



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 113 Summer 2024

Index

Forthcoming Events	Page 1
NEFSG Suggestions and Feedback - Mike Cruse	Page 6
A Review of the Film Fungi: The Web of Life - Sally Pattison	Page 7
National Fungi Groups Newsletters and Recording - Sally Pattison.....	Page 9
Fly Killing Fungus - Lydia Koelmans	Page 10
DNA Sequencing - Ron Pattinson	Page 11
Health and Safety Guidance for foray Participants.....	Page 12
French Camembert Cheese under threat! - Alan Simkins.....	Page 14
Minutes of NEFSG Committee Meeting on 15 May 2023	Page 15
Lichen Lookout - Jo Scott	Page 16

NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Autumn newsletter is 23rd November 2024
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. Please bring a packed lunch.

BEGINNER'S FORAY

One suggestion we have already implemented is to start the fungi season with a foray specifically targeting beginners . The foray at Jesmond Dene on Sunday 1st September will aim to have one of our members give an introductory talk and lead any new starters in attendance around the site . Other members will be available for questions and advice. At the end we will set up a display table to chat about our finds and have a few books to look at and work through .

In addition , if any new group members are going to attend any other foray to let us know in advance and we will attempt to have a dedicated mentor/guide available . As it currently stands we generally offer assistance to new starters as a group effort . For beginners we can offer a knowledgeable 'fungi-buddy' to walk around with if requested .

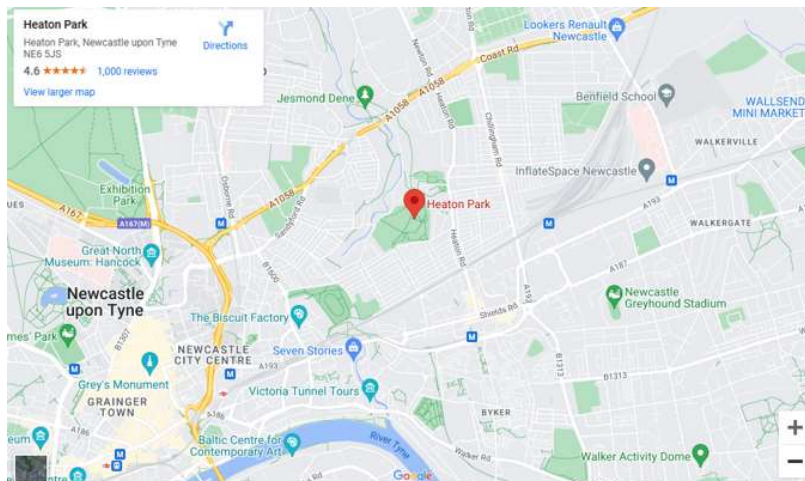
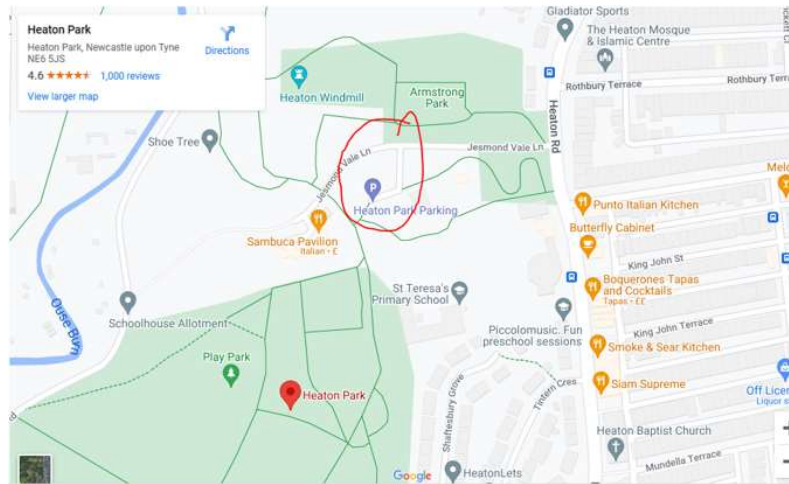
Sun Sept 1st Jesmond Dene , Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Meet at the car park at Heaton Park off Heaton Road along Jesmond Vale Lane .

GR: NZ 267 656 Post Code: NE6 5JS

We will proceed from Heaton Park through Armstrong Park to Jesmond Dene looking at fungi on the way.

