



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 87 - Winter 2017

Well, here is a short and sweet first newsletter! Most of you know my interest is lichens so while I am more than happy to put the newsletter together and send it out I have little knowledge of fungi to help me to fill it up in the absence of anything forthcoming from yourselves. So, I'll need your help. Please will you see if you can conjure up some interesting tit-bits to include in future. Photographs, questions, notes from the forays, gossip - anything!

Thanks in anticipation. Jo

I Hope you all had a good Christmas and All the Best for 2018!

Forthcoming Events

Indoor Meeting - Saturday 20th January 2018 starting at 11am in the Visitor Centre, Rainton Meadows.

David Minter is giving a talk on Fungal Conservation followed by Tom making a photographic presentation with the aim of improving our identification skills.



Pow Hill Country Park - Saturday 28th April. 11am start. Leader Mike Cruse. Tel 01661 823229 Mob: 07486992923

From Edmundbyers proceed west along the B6306 towards Blanchland. Ignore the first sign for Pow Hill Country Park (leading down a steep bank), and drive a further $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the picnic site at the top of the Park near the main road. GR NZ008516 nearest postcode for GPS DH8 9NU. See attached Site Map for more details.



Bedburn / Hamsterley Area - Saturday 19th May. 11am start. Leader Catherine Gillie

Details to follow.

Gliophorus reginae - Jubilee Waxcap

Mike Cruse and Ron Pattison have been busy gathering information about a new species of waxcap found in Northumberland. An article in the Northumberland Gazette brought it to Rons attention.

Thursday, November 16, 2017 www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk

Coquet Valley is home to rare fungi species

BY BEN O'CONNELL
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Northumberland National Park has been propelled into the mycological spotlight due to the discovery of a rare and elusive species of fungi at a site in the Coquet Valley.

National Park ranger, Shaun Hackett, came across what he suspected was the newly-classified Jubilee waxcap while carrying out the annual waxcap grassland survey.

Recognising the find's significance, Shaun sent a sample to fungi experts, known as mycologists, at London's Royal Botanic Gardens, who have been monitoring the waxcaps' whereabouts through the Lost and Found Fungi Project.

After a 10-month wait, DNA testing has now confirmed that it was a Jubilee waxcap, making the discovery the most northerly sighting of the mysterious mushroom in the UK.



The rare Jubilee waxcap which was found in the Coquet Valley.

"It's incredibly exciting to finally have my suspicions confirmed," said Shaun. "Through an ecologist friend of mine, Liz Holden, I sent the sample to the team at Kew's Lost and Found Project for identification."

"Having never physically

I only recognised it by its distinct colouring from the photographs I'd seen.

"Advances in DNA testing have seen the number of known species of waxcap nearly double in recent years, some of which are recognised by the Interna-

of Nature as being 'vulnerable to extinction'.

"It's amazing to think that we have a haven for these rare species of fungi on our doorstep right here in Northumberland."

Waxcap sightings in the Park should be reported to

There are more details of the fungi and some good photographs to be found here:

http://www.wbrc.org.uk/WORCRECD/35/Winnall_Rosemary_1--A_new_waxcap_speci.html

German Friends Visit

We hosted our German friends from the Mannheim Fungus Group at the Calvert Trust , Kielder in 2014 . They reciprocated this year and 11 of us took the opportunity to stay at Bad Bergzabern and were provided excellent YH accommodation , hospitality and fungal forays .

We plan on inviting them back in 2019 and are proposing having a 3 day week-end break from Fri , 5th Oct - Sun , 7th Oct , 2018.

The suggestion is that we try out the proposed venue in 2018.

Numbers will of course differ , a suggestion of up to 20 in 2018 and possibly 30 or so in 2019 , with the possibility then of adding the Thurs +/-or Mon.

We have a winter indoor meeting arranged for Sat 20th Jan at Rainton Meadows . If you are able to provide any information about suitable accommodation, anywhere in GB at the meeting we would be most grateful . e.g. Venue, Type of accommodation, Approx costs for FULL BOARD for a 3 night stay in preferably 1,2 room accommodation. Plus the USE OF A ROOM to display finds and to socialize.(If you are unable to attend the meeting , please send any information so we could still discuss it .)

Hopefully with a few costings etc. , one may stand out as being the most suitable to the majority of members , especially to those that are proposing to participate and a final decision can then be made at the AGM at Rainton Meadows on Sat , Feb 24th 2018 .

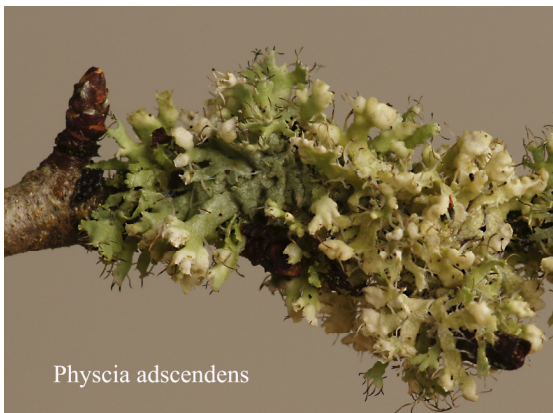
Thanks ,

Mike Cruse

(On behalf of the NEFSG Committee)

Lichen Lookout

Three common lichens seen on the small twigs in hedgerows, on trees, rocks and fences. Look out for them when you are out and about. They are only small so you may need a hand lense to see the detail.



Physcia adscendens

Thallus is pale grey with dark tipped cilia (eye-lashes) visible at the margins of the lobes. The ends of the lobes which are hood shaped contain soridia*. Common on twigs and branches, bark, rocks and and cement.



Physcia tenella

Similar to the above. Thallus is pale grey with dark tipped cilia visible at the margins of the lobes. The ends of the lobes turn back and the tips are covered in soridia*. The apothecia (fruiting bodies) are blue-black with a margin the same colour as the thallus lobes. Common on twigs, bark, rocks and cement.



Xanthoria parietina

A common and conspicuous lichen. Can be up to 15cm diameter but is often smaller. It has a frilly orange/yellow thallus which is grey/green in shaded conditions. The centre is often crowded with large orange apothecia which have a margin the same colour as the thallus. Likes nutrient rich conditions on trees, fences, rocks and walls. You can spot where birds have been perching!

* Soridia - are powdery asexual reproductive structures made up of fungal hyphae wrapped around a cyanobacteria or green algae.