



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 92 - Spring 2019

It is with sadness we announce the loss of two members of the NEFSG Gwen Humble and Tom Kirby who both passed away in March. **Both will be greatly missed.**

Gwen, Alan's partner, was always prepared to enter into chat with any person near at hand whilst still managing to find some rare fungi.

Tom was the mainstay of the group for many years, for many years, **leading forays, treasurer,** entering our records, liaising with other mycologists, editing and contributing to our newsletter with many fine articles. Here is a reminder of Tom in top form from 2003.

Further tributes will be in our next edition, including news of a possible Memorial Grove for past NEFSG members in the Lake District,

Mike

Extracts from the diary of an amateur mycologist.

Tom Kirby

I have often attempted to follow and record photographically the growth of a particular fungus. Sometimes I have failed as my estimate of the speed of growth of my subject has been wildly pessimistic, resulting in perhaps just one photograph at the start of the sequence and another at the end, with no pictures in between. Sometimes I have failed because the subject stubbornly refused to "grow", remaining no more than a neophyte for days on end before finally succumbing to mouldy decay. *Meripilus giganteus* is prone to this.

This year I was lucky. I visited an old cemetery site just outside Sedgefield (NZ362294) as I had noticed some extremely fine specimens of *Polyporus squamosus* the previous year. The fungus grew on several trees, sycamore and ash, and one or two had reached enormous proportions. This one quite literally fell out of its tree under its own



weight a few days after this picture was taken (August 6th 2002). It was 59cms at its widest diameter.

Practically all the observable specimens were growing triumphantly from the wound sites of fallen branches, where rot was established. It is "chicken and egg" as to whether the fungus caused the rot and the branch to subsequently fall, or the branch simply snapped off leaving a suitable point of ingress for the fungus. It was partly to resolve this issue that I returned to the site this year, a little earlier in the season than the year before.

30th July. WEDNESDAY

Ste. Juliette A fine morning following a pleasantly warm night but with a downpour just before dawn. Cannot find trousers from the night before but remember taking them off just before ablutions so am confident they will turn up. Find trousers on kitchen floor. Ask no questions as am sure wife put them there for a very good reason. Put on clean trousers but cannot find belt. All other belts in belt drawer are useless, being designed for boys. Remember belt on yesterday's trousers so return to kitchen but yesterday's trousers now gone again. Ask no questions as wife has obviously moved them for very good reason. Put on shirt, which is miraculously lying on bed, and leave tail out to hide no belt on trousers. Comfortable but not mechanically stable. Note that I must be losing weight in butt region as trousers continually slip down from waist. Good sign.

10 a.m. Site Visit BRANDON.

Arrive on site and wait for one hour but visit cancelled as GF not turned up. Suspect he cannot find his trousers. Return via Sedgefield and visit cemetery with extra-large battered cod for lunch. No chips as do not wish to jeopardise weight-loss



progress. Eat cod and whilst so doing notice strange outcropping on nearby tree. Take picture 12:09. Clean grease off camera until 12:38.

1st August. FRIDAY

White Rabbits. Early start today as do not wish to miss opportunity of securing trousers before "very good reasons" start to move them about. Walk down track before breakfast and shoot rabbit. Only ever shoot blind or brave. This brave. Damn. Now have to skin it. Skin rabbit but get blood on trousers. Change trousers for another pair laid out, miraculously, on bed. Put blooded trousers on kitchen floor but am advised that this

not a good idea and that there are "very good reasons" why this so. Zero gain situation. Give up.
 NOTE! Subject of separate discussion later in day to be future placement of discarded trousers when in various conditions. Not recorded here.
 Marinade jointed rabbit in Guinness, honey and coriander. Note this for future inclusion in yet-to-be-published Rural Recipe Book. Maybe add mushroom *jus* from tinned Shitake. Add to rural authenticity. Wonder how *P.squamosus* doing in cemetery. Decide to visit on way to site visit in Barnard Castle using taxi route. Ring first to ensure presence of be-trousered GF. OK.

NOTE! Site visit B/castle 11:30



09:40. Take picture of same *P.squamosus* less than 48 hours later!

11:25 Arrive Beastle. GF in attendance. Discuss power requirements for Stage one of installation in great detail.

11:27 GF has to leave following urgent call on mobile. Suspect has "very good reason" on other end of phone as frozen peas mentioned.

3rd August

SUNDAY

Ste. Lydie. Very warm and sunny. Up at crack of noon.

NOTE! Organise party for Wetlands Safari, Eston. 13th.