Contact : Mike Cruse 07748276183

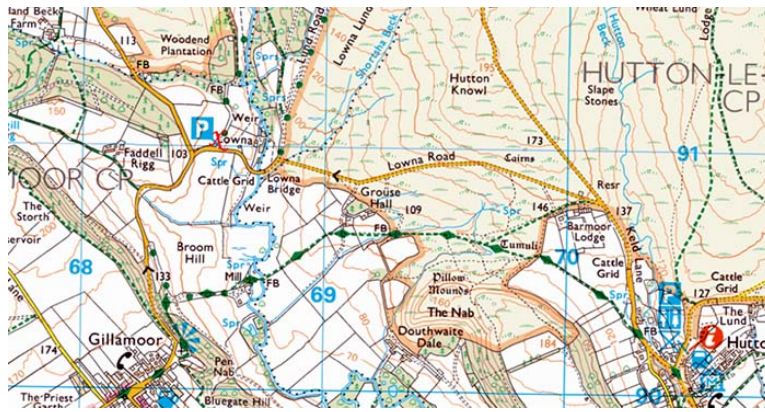


Sat Sep 7th Alan Simkins Lowna , nr Gillamoor , NYMNP

(Grid ref. SE685910)

Meet from 10.30a.m. for an 11a.m.start in a small[unsignposted] car park off a minor road [called Lowna Road on the 1:25000 O.S. western area map of the North York Moors] off the main Castleton to Kirbymoorside road--from the north turn right on to Lowna Road about half kilometre north of Hutton le Hole [road signposted to Gillamoor]. About 1 and half kms. along this road pass over a small bridge, then pass Lowna Farm on your right, drive 150metres up hill and past a converted barn, and with a large oak tree in a hedge on your left turn right into the parking area. No toilet facilities available. The foray route is mainly in deciduous woodland with some Quaker bones.

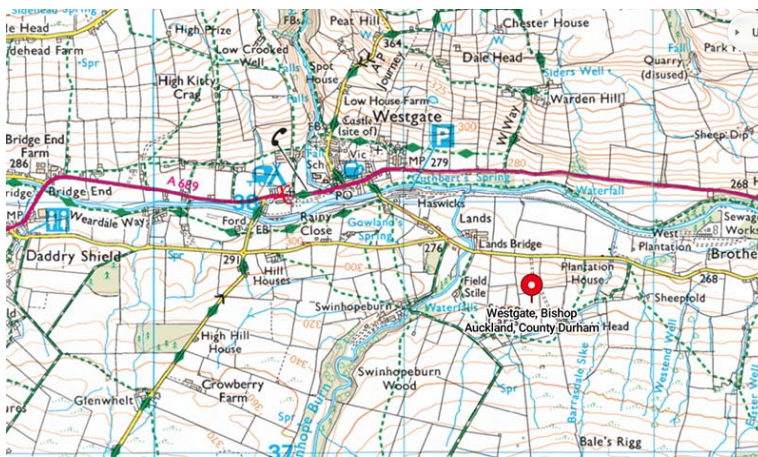
Risk assessment will be advised at the start.



Sat 14th Sept Lesley Hodgson Slitt Wood, Westgate, Weardale

Please note this is a change to the foray programme.

Fungi in the woods, along the beck and mineworkings Meet in the layby at GR: NY906 380. There is also street parking if the layby is full.

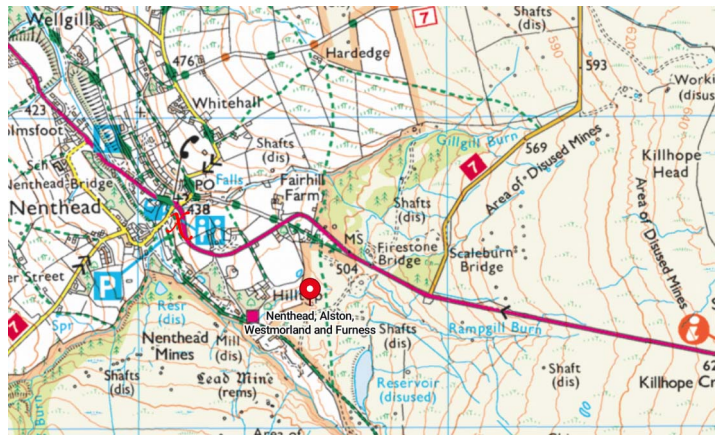


Contact :- Mike Cruse Tel :- 07748276183 Postcode :- DL13 1LJ

Fri Sep 20th- Mon Sep 23rd Grantown on Spey (3 nights)

Sun 29th Sept Doug McCucheon - Firestone Bridge Nenthead Cumbria.

