



Diary Dates 2019

Please Note

- **A packed lunch will be essential on all forays.** As always, people are welcome to leave/join the group at any time although it would always be worth ringing the foray leader (contact details at end of each foray information below) beforehand to get an idea of where the group might be.

Membership £10 per year, payable on a foray by cash or cheque.

The group will only hold your data to enable to allow the running of the Grampian Fungus Group for the benefit of its members.

Sat April 13th 10.30 – 3.30pm GFG Spring Foray and AGM. Meet at **Drum Castle**, National Trust for Scotland. We will meet at the main car park and foray from here. We will not be finding very many of the larger fungi – mostly looking at some of the smaller fungi that often fruit at this time of the year so do bring a hand lens if you have one.

AGM will start at 1.00pm / 1.30pm in the castle, Information Room. The AGM business will be brief to give us time to look at photos - please bring any photos etc on a memory stick that you wish to share with the group.

(NJ 794 005 OS Map 38 Aberdeen and surrounding area)

Foray Leader: Toni Watt (contact for bookings etc 0777 3626981)

Sat 17th August 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray to Torphins

We are going to be exploring some of the public woodlands around Torphins village. There is plenty of free parking in Torphins near to the woodland, at NJ6261 0211 by the church on St Marnan Road (the B993) in the north part of the village. Meet outside the church itself.

Foray Leader & contact for booking etc Toni Watt 0777 3626981

Sat Aug 24th 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray to Loch Kinord.

For a change this year we are going to the other end of Loch Kinord, away from the Burn O'Vat where we have been for the last two years. Meet at the New Kinord car park, head north out of Dinnet and take the first minor road on the left to the car park, down a track about 1 mile north of Dinnet off the A97 road at 452002 (map 37). There is limited car parking here so we may need to block each other in or car share if possible. The parking is right next to the aspen wood where Liz has found some rare stuff in there in the past, but bracken can be a problem.

Foray Leader: Toni Watt (contact for bookings etc mobile 0777 3626981)

Sat Aug 31st 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray meeting to Delgatie Castle

Near Turriff. A new one for most of the group but when I phoned to book, it appears Liz has been here in the past so they are pleased to have us back and the tea room is open until 5pm!

Meet in the castle car park, map 29, NJ 755 506

Foray leader: Toni Watt (contact for bookings etc mobile 0777 3626981)

Sat Sept 7th 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray meeting at the James Hutton Institute at Craigiebuckler to the west of the city centre. This foray will be led by Andy Taylor a very experienced mycologist working at the James Hutton Institute who will give us a different view on fungi, not just their ID features, but so much more about them and their life styles.

Directions from Aberdeen city centre:

Leave the city centre in a westerly direction on Union Street and at the traffic lights bear left on to Holburn Street (signposted A9013 for Braemar, Dundee, Perth). At the next traffic lights turn right on to Great Western Road (A93 Braemar) and continue until the traffic lights junction with the A90 (South Anderson Drive). Turn right on to South Anderson Drive and at the next roundabout turn left into Seafield Road. Continue to the traffic lights and go straight ahead on to Countesswells Road. Take the second on the right into Macaulay Drive, where the James Hutton Institute is signposted.

Directions from Inverness:

Take the A96 towards Aberdeen. Continue following signs for A96 Aberdeen until reaching the Haudagain roundabout and take the third exit for the A90 signposted Braemar, Dundee and Perth (North Anderson Drive). Continue on the A90 until reaching the roundabout junction with Cromwell Road and Seafield Road. Turn right into Seafield Road. Continue to the traffic lights and go straight ahead on to Countesswells Road. Take the second on the right into Macaulay Drive, where the James Hutton Institute is signposted.

(GR NJ905046 OS map 38 Aberdeen)

Foray Leader: Andy Taylor (mobile 0759 2557673)

Sat. Sept 7th – Sat. 14th Sept Aigas Field Centre near Beaully '**Fascinating Fungi**'. Course tutor Liz Holden. Day attendance possible, contact Aigas Field Centre (01463 782443 or info@aigas.co.uk) for further information.

Sat Sept 14th 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray to Haughton Country Park, Joint with SWT

Meet Haughton Country park, map 37, NJ 582 168. Haughton has thrown up some interesting fungi in the past with a variety of habitats to explore.

