

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 69 April 2013



Sarcoscypha austriaca (Inset, colour nodules in paraphyses) Lumix macro, 200ASA auto. TAK

...and so we begin again.

The Genus *Mycena*. GS notes from Mal Greaves talk

Minutes of the NEFSG 16th AGM

Forays and Events 2013.

UK Fungus Day 2013

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

Page 2

Tom Kirby

Page 3

GS with notes by MG

Page 4

Alan Bunn

Page 6

TAK

Page 9

Page 11

From Archie McAdam

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. Secretary: Alan Bunn, 60 Roseberry Crescent, Great Ayton, North Yorks. TS9 6EP. Tel. 01642724955 E-mail alanbunn456@btinternet.com. Chairman: Alan Simkins. Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Tom Kirby. 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.



Affiliated to the Association
of British Fungus Groups



Affiliated to the British
Mycological Society

This Newsletter is produced
with the assistance of Durham
Wildlife Trust



...and so we begin again.

Last year was not the best of times; nor was it the worst of times. It seems almost certain that the records for 2012 will indicate a lower than average foray species count. Many are suggesting, on interwebernetty forum boards, that it is the end of the world. On what is this dire and whimpish prediction based? Well, a lack of Boletes. It seems that 2012 almost drew a blank as far as this worthy and much sought after species is concerned. Of course, Boletes were not alone...or rather they were. The edible agarics did not put in an appearance in any numbers; Field Blewitts, *Lepista personata* (= *L. saeva*), a very reliable species in these parts, failed to show where they ought'a. *Marasmius oreades*, the Fairy Ring Mushrooms, put in a sporadic and half-hearted performance towards the late summer but disappeared as quickly as they arrived. But the end of the world?

We need to temper this mycological doomsday talk with a little common sense. It is worth noting that almost without exception the harbingers of doom were upset that their favourite edibles were scarce. This happens. It is random. It is not an indicator of the general health of the fungal nation.



Last year was a boom year, locally, for *Hydnum repandum*. Though highly edible, this species is not everyone's cup of tea; indeed, in a very real sense, its complete absence in any given year would not lead to jumping off high places. In a year like 2012, in spite of a paucity of other finds, the bumper "flushes" of this species caused not a stir. It was the same in 2011, as members who ventured out in to a local plantation woodland discovered...the habitat is significant. A similar situation, and I am talking locally, pertained regarding the beautifully elegant *Infundibulicybe geotropa*, the Trooping Funnel Cap. In spite of a very poor summer, this species was on the march in four locations all within a ten mile radius.

So here is the puzzle. There can be no doubt that the Boletes were shy, nationally, last year. On the other hand, some species seemed to do particularly well. Species in sheltered and dense woodland seems to have benefited from the very wet conditions, the trees and the draining properties of the forest floor preventing water logging; but the Boletes just couldn't make it to the end of season party.

After a search for consensus the conclusion seems to be that Boletes just don't like mild summers...they like it hot!

So for those among us, you know who you are, on the lookout for these fine comestibles this year, do not hold out too much hope. If we are in a short-term cold weather loop, there is not much of a chance that 2013 will be any better than 2012. Better get a taste for *Hydnum repandum* and *Infundibulicybe geotropa*...both mouthfuls!

TAK

ERRATUM.

We are pleased to correct an error of ownership regarding the January cover picture. This picture was erroneously credited to David Smith. It was, in fact, an excellent photo-micro taken by Keith Tulip. Such was the blizzard of pictures arriving at this office during the frenzied days of last season that some wires got crossed. Apologies to both parties.

Ed.

The genus *Mycena*...notes taken by Gordon Simpson and revised by Mal Greaves.

For those unable to attend the thoroughly absorbing presentation by Malcolm in February, and for those who did, the following notes were made by Gordon Simpson on the day. A special thanks to Malcolm for sharing this enlightening collection of photographs and specialist knowledge, and to Gordon Simpson for taking the trouble to prepare these notes.