There is a sizeable car park with adjacent Public Toilets at the bottom of the hill in Nenthead at NY781436. Nearest post code is CA9 3NR. From the East leave the A689 and turn left at the bottom of the hill and it is on the left and will be difficult to miss. If we assemble there for 10-30 and boot up etc. then we plan to have 2 cars to shuttle participants about a half mile back up the rather steep hill to the site entrance which will be a gate on your left at NY787485. The site is a privately owned area of land with scattered mostly pine trees and a stream plus a variety of habitats including marshy ground, grassland and recolonising mine spoil from previous mining activities. Please bring a packed lunch and be aware that the whole site is above 500m altitude so an extra layer may be needed. After lunch we have the option to browse the mainly restored old mine area across the road and gradually work downhill at your leisure to meet up back in the car park.



Sat Oct 5th - Sun Oct 6th UK Fungus Day

Thur Oct 10th - Mon Oct 14th Cortinarius Study Days

Sat Oct 14th Alan Simkins -near Ryton, Tyne and Wear

Grid ref. NZ149647

Meet in the car park of the Tyneside Golf Club at the west end of Ryton.

Best access is from the A1 at Blaydon or Whickham/Swalwell junctions and then on to the B6317 driving west into Ryton, then on village side roads to Tyneside Golf Club [sometimes signposted!] just south of the Newcastle to Carlisle railway line.

This is a foray with Durham Wildlife Trust volunteers who hope to gain some knowledge/tips on fungi id. from you all. Members are asked to car share if possible.

The primary purpose of the foray is to survey unimproved grassland fields at Maryside Hill for waxcaps etc. but there are also opportunities to find fungi in nearby woods at Clara Vale.

Risk assessment will be advised at the start.



Sat Oct 26th Val Standen Joint Foray Durham University

Sat Nov 2nd Alan Simkins - Cropton Cabins in Cropton Forest [NYMoors]

Grid ref. SE757918

Start at Cropton Cabins [shown as Spiers House on older 1:25000 O.S. map of eastern area North York Moors]

Coming from the north take the Castleton to Kirbymoorside road off the A171 Guisborough to Whitby road just past Lockwood Beck Reservoir. There are then 2 options for getting to the site

1- Some miles south of Castleton, at the top of the Moors turn left on a road signed to Rosedale Abbey, drive through that village and after approx. 6 and half kms turn left at signs to Cropton Cabins and drive 1 km up the forest road to the parking area.

2- Drive south beyond the Rosedale Abbey signed road on your left, pass The Lion Inn, and into Hutton le Hole, turn left in the village on to a road signed to Lasingham, through that village and meet the road at 1 above just north of Cropton village. Turn left and drive north for approx 1 mile and then turn right at signs for Cropton Cabins and drive 1 km up the forest road to the parking area.

The foray is in mixed coniferous and deciduous woodland. Toilets and refreshments are available.

Risk assessment will be advised at the start.



Sun Nov 3rd Rhona Sutherland Rydale Area

Sat Nov 9th Sally Pattison Seahouses.



NEFSG Suggestions and Feedback

If you have any suggestions regarding any of the following topics or anything else you can think of, we would love to hear from you.

- Forays
- Membership
- Workshops
- Recording
- Working with other organisations ie Wildlife Trusts, Universities etc
- Communication
- Newsletters
- Book/key suggestions
- Microscopes
- DNA sequencing
- *Other*

Please get in touch – mikecruse@live.com

Review of the film - Fungi: Web of Life

Presented by acclaimed British biologist and author Dr. Merlin Sheldrake, this short documentary spotlights the vital role of fungi in our ecosystem.

