



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 100 - Spring 2021

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NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Summer newsletter is 27th August 2021
All contributions will be gratefully received!



Forthcoming Events

Events are subject to cancellation or change depending on Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

Procedures on forays--the consensus is not to go for number limitation but to split into more than one group if needed on the day. Recording slips to be handed to foray leader [into a plastic bag on the day!] or sending list of finds by email later Social distancing, masks, gloves, tissues, hand sanitiser to be used with common sense. Multiple handling of fungi discouraged but arrange to display at end of foray for viewing [possibly hard to implement safely. Details for some outings will follow by e-mail.

FORAY PROGRAMME 2021

Sunday May 23rd	Sidwood - Mike Cruse
Saturday June 5th	Bowlees - Jo Scott
Saturday July 31 st	Pub Lunch—Durham City - Val Standen
Sunday August 22 nd	Linden Hall—Morpeth - Sally Pattison
Saturday September 4 th	Birch Wood—Bilsdale NYM - Alan Simkins
Sunday September 5 th	Edmondsley Wood - Mike Cruse
Sunday September 12 th	Lordstones—NYM - Alan Simkins
Saturday September 18 th	Druridge Bay - Mike Cruse
Sunday September 19 th	Hartford Hall - Sally Pattison
Saturday September 25 th	Crook - Louise Watson
Sunday September 26 th	High Plains - Mike Cruse
Sunday October 3 rd	Auckland Deer Park - Alan Simkins
Saturday October 9 th	Hadrians Wall—Walltown - Shaun Hackett
Sunday October 10 th	Harbottle - Mike Cruse

Saturday October 16th
 Saturday October 23rd
 Sunday October 24th
 Saturday October 30th
 Sunday October 31st
 Sunday November 7th
 Sunday November 14th

Letah Wood—Tyne - Gordon Beakes
 Croxdale—Wear - Val Standen
 Frost Hall—Farndale NYM - Alan Simkins
 Malton—County Durham - Val Standen
 Mulgrave Castle—Whitby - Paul Forster
 Boltby—NYM - Rhona Sutherland
 Errington Woods—New Marske - Alan Simkins

Meeting Details. (10.30am for an 11am start)

Sunday May 23rd - Sidwood - Mike Cruse

Part of Kielder Forest just two miles NW from the village of Greenhaugh. Formerly part of an old estate, some ancient trees and ornamental species remain from this time .There is a large car park shortly into the woods , do not proceed to the picnic area marked P on the map .

Grid Ref :- NY 778 889 Nearest Postcode :- NE 48 1NB

The link below provides an interactive map of the area .



Road south-east of Sidwood by [Andrew Curtis](#)
 geograph for square [NY7788](#) Dist:2.0km west-northwest
 Road south-east of **Sidwood**

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3745238>

mikecruse@live.com Tel :- 01661 823229 Mob:- (On the day only) 07486 992923

Saturday June 5th - Bowlees - Jo Scott

GR NY 907 282. Nearest post code DL12 0XF.

Meet in the Bowlees Visitor Centre Car Park. A look at lichens in the woodland around the Visitor Centre and a walk down to the river to take in the walls and riverside rocks.



Tel: 07413939729

Saturday July 31st

Pub Lunch—Durham City - Val Standen

Details to follow by e-mail.

Sunday August 22nd

Linden Hall—Morpeth - Sally Pattison

Details to follow by e-mail.

Saturday September 4th - Birch Wood Bilsdale - Alan Simkins

Birch Wood is in Bilsdale in the North York Moors--grid ref SE570920--roadside parking is available on the B1257 Stokesley to Helmsley road.

Birch Wood is a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve composed mainly of deciduous trees.



My Local Foray Day. 24/04/21.

