

MUSHROOM NEWSLETTER

28 August 2014

'If you go down to the woods today, you're in for a big surprise . . .'

My deepest apologies for bothering you within a few days, but things really have suddenly got extremely exciting. This is probably the best porcini year in a generation – they are all over the place! I will leave the photos to tell the tale, but this morning I picked 10kg in 10 minutes.



I left anything smaller than a tennis ball, which meant that 70% of my finds are still waiting there . . .



Normally early-season mushrooms are riddled with tiny maggots: the larvae of beetles and a form of fruit fly. These can honeycomb a big mushroom in a matter of hours and nothing is as disappointing as the elation of finding a big cepe only to find its texture is spongy rather than firm. Their depredations fall off as the temperature dips. Normally this is in early October, but perhaps the recent cold weather explains why the current crop is almost perfect.





Porcini are so exciting!

The house is now filled with the scent of drying porcini and the kilner jars are filling.



There has never been a better time to find your own patches! Any mature wood (deciduous or conifer) is a good start, hedge bottoms could also yield great results.

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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.