We arrived at the Tyne Theatre in Newcastle on the afternoon of Saturday the 25th of May after a wander down from having a coffee overlooking the city at the Great North Museum, (formerly the Hancock). We, (Mike Cruse and I), suffered a slight delay on our way to the theatre when a passing tennis fan complimented me on my yellow trainers and, regrettably, eye contact was established. Said tennis fan then began to enthuse about her great affection for Maria Sharapova, (retired tennis number 1) expounding passionately about a recent conflict with a younger player and declaring she could 'never forgive' her behaviour towards Maria. 'God forbid' Maria would have had to deal with her in her playing days. Apparently tennis hasn't held any appeal since Maria retired. After 15 minutes of listening to the highs and lows (mostly lows to be truthful) of the Maria/frenemy saga and interposed with snippets of whether Marie-Christine Peltre-Brochard will make a mess of organising the French Open competition this year, I was torn between persevering with this engrossing, though undeniably unusual, sporting diatribe or turning back towards Mike who had silently withdrawn, (some would say tactically receded like a willick into his shell), from any interaction with the Maria-fan, although never one to miss an opportunity to eavesdrop on a conversation - be assured, dear reader, that he was listening intently and waiting to contradict me given the opportunity. Luckily my tennis general knowledge is A+ and so I could keep up with the intricacies, and pitfalls, of the conversation. A passerby would be forgiven for picking up on a 'One Flew over the Cuckoos Nest' vibe as they passed our unlikely trio.

After several attempts at extrication we found ourselves on our way again. Interestingly enough it was informing the Maria-fan that we were on our way to see a film about mushrooms that proved to be the nail in the coffin for the conversation. It seems that there are weirdos and then there are 'weirderos'.

Once we arrived at the Tyne Theatre Mike insisted that we should definitely wait outside as that's where Lydia Koelmanns told us to meet, emphasising that Lydia is very literal in her instructions. I pointed out that I could see Lydia, through the glass doors, chatting with a fella inside the theatre and so we shuffled inside. The film was playing on the 3rd floor of the building in a small room with only 3 rows of seats. I took a look at the other attendees to see what sort of person was attracted to this genre of entertainment, (I admit to a certain goldfish bowl curiosity in desiring to see the response of the 'masses' when looking at the type of stunning fungi we see on a regular basis). I deduced that two thirds looked like young trendies - perhaps students - with the remaining third a mix of older, more boring-looking people, like ourselves. To my right were two very attractive female students with straight, dark fringes, beautifully applied makeup and Dr Martens whose pre-film conversation extended from pinched spinal nerves to staying single until the end of their studies (turns out Mike isn't the only one who can eavesdrop). Post-film one of them immediately declared 'that's' what she wanted to do after uni. Hopefully she's someone to watch out for in the future to bring a touch of glamour to our field.

To my left a young'ish' couple sat down possessing the kind of pervasive aroma only achieved after a committed slog through 15 pints of ale, a Jager bomb and a packet of Lambert & Butler. Never one to combine a heavy drinking session with the cinema myself I wondered at their motivation for attending. One half of this duo yawned audibly throughout the film, although probably not through boredom but an internal battle of biological processes on the downward slope to inebriation fighting courageously for a semblance of lucidity in the dark, comfortable conditions unfortunately so conducive to alcohol-induced unconsciousness

And finally, directly in front of me, the NEFSG team was represented by my good pals Lydia and Mike - the real deal, the genuine McCoy, the shining examples, the dogs b*lllocks in this enigmatic pond of potential mycophiles.

After a good 20 minutes of adverts, accompanied by amorous whispering from the brewery to my left, the screen lit up with a Q & A with Merlin Sheldrake, one of the producers of the film. Seemingly a little nervous in some of his responses Merlin deferred much praise to his colleagues in all things. In this 19 minute introduction, (coincidentally advertised to be shown after the film, but appeared before it), we were treated to Merlin's enthusiasm regarding various aspects of fungi including one question which asked about marine fungi, (worth a google I can tell you), and another about why Merlin decided to make the film, (he was approached by film-makers he admired and felt he couldn't refuse), and when asked 'what next' for him, he answered that mycelium mapping was his next project in an attempt to promote the conservation of fungi. Although I worry that all the good intentions in this field might go the way of other wildlife 'quantification' ie once we can put a number on how much we can lose we begin to shuffle those numbers to lose really valuable stuff and replace it with the 'same' number of less valuable 'stuff'. Mitigation - a modern way to lose and pretend you're not losing.