I decided to have a go at doing my own 'Local Fungus Foray' and chose the Gainford to Gainford Spa walk along the Tees bank. I already knew of the rusts and smuts there but did a couple of preliminary visits to spot and damp-box/microscope/research/ID some of the unknowns. Did the walk again on the day and ended up entering about 70 records on iRecord, (60+ of which were micros - along with an eye tic!!). Best finds were *ramularia armoraciae* on Dame's Violet leaf spots, yet more *vankya ornithogalii* smut bursting through slits on gagea lutea leaves, the shiny black fruit-bodies of *leptotrochila verrucosa* on old Sweet Woodruff and minute *pirotaea nigrostriata* on a dead Hogweed stem. *Ramularia septata* was rife on browned strongly curved leaves of Snowdrop and I found my first *peronospora arvensis* Downy Mildew on Ivy Leaved Speedwell. Most colonies develop easily in a damp box, (margarine/sandwich box with dampened kitchen roll inside) and once on a slide to see if it's the 'lemon trees' of a Downy Mildew; the 'budding posts' of a Powdery Mildew or the 'sausage links' of Ramularia, (or the 'argh no it's a *cladosporium* sp') . The 'White Moulds, Ramularia.... Guide' from Wales has been well used! So busy looking down I nearly missed the *hysterium angustatum* - 1mm 'black lips' swarming over

rough tree bark - passers-by seemed quite wary of me grinning close up to a tree trunk. (Don't think the whoops of joy and eye tic helped.....).

Vankya ornithogali Smut on Yellow Star of Bethlehem



Ramularia septata on Snowdrop



Leptotrochila verrucosa on older Sweet Woodruff



Hysterium angustatum on bark.



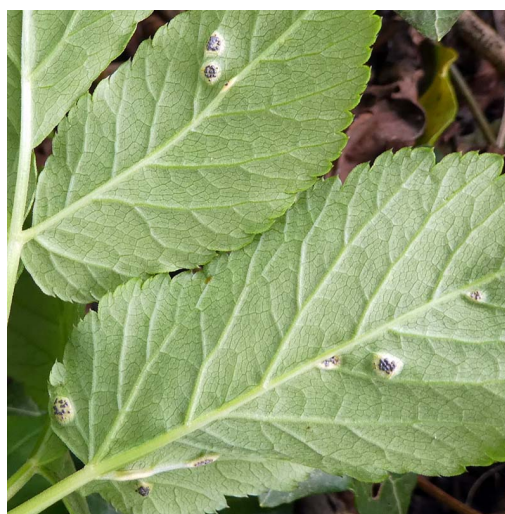
Jill Cunningham

4 Micros on Ground Elder (in easy speak) to look out for now

1 - *Protomyces macrosporus* - basically 'pale warts' easily seen on leaf stems and leaves.



2 - *Puccinia aegopodii* - Rust - raised little pale pustules on leaf upper-side with the brown spots of rust on cream in the corresponding dips/pustules on the leaf under-side, (+/- upper-side as well).



3 - *Plasmopara nivea* - Downy Mildew - yellowy patches on leaf upper-side with white colonies on corresponding areas on leaf under-side.



4 - *Mycosphaerella podagrariae* - pale/white spots on upper-side with a thin whitish film + dark minute 'dots' set in it on underside between veins. No swellings/bumps.



All fairly common and easily recognised by sight + lens.

Jill Cunningham

Peter Thompson focuses on two
hyphomycete fungi worth looking for:
Phaeoisaria clavulata
and *Chalara cylindrosperma*



Phaeoisaria clavulata photo: Peter Thompson

Superficially the sporophores in the photo above, may be seen to resemble *Xylaria hypoxylon*. However, they are much smaller, measuring less than 0.5 mm high. Each consists of an erect blackish, hairlike conidiophore with a mass of white conidia at its tip. As with most hyphomycetes, when found, they are usually very densely grouped ('massed in large numbers' in CATE2 terminology). *Phaeoisaria clavulata* seems particularly partial to life on the decaying branches of *Sambucus nigra* (Elder), but it

also grows on the decaying wood of other deciduous trees, shrubs and woody climbers.

There are 37 records in CATE2, ten of which are mine. Records in England are sparse but fairly widely distributed, at lowland altitudes, from Kent and Surrey north as far as Yorkshire. It appears not to have been recorded in Scotland or Wales. It is likely that this fungus will have been seen during forays, but perhaps not identified, because it is almost certainly very common everywhere.

Chalara cylindrosperma is from the same genus as the fungus responsible for ash die back disease. But it is smaller, at about 0.2 mm high, and it resembles a short, black bristle. It probably grows in smaller colonies, and it is certainly much harder to see.

The fungus consists of a regularly septate conidiophore, leading to a venter which is about 7.5 microns wide, in turn narrowing to a neck, which is about 2.5 microns wide. The cylindrical conidia (averaging 7.5 x 1.5 microns) exit through the neck, at maturity.

