



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 109 - Summer 2023

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NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Autumn newsletter is 24th November 2023
All contributions will be gratefully received!



Forthcoming Events - Meet at 10:30am for an 11am start unless otherwise stated

Where details are not available for an event they will be sent out by e-mail.

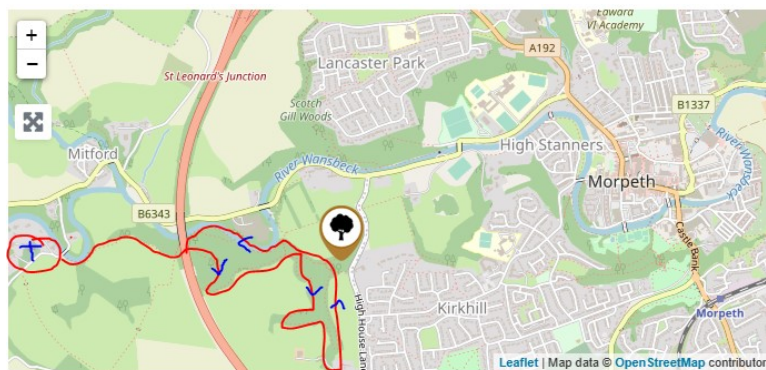
Saturday Sept 2nd – Miford – Mike Cruse

Please note this is a slight change to the foray programme .

Grid Ref :- NZ 169 855 Postcode :- NE 61 3PZ

Some pasture, large fallen beech tree, beech woodland, coniferous plantation leading to Athys Dene at the far extent of the walk with mixed woodland back via riverside path to Mitford. Take the B6343 out of Morpeth to Mitford and take a left turn signed Mitford Church, park alongside the church. Views of the 11thC Mitford Castle opposite.

mikecruse@live.com tel :- 01661 823229 mob :- 07748276183 (on the day only)



○ NZ 16923 85578

E: 416923 N: 585578



Sunday Sept 3rd – Joint foray with Borders Fungus Group Holwick.

Saturday Sept 9th – Longhorsley Moor – Lydia Koelmans

Grid Ref :- NZ 163 927 Postcode :- NE 65 8TF

Predominantly birch woodland and lowland heath. A good site for fungi.

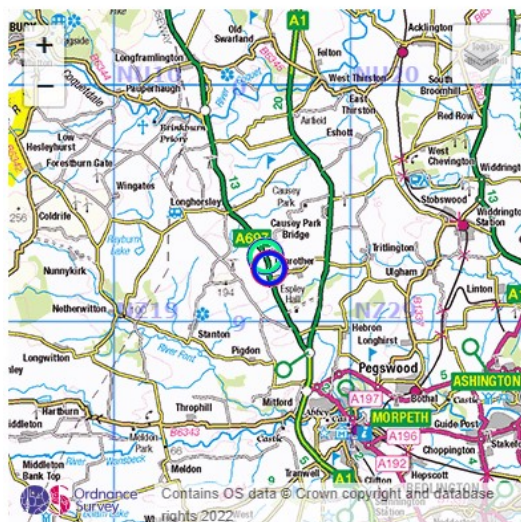
Take the A697 Wooler road off the A1 just north of Morpeth and proceed 3 miles and park in the small layby or nearby track entrance.

lydia.koelmans@blueyonder.co.uk

tel :- 07759781721

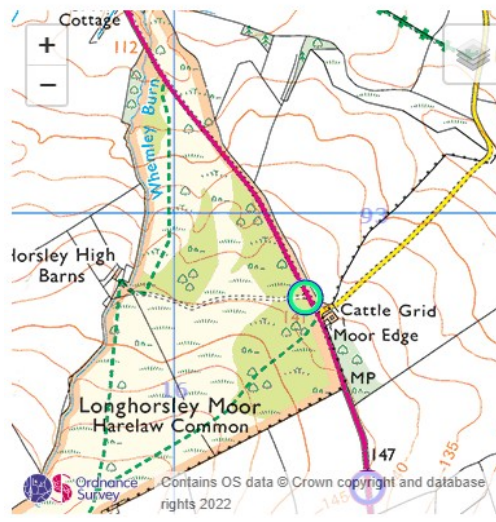
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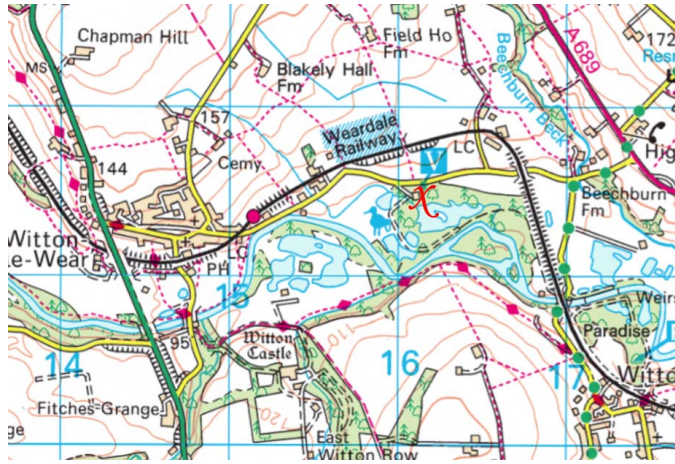
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Sunday Sept 17th – Low Barns Nature Reserve, Witton-le-Wear – Alan Simkins