The feature film then started. We were immediately immersed in fantastic visuals from photographer Stephen Axford and filmmaker Catherine Marciniak who are renowned for their slow-motion footage of fungi. We were shown how mycelium begins to grow from a spore with its number one priority being to find a food source. This was followed by explosions of stunningly colourful mycelial growth in petri dishes splashing across the screen and informed that mycelial strands are 1/5 the width of a human hair. We were shown special effects of mycelium footprints overlaying, (or underlaying), forests and pulsating with life - transporting food, water and communication and possessing a sense of sight, light and heat. We were then informed how many acres of old growth forests disappear every day - a shocking amount initiating a silent pang of despair. Most of the filming 'in the wild' took place in the Tarkine rainforest in Tasmania and we were told that some trees in the forest were 2000 years old with the forest itself having been in existence for tens of millions of years. It was demonstrated how spores are swept up into the clouds contributing to creating wet conditions which benefits the growth of the spores below - giving an overall sense of the 'power' of fungi on a much greater scale. Next we were told of the hope that fungi may be able to save us from our plastic waste problem, showing us a team of scientists working in a forest in China who have discovered 4 new plastic-eating fungi in one forest, with 1000 new fungi being discovered there so far. We were briefly told how fungi can be utilised in medicine and shown the captivating night-time light shows of bioluminescent fungi. The overwhelming message was that we are destroying fungi, and the 'webs' they form, before we even know what they are capable of.

The film was only 41 minutes long so you don't get to the point where you need a little bum shuffling to get comfortable or need to take a toilet break, (although the sozzled gentleman to my left understandably partook in one after much midway squirming).

On visiting the toilets afterwards I heard two ladies who were fired up about fungi with one recommending 'the book', (Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake) to the other. The other lady shook her head in wonder as I squeezed past on my way to the handdryers with a knowing smile on my face, (afterall, this was the goldfish bowl response I had hoped to see - a reflection of the wonder that inspires us all in the NEFSG).

In comparison Mike, ever direct in his opinion, summed up his thoughts on the film by declaring that he had seen it all before and the slow mo footage was nothing new to him. Woe betide the excited producer who thought the outstanding visuals might impress a hardcore NEFSG forayer like Mike. I did make the point that we hadn't heard the dialogue previously although I will concede

that the film was aimed at the fungi 'ignorant'. Whilst all the mesmerising images were fantastic, a lot of us who are in local groups and who receive emails and newsletters on the subject, would have been exposed to most of the information at some stage previously.

So, while I can honestly say that I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of going out and socialising with my fungi friends, I would also agree with Mike to a certain extent (not something I make a habit of!) - this film skims the surface of several areas of mycology that experienced mycologists may already be aware of, but doesn't go into detail with any of them. It's a taster, a toe-dip, a spark that hopes to ignite a flame of greater interest - to initiate the response of the ladies I encountered in the toilet I think. In fact, in the Q & A Merlin was asked what he would hope audiences do after watching the film and it was to just learn a little bit more about fungi, eat a little bit more fungi, try growing some fungi, just basically take a slightly bigger step in your life towards the Kingdom of Fungi that has captivated many of us in the NEFSG for some time. I got the impression that the visuals were there to stir our hearts with wonder and the narrative to inspire our heads with curiosity. In that respect it fits the bill. It would be nice if the film-makers made another film for the hardcore fans out there. The ones who want to be taken by their grubby little hands (you know the hands we use when scratching up the base of a mushroom growing stubbornly in compacted soil) and lead us, with our waterproofs, backpacks, tick removers and mildly autistic traits through more complicated and diverse pathways and into a more 'grown up' scientific mycological adventure. The audiences might be smaller but our eyes no less round.

It's worth an afternoon out if you see the film advertised locally. Invite a fungi friend, drink 15 pints of beer, smoke a few tabs and sit down next to an incredibly sophisticated-looking fungi-fiend like me who is sitting in anticipation of seeing mushrooms opening very slowly and trying to hide her back-pack under the seat after realising her cat has weed on it.

Warning

If you see a lady with an Adidas T-shirt, blue Steer trainers and an elegant rectangle shaved into the front of her hair, avoid her. Unless, of course, a highly volatile conversation about Maria Sharapova is what floats your boat.

Sally Pattison

National Fungi Groups, Newsletters & Recording

For those of you who don't know, there are two main national fungi groups that we are affiliated with as a group - the **British Mycological Society (BMS)** and the **Fungal Conservation Trust (FCT)**. Both of these groups have their own recording database and newsletter. I am also an individual member of both groups which is something that you may want to consider doing if you're not already. Try googling each group to see what sort of benefits each offer and what is best for you, (NB Typing 'BMS' into your search engine will likely bring up the British Menopause Society so beware).