In the literature, *C. cylindrosperma* is associated with leaves of *Aesculus hippocastanum* (horse chestnut), *Picea* (spruce) and *Pinus* (pine) and *Fagus* (beech) cupules. My find adds beech bud scales to the list.

The photo (right) shows one hyaline conidium exiting from the neck and some others near the base of the conidiophore.

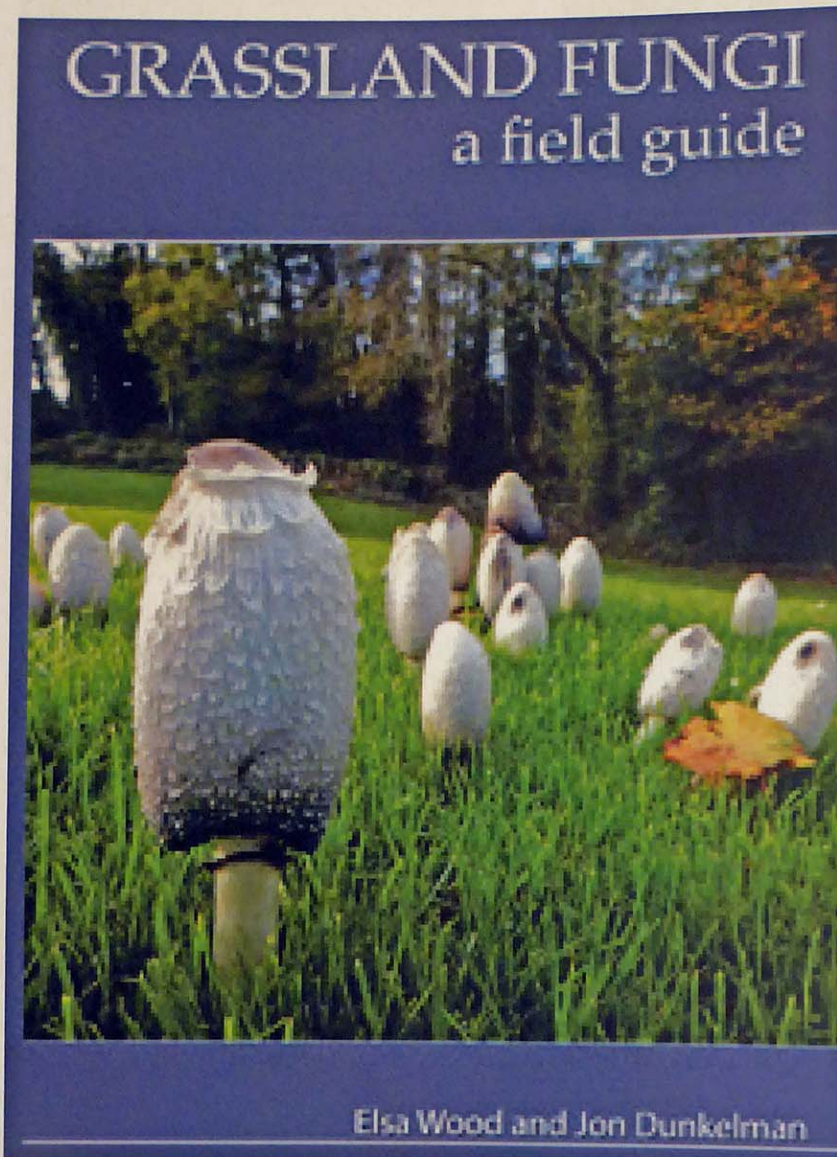


Chalara cylindrosperma

photo: Peter Thompson

There are just 17 records in CATE2. Again, it is likely that this fungus is much more common, than this small number of records indicates, but very easily overlooked and the list of possible hosts is probably far from complete.

Book Review



Grassland Fungi: A Field Guide

by Elsa Wood & Jon Dunkelman

This book is the result of two and a half years spent surveying grassland sites in the Lower Wye Valley, by Elsa Wood and Jon Dunkelman, who together with photographers Malcolm Schuyt and Keith Moseley, and production editor Marilyn Dunkelman, proudly present "Grassland Fungi: a field guide".

Covering such species as Waxcaps, Pink Gills, Spindles and Tongues it contains descriptions of 177 species with over 800 photographs, selected to illustrate the key identification points. There is an overview of the process of identifying fungi in the field, and while technical terms are kept to a minimum, those used are explained in the glossary.

