



Northern Ireland Fungus Group

NEWSLETTER

N I F G

June 2017

About the NIFG

The Northern Ireland Fungus Group organises regular fungus forays with the aim of identifying and recording the species of fungi which can be found across a wide range of habitats in Northern Ireland. The group is open to all who have an interest in fungi and most members are amateurs with a passion for finding, photographing, identifying and sometimes eating fungi, although we do not provide definitive guidance on this! Most forays take place on Saturdays between June and November. Our website www.nifg.org.uk gives details of our activities and has a database of photos of fungi which have been recorded in Northern Ireland. We also have a Facebook page.

Interesting Finds from 2016

Chris Stretch

Cyathus striatus photo Debbie Nelson

We only occasionally come across the Fluted Bird's Nest on our forays, but when we do it can be in large quantities, like this find from flower beds on the Stormont foray. In the picture we can see some nests that still have the white covering, this breaks to expose the eggs (peridoles) inside that contain the spores. The eggs are ejected by rainwater, they have a cord attached to their underside with a sticky end that can attach the ejected eggs to surrounding vegetation.



Lycoperdon caudatum photo Lesley Crawshaw

The Glenarm nature reserve produced a number of interesting finds this year, however the rarest find from this foray came from outside the reserve behind the car park! *Lycoperdon caudatum*, the Pedicelled Puffball looks similar to many of the common pear-shaped puffballs. It has spines that rub off in patches as the fruiting body matures. The spines converge in little pyramids and leave a faint pattern on the inner skin. It can be identified by microscopic examination of the spores, they appear to have a long tail (the pedicel) that remains attached to the spore when it is released from the basidia. Like several of our more interesting finds from Glenarm it is associated with chalk or limestone soils.

There are only 22 records in the BMS database, none from Ireland.



Mycena corynephora

This attractive small white *Mycena* (Bonnet) is probably common but not often recorded. We found it in the Glenarm reserve. It has hairs on both cap and stem which give it the appearance of being "dusted with icing sugar". There are other similar species but they have a basal disk, (a bulge where the stem attaches to the substrate.)



Mycena bulbosa

There are a number of species of *Mycena* that specialise in growing on rushes, grasses and similar plants. They are normally pictured growing out of standing stems and we rarely come across them, so I was surprised when we found *Mycena bulbosa* growing from a dead leaf of Woodrush (*Luzula*) in Glenmore. The basal disk can be clearly seen in the picture.

At more than one place on the Glenariff Forest foray we came across a strange deep blue resupinate (lying flat on the substrate) fungus. Usually such things are difficult to identify, but the colour suggested the genus *Byssocorticium*. There are three British species, but a microscopic examination pinned it down to *Byssocorticium efibulatum*, with no Irish records in the BMS database. The pictured specimen appears to be on soil. But is probably on well rotted wood.

Byssocorticium efibulatum





Cronartium quercuum

The orange spots in the picture are the rust fungus *Cronartium quercuum* on an acorn that is also afflicted with a knopper gall. The gall is caused by a small wasp that lays its eggs in the buds. Alternate generations of the wasp lay in the acorns of native oaks and the catkins of the Turkey oak. Both trees were present in Kilbroney Forest Park where we found this.

The rust fungus has no Irish records in the BMS database.



Entoloma incanum

Another find from Kilbroney was the Mouspee Pinkgill, *Entoloma incanum*. With its green stem and powerful smell of mouse pee it is a very distinctive member of the usually difficult genus *Entoloma*.



Hebeloma radicosum photo Debbie Nelson

Rooting Poison Pie, *Hebeloma radicosum*, has a strong smell of almonds. From the bulbous base of the stem a long "tap root" extends to a source of ammonia below. Some books illustrate it growing on buried dead moles, but more modern references have it growing on buried middens. It can also grow on the middens of other burying animals including wood mice, however the absence of moles probably explains why it is uncommon in Ireland. The "tap root" grows up from the midden to fruit at the surface unlike a plant root growing down. Our specimen was found in Parkanaur, close to the river bank.

Arrhenia retiruga

This small white fungus grows on moss. Its irregular cups have no stem and are connected directly to the moss. It is not uncommon: This year we found it on the Loughanmore Estate foray.



Leucoscypha erminea

This attractive little white cup fungus is the first ascomycete (spore shooter) on the list. It was spotted on the Glenmore foray. There are several species of *Leucoscypha* on the British list, none have any Irish records.



Ophiocordyceps ditmarii

The ascomycete genus *Cordyceps*, which used to contain many of the fungi growing on insects has been split into several genera including *Ophiocordyceps*. The most commonly recorded species here is the brightly coloured *Cordyceps militaris*. Identifying other species has been difficult as the books are inconsistent, however a new key available from the ascofrance web site is much clearer. Our next most common find now keys out to *Ophiocordyceps ditmarii*, here from Glenmore. This is the teleomorph (sexual form) where spores are produced from the orange pits that can be seen on the fertile head. Some years we only seem to find the anamorph (asexual form) which lacks the head.



Isaria farinosa

Another *Cordyceps* growing on insects is *Isaria farinosa*. A mass of white spores forms on a stem growing from an insect pupa. This is the anamorph (asexual form) of the fruiting body. The teleomorph (sexual form) does not seem to be known. We have found it a few times recently, including this specimen from Glenmore. A related species *Isaria fumosorosea* has been used for insect control in greenhouses.



A message from our Chairperson, Debbie

Hi Fungi Fans..

Its another year and we are back.. Not only for forays but with a new revised newsletter. Due to work commitments and time restraints over the last couple of years have meant that we simply couldn't feature in time for putting a newsletter together..

Determined to get a now digital publication back up and running we would like to welcome Lindsay Eason as the Newsletter Editor and thank him for putting together this years Fungi Newsletter.