Cheilocystidia on gill edge used to verify identification

adonis – grass land var *.adibus* on wood, coloured stem, almost waxcap-like var *.coccinea*

acicula – buff cap, yellow stem top, small, in willow or alder. Wet ground

galopus – stab stem with pin for white milk exudation.

haemotopus – in clusters, dark red milk, hairy stem, scalloped cap edge.

sanguinolenta – red milk, dark gill edge, small, in conifer litter.

crocata – orange milk, stem and gills.

erubescens – pale watery milk.

abramsii – clear milk, early, small, delicate, on wood, grey-brown, appears as early as April to May.

adscendens – very small, sugary cap, very small bulb or ridge at base of stalk, need lens.

stylobates – very small spikes like shark's fins on cap. Large, bulbous, cup-shaped base.

aciculata – small spines on cap.

Marasmius hudsonii – spiny cap, on fallen, wet holly leaves.

bulbosa – very small, on dead, wet rush stems, large bulbous base.

corynephora – granular, sugary cap, no swollen base, stem hairs often form vertical lines.

amicta – very hairy stem, gelatinous, peeling cap, blue at base of stem and cap edge.

aurantiomarginata – orange gill edge.

capillaripes – purple gill edge and purple spots on gill sides (*pleurocystidia*).

citrinomarginata – yellow gill edge, on wood.

olivaceomarginata – yellow gill edge, in grass.

purpureofusca – purple, gill edge, ridges cap, base of conifer trees, purple look all over.

pelianthina – brown gill edge, smell of potato, like

pura

pterigina – tiny and delicate, pink/yellow gill edge, at base of ferns. **See right. (TK. Newton Hanzard 2012)**

megaspora – very dark colour, squared cap top

rorida – gelatinous stem, decurrent gills.

vulgaris – gelatinous all over, cap will peel.

epipterygia – yellow stem especially near cap, gelatinous all over, cap will peel.

capillaris – very small, in cluster on dead beech leaves.

polyadelpha – white, solitary on oak dead leaves.

smithiana – pink, solitary on oak dead leaves.

spirea – dark cap centre, on mossy logs, 3cm tall, decurrent gills.

hiemalis – dark cap centre, on mossy logs, 3cm tall, gills notched near stem.

inclinata – two tone stem, clustered, unpleasant smell when crushed, all caps similar in size, on stumps.

galericulata – anastomised gills (cross walls forming “galleries”, in clumps on dead wood)

maculate – spotted caps when mature.

arcangeliana – dark grey stem, hints of green in cap, pale cap edge.

cinerella – late in season, on needle litter, pale grey, decurrent, anastomising gills.

picta – bell-shaped with parallel sides and dark ridges down cap. In moss.

rosea – a bit like *pura* but tends to have an umbo with a depression round the umbo, fragile, poisonous

pura – variable in colour white to pinkish, no depression on cap, not poisonous

polygramma – ridges up stem, on dead wood



MG and GS

Minutes of the NEFSG 16th AGM 0n Saturday 2nd March 2013 at Rainton Meadows

1. Apologies for absence

Paul Forster, David Smith, Vic Fairbrother, and Gordon Simpson

2. Matters arising from previous Minutes - None raised

3. Approval of previous AGM Minutes

Proposed acceptance by Tom Kirby, seconded by Alan Simkins. – agreed by meeting

4. Chairman's report

Alan Simkins reviewed the past year's activities which had included several memorable forays and an indoor meeting with Keith Tulip. Cath Gillie had worked hard to arrange a meeting with the German Mannheim group and this looks that this will be arranged for September 2014. The wintering fungus group was still active, and subject to suitable weather had been recording on a weekly basis. Alan noted the indoor meeting led by Malcolm Greaves on Mycena identification which had been well attended and considered a great success by those who had attended and Alan sought views as to how we could organise more meetings of this type with experts from outside. Any thoughts as to possible speakers / subjects.

It was agreed a copy of the November Committee meeting would be included in the next Newsletter and this would include the updated foray and indoor meeting list for 2013. Secretary to send modified Minutes to Tom.

Alan noted that within the foray programme we had included two forays with outside organisations, Cleveland Naturalists at Eston Hills and Natural England at Castle Eden Dene, both to be led by Tom Kirby.

The Chairman recorded events with which we have some involvement. Whitby Naturalists are arranging a Centenary Exhibition on Fungi at the Whitby Museum, Pannett Park, Whitby from Friday 21 June to Sunday November 2013. David Minter, a NEFSG member, is heavily involved in the arrangements and has asked for assistance from NEFSG. To-date Paul Forster and David Smith have provided photographs which have been gratefully received. Paul and David had sent their contributions as individuals and after some discussion it was agreed we would provide further assistance etc. as the NEFSG in addition to any individual contributions. Particular help in provision of fungal specimens throughout the exhibition has been requested.