Lockdown Golf Club Tour - 2020

Birdies, Bogies and Fungus!



The national lockdowns put a stop to most forays in 2020 which was a big disappointment for those of us who like to catch up with our friends in the NEFSG.

During the Autumn, after the second lockdown had been implemented, it occurred to me that we might be able to take advantage of the situation and take the opportunity to foray in places where we wouldn't normally be able to get access to easily - golf clubs.

The rules stated that exercise outdoors could be taken with one other individual - time to get planning....

There are three members of the NEFSG who live reasonably close to me and so I contacted them and asked if they would each like to participate in a golf course foray. Luckily for me, they all said yes.



The Dream Team

Blyth Golf Course - 06.11.20

The first golf course we visited was Blyth. It is relatively near to the coast in SE Northumberland and is built on an old coal spoil heap. Much of the top soil was brought in from elsewhere.

The holes have names like 'Ginny Way', named after the rope-hauled engine which drew men and coals to, and from, the colliery, and 'Yella Babby' - the colour of the children's clothes after they'd played in the yellow waste water from the pit.

Golfers have reported seeing the course population of Red Squirrels feeding on fungi which have been identified as *Suillus luteus*.

It was easy to arrange a visit to this golf course as my brother is the Greens Manager.

Ron Pattinson and I arranged to meet at the course at 11am - Ron couldn't make it any earlier as he likes to relax in the mornings with his newspaper and morning tippie.

After I had managed to drag Ron away from the greens team, where he was asking a series of questions about bunker maintenance and drainage, we headed towards the nearest



Clitocybe odora, the Aniseed Funnel from Blyth G.C.



Hygrophorus hypothejus, Herald of Winter from Blyth G.C.

One of two Woodwax found on the day, the other being *H. agathosmus*, the Almond Woodwax which has a beautiful smell of almond.

tree line where we could see many fungi fruiting bodies crowding up against the greens edge.

The most striking of these fungi was a large, grey/brown *Amanita*. We were both perplexed at what it might be. It seemed to be an identikit of several other more commonly seen *Amanita* and so we took numerous photos in situ and popped it into our basket.

Our next exciting find was a little patch of rough grass near the outer edge of the course which was dotted with various waxcaps, (five different species on the day), including lots of bright *Hygrocybe reidii*, (Honey Waxcap). Ron was also excited to find *Auriscalpium vulgare*, (the Toothpick Fungus) hiding among some cones.

We managed quite a good list, all in all, with about 50 fungi in total after our short visit. It's certainly a site that has lots of potential.

When I got home I did the microscopy on the mystery *Amanita* - it was surprisingly easy to key out. This was most surprising as I don't often get to an identification I am confident with! I was so pleased with it that I sent Doug McCutcheon photos of the find later that week. Doug had noticed a grey *Amanita* at another site a few days earlier. He returned and collected a sample which also turned out to be *A. castaneogrisea*. It must have been a good week for this particular *Amanita*! I have been told that this Blyth G.C. find was a county 2nd which isn't bad at all.

If anyone has Kibby's *Amanita* book, I've described the route through the key in the coloured section to the right for info, (although Dominique is probably the only person who will look at this and then email me to tell me I got it wrong! - Don't look Dominique!)

Hexham Golf Course - 17.11.20

One week later and we were ready for golf course exploration number 2. Doug McCutcheon agreed to join me at Hexham golf course for a few hours. It turns out the Greens Chairman was a budding fan of fungus, and all things nature, so he asked if he could join us for our wander.

The golf course is visually attractive parkland with many mature trees. It is built close to the site of an old medieval hospice founded in 1114. The newer house on site dates back to 1892 and is a lovely central point to the course and



Blyth G.C.

The mystery *Amanita* which turned out to be *A. castaneogrisea*.

Volva - saccate, friable
Partial veil - floccose & spread over stem surface
Spores - inamyloid
Cap margin - striate
Stem - lacking bulb, volvate
Stem - without ring

Subgenus: ***Amanita***
Section: ***Vaginatae***
Subsection: ***Vaginatae***

1/ Spores - globuse, (average 11 x 11 μ)

2/ Inflated cells, (volva)

18/ Grey to black tones, (volva)

19/ Cap - grey brown

21/ 9.5 x 13 (cap & stipe)

23/ *Amanita castaneogrisea*

the old estate. The greens team are proud of their 400 year old *Quercus* called The Leper Oak. The name originated from the tree being on the site of what was historically a Leper Hospital associated with nearby Hexham Abbey.