2016 was a strange year with weather conditions being up and down leading to some poor numbers of species on forays but at the same time some interesting finds. Chris has put together a list of some of the more unusual species for any of you who missed the forays, which can be seen on the first two pages.

The NIFG Facebook page has taken off with thanks to all those who post their finds and ask for help with identifying a specimen they have come across. Social media has helped us gain a lot of members online and I would be hopeful some of the followers will join us out on this year's forays.

I am very much looking forward to visiting this years list of sites. We have access to some amazing locations this year and what I hope will be a productive residential that I hope to see everyone attending.

Residential Booking 2017

We will be staying in the **Tir Navar Holiday Village** in Enniskillen on the weekend of the 22nd-24th September and foraying just across the border in Donegal, and also in Castle Coole on Sunday. A meal is arranged for Saturday evening on the accommodation site.

If you wish to attend I will need your confirmation asap please to secure numbers. We will be taking payment in advance when you confirm. Please email me at madformushrooms@googlemail.com for further details.

Debbie Nelson



Mushi Menu

Louise Borbely

What could be more wonderful than a few hours tramping through the woods with friends on a glorious autumnal day? Well, returning with a few wild mushrooms would certainly do that. It's wonderful to return home ravenous, and within a short time be tucking in to something fresh and tasty, especially when you have been the bounty hunter! Here are a couple of very easy recipes to try.

CREAMY MUSHROOMS ON TOAST

1 Ciabiatta
Clove of garlic
Butter
Double cream
parsley
Salt and pepper to season

Mushrooms - whatever you have gathered on the day, but this works really well with Chanterelles

Clean the mushrooms with a piece of kitchen paper, never wash them as this make them go soggy and boiled rather

than that nice fried mushroom taste. Slice thinly and fry at a medium-high temperature in the melted oil and butter (the butter is for flavour and the oil stops the butter burning). Once they are cooked through season with salt and pepper and stir in a couple of tablespoons of cream.

Slice open the ciabatta (or any bread of your choice) lengthwise and rub with a clove of squashed garlic then butter it. lightly toast this side only under the grill and top with your creamy mushrooms, sprinkle with parsley and enjoy.

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

Pate of your choice
breadcrumbs
egg
Salt and pepper to season
Mushrooms - particularly any of the Agaricus sp. for this one

Remove the stipe from the mushroom and stuff with pate (back of a teaspoon is good for this), dip in the beaten egg and then roll in the breadcrumbs (process can be repeated if you prefer a thicker crisper crumb). Deep fry them in sunflower oil until crispy and golden. Who said life is too short to stuff a mushroom?

Fung-ography *Vittorio Silvestri*

'Tips for getting that Perfect Fungi image in the Field'



Introduction

The amazing world of fungus photography is an autumn/winter adventure that all photographers should explore. Due to their very nature fungi require cool, dark and damp places in order to grow, so summer months can be dedicated to other photographic adventures.

In the paragraphs below, you'll find detailed information and tips on how to best photograph these delicate organisms.

Gear

While fungi can be photographed with any compact camera, even your smartphone, to get the best possible images you really need to use some dedicated equipment. A good start is to use a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera. While a standard zoom lens will work just fine, you will eventually come to realize that it has its limitations. This is due to the fact that shots with real impact are usually ones that are close with tight framing.

With most compact cameras you should have a macro mode but with a DSLR you'll need to buy a macro lens. These give results that are life-size, getting you closer, helping fill the frame. They also usually have wider aperture allowing you to better isolate sharpness on a specific part of a fungi or keep to whole scene in focus (more about this later in "Depth of Field"). A cheaper alternative is a set of close-up filters, though these can reduce quality and particularly sharpness around the edge of the image. A much better alternative is a set of extension tubes and a prime 50mm lens, both a much cheaper solution than a macro lens.

A few other things that could be considered essential pieces of kit are as follows:

- ❑ A tripod that allows you to get low or a beanbag which will allow you to work almost at ground level.
- ❑ Cable release to trigger the camera or use the self-timer.
- ❑ As you will be on your knees on damp soil or grass, something to kneel on to keep you dry is always useful.

Angle

Perhaps the most difficult part about photographing fungi, is deciding the best angle to shoot them from. It's all very well getting a macro lens and getting close, filling the frame, but deciding on the angle and what to include is all about experience. Some will need photographed from the top, but many are best when photographed from underneath. This allows you to examine the gills, structures, textures, shapes and beautiful colours that are not immediately visible from the top. Being down this low will also give a more dramatic effect, giving the fungus presence and height. Many species grow on tree stumps allowing easier access to the underneath.

Take your time; fungi are static objects, explore all angles. Look at how the light is falling on it and position yourself accordingly. But do be aware that some are so delicate that even the slightest

breeze will introduce unwanted movement, affecting overall sharpness.

Remember to try various fields of view, include some of the environment as close up frame filling may not always be the best approach.

Preparation (Grooming)

You will always find that fungi are covered with some sort of dirt and bits of twigs, which while very natural, are often distracting in an otherwise perfectly executed shot. Spend a little time clearing this debris away; time spent here will save time later in Photoshop. Check the image after your first shot as the camera always picks up things we've missed, re-groom and re-shoot.

Lighting

In order to accentuate the interesting shapes and structures of fungi, whether it's the top or the underneath, you will need light. Because of their very nature, fungi grow in dark woodland places where light does not usually penetrate.

Therefore you will have to work with some artificial light or reflected light from the sun. A few different techniques to try are as follows:

- ❑ **Flash:** Most cameras have a built in flash or a hot-shoe to take a flash. The problem with this is that it is directional and can be very harsh. You can deal with the harshness by reducing the power of the flash, but the light will still be directional, coming from the same angle as you are shooting.