Weather superb. Need to get out. Can go to Foxton Covert. Can go to Bleach House Woods. Can go to Elstob Covert. Can go to Sedgefield to check on *P.squamosus*. Can spend afternoon ironing trousers. Iron trousers. There are very good reasons for this. Negotiate release for 21:00 hrs. Eat defrosted rabbit in Guinness with honey, coriander and apple, finished with a little cream. Excellent. NOTE. Add to Rural Recipes soonest. Glad omitted *jus* de Shitake as would

reduced authenticity. Wife found air rifle pellet. 21:55. Sedgefield cemetery. Darkish. Need to use flash. Do not know how as camera new. Phone wife on mobile to check instruction book. Not best pleased as filling dropped out. Return home and am abused re. air rifle pellet in rabbit. Unreasonable as wife only lost filling, not been shot like rabbit. Get instruction book and return to peace of cemetery by night. Left glasses so cannot read instructions. Take five pictures of underside of nasal passages, perfect exposure. Confidence high. Take picture of *P.squamosus*. Time 22:59.



4th August.

MONDAY

St J.-M. Vianney

Summer Bank Holiday

(Scotland) As am half Scottish decide to take half-day off. Find lost belt, miraculously, in belt drawer. Choose from wide selection of trousers. Ironed to perfection. Decide to take early lunch at Didier's. Phone. Closed Mondays. Just as well as cannot find clean shirt. Iron shirts. There are very good reasons for this.

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NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Spring newsletter is 24th August 2019
All contributions will be gratefully received!



Forthcoming Events

Saturday May 11th Hutton Rudby Paul Forster and Andrew Hardie

Meet at All Saints church in Hutton Rudby .

HUTTON RUDBY ALL SAINTS - lindleyancestry.com

lindleyancestry.com/hutton_rudby_all_saints.htm

OS grid ref NZ 46792 06344 postcode TS15 0DE

From the A19 take the exit to Crathorne and proceed to Hutton Rudby , (from Stokesley proceed in a SW direction). Park near the church at, NZ 47175 06640: TS15 0HA (or NZ 47000 06380: TS15 0DH). There is mixed woodland near the river , specimens will be taken back to Andrew's for identification. Tea and coffee provided .

LEADERS :- Andrew Hardie and Paul Forster

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Saturday July 13th LUNCH Cassop Alan Simkins

It's getting closer to that time of year again--the big event of the NEFSG summer season.

This year in a further effort to cut journey times from north and south of our region it has been decided to locate the venue in County Durham not far off the A1.

The venue is the Pub and Kitchen P.H. in Cassop village. Plentiful parking on the roadside. The landlord says attendees don't need to order food in advance--but I will email around a menu closer to the date. There is also a nice terrace at the rear overlooking fields if the weather is clement.

I suggest we target a 12.30p.m. refreshing drink before lunch at 1p.m.

It will be helpful to know those wishing to go by the end of June--so emails to Alan Simkins [alansimkins687@btinternet.com] please.

After lunch we are less than a stone throw away from Cassop Vale National Nature Reserve for a post-prandial stroll cum foray.

Sunday August 18th
Details will follow by e-mail

Rothbury

Sally Pattison

Sunday September 1st

Slacks Wood Quarry

Alan Simkins

Slacks Wood Quarry [just outside Great Ayton, North Yorkshire]--Grid Ref NZ577114



From the A19 leave at the Parkway A174 interchange signed Redcar/Teesport -if coming from north turn left [reverse if coming from the south] towards Redcar and leave the A174 at the Middlesbrough interchange and go right on the A172 towards Stokesley until you get to a small roundabout [R/B] with the Tree Bridge Hotel on your right. Turn left at this R/B signed to Great Ayton. At a T-junction about 1 mile ahead turn left, then right at a miniR/B, across next miniR/B and in village centre take next left, and left again [signed to Great Ayton railway station].

After about half a mile cross the railway line by road bridge and after about quarter of a mile turn left [at a white house] up a cul de sac road ling to Airyholme Farm. Parking is quite plentiful on the road verges where the red arrow on the map indicates.