The Greens Chairman was keen to lead the way as he wanted confirmation of his identification of 'The Miller', (*Clitopilus prunulus*) which he had seen on a recent visit to the far side of the course. Doug and I duly followed at our usual snail's pace finding all sorts of delights on the way. The Miller turned out to be *Cuphophyllus virgineus*, (the Snowy Waxcap).

I think our highlight was a rounded fairy-tale hillock which was covered in waxcaps, spindles and meadow coral. We delighted in going through our waxcap key and smelling and tasting the finds. The course had 6 waxcap species with the bulky *Hygrocybe quieta* being the most striking on the day.

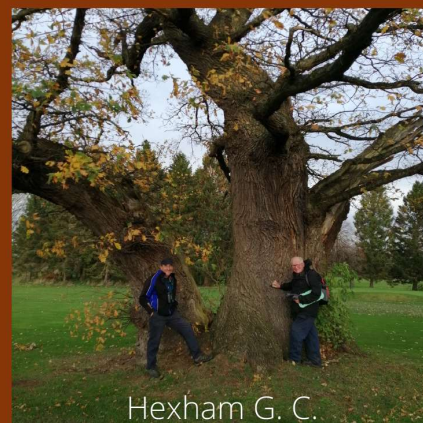
One of the spindles turned out to be *Clavaria asterospora* when keyed out and had gorgeous spores. Doug excelled himself with his microscope work and took our numbers up for the day considerably - our total being 79 species!

The surprise of the day was a county 1st - *Agaricus porphyizon*, the Lilac Mushroom. This bright, stout little fungus was found as we wound our way home past giant Sycamores, conifer and boggy grass. It didn't look too special - just shows you what I know!

We finished the day promising to go back with more of the group when things got back to normal and appreciating that the site might have more treasures earlier in the season.

Linden Hall Golf Course - 24.11.20

Another boring week of work passed by before Mike Cruz and I met at our final lockdown golf course destination, Macdonald Linden Hall Hotel & Country Club. Reading up about the site promised lots of potential - a 12th century estate with a mansion house built in 1813. However, the course, in the main, wasn't great for fungus. I've been told that it's superb for golf! Mike and I wandered around finding very little on the greens, except frequent patches of *Enteloma conferendum* and some statuesque mystery Earth-tongue around one bunker.



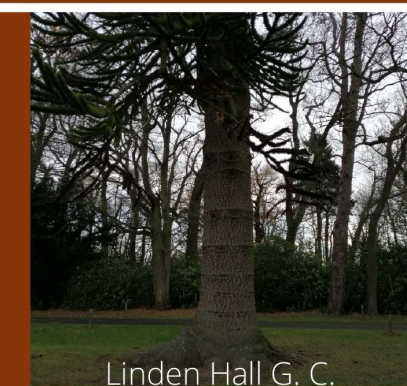
Hexham G. C.

Doug modelling the 400 year old Leper Oak. The tree is split down the middle from a lightning strike approximately 100 years ago.



Hexham G. C.

Another impressive tree on site with Doug posing for scale. He was always asking, "Sally take my photo, Sally take my photo!" You all know what he's like, trying to be the centre of attention.



Linden Hall G. C.

An eye-catching Monkey Puzzle Tree along the driveway caught our eye.

Mike even tried to liven up the day, by falling on a muddy incline and sliding uncontrollably part-way down the hill on his back.

Poor Mike!

After taking his bag so that he could easier get down the hill, I turned away only to hear another loud thump. Mike had slipped again! The mud tracks that ate into the grass clearly spelled out, 'Mike woz 'ere'!

Unfortunately Mike had dislocated his thumb but, after holding it in a cold stream for a couple of minutes he bravely soldiered on.

He couldn't keep the records to his usual standards, due to not being able to hold a pen, but I'm a forgiving person.

We were both a little down after not finding much at all around the course and Mikes putting thumb, but the lawn behind the main house and the old estate driveway proved to change our attitude no end. Waxcaps were our word of the day, with the lawn and driveway providing 9 species - *Hygrocybe fornicata* and *H. punicea* being new ones for the tour. There was also numerous Woodwax on the driveway - *Hygrophorus pustulatus*, the Blistered Woodwax, (our 3rd Woodwax of the tour).