Grid reference NZ161315. Get to Low Barns from the A68 half mile north of the river Wear. Drive through Witton le Wear and after approximately 2 kms. turn right into the Durham Wildlife Trust reserve. A cafe and toilets are on site. The foray is mainly in deciduous woodland along paths and by the river Wear. Members of the Durham Wildlife Trust and Cleveland Naturalists have been invited.



Sunday Sept 24th – Dalton Moor Farm, Seaham – Jenny Connor

Meet at 10am or just before at Dalton Moor Farm, access from Truro Avenue, Murton, Seaham, County Durham.

The postcode for the entrance to the access lane is SR7 9LG, nearest address 42 Truro Avenue
What3Words ///warns.keen.blatantly

Head down the hill along the lane, past the big farmhouse on the right, and around a right hand bend into the farmyard, where there is ample free parking. We can gather in the big steel barn before setting off and there will be space and tables available for reviewing specimens if we so wish. I have a microscope which can be used if desired. Welcome to bring packed lunches and to extend into the afternoon. It's a vegan farm, so if folks could bring plant based foods and drinks that would be appreciated. Seating available in the barn. Compost loo and hand washing on site.

It would be helpful to have an idea how many people to expect, but no worries if that's not possible to predict. Tel: 07887551643

For more information about the farm the website is <https://www.daltonmoorfarm.co.uk>



Saturday Sept 30th Hepple Whitefields Farm - Richard Thompson

Storm damage at Thrunton woods has led to the cancellation of the foray there but Richard has arranged an alternative site. Meet at Hepple Whitefields Farm, just south and across the river from Hepple Village, west of Rothbury NE65 7LN. OS is NY 98745 99157. Think will be meeting at the main house but will confirm closer to the time.



[Hepple Wilds – A Managed Wilding Programme, ...](https://hepplewilds.com)

<https://hepplewilds.com>

rewildingbritain.org.uk

<https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/topic/theme>

[Topic | Rewilding Britain](#)

Sunday October 1st - West Hills Farm, Rothbury - Doug McCutcheon

Grid Reference NU037 019. Nearest Post Code NE65 7XF

From the East travel along the B6341 which takes you along the High Street through Rothbury. At the edge of the village turn *right uphill into Gravelly Bank then keep on this road for about 1.5 kilometres and you will arrive at the farm. If you choose to car share from this point* carry on the B6341 for about 200 metres and on your left there is a public car park called Beggars Rigg which is fairly spacious and I think free. NU050015. My phone number on the day is 07503943425 for the habitual getting losters!. This is a working farm with a mixture of improved and older pastures and areas of woodland and scrub, some severely modified by Storm Arwen so it should be particularly interesting to see what is happening there.



Saturday October 7th - Sunday 8th - UK Fungus Day Event, Barnard Castle.

Tuesday October 10th - Sunday 15th - Germany Trip, Grasellenbach

Saturday October 21st - Rokeby, Barnard Castle - Cath Gillie

Saturday October 28th - Horsehouse - Chris Meek

Sunday October 29th - Cockfield Fell, Bishop Auckland - Rachel Richards

Saturday November 4th - Bransdale, North Yorkshire Moors National Park. - Alan Simkins

Grid reference SE623963.

Bransdale is relatively remote--easiest access is to drive north from Gillamoor village which is about 3kms. west of Hutton le Hole. Drive up Highfield Lane [shown on the 1:25000 North York Moors [West] map] for approximately 8-9 kms.to Spout House and turn left down a minor road for approx. half a km. The Old School House is immediately after the road turns sharp right. If you are driving first to Helmsley an alternative route is to go about 14 kms. north up the minor road into Bransdale [gated in places] , turn right near Breck House , go approx. 2kms. past several houses/farms , cross over the river and up the hill to the Old School House. There is limited parking on the grass verges opposite the Old School House.

The foray is on unimproved grassland fields where we will be looking mainly for CHEGD species [Hygrocybe etc] but some woodland at Cleget Banki may also be visited.