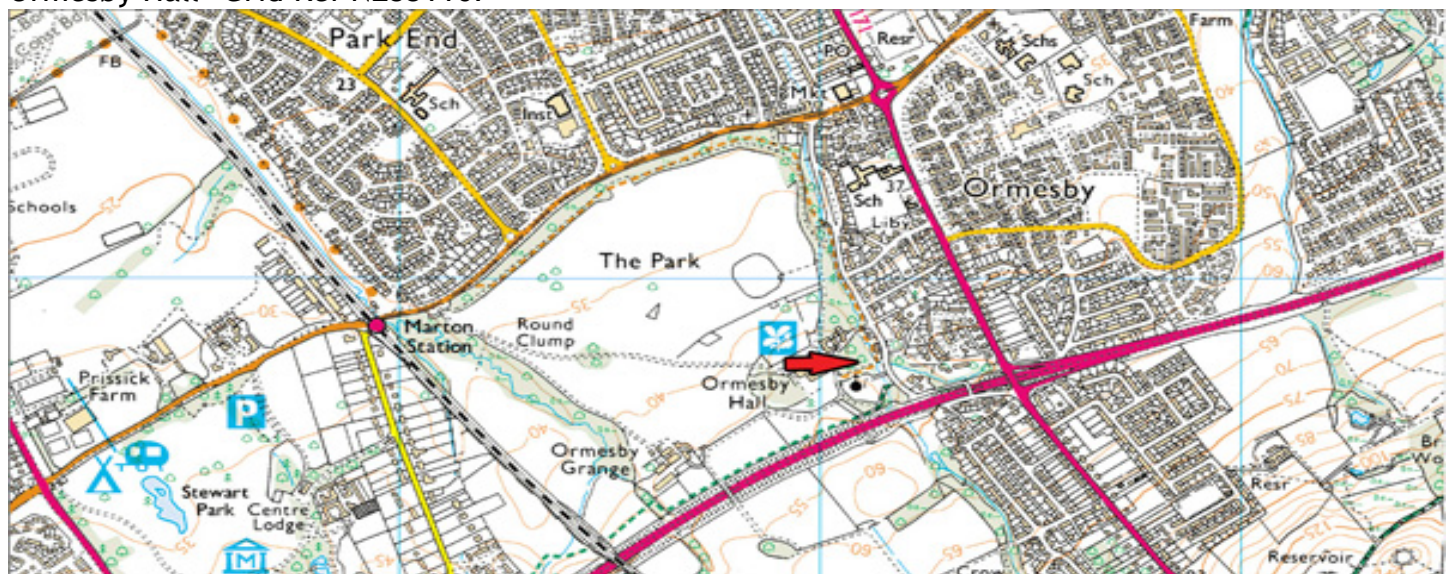
Slacks Wood Quarry is an overgrown whinstone quarry [Cleveland Dyke] now inhabited by a variety of deciduous trees, and in wet weather can be quite damp underfoot.

Sunday September 8th

Ormesby Hall

Alan Simkins + Cleveland Nats

Ormesby Hall--Grid Ref NZ531167



From the A19 leave at the Parkway A174 interchange signed Redcar/Teesport-if coming from north turn left [reverse if coming from south] towards Redcar and leave the A174at the Middlesbrough

interchange and turn left on the A172, then right at crossroads traffic lights after about half a mile on to the B1380. Pass under a railway in a half mile but DO NOT enter the Ormesby Hall site at the main car entrance a short distance beyond the railway line. Continue for a further half mile and take the first road [Church Lane] on the right signposted for coaches to Ormesby Hall. Proceed down Church Lane and take the second road on the right into Ormesby Hall site and drive to the car park shown by the red arrow on the attached map.

Ormesby Hall [National Trust] provides a circular foray through mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland/parkland.

(Saturday September 14th	Bamburgh	BFG)
Sunday September 15th	Fallodon	Mike Cruse

NB: The pairing of the 2 forays at Bamburgh and Fallodon , some 10 miles apart, gives those who like to make a w/e of it the opportunity to do so .

Saturday September 21st	Bedburn	Cath Gillie
Saturday September 28th	Danby Park	Tom Kirby
Sunday October 6th	Allensford	Alan Simkins
Saturday October 12th	Hadrian's Wall	Alan Simkins
Sunday October 13th	Ragpath	Val Standen + DWT
Sunday October 20th	Ebchester	Mike Cruse

Friday October 25th - Tuesday October 29th	LAKE DISTRICT WEEKEND
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Saturday November 2nd	Holy Island	Sheila Lillie (Joint meet with BFG)
Saturday November 9th	Bransdale	Rhona Sutherland
Sunday November 17th	Hesleyside nr Bellingham	Mike Cruse

Please note for all forays a grid reference and post code are required also contact details for the leader in case of any problems on the day.



A Selection from the Fungal World

Do Jumping Spiders use Fungi as a launching pad , discuss .



3:03

[Peacock Spider 7 \(Maratus speciosus\)](#)

7.4M views

[YouTube](#) · 02/03/2013

Slime mould extravaganza .

[*Slime mold sporangia development - YouTube*](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8dl_CuwQhk



4:05

11/05/2016 · **Development** of fruiting bodies (**sporangia**) in different species of **slime molds**. Compilation.

