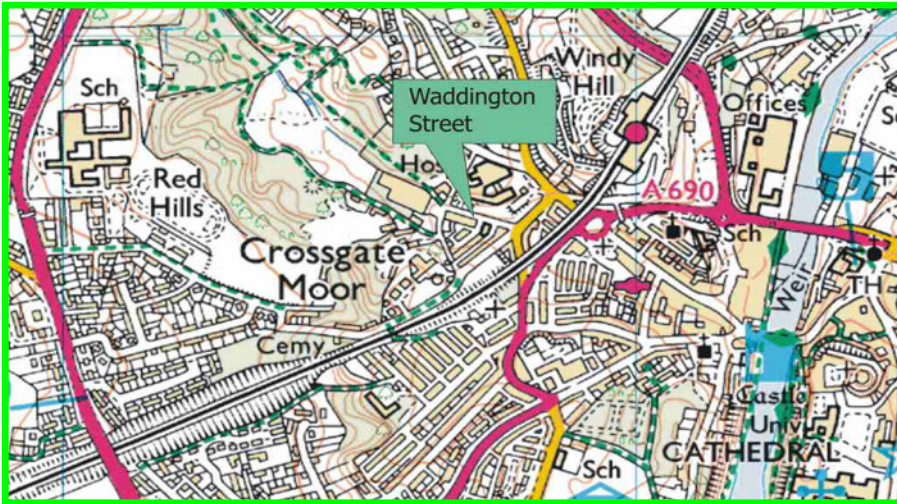
Jon Bemrose
2012



Forays & Events

All forays commence 11:00 prompt.

Flass Vale, 8th SEPTEMBER.

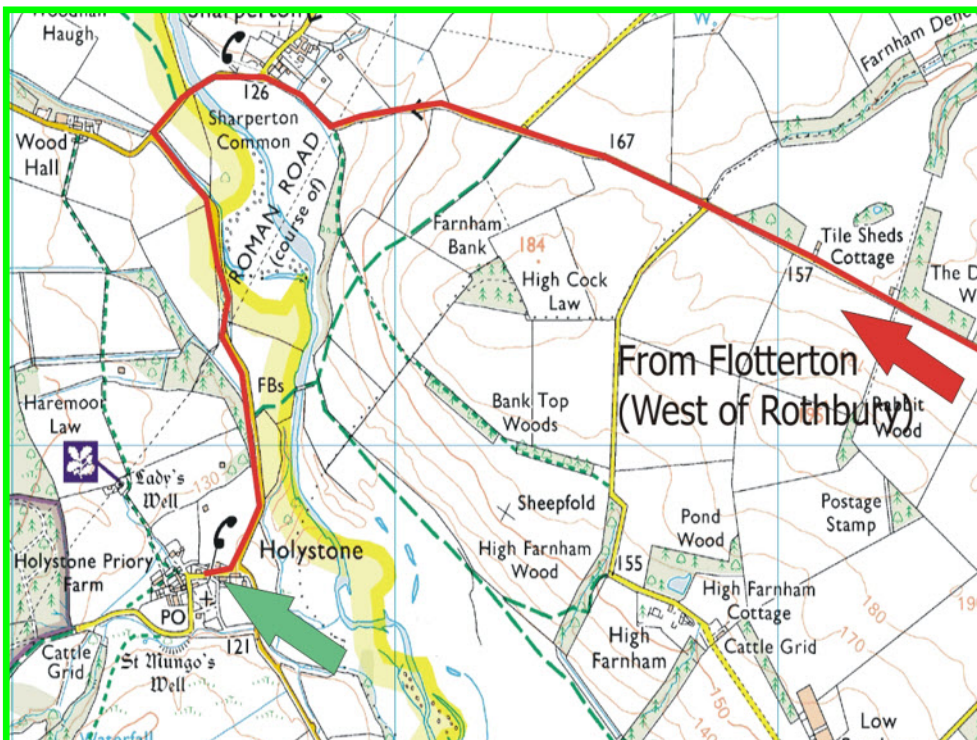


Enter Waddington Street, drive towards the Arriva bus depot then prepare to turn left into an old parking lot . The area is to be developed and may be barred by red and white cones. Val will be present to advise.