The BMS have a newsletter called '**Field Mycology**' and the FCT has a newsletter called '**The Forayer**'. Both groups are continually seeking articles to publish and you don't need to be a member to submit your work. We actively encourage everyone to submit interesting finds and writeups, (as we do for our own group newsletter!)

The recording database for the BMS is referred to as the **FRDBI** and for the FCT it is **CATEII**. Our current NEFSG recorder prefers using CATE2 so all the NEFSG records go onto the FCT's database. If you wish to submit records you can do so by either contacting our recorder Mike Cruse (mikecruse@live.com) or by joining one of these groups and gaining access to their database.

In addition, the BMS offers online talks, Field meetings and workshops for members.

So next time you hear one of these acronyms being thrown about by some members, out on a foray, you will know what they are referring to.

British Mycological Society - BMS - Field Mycology newsletter - FRDBI recording system

Fungus Conservation Trust - FCT - The Forayer newsletter - CATEII recording system

I have attached a link to the BMS and FCT membership pages below. Why not take 5 minutes to explore them and decide if they have anything to offer you.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me.

sallypattison@hotmail.co.uk

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

<https://www.fungustrust.org.uk/page/who-can-join/11/>

Sally Pattison

Fly Killing Fungus - Nature red in Tooth and Claw

Entomophthora muscae attacks living flies. It colonises its host's mind as well as body, forcing the hapless victim to climb to a high vantage point and stretch out its wings, before gluing it in place and killing it. A good vantage point thus obtained for spore dispersal, the fungus sends out continual pulses of spores to infect other nearby flies. Not content with that, it gives off pheromones that mimic the scent of a female fly, inducing males to come and attempt to mate with the dead, fungus-ridden host - and get infected too.

Photo shows underside of living attached Sycamore leaf colonised by Cristulariella depraedans plus a fly infested with Entomophthora muscae.



Lydia Koelmans

NORTH EAST

Fungus Study Group

DNA Sequencing

Exciting new scheme!

Free of charge for NEFSG members

The NEFSG is introducing a scheme to facilitate group access to DNA barcoding for suitable specimens. This has come about through a partnership with Dr Keith Thomas of Brewlab, Sunderland. This is initially a pilot scheme for 1 year (1st September 2024 - 31st August 2025) and it will include the potential processing of up to 10 samples.

If you have a specimen and wish to utilise this scheme you should email Ron Pattinson at **ronbjq@gmail.com** and cc **sallypattison@hotmail.co.uk**

Prior to emailing we anticipate that:

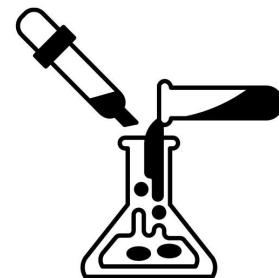
- The sample has been checked using microscopy with reference to appropriate keys/literature.
- The indications are that the specimen merits further attention, e.g. potentially new to Britain, rare, impossible to ID with microscopy alone, or of particular conservation value.
- We request that the sample is supported by photographs, site information and relevant microscopy records for the purposes of group communications and/or records.

If you apply for this scheme you are acknowledging that all photographs and supporting information can be used at the discretion of the NEFSG.

Follow the subsequent instructions to prepare any specimen:

1. Select a clean, preferably fresh sample
2. If drying, ensure drying process is less than 50 degrees C
3. Wrap in clean kitchen paper
4. Prepare label with your name and contact details
5. Place sample and label in holding container, such as a zip bag or plastic bottle
6. Prepare a small padded envelope/‘Jiffy’ bag for posting

Full fungal DNA preparation instructions will be provided on application and can be found on our website.



Ron Pattinson

GUIDANCE FOR FORAY PARTICIPANTS AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Leaders of forays will be bringing a signed risk assessment form to each foray and will outline any risks that particular site may have .

Also you will be asked to read our Health and Safety Guidance for Foray Participants which will be sent out with each foray reminder .

Health and Safety Guidance for Foray Participants

Please read this before attending any Foray meetings.

Forays are attended at your own risk and take place outdoors in the natural landscape, therefore conditions can change quickly.

To ensure that you enjoy the day out safely, please read this information and take appropriate action before you arrive at the meeting point.

Trips Slips and Falls

It is essential that you wear footwear suitable for the conditions such as walking boots, wellingtons or sturdy shoes.