The success or lack of success of Indoor meetings on microscopy techniques which we had arranged in the past couple of years was discussed and the need for more organisation and microscopes to use was raised. Consequently Val Standen agreed to try to arrange an event at Durham University in November in which facilities would be available for teaching which are normally used for undergraduate students. Alan Legg noted that to use microscopes effectively for mycology studies required many years (up to 10) of experience and training before the major benefits are achieved.

Finally on this item the decision was made for the Social Event on the 20th July 2013 to be at the Golden Lion at Osmotherley.

5 Proposed Programme for 2013 forays and indoor meetings

The following events were agreed. Note all Foray & Indoor meetings start at 11-00 a.m.

Further details of venues and directions will be given in the appropriate Newsletter

March 2nd - our AGM followed by lunch and a foray in the Rainton Meadows reserve.

May 11th - Tyne Watersmeet - Dom Colback leader

July 20th - Social event/lunch – Tom Kirby organiser – vote on venue at AGM

August 31st: - Castle Eden Dene - Tom Kirby – (with Natural England).

September 7th: - Dukeshouse Wood (near Hexham) – Dom Colback leader

September 14th -Beanley plantation (near Powburn) – Doug McCutcheon leader

September 21st: - Cow Green, Upper Teesdale – Cath Gille leader

September 28th: - Tees Banks, Barnard Castle – Alan Legg foray leader

October 5th: - Close Wood (part of Hanzard Plantation nr Wynyard) - foray leader Tom Kirby

October 12th – Eston Woods (with Cleveland Naturalists) – Tom Kirby leader

October 19th : - Scaling Dam Reservoir, between Guisborough and Whitby – leader Paul Forster

October 26th : - Thrinstington Plantation (near Ferryhill)– Val Standen foray leader

November 2nd : - Margrove Park Woods nr Guisborough - Alan Simkins leader

November 23rd : - Indoor meeting at Rainton Meadows – topic and speaker TBA

6 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that we had £245-46 in our Bank Account and that we have a further £42 from late subscriptions. The process involved for chase up of late subscriptions was described and discussed. During this discussion it was noted that subscription rates had not been changed for 10 years. However, during this time books had become more costly and other outgoings had increased and it seemed the right time to increase subscriptions as from January 2014. After a short discussion, subscription rates of £8 for single and £10 for couple were proposed and agreed by a vote agreed at this meeting; to be applied from January 2014.

7 Topics for the AGM from Committee meeting of November 2012

i) Visit of German visitors from Mannheim.

As recorded earlier in these Minutes Cath Gillie was close to finalising arrangements for the German's visit in September 2014. A special 2-3 day event with accommodation at the Calvert Trust in Kielder had been investigated and agreed it was suitable. At present rates are £50 per night with full board, this includes full English breakfast, packed lunch and 3 choices of evening meal & use of facilities. Rooms are single or double and most are en suite. Cath has agreed with the Calvert Trust on other special requests such a BBQ, a bar, a swimming pool lounge and a room for microscope work. Visits to local attractions could also be arranged with minibuss transport. It looks likely there will be about 20 German visitors.

Dom Colback to check on Gordon Beakes availability for dates in September 2014.

It was agreed that we arrange some fund raising events to help cover additional costs incurred in organising this event.

ii) During the discussion on forays at the Committee meeting it was agreed that the articles written by Alan Legg in the past on the forays were well received and added to the appreciation by members not present at the foray. It was agreed we should, as well as producing a list of species, produce a short write-up which would give an overview including perhaps highlighting choice species found, number of attendees, weather / habitat conditions etc. The latter write-up, written not by the leader but by a volunteer from the attendees, would hopefully encourage members not present to attend future meetings.

8 Election of Officers.

The current officers all agreed to serve for another year and were elected unopposed.

9 Any Other Business

The BMS are launching a UK Fungus Day on Sunday 13th October 2013 and it was agreed that our joint meeting with Cleveland Naturalists, on the previous day would be a suitable event for this initiative. Other possibilities may occur before the date of the event. Dom C agreed to send dates to Alan Simkins of forays he has arranged in our area around the UK Fungus Day.

Regarding the BMS Tom Kirby reported that the BMS records were now in an improved state to receive our records and that this would be progressed ASAP.