We have use of the church hall (Waddington Street URC) and Val has made tea/coffee available in the church hall, where there will be tables to

display finds. Waddington Street is near the railway viaduct just north of Durham city centre - it ends in the bus depot and behind this is Flass Vale. There is a wet woodland/bog area as well as old pasture and mixed deciduous woodland.

Holystone Common, 22nd.SEPTEMBER.



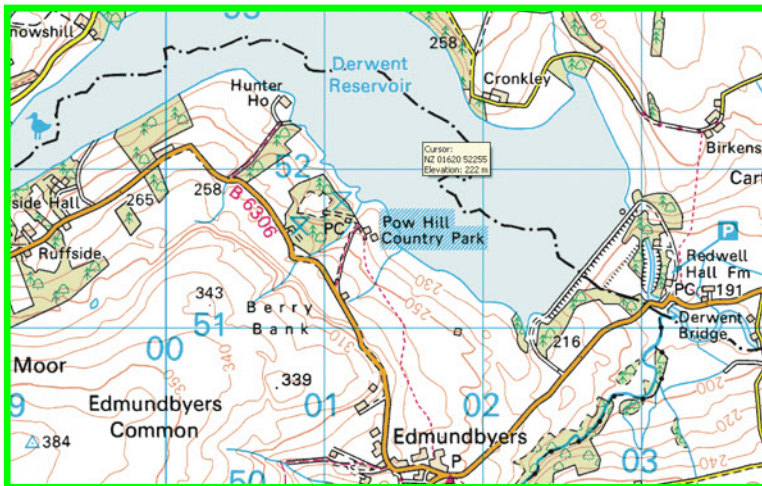
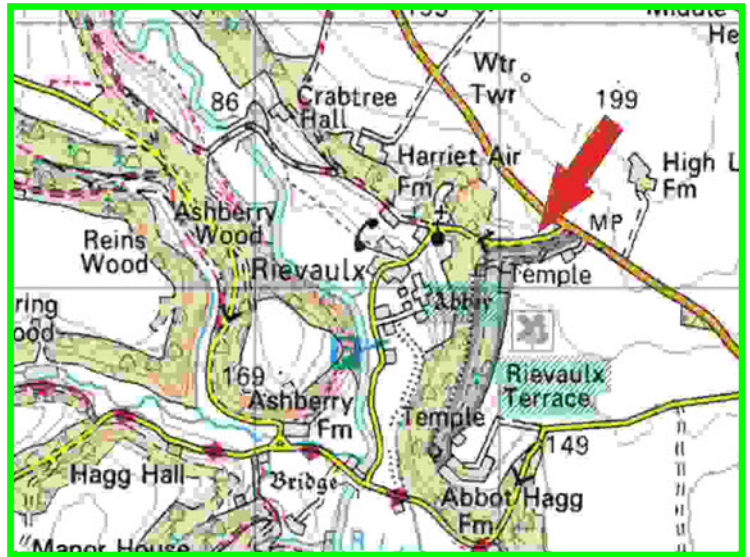
The map shows the route into Holystone Village from Rothbury. Once in the village, which is very small, you will see the signs to Holystone Common. Keith Tulip is the Foray Leader and he has advised that the meeting place is on the right after the first cattle grid, and is signed the 'Forest Enterprise Holystone' car park, (Grid ref. NT 951026).

The common is a mixed area of grassland and forestation. The going is not arduous but the area

presents us with many alternative foray routes, which may mean that we cover some distance.

Rievaulx, 6th OCTOBER.