Foray Leader: Toni Watt & Bob Daly (contact for bookings etc Toni Watt 0777 3626981)

Sat 14th Sept – Thurs 19th Sept Field Studies Council, Kindrogan '**Identifying Fungi**'.

Course tutor Chris Knowles. Contact Kindrogan Field Centre (01475 530581 and enquiries.sco@field-studies-council.org.) for further information

Sat Sept 21st 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray to Keiloch

Last year we explored south of the Keiloch car park into Ballochbuie, and found an amazing amount of fungi by the car park itself. This year we are heading north from the car park and hopefully walking a bit further than usual and maybe into the scree slopes. We can always split into two groups if some people want to take their time more but even fast is all relative

when looking at fungi! Meet at the Keiloch car park just north of the A93 before the Invercauld bridge (NO 188 912) It is a fairly large car park, for which there is a small charge and a loo!

Foray Leader: Toni Watt, (contact for bookings etc Toni Watt 0777 3626981

Friday 27th Sept

SCRA (Scottish Countryside Rangers Association)

Fungi: Identification and Ecology of Waxcap Grasslands

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm Meet: NTS Haddo House, Ellon. AB31 5QJ (Peatyards – from car park, come up to courtyard, turn left, go through arch & the Peatyards is building in front of you). Cost: £20.00 SCRA members/volunteers/unwaged or £30.00 others Contact: Toni Watt - twatt@nts.org.uk, 01330 844810 or 07458 048513 Book by: Monday 9th September Waxcap grasslands are biodiverse habitats characterised by a suite of fungi with a particular set of ecological requirements. Waxcap grasslands have been disappearing at an alarming rate from our countryside and recognising them and their value is the first step to keeping remaining examples intact.

The day will start with an indoor presentation on waxcap grassland ecology and recognising the 'CHEG' fungi (waxcaps and other main groups) that characterise them; this session will include setting a spore print. With their glorious colours and fascinating life style, waxcaps are a wonderful subject for public and educational engagement.

The lawns at Haddo are an amazing example of the waxcap grassland habitat with a short sward maintained by mowing rather than grazing. They have been surveyed over the years and will give us the opportunity to discuss how field surveys can be structured.

We will spend time in the field to look at the habitat and have a closer look at field characters of the fungi. Simple keys to identification will be available to assist with our efforts. Our tutor Liz Holden has been seriously interested in fungi for 35 years and has been involved in fungal field surveys for the last 20 years, working in a range of habitats across the UK. She is particularly interested in sharing her fascination in the identification, recording and ecology of fungi.

Sat 28th Sept 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Mycena workshop at Crathes Castle (National Trust for Scotland). To the east of Banchory, map 38, NO735 968, meet in the main car park where there is a charge for non-NTS members (£3)

Workshop £20 charge per person to cover costs of tutor, equipment etc

This workshop will be led by Liz Holden an experienced mycologist and excellent teacher of all things fungal, see last entry. Following on from last years microscope workshop this course will practise more microscope techniques using mycenae to find the different features and learn more about using keys. You do not need to have been to last year's course to come to this one but do bring your own microscope if you have one.

Leader: Liz Holden, contact for bookings etc Toni Watt 0777 3626981

Sat Oct 5th 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray to Balmedie Meet in the beach car park, drive through Balmedie following signs to the beach and park in the main car park. Map 38 NJ978 183

We are hoping for grassland fungi and dune fungi on this foray but if the weather conditions haven't been suitable there are woodlands we can also explore.

Foray Leader: Toni Watt, (contact for bookings etc Toni Watt 0777 3626981

Scottish Fungus Groups' Joint Foray

Monday 7th October to Monday 14th October at Glingerbank, 11 miles south of Longtown on the A7. <https://www.homeaway.co.uk/p8294321>. The organisers are Neill (CAFG) and Cameron (BFG & FGSES).

The event is open to anyone interested in mycology whether or not a member of a fungus group and is a wonderful opportunity to meet people who share your interest in fungi. Daily forays aim to make records in areas of south-west Scotland that have few recent records.

The price for the week's accommodation is expected to be about £200 per head, depending on how many people come.

email Neill (neill.simpson@gmail.com)

Sat 12th October 10.30am – 3.30pm GFG Foray to Glen Tanar

Meet in the main car park at Glen Tanar, Map 37 481 965. Depending on what is fruiting we may look for waxcaps in the grasslands before heading into the pine forests.

Foray Leader & contact for booking etc Toni Watt 0777 3626981