10 Date of 2014 AGM

March 1st 2014 was agreed for the next AGM

Alan Bunn

Sec. NEFSG

RECORDS...AN UPDATE..

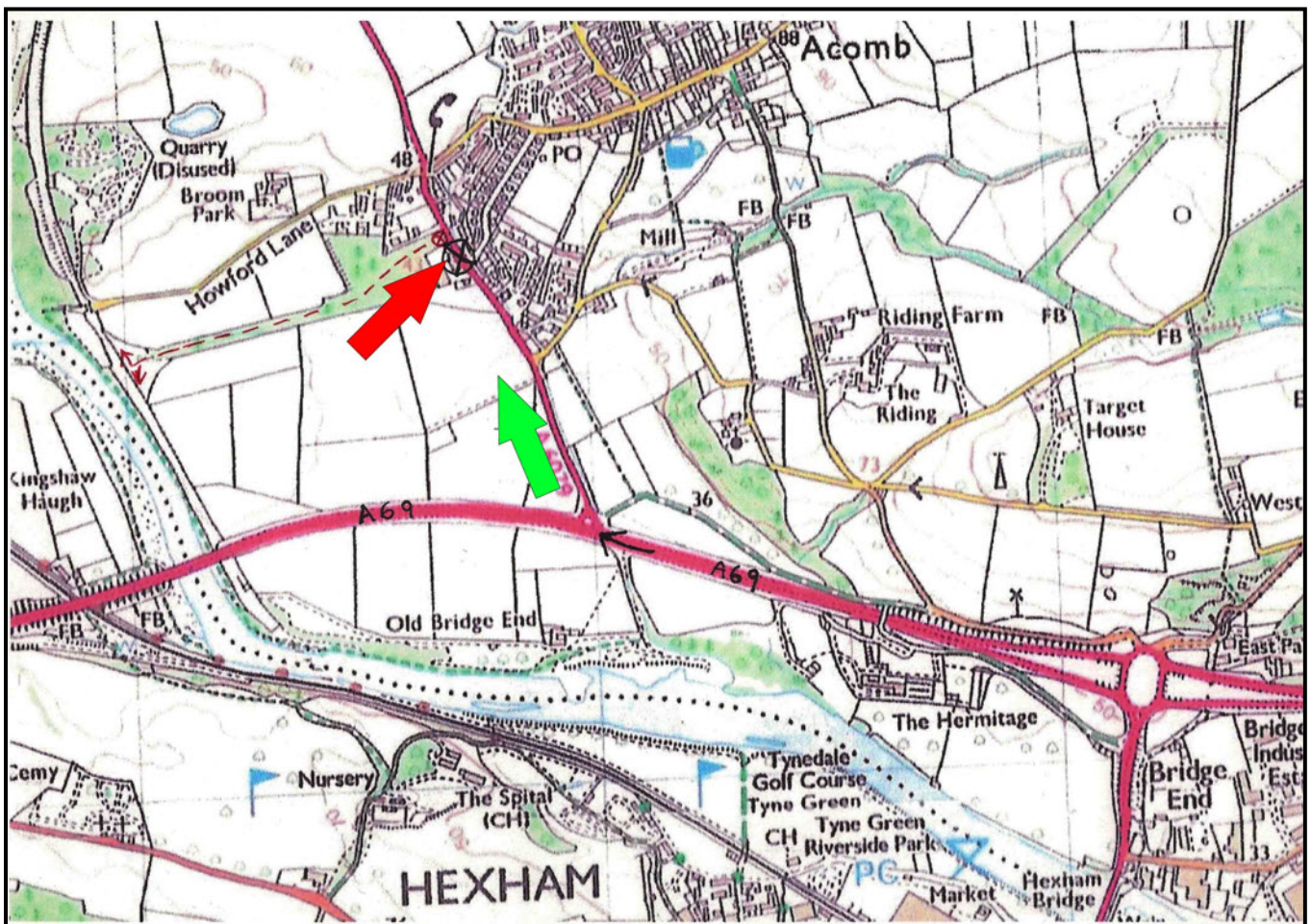
All the records up to November 2012 have now been submitted to CATE2 and are accessible on that site. A copy of foray records, including all NEFSG forays from 2010, will be submitted to the BMS in June. Individuals' records from that period will be similarly dealt with.