If you are using an external flash mounted on the hot-shoe, it will be much better to remove the flash from the camera (off camera flash). This can be triggered by the camera using a lead or fired manually during the usually long shutter speeds need the expose the shot correctly (more about this later in "Shutter Speeds"). Remember you are not using the flash to expose the image, just to provide a bit of fill light. You will need to experiment with this. You can always try bouncing the flash off a tree or a reflector.

- ❑ **Torch:** While a flash can be very unpredictable and will require experimenting to get the results you want, using a torch will be much easier. As this is a constant source of light, what you see is what you get. As you look through the viewfinder, move the torch and watch the effect it has. Small torches are powerful enough and easily carried.

- ❑ **Reflectors:** As mentioned before, reflectors can be used to bounce light back onto or underneath the fungi, either using natural light from the sun, for a soft look or artificial light from a flash or torch.

Stabilize your camera

Probably the most important thing to get right is to keep your camera still. As mentioned before a tripod is a must and most good fungus photos will have been captured using one. The low

light conditions will result in slow shutter speeds which can't be increased with a higher ISO as this will impact on overall quality. Using a tripod will also help you compose the image better, holding the camera in the correct position. This will give you one less thing to worry about and let you concentrate on the other settings and the lighting.

Shutter Speeds

Slow shutter speeds, often many seconds are inevitable and often welcome. Don't be afraid of these as long as you have your camera on a sturdy well positioned tripod. As I said before the long shutter speed allows you to fire some carefully position fill flash during the exposure.

One thing to remember is that you can't touch the camera to fire the shutter; this movement is enough to cause blurry/out of focus images. Use a cable release or trigger or if you have neither of these, set your camera on self timer.

If your DSLR has a mirror lock up feature, use this as the tripping of the mirror can cause vibrations introduction unwanted movement. While using live view on DSLRs the mirror is in lock

up mode so this eliminates the need to do this. It also has the advantage of giving you a view of your composed image and lighting from a distance, without having to get down to the level of your viewfinder.

Depth of Field and Focus Point

Depth of field (DOF) is a tricky one. This can be used to effectively isolate the fungi from distracting backgrounds/environments. A large aperture such as f2.8 will do this, but do experiment with different f-stops as different lens will give different results. If you want to include more of the surrounding environment and get more focus deeper into the image, use a smaller DOF, such as f-16 or more.

I hope this helps you better understand some of the issues that you will encounter while photographing fungi. If you have any queries please ask one of the more experienced members of the NIFG.



Adventures in Fungi *Debbie Nelson*

Pascal McCaughan works for CVNI Tree Nursery based in Clondeboy Estate Bangor. During the last few years Pascal has contributed a vast number of images and interesting finds to the NIFG Facebook page and I recently asked him how he first got interested with fungi.

My son, Manus McCaughan, and Fungi.

When they first come along the 'little darlings' called children can be hard work and a bit of a shock as I am sure many of you know.

The reason I mention this is that the child's arrival in our house, brought some changes into my life that had to do with the 'slowing down' required when spending time with a child especially through the early years.

The long slow walks with the pram, and then the buggy, and stopping to point out, to the child, attractions in nature was when I began to notice fungi. Once having witnessed the slowly melting Ink cap I was fascinated and hooked.

It is just amazing that such a collection of mysterious and often beautiful fungi could be in existence all around us and I had never really noticed. Having a son growing up, at the same time as I am investigating these fungi, is interesting in the sense that he finds fungi that I do not recognise and so we are learn together.

An example of this is the 'Aniseed Funnel' *Clitocybe odora*, (in the picture). Having collected him from school and walking home, through Castle Park, I had already walked past this but he spotted it (superior eyesight helps). Lucky for me it was identified quickly by the wonderful NIFG and so Manus was impressed and I was excited.

I really mean it when I say that without the NIFG our investigations would be futile and impossible. So thank you guys very much, especially Debbie for her mind-boggling effort, and keep up the good work please.



Pascal and Manus checking for tree trunk fungi.



**Clitocybe Odora,
Aniseed toadstool**



.Manus checking out Agarics on the forest floor



More Mushroom delicacies!

Giant (Puffball) Omelette

- 225g giant puffball - thinly sliced
- 4 tbsp butter
- 60ml chopped fresh chives/scallions
- 60ml chopped fresh parsley
- 60ml double cream
- 6 eggs, lightly beaten
- salt & pepper

Sauté the mushrooms in half the butter, until the liquid has almost evaporated. Add the herbs and set aside.

Melt the remaining butter in an omelette pan on a moderate heat. Blend the cream into the eggs and add salt and pepper, then pour into pan. When the egg mixture starts to set lift the edges, and tilt the pan so the remaining runny mixture can flow to the heat. When the mixture just stops flowing add the sautéed mushrooms to the omelette. When the omelette starts to turn golden brown at the bottom, fold in half and slide onto a plate. Serve immediately.



Puffball fritters with soft-boiled eggs and bacon

- 4 slices pancetta, or streaky bacon
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 4 large slices from a puffball, about 1cm/1/2in thick
- 2 eggs, beaten and seasoned with salt and pepper
- 100g white breadcrumbs (from a day old loaf)
- 4 whole eggs
- salt & pepper
- olive oil for frying
- a few salad leaves

Chop the bacon or pancetta into thick matchsticks and fry in a little olive oil until crispy. Throw in the chopped garlic and fry until it starts to take colour. Remove the garlicky pancetta and

put on kitchen paper.

Bring the four whole eggs to the boil in a small pan of cold water and boil them for just 4 minutes to get soft-boiled eggs

Dip the puffball slices in the beaten egg, then coat well in the breadcrumbs. Fry in the same oil left from frying the pancetta (with perhaps a little extra added), turning once until crispy and golden brown.

Mushroom Paté

- 3/4 lb chopped mushrooms
- 2 tbsp butter
- 8oz cream cheese
- 1/2 tsp curry powder
- 1 tsp Worcester sauce
- 1 tbsp dry sherry
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped

Sauté the mushrooms in butter until dark (about 5min or so) and drain. Process or puree with the cream cheese, curry, Worcestershire sauce, and sherry. Fold in the pecans and refrigerate. Garnish with parsley or watercress.