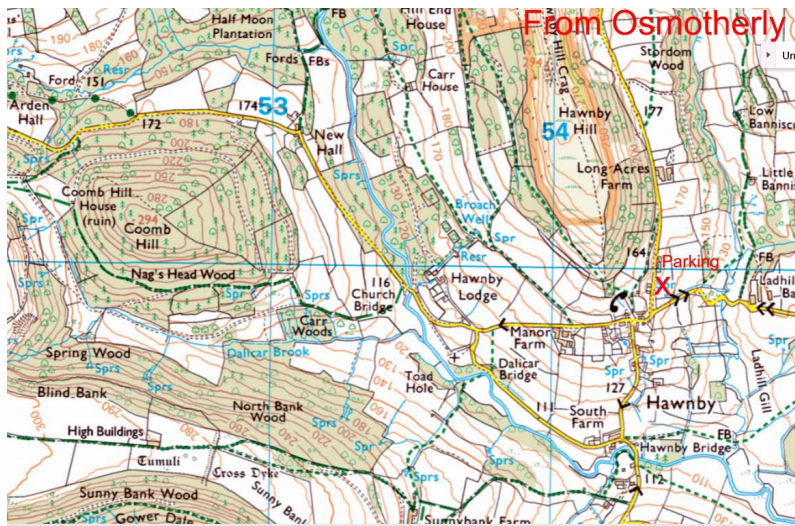


Sunday November 5th - Hawnby - North Yorkshire Moors National Park - Rhona Sutherland

Mixed woodland of older birch, oak and hazel. Some patches of pine and grassland on the west flank of Hawnby Hill to leading to Hill End House. Wonderful views!

Meet SE 543898. A small parking area (6- 8 cars) just east of the village on the east side of the road leading to Long Acre farm. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Rhona Sutherland. Tel 01439788140

or rhona.sutherland@btinternet.com



Sunday November 12th - Baal Hill, Wolsingham - Lesley Hodgson



Alan Bunn

Sad News of the death of long standing member Alan Bunn earlier in the year. Alan is second from the left in the photograph. He was secretary of the group from 2009 to 2015 and organised the winter fungus outings.



Parasola leiocephala growing on soil amongst short grass with oak litter



One of the most aptly named genera with a striking resemblance to a parasol but microscopical examination is essential to get to the correct species as there are several others which look very similar. I took this photograph as I thought it looked so beautiful. Normans Riding Wood
04/08/2023

Doug McCutcheon

Giant Puffball

Mike Cruse has identified this as a giant puffball. Found with another slightly smaller one under dense tree cover in Carlisle Park, Morpeth.



Bridget Gubbins

Rosecomb in Mushrooms



Rosecomb in mushrooms is an odd-looking malformation when a miniature version of (part of) the fungus sits on top of the cap, sometimes upsidedown and with gills uppermost.

It is thought to be caused by chemical contamination, particularly by products with a petroleum base, or distillate fumes.

So I was puzzled to find this otherwise beautiful, fresh Amethyst Deceiver, sporting a Rosecomb on top, as it was within a Nature Reserve well away from the path. There were others nearby with similar features. Then I spotted the logpiles nearby, that may well have been created using a petrol-driven chain saw - so there was my answer!

Lydia Koelmans

2 sites same name Mykoweb

Both packed with all things mycological.

From the USA

mykoweb.com

Verified <https://mykoweb.com>

MykoWeb: Mushrooms, Fungi, Mycology

Web **MykoWeb** -- information on mushrooms and other fungi, edible mushrooms, poisonous mushrooms, mycophagy, and mycology primarily for the amateur. Includes descriptions, ...

Check out the Systematics section for an abundance of literature and resources .

From the Czech Republic,

[mykoweb.eu](https://www.mykoweb.eu)

<https://www.mykoweb.eu>

Mykoweb

Web Myco Group s. r. o. Obora 159 331 51 Kaznejov The Czech Republic +420 775 208 061. angličtina; info@mykoweb.cz

In the Articles section are descriptions of the latest must have fungi books , pages 1-8 . Actual articles are on pages 9-10 .

Mike Cruse

2023 Microscope Workshop Report

We held four Beginners Microscope workshops at the Field Studies Room at Gosforth Nature Reserve in April and May. The workshops covered an introduction to using a microscope, ascomycetes, basidiomycetes and rusts.

Leading up to the decision to run these workshops, we had been asked by several members for advice on buying and using a microscope. It's not always easy for people to make the decision to invest in expensive equipment without, first, having tried the process. We decided it would be nice to try and set up some informative sessions to introduce participants to the fun and the headaches of microscopy in mycology.