From June 2013, records sent in for inclusion on the Validation Recording Sheet (Rev.4), will be sent to both CATE2 and the BMS yearly on that date. Exceptions by request. TAK

Forays & Events

Spring Foray MAY 11th. Tyne watersmeet SSSI.

Parking/meeting place Acomb (Hexham) - follow A69 and signs to Carlisle, continue past the Bridge End roundabout and take right turn signposted Acomb A 6079 (GREEN arrow). Note the first signpost only states Bellingham/Otterburn A 6079 (please also note that shortly after the roundabout, you must get into the right-hand lane and be prepared for a junction that requires you to cross over the oncoming carriageway). Those travelling along the A 69 towards Newcastle will find similar signage with Acomb appearing on the last sign for the A 6079. After a few hundred yards you will enter Acomb and shortly after that you will see, on the left-hand side, a bus depot. Parking is in a narrow 'layby' (wide enough for cars) in front of the depot, marked on map by a RED arrow. The parking is free. NB Anyone carrying passengers will need to let them out before parking (insufficient room between car and fence on passenger side). Congregate at entrance to footpath marked with a red cross (north side of depot), there is also a sign with Acomb Minewater Treatment Scheme. We then have to follow a wooded path marked on map with red dotted line. At the end of this path is the Tyne Watersmeet site (see additional map). We have been given permission to survey zones one and three. To the best of my knowledge the paths are unmade with little in the way of incline (no ropes required - for forays with abseiling opportunities you may wish to join those lead by Mr Simkins) . Mobile 07523216993. For those who have turned to the dark side, the postcode for your sat-nav is NE46 4QT.



The SUMMER JOLLY 2013

GOLDEN LION, OSMOTHERLEY. JULY 20th.

A table reservation for lunch has been made at the much lauded GOLDEN LION INN at Osmotherley for our ANNUAL SUMMER JOLLY.

These occasions are always well attended, so it is VITALLY important that you indicate your intention to join in the revelry as soon as possible but before the 31st of MAY.

The GOLDEN LION has an excellent reputation as a superb eating venue and you will not be disappointed unless you miss out!

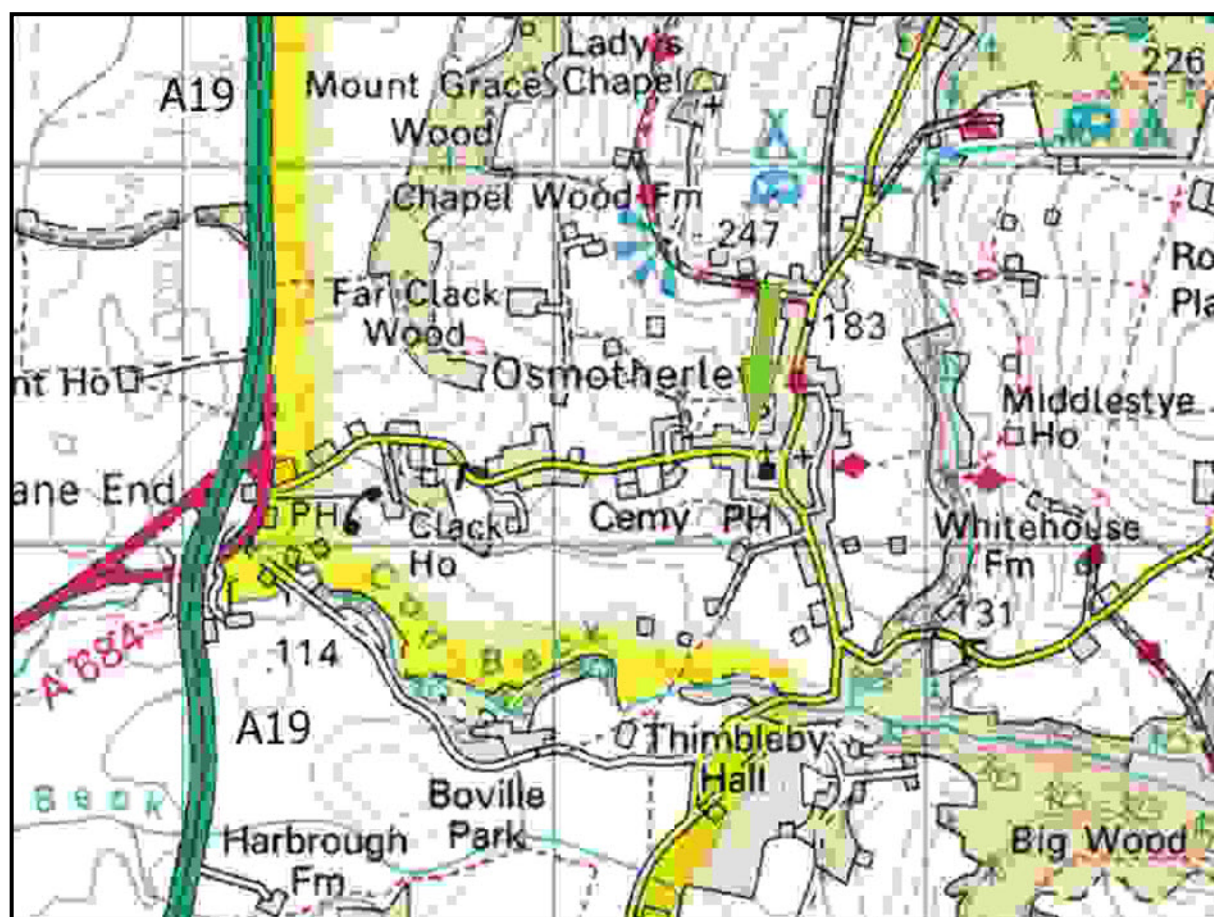
There are many opportunities for a post-prandial stroll amongst some of the best mixed woodland/moorland in the county.