Mushroom & herb soup

- 50g rindless bacon
- 1 white onion, chopped
- 15ml sunflower oil
- 350g flat field mushrooms
- 600ml beef stock
- 30ml sweet sherry
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh herbs or 2 tsp dried herbs

Roughly chop the bacon and place in saucepan. Cook gently until the fat comes out. Add the onion and oil and cook until soft. Chop the mushrooms add to the pan and cover and cook over a low heat until they have softened.

Add the stock, sherry, herbs and seasoning and simmer for 10-15 min.

Place in a blender and blend until fairly smooth. Serve with a dollop of crème fraîche.



Q: Why did the Fungi leave the party?

A: There wasn't mushroom.

Q: Why did the Mushroom get invited to all the parties?

A: 'Cuz he's a fungi!

Q: Why do Toadstools grow so close together?

A: They don't need Mushroom.

Q: What would a mushroom car say?

A: Shroom shroom!

Q: Which vegetable goes best with jacket potatoes?

A: Button Mushrooms

Q: What room has no doors, no walls, no floor and no ceiling?

A: A mushroom.

Q: What room can be eaten?

A: A mushroom!

Q: What's an airplane's favorite mushroom?

A: Air-portabela.

Q: Why does Ms. Mushroom go out with Mr. Mushroom?

A: Because he is a fungi (fun guy)!

Q: What does a woman call a mushroom with a 12" penis?

A: A-fun-guy to be with!

Q: What did the mushroom say to the other mushroom?

A: There's not that mushroom in here.

Q: What do you get if you cross a toadstool and a full suitcase?

A: Not mushroom for your holiday clothes!

Horror Heart Transplant: Woman eaten alive by mysterious fungus

Nobody knows how Shelby got the mould infection. Following her case, at least two other patients from the same hospital died.

Weeks after getting a heart transplant, Shelby Slagle, died from a mould infection.

As reported by [News.Au](#), Shelby was born with a hole on her heart, and it took her 27 years before finally having a normal heart beat. On May 3, 2015, she finally underwent a heart transplant surgery at UPMC Presbyterian hospital. But hope turned to horror when she started to get a mould infection.

A report from The Tribune-Review said Shelby was making a full recovery and that the operation went well. But the slump began weeks later when doctors noticed a bedsore on her back that had some sort of infection.

"It got progressively worse," Laurie Amick, her mother, told the publication. "Eventually, she had to go to surgery every day. They would take out more tissue and removed most of her buttocks. The infection had gotten so deep. It had eaten down through the skin, the muscle and started to get to the bone."

Her heart and whole body was devoured by fungus and the doctors could not identify where it came from. A week later, she died.

Following Shelby's case, at least two other patients, Tracy Fischer, 47, and Che DuVall, 70, were treated for the same



reason. They eventually died too. Shelby, and the two other patients were housed in the same room, known as "Bed 3."

"Bed 3," is supposed to be a negative-pressure room, where patient with infectious diseases are meant to be contained.

A lawsuit against the hospital was filed by Shelby's husband. On August of the same year, they settled the lawsuit for US\$1.35 million.

The mysterious infection was referred to by doctors as [Rhizopus](#), defined as a cosmopolitan filamentous fungus frequently isolated from soil, decaying fruit and vegetables, animal faeces, and old bread.

In September 2015, UPMC shut down its transplant program for six days to be investigated by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.



New fossil could represent world's oldest fungus

Research that challenges a number of assumptions about the emergence of early life on Earth.

Newly discovered ancient fossils could represent the world's oldest fungus specimens, scientists say. Researchers have discovered fungus-like fossils in rocks estimated to be 2.4 billion years old. The fossils could represent the world's oldest fungus -- 2 billion years older than the next-oldest fungus specimen. If confirmed, the discovery could force scientists to rethink the timing of early evolution on Earth.

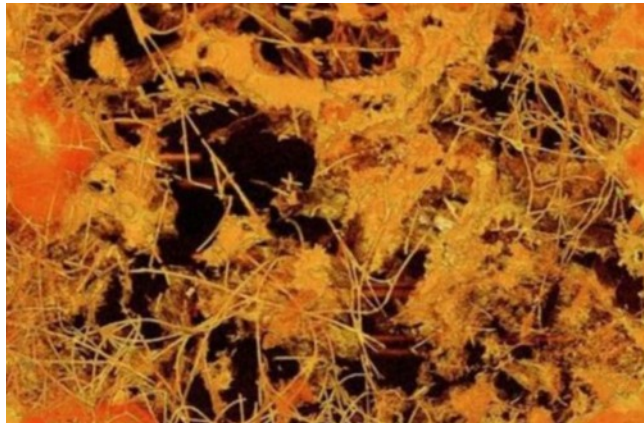


Photo by Stefan Bengtson/Swedish Museum of Natural History

The fossil patterns were discovered in rock samples recovered from basaltic rock in South Africa. The rocks were formed by lava flowing beneath the sea bed. "The deep biosphere - where the fossils were found - represents a significant portion of the Earth, but we know very little about its biology and even less about its evolutionary history," lead researcher Stefan Bengtson, of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, told BBC News.

The newly discovered fossils look like tangled thread and resemble younger fungi fossils found on dry land. Cavities in the ancient rocks suggest the lava from which they were formed was once a conduit for escaping gas bubbles -- bubbles that might have sustained early life forms.

"Fungi in this environment most probably lived in symbiosis with microbes utilising chemically stored energy for their metabolism," Bengtson said. "They may not even have needed free oxygen."

Bengtson and his colleagues detailed their discovery in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.

