

MUSHROOM NEWSLETTER

28 October 2017

My fungal season is now officially over. Naturally there are still mushrooms to be picked out there (you can find something every month of the year), but most of the best stuff has now passed.



The haul from a Saturday morning foray in mid-October 2017

There are still oysters, honey fungus, blewits and – if you know where to find them – winter chanterelles, but most of the ceps and certainly the true chanterelles are now over.



Young fly agaric and plentiful honey fungus suggest all is not totally over . . .

One of the highlights of my year was the discovery of a particularly large ring of hedgehog fungus. This was visible from some distance and the fruiting around the edge of the subterranean mycelium 'web' was clear.



The pattern of the underground mycelium is clearly visible

One unexpected aspect of the season was the demand for 'private' forays. These are two or three-hour trips into prime mushroom territory for small groups. The cost is based on £50 per hour, but numbers are up to the organisers and don't affect the price. Hence a dozen friends could each be foraging for £5 per hour.



Next year small private groups from August to October might the 'in thing'

I should also mention my idea of 'hawk walks' for the summer months. These would be family-friendly wanders through beautiful scenery accompanied by a free-flying goshawk while discussing raptors in general, the birds, their hunting techniques etc. The cost per person would be relatively modest – maybe £10 for an hour or two – and there would be opportunities to handle the birds etc. Anyway, it's just an idea, but any feedback would be welcome.



There's something about goshawks . . .

If anyone wants to give a fungal experience for Christmas, I can provide a voucher and field guide now, leaving the recipient many months to pick the actual date.

Happy hunting!

Daniel Butler

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P.S. As always, let me know if you want to be removed from the list and I will do it forthwith.