

MUSHROOM NEWSLETTER

Another flush on the way?

14 October 2014

It seems strange that the last of this year's scheduled forays (18 October) is almost upon us. Yet as my schedule draws to a close, it feels that the main season has yet to arrive. I know in late summer I was predicting the best year in a generation . . . and in some ways I still stand by that bold statement. There was a bumper crop of ceps in August and by the beginning of September my store cupboard was so full that I couldn't be bothered to collect any more.



Things were looking really good at the end of August . . .

But then we had the drought – six weeks without rain and the driest September on record. It was also significantly warmer than usual. As a result by the middle of the month there were very few mushrooms in evidence and despite last week's rain (6 – 10 October), there was virtually nothing in evidence on last week's forays. That said, I did get a flicker of hope when we found one or two young fly agarics and quite a few hedgehogs.



Hedgehogs – the perfect beginner’s mushroom – the spiny gills make it unmistakable and the flavour and texture are divine

As a result, I was just beginning to think everything was over when, literally as we were about to get back into the cars at the end of a fairly fruitless foray, I came across two tiny – marble-sized – ceps. They had barely broken the surface and cannot have been more than three or four hours old. I also keep a weather-eye on various fungal Facebook groups and have just spotted that a lady in Kent has just found several perfect-looking ceps in her woods and Bill O’Dea is very excited about finds on Ireland’s West Coast.

Encouraged by this, I have just been out on a quick recce of local woods. There still isn’t much, but I found one 200g cep in very good condition, several young fly agaric, deceivers and plenty of coral fungus. All of this *could* point to a new flush – let’s hope so!



Cep, deceiver, fly agaric and coral fungus – signs of a fresh flush?

Good hunting!

Daniel Butler

www.fungiforays.co.uk

01597 811168 / 07794 294221

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