As expected, at least a few scientists are dubious of the discovery, which challenges a number of assumptions about the emergence of early life on Earth. "[The discovery], if accurate, would be surprising as it would significantly precede fossil evidence and molecular clock analysis for the origin of eukaryotes, much less the origin of fungi," Andrew H. Knoll, a professor of natural history at Harvard University, [told Seeker](#).

Bengtson acknowledges that the fossils could represent a simpler life form -- an extinct eukaryote lineage or giant prokaryote.

"This is why we call the fossils 'fungus-like' rather than 'fungal,'" Bengtson said. "We have been careful to point out that the filaments we see are very simple."



The Fungus that Poses as a Flower

Mummy berry, a disease that makes blueberry leaves smell like flowers, luring in passing insects to spread its spores.

Unwanted company

Shrivelled, sickly white berries are an unwelcome sight on any blueberry farm, symptoms of a crop-wasting infection called mummy berry disease. Researchers recently profiled the modus operandi of the fungus responsible, *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi* (*Mvc*), uncovering a previously unappreciated tactic for spreading its spores.



How it does it

The fungus starts off as an airborne spore riding on the breeze, waiting to land on a new leaf of a blueberry plant. There, the spore multiplies and exudes a sticky, sugary, fragrant, spore-laden film, which is called a pseudoflower for its ability to attract insects. Visiting pollinators carry the spores to real flowers, giving the fungus the opportunity to invade nascent fruits that eventually shrivel, fall to the ground, and crack open to release more spores to the wind.

The adaptive role of the pseudo-flower has not been clear, says Cornell University ecologist Scott McArt. Other fungal pseudo-flowers fall into two categories: some mimic their host flower, while others form their own, unique kind of flower. To draw the distinction, McArt and his colleagues analysed the volatile compounds responsible for the *Mvc* pseudoflower's scent and discovered a close match to those released by actual blueberry flowers. "The degree of the mimicry is pretty extraordinary," says University of Oregon ecologist Bitty Roy.

The Vectors

A genetic analysis found *Mvc* fungal DNA on 56 percent of bees and wasps and 31 percent of flies captured, implicating them as spore vectors. But behavioural data on the preference for infected versus uninfected plants was equivocal, leaving the insects' exact roles to be quantified in future field studies.



Drawing of Amanita species by Lindsay Easson in Nov 1976 in the Pentland Hills, Edinburgh.

Species identification at the time was based on the book 'Collins Guide to Mushrooms and Toadstools' by Lange and Hora. Even if I got it right at the time the species is probably named something else now!

NIFG Foray Programme 2017

May 27 Downhill Forest, North coast.

June 9-10 Bioblitz Marble Arch Caves

Not NIFG foray but asked to attend - so an excuse for a day out.

June 24 Hollymount, Downpatrick

July 15 Cottage farm, Omagh

July 29 Rowallane Gardens, National Trust, Saintfield

August 5 Mount Stewart, Greyabbey

August 19 Glenlyon Forest, Holywood

September 2 Carndaisy Glen, Moneymore

September 9 The Argory, National Trust

September 22 to 24 Residential, West Fermanagh /Donegal

September 30 Oxford Island, guided walk

October 7 Blessingbourne Estate

October 8 Carnfunnock Country Park, guided walk

October 14 Castlewellan Forest

October 28 Drumcairn Forest, Stewartstown

November 4 Murlough Bay, Co. Antrim



Some sites may be subject to change if we are not able to be granted permission for the suggested sites. Check our Facebook page and website for any changes

Site details and directions for each foray are given on the next three pages

What happens on a Fungus Foray?

A days foraying begins, for those wanting a full day, at 11am at the designated meeting point. Returning to the car park for lunch between 12.30 & 1pm. Then foraying again from 1 – 4pm. You are welcome to join at either of these starting times.

1. We recommend highly that you WEAR SUITABLE OUTDOOR CLOTHING.. that is sensible footwear (high heels or sandals are not recommended). Trainers, wellies or waterproof walking boots are a must for some sites. Please bring a raincoat and/or waterproof bottoms. It can suddenly start raining and you'll regret not having some form of waterproofs with you. If you don't need them at least you've come prepared.

2. Some sites may be hilly! Please do check the sites before you plan to come along. We have tried to give you as much detail regarding the site ie grid ref and O.S. map no's so you can find them and check the terrain on your maps. If you need more advice please contact us. It can be off putting if you arrive to find a mountain site and you are unable to cope physically with it.

3. If you are planning on spending the whole day with the group do bring a packed lunch as some venues are 'out of the way' and may not have shops nearby.

4. If you are wishing to collect a few specimens to take home and identify yourself bring a collection container or basket (mushroom boxes from your local green grocers are good! And you are recycling which is good for the environment too!!!) Craft tubs or small plastic tool boxes from your local hardware shop are good as they have handles as well and are relatively cheap.

5. A small guide book is also recommended. These can be obtained from any local bookstore. The Collins Field Guides are very good but will only have the very commonly found species in them. This is good for beginners and helps you establish which ones you may come across on a regular basis. Once you feel more confident you can invest in more advanced books.

A part from those main points the day is pretty relaxed.

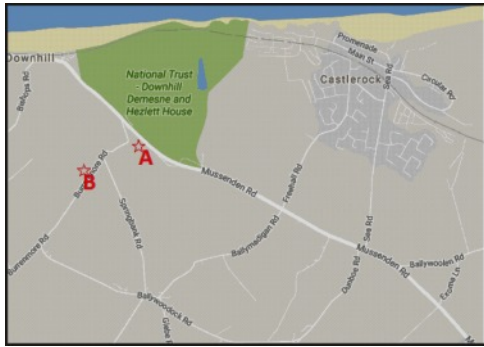
Join in, make friends and have fun and learn a bit about our environment and habitats while you're there.

Contact us by email [Debbie Nelson](mailto:Debbie.Nelson@madformushrooms.com) madformushrooms@googlemail.com

27th May Downhill Forest OS map: C 756 355

Situated on the North Coast near Mussenden Temple.