We have booked for twenty souls, arriving at 12:00 for a 12:30 lunch. Nearer the time sample menus will be sent to all attendees or you can take peek at:

<http://www.goldenlionosmotherley.co.uk/eat/>

Please support your fellow NEFSG members by making this the best SUMMER JOLLY to date. Get you reply in early to avoid disappointment.

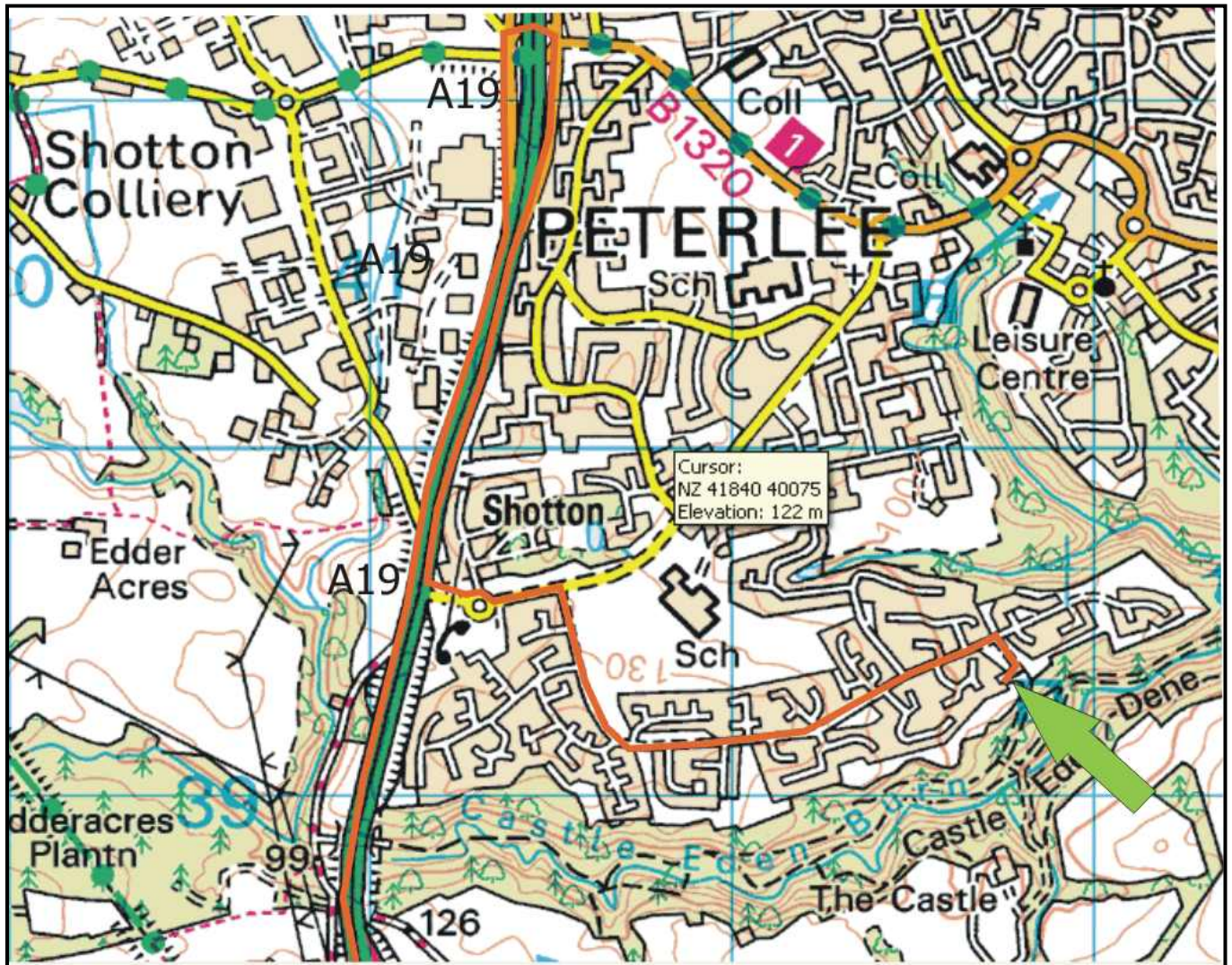
Contact me, by phone 01740630179, or by e-mail, tectak@aol.com as soon as possible.