It seems that losing the use of his thumb had heightened Mike's other senses and his Earth-tongue spotting ability went into over-drive! They were everywhere! There were numerous types, including the first slimy one I've ever encountered, *Glutinoglossum glutinosum*. We might have been able to record more of these but I was more than a little out of my depth with the key.

Mike and I resolved to bring the group back at some point and left knowing it would likely be months before the gang met up again for foraging fun.

I did happen to return to the site the following week. I wanted to grab another earth-tongue specimen for microscope work but instead happened upon a very special find - *Gliophorus reginae*, the Jubilee waxcap. I'm a bit uncertain but I think this may be only the 3rd time it has been recorded in the county.

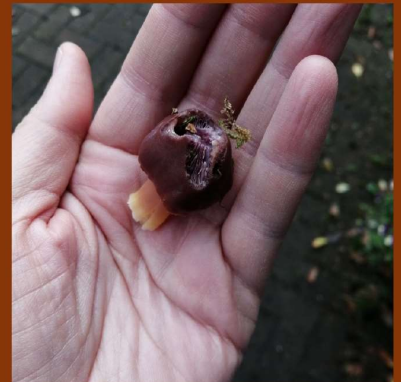
So that was the end of our very fruitful golf course lockdown tour.

The county 1st, 2nd and 3rd details may be incorrect but I'm not sure how to access the records database to check.

Sally Pattison.



Our meagre basket of finds before hitting the jackpot.



The Jubilee waxcap at Linden Hall.



Agaricus porphyizon
The Lilac Mushroom
Hexham G.C.



Amanita castaneogrisea
Blyth G.C.



Gliophorus reginae
The Jubilee Waxcap
Linden Hall G.C.

Some interesting web sites:-

FUNGI RESOURCES

Carmarthenshire Fungi

www.carmarthenshirefungi.co.uk

The above site contains useful info in the Resources section etc. Below is info from our 2 main Fungi organisations .

Groups :: British Mycological Society

<https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/mycology/recording-network/groups>

Home :: British Mycological Society

<https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk>

Fungus Conservation Trust

www.abfg.org

Mike Cruse

North East Fungus Study Group AGM minutes

Minutes of the 23rd AGM held at Rainton Meadows on 15th February 2020 at 11.00a.m.

Present:

Alan Simkins (Chair), Keith Tulip, Gordon Beakes, Val Standen (Sec), Jill Cunningham, Jo Scott, Doug McCutcheon, Cath Gillie, Rachel Richards, Sally Pattison, Ron Pattinson (Treasurer), Mike Cruse, Paul Foster, Daphne Aplin.

Apologies: John and Rhona Sutherland, Mal Greaves, John Robinson.

Minutes of last AGM: The minutes were read and approved (proposed - Doug, seconded Gordon).

Matters arising: Ron reported that we now pay £132 to the FCT and Michael Jordan for public liability insurance. It is the equivalent to 4 membership subscriptions and one of these 'floating' memberships is carried by the leader of each foray.

Chairman's report:

Welcome to 2020 - NEFSG YEAR 23

Firstly, I sadly record the passing away of two of our members (Tom Kirby and Gwen Humble) in the early months of 2019 - and also that another member (Aubrey Colling) now resides in a supportive home. Several NEFSG members attended the funeral services of Tom and Gwen. All are sorely missed.

Membership of NEFSG remains strong and whilst some memberships have lapsed, new members have arrived. The 2019 foray programme was extensive and well-supported I only draw attention to one - the Hadrian's Wall Foray at Walltown which was the first of an at least annual foray at sites near the Wall focussing on waxcaps, with support from the Northumberland National Park staff.

For the organisation of these forays thanks given again to members who propose them. Please keep coming forward with site suggestions. Your Treasurer has been busy reorganising bank accounts, insurance matters, and membership lists and is commended for his efforts. Val at Durham and Jo at Stockton kindly hosted our two committee meetings in 2019. John continued his maintenance of our website and Jo continued to coordinate our newsletters. Finally in a successful innovation Sally Pattison (with technical support from Sheila Lillie) organised a microscopy day at Bebside earlier this month which several members attended - and learned things.

Of course our big event of 2019 was Brathay Hall in Cumbria where we entertained our German myko-colleagues over a long weekend in October. The programme of activities went like clockwork and I particularly thank Rhona and John (Armitt Museum), Val and Cath (Lunches etc.) and Gordon who persuaded the British Mycological Society to grant aid the cost of the meeting room - well done all.

