



**Welcome! We are really excited to bring you the first ever online British Lichen Society AGM and Winter Talks Programme! As of this writing, we had more than 300 people registered – certain to be a record.**

## **Information about the weekend**

As it is a new format for all of us, a few notes to help you understand what will happen: There are separate formats and therefore links for different parts of the meeting this weekend, ‘webinar’, where only speakers can be heard, and all other participants can contribute through the Question and Answer panel [Q&A]; ‘meeting’, where anyone can speak when invited (via raising hands, for the AGM only); and ‘lounge’, where anyone can speak freely during long breaks in breakout rooms. The links for each session are included in the programme below. All the talks sessions have the same ‘webinar’ link, but it is pasted in the programme in each place where you should access it.

Please join a few minutes before each session you want to attend to ensure you are there for the start.

These instructions are for attendees only. If you are a speaker, you will have a separate link sent to you individually to join the meeting.

### **Etiquette**

Everyone attending is of course expected to be polite and respectful at all times, in Q&A and if invited to speak in the AGM. Hosts will have the ability to eject attendees who do not abide by this basic rule!

### **Zoom**

Zoom works best and has all the functionality when it is updated. Please make sure you have the latest version running. You can sign into a [Zoom test meeting](#) any time to check if everything is working for you. You will not need a working mike to attend the talks during the BLS AGM weekend as these will be given in webinar form (which means only the speaker, hosts and panel talk).

## **Programme of Events**

**Friday 29/01/2021**

Register at [Eventbrite](#) to receive the programme with links.

### **18.30 Swinscow Lecture: Dr Rosmarie Honegger**

Lichens: a more than 400 million-years-old success story.

Lichens are a very old success story: fossils of dorsiventrally organised cyanobacterial and green algal lichens with internal stratification were found in Early Devonian (approx. 418 Ma old) sandstones from the Welsh borderland, with even their microbiome being preserved: bacterial films on the surface of the cortex, and filaments of endolichenic actinobacteria and fungi in the thalline interior. From the early 1970s onwards three powerful tools became available for studying lichen biology and the functioning of lichen symbiosis: electron microscopy (conventional and cryotechniques), genomics and information technology. The fine structure of asci, ascospore formation and release, of conidiogenesis and of the diverse types of mycobiont-photobiont interactions, the routes of solute translocation between the symbionts and the fate of cells under extreme drought stress could be explored. Phylogenies of myco- and photobiont taxa and of sequences of mating type or of hydrophobin genes of lichen-forming fungi, the latter playing a crucial role in the functioning of lichen symbiosis, could be analysed and compared with non-lichenized taxa. Today many colleagues focus on the microbiome of lichen thalli, the ever present bacterial epibionts and actinobacterial and fungal endobionts and speculate about their potential roles in the symbiosis. A model system for resynthesizing all stages of lichen thallus formation and for studying the impact of representatives of the microbiome under controlled in vitro conditions is still missing, a challenge for experimental lichenologists!

### **Saturday 30/01/2021**

**10.00 Annual General Meeting** - Reports and Achievements from the BLS. All are welcome to listen. Members only will vote to accept annual accounts and council members for next year.

For this, you will have to [register through zoom when you click this link](#). You will add your name and email address, so that we can have a list of all those attending the AGM. Registration is instantaneous!

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

-----**13-14.00 Lunch**-----

Register at [Eventbrite](#) to receive the programme with links.

**14.00 Introduction:** Becky Yahr, President of the Society

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**14.10 Research talks**

1. Claudia Colesie: Lichen stress eco-physiology – how will lichens respond to a changing climate.
2. Gothamie Weerakoon: Graphidaceae – most speciose lichen family in tropical south Asia.
3. Raquel Pino: Species delimitation in *Cladonia* based on RadSeq data.

### **15.10 Management/Conservation talks**

1. Neil Sanderson: The New Forest Design Plan – Old Growth Woodland Restoration in the New Forest.
2. Mary and Eric Steer: A Shropshire perspective on Local Biodiversity Action Plans, Local Sites and Nature Recovery Networks with regard to lichens.
3. Julie Stoneman: Saving Scotland's Rainforest – how the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest is working together to conserve this globally important habitat.

-----16.10-16.30 Coffee break-----

### **16.30 Humanities talks**

1. Bryony Benge-Abbott: Following the Lichen: Art and Science on the streets of London.
2. Liz Campbell: Lichens through an artist's eyes'.

### **17.10 Award Ceremony and Close**

## **Sunday 31/01/2021**

Register at [Eventbrite](#) to receive the programme with links.

### **11.00 Student talks**

1. Theo Llewellyn: A look into the molecular lab work of lichen genomics.
2. Clara Rodriguez: Assembly rules of epiphytic communities of temperate forests: a view from the Southern Hemisphere.
3. Alejandro Huereca Delgado: Unveiling the lichen flora and lichenicolous fungi in northeastern Mexico.
4. Gulnara Tagirdzhanova: Genomes of lichen-associated yeasts and what we can predict from them.
5. Sandra Freire: The joint evolutionary history of *Tremella* s.l. and the Teloschistaceae.

-----12.15-12.30 Coffee Break-----

**12.30 - 16.30 Virtual Field Meeting. Organisers:** Pat Wolseley and April Windle

### **Part 1. Special Lichen Habitats in the British Isles**

Comprising six short presentations from lichenologists working in these habitats.

### **12.30** Introduction

### **12.45** Presentations

Atlantic Hazelwoods - Andy Acton

Metalliferous Sites - Janet Simkin

Churchyards - David Hill

-----**13.45 - 14.30** Lunch-----

Register at [Eventbrite](#) to receive the programme with links.

### **14.45** Presentations

Register at [Eventbrite](#) to receive the programme with links.

Streams and Rivers - Holger Thüs

Pasture Woodlands and Parklands - Dave Lamacraft

Montane and Snowbeds - Alan Fryday

-----**15.30 - 15.45** Break-----

## **Part 2. Discussion Panel**

### **15.45** Lichens in the Anthropocene

Peter Crittenden, Chris Ellis, Neil Sanderson, and Ray Woods discuss lichens in a rapidly changing environment.

What changes have we seen, can we expect to see and how can we mitigate these?

### **16.45** End Meeting