Travel south on the B1257 from Stokesley down Bilsdale towards Helmsley and you will see the usual brown sign pointing to Rievaulx Terrace [National Trust] on the right at grid reference SE583852. Do not go down the hill to Rievaulx Abbey and village. Park in the car park leading to Rievaulx Terrace, preferably in the area closest to the B1257. Meet outside the entrance building to the Terrace. We hope to have free entry into the grounds but National Trust members please bring your Trust cards. There are two likely foray routes both through mainly mixed deciduous woodland on calcareous soil.



Pow Hill, 20th. OCTOBER

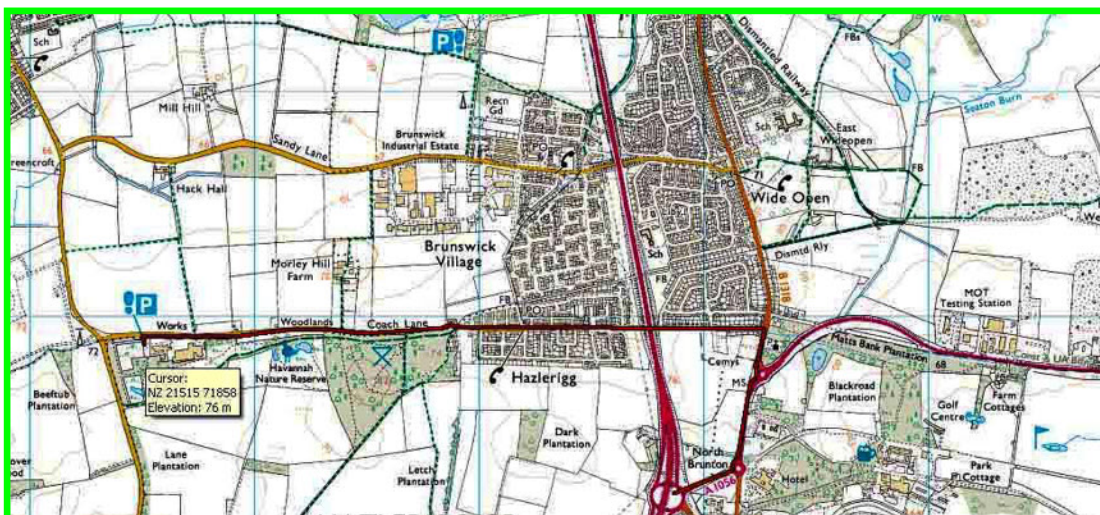
Pow Hill Country Park is on the south bank of Derwent reservoir to the north of Edmundbyers. It comprises a large, grassed car-park area surrounded by mixed woodland and hilly outcrops on all sides. There is a well marked pathway down to the lake shore through conifer woodland.

The whole area is open to the public and is well utilised.

Though sheltered, there can be stiff breezes off the water.

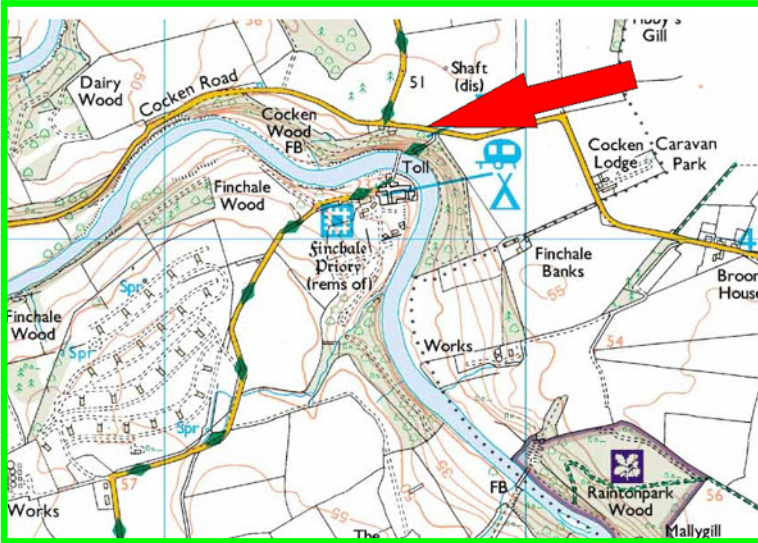
Havannah Three Hills, 27th OCTOBER.