- **Author:** Daniel Brunner
- **Views:** 1

[*Mould Time-lapse - The Great British Year: Episode 4 ...*](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GY_uMH8Xpy0



2:55

18/10/2013 · SUBSCRIBE to the OFFICIAL **BBC** YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2lXqEln> LAUNCH **BBC** iPlayer to access Live TV and Box Sets: <https://bbc.in/2J18jYJ>

- **Author:** BBC
- **Views:** 247K

[Ukko the Dog, Mauno the Cat, Fungi and Slime molds - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vskSTOeDmxw>



1:23

06/03/2019 · Kuulemma kissat ja koirat vetävät katsojia videoille vielä sieniä ja limasieniäkin tehokkaammin. Tässä filmissä nämä kaikki magneettiset elementit yhdistyvät...

- **Author:** Lyyrillistä Luonnonoppia
- **Views:** 124

That's all folks .

fungus profiles

Coprinopsis romagnesiana

An attractive, large member of the inkcaps that might, at first glance, be confused with *Coprinopsis atramentarius*, the 'Common Inkcap'.

C. romagnesiana is of similar size though the cap surface is more obviously decorated with brown to orange-brown scales.



Scientific name:	<i>Coprinopsis romagnesiana</i> (Singer) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo	Family:	Psathyrellaceae
When and where:	parks and woodlands, in grassy soil; late summer to late autumn	How often:	rare
General view:	a moderately large fleshy inkcap with a scaly ovoid cap, whitish, decorated with greyish-brown scales.		
Dimensions:	cap 3-6 cm. dia.; stem 6-10 cm. long		
Detail:	cap subglobose when closed expanding to campanulate or almost flat, squamulose especially at the centre; lamellae at first white then greyish-brown to black; stem largely white but brownish squamulose above, clavate or slightly marginate at base.		
Microscopy:	spores 8-13 x 5-6 microns, ellipsoid, smooth, with a central pore; basidia 4-spored; cystidia cylindrical to utriform up to 150 microns in length; clamp connections present.		

Not for the Unwary!



Gyromitra esculenta

photo: Graham Mattock

Along with its close relative, *G. gigas*, the species is one that has caught out the myco-gastronomes to their cost a few times over the course of human history. For the unwary, it is just another odd-looking but presumed tasty morel. Alas, no, it's not! The fact that it is called 'esculent' (literally meaning 'good to eat') is pretty unfortunate. It is more appropriately known as the 'False Morel'. It has been known to cause severe poisoning and even death in humans.

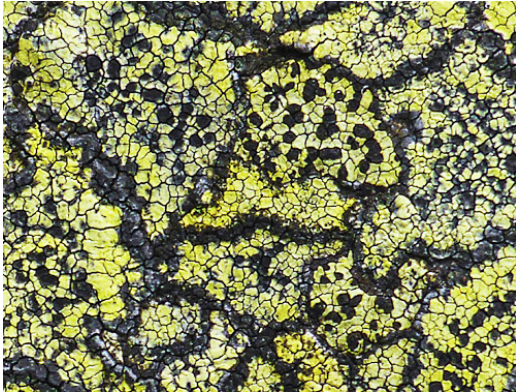
The species synthesises a toxin, acetaldehyde methylformylhydrazone, commonly labelled gyromitrin, that may not have an immediate effect but is nonetheless cumulative in the human body and may lead to hepatitis and neurological disease. In essence, the chemical has a damaging effect on red blood cells. Early symptoms tend to be stomach pains, sweating and vomiting.

Consumption is also believed to trigger carcinomas in susceptible individuals. It appears to attack the liver, kidneys and nervous system. Cooking does not necessarily remove the toxicity entirely. Fruiting in spring and early summer, the species is often found on sandy soils in association with pine trees, and it is encountered, infrequently, throughout Europe and part of North America. Unlike true morels, which tend to display a honeycomb appearance, *Gyromitra* species are irregularly lobed and contorted, in appearance somewhat reminiscent of a reddish-brown brain.

Allegedly, geographical location has some influence on the severity of intoxication. Those collected in Eastern Europe are said to render higher levels of toxicity than in America, whilst those collected at montane altitudes are said to be less toxic than those in lowlands.



Two lichens to watch out for on walls and rocks. You may need a hand lens to see the small details.



Rhizocarpon geographicum

Its common name of 'map lichen' describes it well as it really does look like county boundaries on a map. The distinctive bright yellow/green colour catches the eye. Found on hard siliceous rocks.



Rhizocarpon petraeum

A crustose lichen found on slightly basic rocks and walls. White to pale grey thallus with apothecia forming concentric rings.