Follow from your location to Coleraine. Take the A2 Castlerock Rd towards Articlave and continue on to Downhill on the A2 Mussenden road. Opposite the Mussenden Temple site, take the Burrenmore Rd on the left. Follow until the first right hand bend. There is a gateway and small layby. Park here for morning walk at 11am to 12.30. Will move slightly on up the Burrenmore road for the afternoon foray from 1pm to 4pm. A gateway or your right, sits back of the road and can park here.



9th-10th June Cuilcagh Mountain Bioblitz, Marble Arch Caves and Geopark. OS map: C 761 354

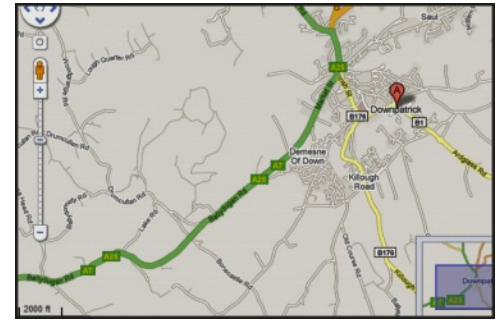
Arrive as early as your wish. No set time. Finishes at 5pm. Basecamp is at the Marble Arch Caves Visitor Centre, 43 Marlbank Rd, Legnabrocky, BT92 1EW. Cuilcagh Mountain is located adjacent to the Visitor Centre and a shuttlebus will be running if required. Unfortunately not accessible for push chairs and wheelchairs.

Follow from your location to the M1 West for Enniskillen. Becomes the A4 past Dungannon. Continue on to Enniskillen. In Enniskillen follow onto the A4 Sligo Rd towards Letterbreen. At the Three Way Inn veer left onto the A32 Swanlinbar Rd. Come to a cross roads and take right onto the Marble Arch Rd, past Flourens Court and continue on to Marble Arch. Follow signs.



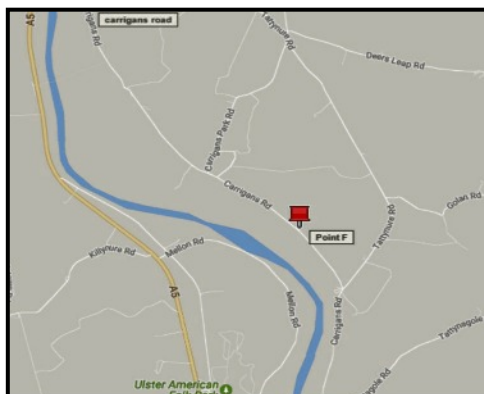
24th June 2017 Holymount Forest, Downpatrick, OS map: J 460 430

From Belfast. Follow A24 to Carryduff, then take left A7 to Saintfield to Crossgar to Downpatrick. From West, follow M1 to H'borough. Follow signs for B'hinch. Follow for Downpatrick. Once at main r'bout. Take right, town centre. Continue through 1st traffic lights. Veer left at 2nd traffic lights. Take immediate right for Clough (Market St. becomes Ballydugan road). Continue on, pass the racecourse on your left. Take next right onto Drumcullen Rd. Pass Ballyduggen Mill and follow short distance to the reservoir, turn left onto Lake Rd Park here near the pub.



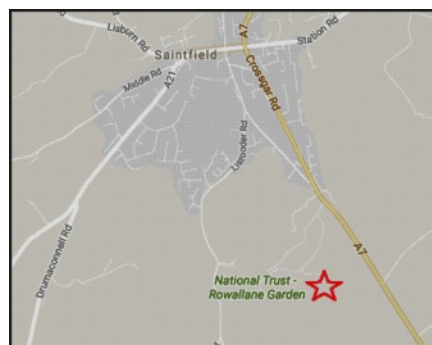
15th July 2017 Cottage Farm, Omagh. H 448 779

Take the A5 North from Omagh for 3 miles and turn right along a minor road signposted for Gortin (Gortnagarn Rd). After crossing the Knockmoyle Bridge, turn left and continue for a mile to the farm.



29th July Rowallane Gardens, National Trust. OS Map: J 412 580

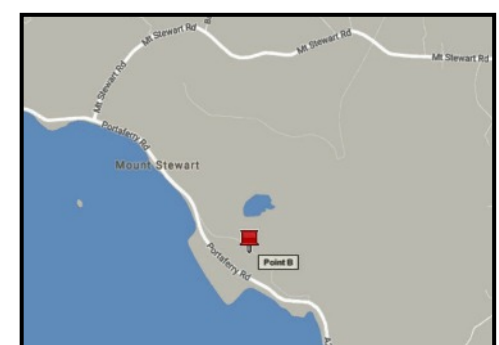
May be entrance fee as NT property. From west follow M1 to Lisburn. From Lisburn take Junc'6 for Saintfield. And follow posting for Saintfield. Once in Saintfield continue to the crossroads. Right for Crossgar A7 for a short distance. Rowallane is signposted on the right. From North. Follow to Belfast. Either cross city centre using the Ormeau Rd which leads direct to Saintfield rd, or use the A55 Carriageway around the city until you reach the S'field rd at Forestside. Follow to Saintfield. Continue through the village and onto the Crossgar rd. Entrance to Rowallane signposted on your right.



5th August Mount Stewart Estate, Greyabbey. J 55168 69681

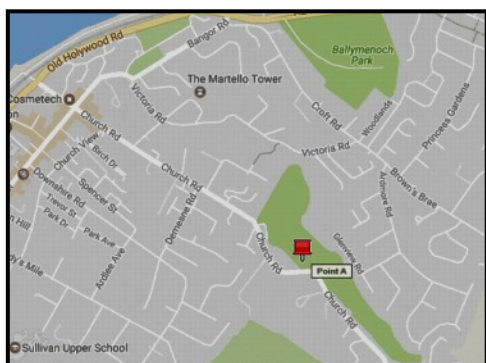
Mount Stewart. National Trust. As with other NT sites an entrance fee will apply.