The foray leader will try and advise of the terrain, conditions and length of walk, in advance. However, if you have any concern about your ability to participate, please inform the leader for advice.

Getting Lost

One of the risks with any guided activity is that you get separated from the group and become lost.

Please ensure that you have other members of the group in sight and stay with the group leader.

You should endeavour to carry a mobile phone with the foray leaders' number on it and a whistle to alert the group if you become separated.

If you wish to leave the group even for a short time, it is essential that you speak to the foray leader first.

Weather

The weather can be unpredictable and change quickly, please ensure you either wear or carry with you clothes to protect you from heat, direct sunlight, cold, rain and wind.

Medical Conditions and illness

If you suffer from a medical condition that the leader should know about talk to the foray leader prior to the foray and before setting off. If you begin to feel unwell during the foray, please talk to the leader as soon as possible do not wait until you feel very unwell.

Bites, Stings, Allergies and Medication

During the summer months there is a risk of bites and stings from insects and plants.

Please ensure you cover you skin and wear insect repellent and ensure that you bring any medication you may need with you such as medication to treat a bite or sting.

Food and Drink

Usually, you will be asked to bring a picnic lunch, ensure you bring sufficient food and especially drinks for your needs.

You are also advised to bring disinfectant gel or hand wipes for your own use before handling food (there are often no hand washing facilities)

Children and Young People

Children and young people under 16 need to be accompanied by a responsible adult and should be always supervised especially when picking any fungi.

Dogs and Pets

No dogs and pets are allowed on forays unless by special permission with the foray leader, and then they should be always on the lead and not allowed to interfere in any way with foray activities.

Site Specific Hazards

When you arrive at the meeting point, the foray leader will advise you of any site-specific risks and give the relevant advice. Please pay attention and ask for more information if you are unsure of anything.

Both the RA and H+S **Documents** are available to view in the member's section of our website .

nefsg.co.uk

<http://nefsg.co.uk>

North East - Fungus Study Group - NEFSG

Mike Cruse

French Camembert cheese under threat?

[extracted and condensed from the Telegraph newspaper magazine]

The National Centre for Scientific Research, France's state-run science agency, reports that because of a decline in the strains of fungi that define their taste and appearance, Camembert, Brie and blue cheeses could face extinction. For generations Camembert and Brie have been prized for their pristine white rind. It is developed through a process scientists refer to as "delicious rot" where fungi are either added to the milk when it is heated to form curds or sprayed on to the cheese afterwards to aid the ripening process.

The problem is that decades of cloning the white *Penicillium camemberti* mould to mass produce the cheese's celebrated rind has hindered its ability to sexually reproduce. As a result, this fading Habsburg dynasty of the fungal world has gradually lost its vigour, according to scientists, producing fewer and fewer spores over time. Producers have attempted to forestall its demise by mixing the traditional mould with heavy doses of a white yeast called *Geotrichum candidum* in an attempt to mimic the distinctive white colour--but the inevitable result is that Camembert as we know it is starting to disappear.

However, experts at a Nottingham -based company called Myconeos may be on the cusp of a landmark discovery. They believe that they have cracked the conditions necessary to coax these impotent fungi into reproducing sexually, thereby refreshing the gene pool and producing countless potential future generations. Formed in 2018 the University of Nottingham based company began producing new strains of mould after it was able to induce sexual reproduction in blue cheese mould-*Penicillium roqueforti*. The company has since created five commercial strains of blue mould, some of which have been used to produce award-winning cheeses. And in the past couple of years it has turned its attention to Camembert and Brie.

So how does it work? The researchers are tight-lipped when it comes to the finer details, but the fundamentals involve placing the fungi under the right light and temperature conditions. They have developed technology that can screen for compatible sexual partners based on DNA analysis. Once identified, the fungi are carefully positioned on a Petri dish on top of a "porridge-based medium" which they feed on. At the point where the two fungi touch-called the barrage zone "that's where the magic takes place".

As the fungi copulate-a process that lasts a remarkable 25 days-they produce millions of potential spores. Samples of the microscopic offspring are then collected and analysed using a method called gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to predict the potential flavours and smells of the blue cheeses they will produce. In search of new blue cheese moulds the scientists bred existing commercial strains from across France, Italy, Denmark, and the UK on top of foraging for naturally occurring strains in the countryside. They then whittled down their list to several hundred options which they sent to partnering dairies to make hundreds of kilos worth of cheese. Some were rubbish but some had potential.

