

**RYENATS FUNGAL FORAY SLEIGHTHOLMEDALE 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



Patrick James very kindly invited Ryenats to come and look at the fungi on his farm in Sleightholmedale. 15 of us met there on November 9<sup>th</sup> and walked across several fields, through a patch of deciduous woodland, and along the river back to the house. We were richly rewarded with all sorts of fungi, including a rare and beautiful Violet Club - *Clavulina zollingeri*

Sleightholmedale Lodge is a 550 acre farm on the southern edge of North York Moors National Park, of which approx. 150 acres is woodland. The farm is all grassland - there is no arable. Southern part of the farm includes the Sleightholmedale SSSI. They run a herd of 40 pedigree beef shorthorns & 275 breeding ewes.

A scheme supported by **Plantlife** started in October 2023 and will run for 15 years on several fields. The Plantlife scheme will see a return to traditional farming methods as well as the introduction of 'green hay' sourced from local hay meadows. Application of artificial fertiliser will cease and they will only spot spray docks and thistles.

The scheme is designed to increase the abundance and variety of flora in the fields being entered into the agreement and the hope is that the return of traditional and extensive farming methods may see an improvement in biodiversity across the farm over the next few years. Patrick is therefore keen to establish some baseline information across a range of species.

We concentrated on looking at fungi in some of the fields in the scheme with the hope of finding Waxcaps and Club fungi that would indicate unimproved grassland and we were not disappointed. We found 8 species of Waxcaps and 3 species of Clubs.

The highlight of the day for me came right at the end of the foray when we were close to the house and we were suddenly finding lots of red waxcaps. Then Angela said "Whats this?", and there, under an ornamental cherry, was a clump of **violet** fingers protruding from the soil. I did a little dance and recognised it as *Clavaria zollingeri* - The Violet Club. We then found 3 more clumps! This is a rare species and has only been recorded twice before in VC62 on the national databases and that was in the 1930's.

We had also found two other Clubs in the previous field, a forked white one called Crested Coral - *Clavulinopsis coralloides* and a forked yellow one called meadow Coral - *Clavulinopsis corniculata*

Waxcaps are intriguing because they occur mainly in unimproved grassland, which is a dwindling habitat. They are quickly lost from managed grassland and the more intensive the management the fewer will be found.

The white, Snowy waxcap - *Cuphophyllus virgineus* and the amazing green Parrot Waxcap - *Gliophorus psittacinus* seem to withstand more interference than the rarer yellow and red waxcaps. We found two yellow waxcaps namely the Butter waxcap - *Hygrocybe ceracea*, and the Golden Waxcap - *Hygrocybe chlorophana*.

We found four different species of red /orange waxcaps, and these are distinguished by a series of differing characteristics such as slimyness of the cap and stipe, the way the gills are attached to the stem, and the smell. So there we were, a collection of up to 15 people all peering closely, sniffing and stroking small red and yellow mushrooms to try and determine what we had found. An interesting sight!

I am sure there are many more to be found and we barely looked in the woodland so hopefully we may have more fungal forays there. Many thanks to Patrick for allowing us to visit this lovely valley.

<b>Ryenats Sleightholme Dale Foray 9th November 2024</b>	
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Fungus name</b>
Honey Fungus	<i>Armillaria mellea</i>
Tripe Fungus	<i>Auricularia mesenterica</i>
Smoky Bracket	<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>
Yellow Fieldcap	<i>Bolbitius titubans</i>
Penny Bun / Cep	<i>Boletus edulis</i>
Cowpat gem	<i>Cheilymenia granulata</i>
Shaggy Parasol	<i>Chlorophyllum rhacodes</i>
Violet Coral	<i>Clavaria zollingeri</i>
Ergot	<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>
Crested Coral	<i>Clavulina coralloides</i>
Meadow Coral	<i>Clavulinopsis corniculata</i>
Fragrant Funnel	<i>Clitocybe fragrans</i>
Glistening Inkcap	<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>
Hare'sfoot Inkcap	<i>Coprinopsis lagopus</i>
Snowy Waxcap	<i>Cuphophyllum virgineus</i>
Blushing Bracket	<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>
Star Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma conferendum</i>
Wood Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma rhodopolium</i>
Hoof Fungus	<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>
Ribbed bell	<i>Galerina clavata</i>
Southern Bracket	<i>Ganoderma australe</i>
Parrot Waxcap	<i>Gliophorus psittacinus</i>
Butter Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe ceracea</i>
Golden Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe chlorophana</i>
Scarlet Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>
Glutinous Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe glutinipes</i>
Spangle Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe insipida</i>
Crimson Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>
Honey Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe reidii</i>
Glue Crust	<i>Hymenochaete corrugata</i>
Sulphur Tuft	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>
Hazel Woodwart	<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>
Sheathed Woodtuft	<i>Kuehneromyces mutabilis</i>
Amethyst Deceiver	<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>
Ivory Bonnet	<i>Mycena flavoalba</i>
Common Bonnet	<i>Mycena galericulata</i>
Clustered Bonnet	<i>Mycena inclinata</i>
Dewdrop Mottlegill	<i>Panaeolus acuminatus</i>

0	<i>Panaeolus olivaceus</i>
Pleated Inkcap	<i>Parasola plicatilis</i>
Wrinkled Crust	<i>Phlebia radiata</i>
Birch Polypore	<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>
Crimped Gill	<i>Plicaturopsis crispa</i>
Winter Polypore	<i>Polyporus brumalis</i>
Conical Brittlestem	<i>Psathyrella conopilus</i>
Magic Mushroom / Liberty Cap	<i>Psilocybe semilanceata</i>
Butter Cap	<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>
Collared Moss-cap	<i>Rickenella swartzii</i>
Purple Brittlegill	<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>
Ochre Brittlegill	<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>
Splitgill	<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>
Common Earthball	<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>
Hairy Curtain Crust	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>
Bleeding broadleaf crust	<i>Stereum rugosum</i>
Verdigris Roundhead	<i>Stropharia aeruginosa</i>
Blue Roundhead	<i>Stropharia caerulea</i>
Alder Tongue	<i>Taphrina alni</i>
Turkeytail	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
Holly Speckle	<i>Trochila ilicina</i>
Alder Bracket	<i>Xanthoporia radiata</i>
Candlesnuff Fungus	<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>

Rhona Sutherland  
Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 2024