Follow from your location to Newtownards. Follow the A20 Portaferry Road all the way to Mount Stewart. Follow sign posts for the main entrance on your left.



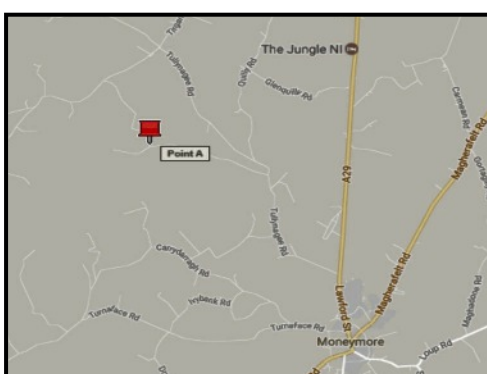
**19th August 2017,
Glenlyon Forest,
Holywood. J 40618 78732**

Glenlyon is a secret little spot tucked away on the outskirts of Holywood. Mixed mostly deciduous woodland, open grassy areas, rivers, wooded banks.. Left mostly untouched. Large carpark. Follow from your location to Holywood. Once in the town find the Main crossroads at the Maypole. Turn up the Church Road between the Boots pharmacy and John Minnis Estate agents. Follow up Church rd, past Holywood Nursery school and out of the housing area. Keep on straight until trees start. Before the first bend in the road is the entrance in on your left with large Glenlyon Park Sign. Meet in carpark.



**2nd September 2017,
Carndaisy Glen
OS Map: H 832 859**

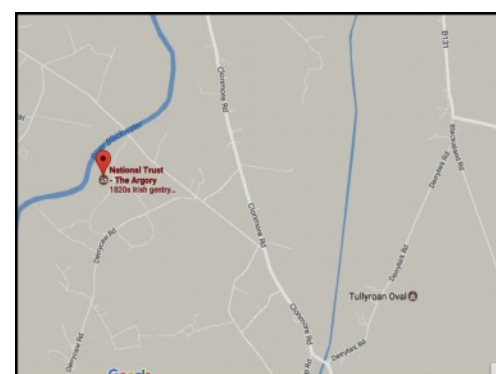
Follow from South/West to Cookstown and on to Moneymore. Follow from East/West to Magherafelt and on to Moneymore. Once in Moneymore follow signs for the A29 Dessertmartin Rd. Once past the housing look for the Tullynagee rd on the left. Follow for approx 1 mile then turn left on the Carndaisy Rd and follow to the end. Park at the church carpark.



**9th September 2017.
The Argyry.
OS Map: H 870 581**

Subject to a £6 adult entrance fee as NT property. Members free.

Collow to the M1 west. Continue on M1 to Junc13 (Peatlands Park/Loughgall) At slip Rd keep left. Follow the B131 for approx. 2km. At fork take right onto Derryhirk Rd. Follow to the end. Right onto Tullyroan Rd. Again keep Right at fork onto Clonmore Rd for at next fork keep left for Moy & The Argyry. (no road name visable) Take next left onto Derrycaw Rd. Entrance to Argyry 3/4m on right. Meet in car park.



**22nd-24th Sept. Residential
Weekend. Booking
essential.**

Accomodation Tir Navar,

Visiting Ardamon Forest, Donegal on Saturday, and Castle Coole on Sunday.

Ardnamona is a native oak woodland, approx. 460 ha approx. 5km north east of Donegal Town.

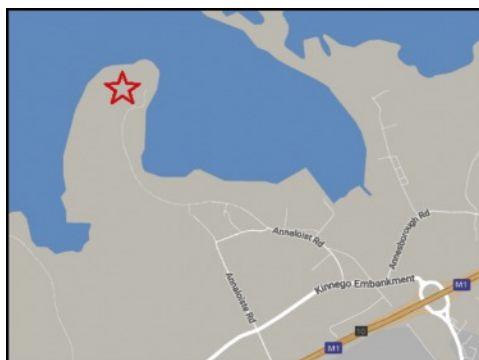
The entire walk is approximately 2km from start to finish. Parts of the path may be wet from time to time and is very steep in places. Not suitable for pushchairs/wheelchairs.

The site contains alder, oak, ash, rowan and birch in the high canopy and holly hazel and willow in the understory.



**30th September Oxford
Island. Guided walk
OS Map: J 047 619**

From your location travel towards west, M1. From North travel to Antrim and follow to A26 Moira. At roundabout take last exit on to M1 at Junction 9. Continue on M1 to Junct 10. At end of slip road, take the last exit of roundabout signposted for Oxford Island. Meet in the entrance of the Discovery Centre.

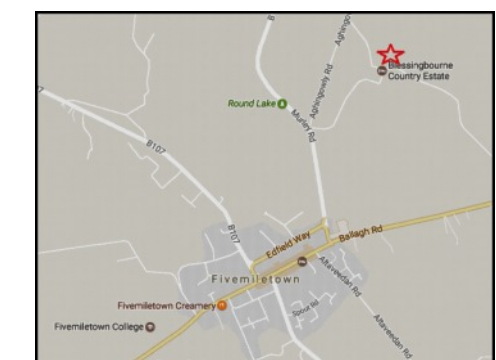


**7th October
Blessingbourne Estate,
Co. Fermanagh.
OS Map: H 448 488**

Less than 1 mile from the town of Fivemiletown, Blessingbourne is easy to find.

From your location, travel to M1 and towards West to Fivemiletown. From Fivemiletown take the B122 to Fintona passing the Church of Ireland on the right. Soon after the church, the road begins to veer left, turn right onto the Aghingowly Rd, passing the Gate Lodge and main entrance to the Estate - this is a private entrance, do not use.