Finally it is good to report that our contacts with other "environmental" groups continue, notably the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Durham Wildlife Trust, and Cleveland Naturalists. Some effort has been expended to initiate similar links with Northumberland Wildlife Trust commencing in 2020. Last, and by no means least, we have combined with the Borders Fungus Group (BFG) on several forays during the year and several NEFSG members have joined BFG microscopy workshops to their individual benefit.

Treasurer's report: Ron reported the situation for the year ending 2019. There were 50 members including some honorary members. Of the £1390 in the bank after membership subscriptions were received, £792 was spent on the joint meeting with MAK members at Brathay last October. 35 members have paid subscriptions for the current year and there is £796 in the current account. Ron reported that Easy Funding had paid £90 and anyone wishing to contribute to this useful amount should consult the last Newsletter for details of how to do this online.

Election of officers: None of the current officers had resigned and no other nominations had been received and it was proposed that the current officers should be re-elected. (proposed Jill, seconded Doug).

2020 Forays:

Sunday April 19 th	Bowlees	Jo Scott
Sunday May 17 th	Bickerton	Mike Cruse / Shaun Hackett

Saturday July 25th LUNCH at the King's Lodge Hotel, Flass Vale, Durham

Sunday August 16 th	Beanley	Sally Pattison
*Sunday August 23 rd	Auckland Deer Park	Alan Simkins
Sunday September 6 th	Bickerton	Mike Cruse / Shaun Hackett
Sunday September 13 th	Tudhoe	Mike Cruse (with DWT)
Saturday September 19 th	Hartford Hall	Sally Pattison
Sunday September 20 th	Kirkdale Minster	Alan Simkins
Saturday September 26 th	Crook	Louise Watson
Sunday September 27 th	High Plains	Mike Cruse
Saturday October 3 rd	Sutton Bank	Christine Meek
Sunday October 4 th	Rushpool Hall	Alan Simkins
Saturday October 10 th	Hadrian's Wall	Shaun Hackett
Sunday October 11 th	Lordstones	Alan Simkins
Saturday October 17 th	Letah Wood	Gordon Beakes
Sunday October 25 th	Mulgrave Castle	Mike Cruse / Paul Forster
(With Whitby Nats and Cleveland Nats)		
Sunday November 1 st	Hawnby	Rhona Sutherland
Sunday November 8 th	Errington Wood	Alan Simkins
Sunday November 15 th	Sidwood	Mike Cruse

* may be moved to October 4th if permission for Rushpool Hall not obtained.

Dom suggested Mike check with Forestry Commission that no work taking place at Sidwood that day and OK to visit.

The Borders group meetings are not advertised ahead as they are subject to change. Alan emphasised the importance of making and keeping contacts with other groups such as the Borders group. Mike has contacts with this group (and with Mid-Yorkshire) and will continue to circulate information when he is given it,.

Date of next meeting: Alan to book Rainton for February 2021.

Lichen Lookout

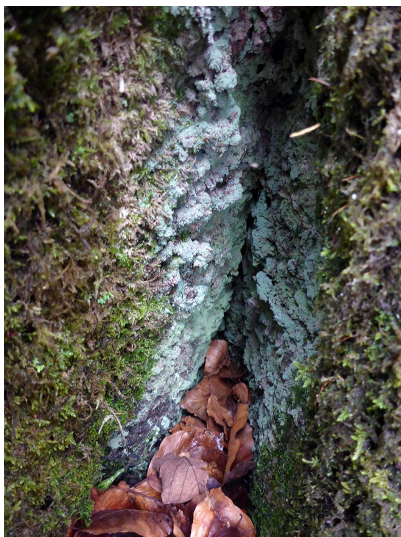
An amendment from the last Newsletter.



Candelariella vitillina

A common yellow, granular lichen which forms a thick crust. Found on rocks, walls, and bark. Yellow or brownish apothecia.

Two grey lichens to watch out for.



Lepraria incana

Very common on trees and damp rocks. Quite a distinctive grey colour easily spotted. Very powdery, fluffy with no definite shape. No apothecia.



Lepraria nivalis

A pale greenish/ grey powdery lichen. On rocks and cliffs under overhangs or in crevases protected from rain. This one has a more distinct margin. No apothecia.