

MUSHROOM NEWSLETTER

November 9 2009

Just as I was writing off this season, I've had three very encouraging e-mails from readers across the country. Rather than re-writing these, I thought I'd leave the readers to tell their own tales and illustrate them with their own pictures.



Babette Duncan, with her Remembrance Day haul – who'd have thought Reigate would have such fungal treasures?

[On our way to Ikea] this morning, I shouted the renowned "Mushrooms!!", Andrew stopped the car when he could, and I went to see what was the orangy colour that had caught my eye. It was Fly Agaric, lots, in circles round an oak, and sure enough, I then saw 3 beautiful Porcini waiting for me. Got them in the car all the way to Ikea and on our way back, I just HAD to go back and visit the area better... Never would I have thought!

I filled my basket with 14 of them, weighing a total of 3.7 kg. I also found some blewitts and a huge cluster of Oyster mushrooms, making it a personal record of 4.6kg of edible goodies. I feel like a child at Christmas

I got the visit today of an ex-teacher of 1 of our kiddies, who knew at the time that I was a mushroom fan. He came to see if I had "kept the mushrooming" because if not, he's encouraging me to have a go because "there are so many around". He's been hunting for about 12 years, says that the season has been horrible, until... now, when they all seem to be coming out together. He found astronomical quantities of œps at the week-end, and him and I are going together this week-end hopefully. So I'll keep you posted,

Babette (8 and 9 November)

And she is not alone. In Peacehaven, fellow forayers Sharon and Mike, buoyed up with enthusiasm after their two days on the same course as Babette, stumbled across finds which were almost as impressive:



Amethyst deceivers, saffron milkcaps, bays, cepe and birch polypore (inedible, but can be used as tinder)

I have been a keen follower of your newsletter for a year now - thanks for all the great info. Thought you might like to know what is happening in East Anglia. Found my first Ceps this weekend in Thetford forest, not a huge number, but enough for a decent meal. September and the first half of October were particularly dry in the East - the lack of rain left the ground dry and barren of any type of mushroom.

Guy (28 October)



Guy's Thetford cepe/porcino

I know I say there will be no advertising in these newsletters, but there are two snippets of information which might be of interest. The first is that I have finally run out of my mushroom collecting cards and am having another 1,500 sets printed. The new packs will have an additional four species, several images have been improved and – most significantly – they will be housed in a special tin with a clear lid (rather more robust than cardboard out in the field). These should be available just in time for Christmas (although the timing will be tight). They will retail at the same price as the current packs (£10 including P&P). Details will appear on the website soon, but do give a call if you want to order some in advance . . . they will be posted as soon as they arrive – promise.



I'm really pleased with the look of the new cards – ignore the 'french & lawless' – this is just a sample

The other thing I wanted to mention is that I am about to put together the 2009 foraging sessions. Last year I sent the brochures out before Christmas – big mistake in a recession – so you won't hear from me by post until early spring, but the dates will go up on the website soon. In particular I would flag up the existence of the Clyn breaks I piloted this year. Provided you can put together a group of four – six, these work out cheaper and arguably even more fun than the more conventional hotel-based breaks. I book and time-table these according to demand from the first group to contact me . . . although I would strongly recommend aiming for October(-ish).

Daniel Butler

www.funqiforays.co.uk

01597 811168 / 0779 429 4221

P.S. I loathe junk e-mails and would be horrified to think I might be clogging up your systems unnecessarily, so if at any time you want your name taken off, just let me know with a brief - preferably polite - indication that you want to be removed.