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

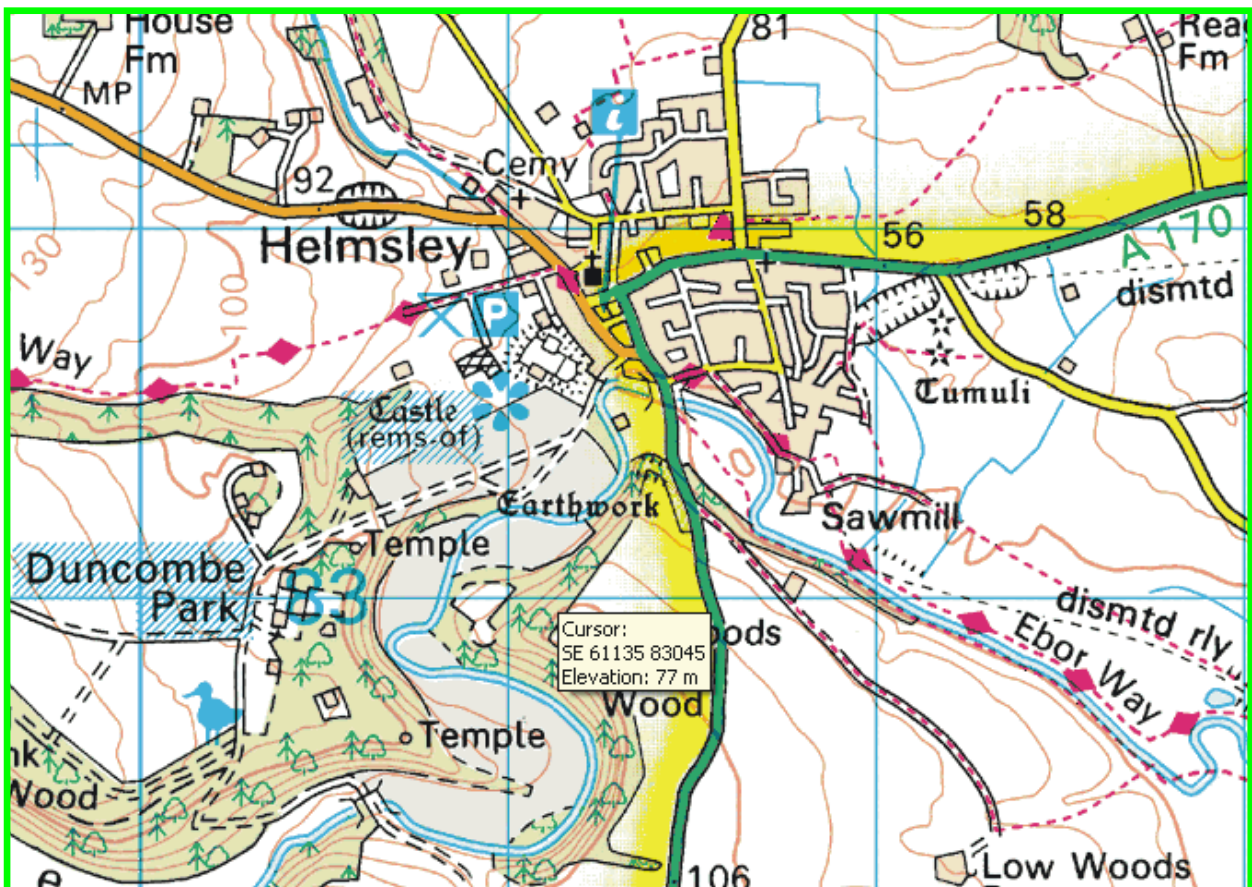
Finchale Priory Grounds and Woods, 3rd. NOVEMBER



Finchale Priory is at the bottom of a steep stepped bank down through Cocken woods. A Caravan site surrounds the priory and monopolises the parking (toll) if you use the road entrance south of the river. We are therefore obliged to meet on the north side, as marked, where there is ample allocated roadside parking. The walk down through the woods is pleasant and not too arduous. Mixed woodland, well marked path and refreshments/toilets and some cover if the caravan proprietors decide to open so late in the year. The priory will be open and this is a free site.