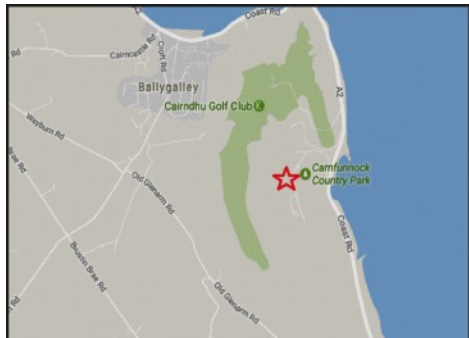
Continue for another 0.3 miles and then take the first right into the Estate up a concrete laneway. The car park is approx 50m on the right.



**8th October Carnfunnock
Country Park 2,30pm
Guided walk.**

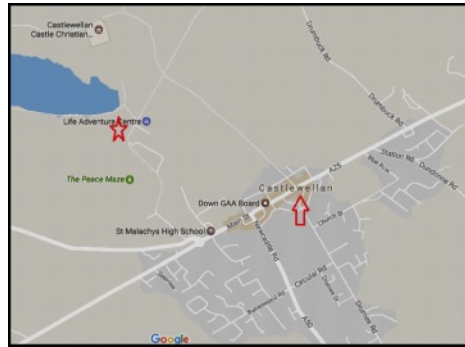
OS Map : D 382 069

Travel east to Larne. In Larne follow the Coast road towards Glenarm. Passed Drainsbay and under an arch. Carnfunnock will be on your left and well signposted. Meeting at the main visitor centre. Setting off at 2.30pm.



**14th October 2017,
Castlewellan Forest.
OS map: J 333 366**

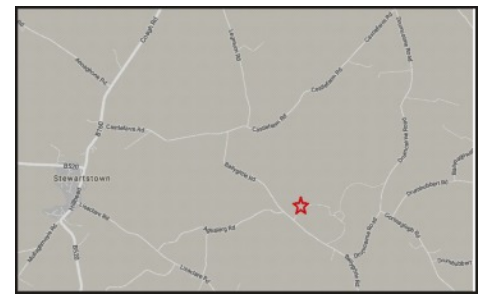
From your location you need to follow directions for Newcastle. From Belfast using the A24 onto the Carryduff road and continue on the A24 through Ballynahinch, Seaforde and Clough. At the roundabout go straight, pass the garage and take the next right for Castlewellan. Once in the town, on the main street Castlewellan Forest is signposted on the right (see arrow). Continue along the lane to the main carpark. A car park fee is required at the booth.



**28th October 2017,
Drumcain Forest, Co.
Tyrone.**

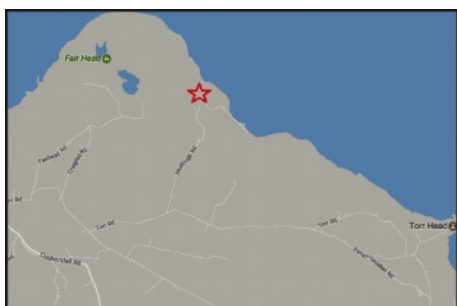
OS Map: H 875 702

From the North, Follow towards Moneymore/Cookstown. In Moneymore, take the A29 Cookstown road, then left onto Bridger St which becomes the Moneyhaw Rd. At end of rd, at t-junc take Right onto Lisnahall rd. At end of rd at T-junc take Right onto B160 Coagh Rd. After approx. 6miles, take left onto *Castlefarm Rd. Third right onto Ballygittle rd. After another km the entrance to the forest is on your left. Brown Forestry sign. Follow track to the car park. From the South/East. Follow M1 west. At Junc 14 take the slip rd and take the last exit of the r'bout to Coalisland. Pass the garage and take the next right, B520, for Cookstown. At the roundabout keep straight, 2nd exit. Follow to Stewartstown. Along main street, through the town on leaving the town look for the Castlefarm Road on your right and follow from * above.



**4th November 2017.
Murlough Bay, Co. Antrim.
OS Map: D 190 424**

From your direction follow North towards Ballycastle. Onto the A26 Frosses rd. Take the A44 towards Armoy at the new roundabout. Carry on to Ballycastle. At the end of the road take right, Mary Rd. then immediate left onto Cushendall Rd. Continue on to Ballyvoy. Take left onto Torr Rd. Take the 4th left, continuation of Torr Rd. And take the next left Murlough Rd. Signposted for Murlough Bay. Carry on to the main car park and continue down the path to the lower car park. Steep drive. Take care when descending. Be prepared for free roaming cattle.



More Mouldy Humour

A mushroom walks into a bar, sits down and orders a drink. The bartender says "We don't serve mushrooms here." The mushroom says, "Why not? I'm a fun guy!"

Why did the fungus send flowers to his mom? It was the yeast he could do!

What sort of dessert does a fungus bring to a party? A jelly mold!

And a bonus for the hardcore fungus dorks: What does a fungus get with his burger?

Elias Magnus Fries (founding father of the modern taxonomy of mushrooms)

Q: Did you hear the joke about the fungus?

A: I could tell it to you, but it might need time to grow on you.

So a mushroom walks into a party and the bouncer said sorry there is not enough room then the mushroom replies oh ok but I don't take up much room (mushroom).

Broccoli: I look like a tree. Walnut: I look like a brain. Mushroom: I look like an umbrella. Banana: Dude! Change the topic.

A mushroom went into a bar and saw some algae at a table. He went up to one and said "You're lookin' **all gal** to me." She looked him over and said "And you look like a **fun guy**." and they took a **liken** to each other.

Doctors Office: A guy walks into the doctor's office. A carrot stuck in one of his ears, a cucumber in the other ear, and a mushroom stuck in one nostril. The man says, "Doc, this is terrible. What's wrong with me?" The doctor says, "Well, first of all, you need to eat more sensibly."