TAK

CASTLE EDEN DENE FORAY. A joint foray with NATURAL ENGLAND. AUGUST 31st.

This one is a long way off and so reminders will be sent out nearer the time. Using the A19 and travelling from North of the PETERLEE roundabout (top of map) and going South you need to



be ready to exit left to Shotton after about 1 mile. It is a slip road. Coming from the South of the PETERLEE roundabout and travelling North you must exit at the roundabout, going all the way round to drive South. The route is marked in orange. Once at the turn in to the Natural England entrance (marked with a standard brown "Information" signpost), drive right down and park in the ample car park (GREEN arrow). There is no charge. Toilets are next to the car-park. Contact for this foray is TAK on 07968508775. There are well walked tracks on this foray and dependent upon the route chosen on the day there are some steep and prolonged stretches, though good underfoot.

This is the first of our "Joint" forays and so you will be called upon to assist less able forayers from both the Natural England staff and members of the public.

This is a mixed woodland with many niche environments and we can expect to find species in the damper areas of the walk beside the stream as well as on the many varieties of trees along any of the routes.

TAK

UK FUNGUS DAY 2013

Where? The events will take place at main venues across the UK including the UK's Botanic Gardens, Museums, local parks and nature sites on **Sunday 13th October 2013**.

What will it involve? A host of public engagement activities involving science and the arts will run concurrently across the UK to introduce the general public to the wonders of the Fungal Kingdom.

Why should we do it? In Britain, fungi seem to have a bad reputation, usually being thought of as 'those organisms that poison us if we eat them, rot our food and homes, cause diseases of our plants and even have the audacity to grow on us (like Athlete's foot and the irritating thrush)'. In fact, few fungi cause a nuisance, yet without fungi humans could not and would not exist. **We therefore need to emphasise how crucially important fungi are to life on this planet.**

Why are fungi important? Without fungi there would be no fertile soil, no plant life, no herbivores, no carnivores and no humans. Every plant in our gardens, every crop plant in our fields and every tree in our woodlands and forests has a fungus associated with it. Fungi began their partnership with plants over 600 million years ago, with interactions between early land plants and fungi enabling plant colonization of Earth. Nowadays, over 90% of terrestrial plants obtain their nutrients and water from soil through symbiotic fungi associated with their roots. These same fungi, offer protection from pathogens and allow plants to colonize polluted sites. Furthermore, fungi are the main garbage disposal agents of the natural world, breaking down dead plants and animals and releasing accessible nutrients which are utilised by other organisms for growth.