Once the decision to hold the workshops was made, we needed to find a venue and, somehow, source enough microscopes and stereoscopes to make it all possible. The venue we selected was suggested by both Lydia Koelmanns and John Robinson and it was the new field studies room at Gosforth Nature Reserve - modeled beautifully in the photos above by Mike Cruse. It was reasonably central and only a short drive from the A1. We were extremely lucky to get the room at a generously reduced rate - thanks to the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN). The NHSN also proved invaluable when it came to equipment. They had 5 stereoscopes available for us to use and had recently been gifted 6 microscopes from the University which we were allowed to borrow. In addition to loans from John Robinson, this made it possible

to provide scopes for everyone who might need one. We made an agreement to provide the NHSN with a few forays in exchange which we think is a great way for like-minded groups to support one another. The courses were well booked with, between, 9 and 12 people on each one. Sally Pattison collected the microscopes from the Great North Museum prior to the 1st workshop and thought it was a good omen that there was a clump of *Agaricus bernardii*, the Salty Mushroom, right where she parked. (The specimen and scopes for workshop 1 in the images below).



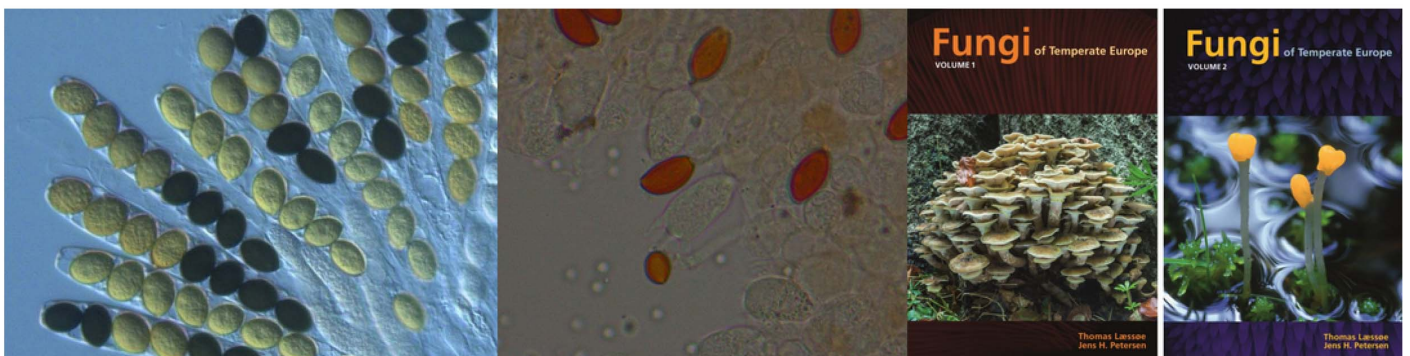
John Robinson from Microscience took us through a brilliant introduction to using a microscope in our 1st session. John shared his technical knowledge with the group and helped those members who had their own microscopes with any problems they were encountering with their equipment. His expertise was invaluable. John can be seen in one of the images below scratching his head while trying to help Ron Pattinson - we've all been there.



Sally Pattison took us through ascomycetes and basidiomycetes during the 2nd and last workshops, supported by John Robinson and Doug McCutcheon. Doug proved to be a real star during basidiomycetes week and provided some great spore print specimens and samples as well as lots of 121 coaching..



It was good fun to learn different techniques for cutting gills and identifying asci, basidia, cystidia, hyphae and spores.



Jill Cunningham stormed her session on rusts and introduced the group to making a slide preparation with sellotape - this proved very popular after spending the week before trying to prep slides with pyrenomycetes and other ascomycetes! Jill brought in some great specimens and made a superb job of talking us through the, sometimes complicated, life cycles of these much-ignored fungi. Jill also played an excellent trick on the group by sneaking a leaf, with a white smear on, into the samples while discussing mildews. Ron Pattinson was first to keenly snatch up the sample for microscopy, only to discover he had been staring down the scope at birds poop for 10 minutes! He took the joke well and him and Jill had a good laugh about it, (below pics).

All in all, we thought the workshops worked quite well. If you are interested in participating or organising a workshop, please let us know what sort of things you are interested in for the future. If you attended these workshops, please send in feedback so we can work to improve things for the next occasion. We do now have a stockpile of slides, coverslips, tweezers and worksheets which can be utilised by anyone in the group wishing to run a similar event.



Sally Pattison

Lichen Lookout

Lichens to look for on trees.



Chaenotheca ferruginea

Thallus grey with distinct yellow/orange patches. In dry cracked bark on dry deciduous or coniferous tree trunks. Not often fertile.



Punctelia subrudecta

Leafy greyish green thallus with dots of soralia usually in the middle of the thallus. To separate it from *Parmelia sulcata* it doesn't have obvious white lines on the thallus. Found on tree bark or sometimes acid rocks.



Dimerella pineti

For the eagle eyed!
Tiny cream apothecia on bark and in cracks on conifers and deciduous trees. Thallus not really seen.