

PNHS lichen walk at Gleniffer Braes Country Park

26 February 2023

Following up on a Zoom discussion organised by Dave Mellor a walk around Glen Park in Gleniffer Braes was arranged. The purpose of the walk was to introduce people to the various types of lichens and allow them to develop some skills in the use of the FSC guides. The walk was led by Craig Postlethwaite. Christine Patterson, another local member of the British Lichen Society, also assisted along with Dave Mellor. There was a group of 15 and we started from the car park on Braehead Road on a very sunny but cold late winter's day.



Lepraria finkii x100

The first lichen we looked at was *Lepraria finkii*. This is a leprose lichen that is often found growing over moss or on trees. The leprose lichens are structurally the most simple lichens consisting of a network of fungal hyphae with algae captured within in it. The much enlarged (approx x100) photo shows areas of white fungal hyphae extending out from the existing granular areas of alga populated lichen creating a loose mat.



Peltigera membranacea

The group then moved on to a tree where some *Peltigera hymenina* was within some moss growing up the trunk of the tree. This was shown to the group as an example of a foliose lichen where there is a cortex (skin) on top and bottom of the lichen and the photobiont (alga or cyanobacteria partner) is on the top side only. The group also saw the prominent rhizines that are a feature of this genus. These rhizines are how the lichen attaches itself to the moss or other substrate it may be growing on.

We then moved on to an area where it was known there was a variety of lichens. On the way to this walk the group were slightly delayed when we found some very large examples of Scarlet Elfcup fungus.



This area had our first example of a *Cladonia* lichen (*C.fimbriata*) another *Petigera* (*P. membranacea*), and a crustose species (*Phlyctis argena*) growing on the trunk lower down. The use of chemical tests was demonstrated on the *Phlyctis argena* by using some K which initially turned yellow and then red. The group then saw some *Graphis* lichens and some *Platismatia glauca*. This was described by one of the group as looking like curly kale. That's possibly a more useful description than the one often found in textbooks – "lobes wavy and indented".



Cladonia fimbriata



Platismatia glauca



Graphis scripta

We then moved to a larch where we found the pinhead lichen *Calicium viride* before moving on to a group of Hawthorn bushes where those who didn't have to go spent some time using the FSC fold out guides to identify a number of lichens that are commonly found on twigs and branches. This was great practice for those wishing to go out on their own to identify the commoner lichens.

The list of lichens found:

<i>Amandinea punctata</i>	<i>Hypogymnia physodes</i>	<i>Parmotrema perlatum</i>	<i>Ramalina farinacea</i>
<i>Arthonia atra</i>	<i>Hypogymnia tubulosa</i>	<i>Peltigera hymenina</i>	<i>Ramalina fastigiata</i>
<i>Calicium viride</i>	<i>Hypotrachyna revoluta</i> s. lat.	<i>Peltigera membranacea</i>	<i>Ramalina fraxinea</i>
<i>Cladonia coniocraea</i>	<i>Lecanora chlarotera</i>	<i>Phlyctis argena</i>	<i>Usnea subfloridana</i>
<i>Cladonia fimbriata</i>	<i>Lecidella elaeochroma</i>	<i>Physcia adscendens</i>	<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>
<i>Evernia prunastri</i>	<i>Lepraria finkii</i>	<i>Physcia aipolia</i>	<i>Xanthoria polycarpa</i>
<i>Flavoparmelia caperata</i>	<i>Parmelia saxatilis</i>	<i>Physcia tenella</i>	<i>Melanelixia subaurifera</i>
<i>Graphis scripta</i>	<i>Parmelia sulcata</i>	<i>Platismatia glauca</i>	

The British Lichen Society website has lots more information on lichens. Many of the species we found are given detailed descriptions at [Species descriptions | The British Lichen Society](#)

Report and photographs by Craig Postlethwaite