So these new discoveries are refreshing the gene pool for mould making. The latter is now dominated by a handful of large European culture houses who only sell a very narrow range of cloned strains. Back in the 1960's cheese makers would have their own little culture room where they would grow their own strains--but because of increased safety regulations and the cost of maintenance most cheesemakers decided to farm out the production of strains and started to buy them in-result more uniformity, less individuality.

Myconeos has also started experimenting with producing new colours of mould, including green and red ones which may entice more people to try mould-ripened cheese. The irony of Camembert's distinctive fluffy white appearance is that it is a modern phenomenon. Such cheeses were once aged in cellars where naturally occurring spores gave them rinds of various colours--but then *Penicillium camemberti* replaced those moulds resulting in the uniform white rinds we associate with Camembert. According to one study " It is thought to be a white mutant selected from the grey-green species *Penicillium commune* for its colour at the start of the twentieth century."

Alan Simkins

Minutes of NEFSG Committee On 15.5.2024

Present: A Simkins, R Pattison, J Scott, M Cruse, C Gillie

1. Apologies: J Cunningham, J Robinson
2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 26.11.23 and AGM 17.2.24 noted and agreed
3. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)
 1. New Constitution and Safeguarding Policy[both approved at AGM] need to be put on website [members only section]. Ron to implement RP
 2. Insurance--Ron highlighted that NEFSG insurance is 3rd party only and does not provide personal indemnity cover. Agreed that this needs to be emphasised to members.

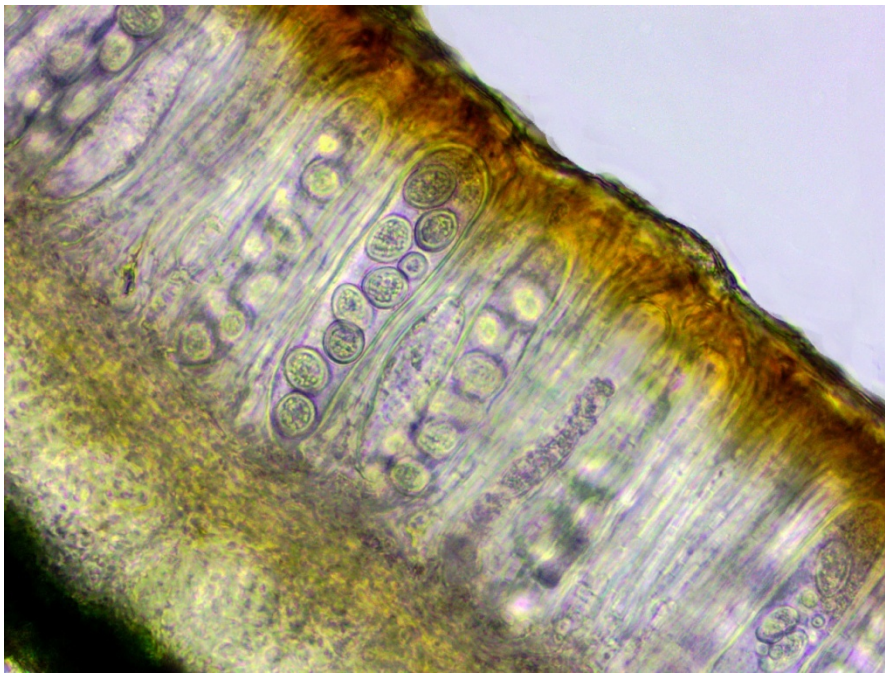
Ron to do newsletter article and contact FCT to confirm arrangements covering NEFSG forays. RP
 3. Ownership of Resources--Ron to finalise list for website after final check with Sally on posters etc. RP
 4. Membership lists--Ron to add Alan to circulated updates RP
 5. Ron had reviewed the matter of North East or North Eastern on the NEFSG bank account and wanted to leave the bank account as is. Agreed.
4. Risk Assessment--Cath tabled revised draft following AGM request to committee to reconsider [concern it was too lengthy and could discourage members from proposing to lead a foray] . Following discussion it was agreed NOT to substantially reduce contents because of legal and grant bidding requirements on organisations with public interface

Lichen Lookout

A closer look at *Parmelia saxatilis*. A common lichen found on walls, rocks and trees. Grey thallus with crowded isidia covering the centre. Apothecia are infrequent.



Apothecia



Cross section through the apothecia showing ascus and spores