

# MUSHROOM NEWSLETTER

21 June 2016

## Earliest ever porcini?

Yes that's right! I've just found my earliest porcini ever! It's the summer solstice and mushrooms normally associated with late summer and autumn are beginning to come up in force!



Well I should qualify that. Helen actually found them (plus another gem, see below) and I am sure others have found specimens even earlier, but until today the earliest cepe I have ever found was in late July – and I only did so once in about 2004.



One interesting – but rather academic – question is whether these are actually ‘true’ porcini/cepes (*Boletus edulis*). In fact they are more likely to be the summer bolete (*B. reticulatus* / *B. aestivalis*), although this is fairly irrelevant because they are all equally delicious and I very much doubt anyone could tell the difference in a blind tasting.



A hundred yards further on, Helen also found a cluster of chanterelles. The timing here is less surprising – these normally start to come up in late June and should continue to flush throughout the summer and autumn, usually a few days after rain.



All this bodes well for the three-hour foray I am conducting this Friday in the Elan Valley. This was originally intended to target chanterelles and chicken of the woods, but Helen's discoveries mean we could net a few porcini as well. If anyone would like to join us, drop me a line ([danielbutler@fungiforays.co.uk](mailto:danielbutler@fungiforays.co.uk) / 01597 811168). The two - three-hour stroll will be followed by a light lunch of wild mushroom soup with homemade bread with a tasting session to follow.



I have also just discovered the delights of hedgerow gin. This is incredibly easy to make and totally delicious. There is a recipe on my website, but the real inspiration came from the wonderful, Bristol-based, Andy Hamilton. To learn more, have a look at his Youtube video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeOI9iLDK84](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeOI9iLDK84).



Finally, if anyone unfettered by school terms is interested in a cheap late break, my Pembrokeshire palace (sleeps eight) is available at half the normal weekly price (£900 down to £450) for the slightly truncated six days of 10 –16 July. This is the perfect timing to enjoy the amazing wildlife sight of the Skomer puffins! (Plus dolphins, porpoises, seals, guillemots, little owls, great black-backed gulls, kittiwakes, peregrines, choughs . . . )

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P S As always, let me know if you want to be removed from the mailing list – this is a bit more complicated at my end than it should be, but I will do my best to keep everyone happy.