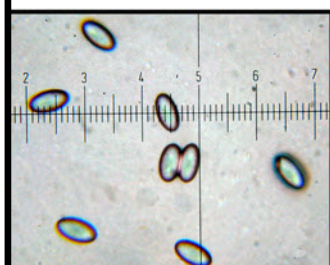
Duncombe Park, 10th. NOVEMBER

Meet just inside the gate into Duncombe Park, waiting beside the Information Centre if early arriving, grid ref. SE614836. From the meeting point we will drive to the main parking area of the foraging territory. The park consists of grassland and deciduous woodland including oaks, beech and birch. Other areas of the park could be searched if time and numbers of members allow this. The terrain is mainly flat and easy going. We are hoping to secure a venue for sorting/naming specimens. Please arrive at the meeting point about 10-45 a.m. so we start at the scheduled time of 11-00. If further information is required please contact Paul Forster on 01287 201794 .





Peziza ammophila Dune Cup



spores
17.0-18.3 x 8.0-9.8 microns

AUBREY COLLING'S WORK...A PHOTO-MONTAGE

Aubrey has presented us with some excellent examples of his recorded finds, using photo-montage; and these three "sets" are praiseworthy.

The records are held both as photographic glossy prints and digitally, and can thus be transmitted over the internet for publication.

The quality of the photography, both macro and microscopically, provides memorable imagery which will no doubt act as an *aide memoire* in the field.



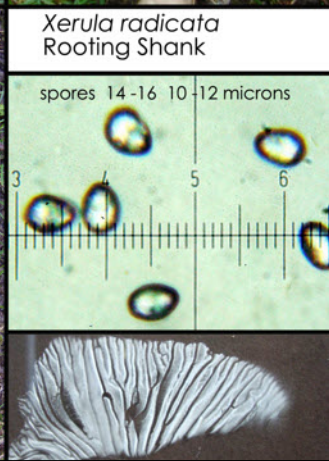
Polyporus leptocephalus
Blackfoot Polypore



spores
7.3 - 8.8 X 4.0 - 4.5 microns



Xerula radicata
Rooting Shank



These three excellent specimens are fresh from the lens.....so they **are** out there!

1. *Peziza ammophila*. Dune Cup 15 July 2012
Sand dune, South Gare
2. *Xerula radicata*. Rooting Shank 27 July 2012
Rounton House garden
On grass, near Beech and Cupressis
3. *Polyporus leptocephalus*. Blackfoot Polypore 25 July 2012

AC/ TAK

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

Dave Gillie, one of our more hedonistic members, shares the story of his big bolete, with John Walton. This and many other stories were told with gusto and abandon at the Pump House Jolly.



For those of you who could not attend, twenty enthusiastic members turned up on the day, as planned, and enjoyed prolonged *al fresco* pre-lunch drinks in beautiful surroundings, followed by prolonged preprandial drinks in the sumptuous dining room.

The lunch was followed, by some, with a walk along the north banks of the meandering River Wear, through the recent (rather than Ancient) woodland which grows on reclaimed pit waste. Nothing works as well as a gallop along woodland tracks, avoiding the sporadic showers, to work off a heavy lunch; which in the writer's case comprised a 10ozs. beefburger with chorizo sausage, french fries and seasonal vegetables, followed by a goodly portion of sticky toffee pudding and pistachio ice-cream!

Thankfully, it will be a year until the next event.....be there.

.....it is now!

TAK