There are a tremendous variety of fungi in nature, many of them microscopic but some produce the well known macro fruit bodies termed mushrooms and toadstools. Certain fungi are highly nutritious and are a major food for many soil animals and small mammals in nature. Cultivated mushrooms are the most valuable horticultural crop sold in the UK. They are also hugely important in human food production, including yeast (yes, it's a fungus) in bread, beer, wine and Marmite; soy sauce; some meat substitutes, such as Quorn; it is fungi that develop the fragrance and flavour of 'blue cheese' as well as the texture of Camembert; and most cheese production these days uses a fungal enzyme, instead of rennet, to coagulate the curds. Less obvious is that chocolate would not taste the same without fungi, which break down the outer coating of the coco bean to impart the characteristic flavour; they also make the acidity regulator citric acid used in soft drinks and pharmaceuticals. Almost unrecognised are the anaerobic chytrid fungi that enable herbivorous animals to thrive on the plants they eat; without fungi - no meat, no milk, no wool, no leather.

Everyone knows about the antibiotic penicillin, but perhaps not that it is produced by a fungus. Fungi produce many other 'wonder drugs', including other antibiotics, the statins that control cholesterol (the most widely used pharmaceuticals in the developed world), and cyclosporine, which prevents transplant tissue rejection. Fungi also contribute to the production of steroid contraceptives and anti-inflammatories, some industrial chemicals, and bioethanol – an alternative to fossil fuels.

What will we do on the day? There will be a range of public engagement activities focussing on the Fungal Kingdom. These could include but are not limited to: organized fungus walks, talks by fungus experts, information displays, hands-on family art and craft activities and many more. We will also be searching for the UK's largest 'fairy ring'.

Would you like to be involved? Please contact ukfungusday@britmycolsoc.info with offers of help (in planning the event or hands on help on the day), Sponsorship (financial or other) or requests for help to get an event up and running in your area or for further information. Please complete the attached form so that we can try and match requests for support with offers of help. (see next page)

UK FUNGUS DAY 2013

Offers of and requests for help and ideas for family events:

Name:

Email address:

Affiliation:

Offers of help

What type of help on the day? E.g. lead a fungus walk, put on displays, give a talk, help with activities etc.

Help prior to the event? E.g. with organization, production of materials:

Distance willing to travel:

Own transport available or public transport required?

(note that several power point presentations are available to use in their entirety or to edit as appropriate; leaflets on various topics are being produced, likewise posters)

Sponsorship: Are you willing to sponsor this event either financially or through donation of materials that could be used at organised events (fresh cultivated mushrooms etc.) or advertising. We would love to hear from you!

Requests for help

Venue:

Type of event (types of activities):

Duration of event:

Approx. expected no. of participants:

Type of help already available:

Type of help needed (e.g. walk leader, speaker, posters, leaders, power point presentation)

Ideas for family events:

Do you have a good idea for an art, craft or science activity that could be employed on the day?

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

An opening e-mail from Archie McAdam mentioning another persistent species enjoying a good turnout through out the 2012-13 winter months. This one, a little different.(See front cover)

Dear All,

This story runs and runs. Mike Valentine of the NWFG who joined us on our Cumberland Trail last autumn has found this fungus and has sent pictures round the NWFG. I copy his email below and attach his pictures with his permission. I think you will be bowled over as I am.

Good foraying
Archie

Mike says this:

Hi all,

I found this orange variant of *Sarcoscypha austriaca* last Saturday, and thought you might be inter-



ested to see it, and possibly keep a look out for similar in your own area. From the initial microscopy, spore sizes and excipular hair shape led me to believe that it might be *Sarcoscypha austriaca* var. *lutea*. However, when I subsequently discovered that var. *lutea* has only 1 British record, I had a change of mind, and enlisted the help of fungi forum friends on the Wild About Britain website, and

later, Ascofrance.com in order to try to get a definitive opinion on the species.

Even though it turned out taxonomically to be *S. austriaca*, this orange variant is still quite a scarce occurrence, and is a form of genetic mutation apparently involving carotenoid deficiency in the paraphyses, which manifests itself in varying degrees of albinism. This leads to the Apothecia being not the normal red, but orange or orange/yellow, and in extreme circumstances, completely white.

It was non-other than eminent mycologist Hans-Otto Baral who eventually confirmed the ID, for which I am indebted.

Not the *S.austriaca* var.*lutea* I had hoped for, but still quite a scarce and interesting find.

For those who may be interested, this thread on Wild About Britain website has more of the story (although only those registered on the site will be able to open up the photos there to full size):-

<http://www.wildaboutbritain.co.uk/forums/fungi-forums/107971-sarcoscypha-austriaca-var-lutea.html>

Best regards,
Mike Valentine

.....it is now!