

# Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7:30pm

**Speaker:** Mark Seaward

**Title:** Lichens to Monitor Chernobyl



## Outline:

Our speaker was involved in monitoring radioactivity in Poland before and after the Chernobyl disaster (despite having to overcome problems imposed by the political system). He used lichens for this, as lichens are known as good biomonitors: for both past and present environmental interpretation, and for modelling future changes. He will talk about establishing good baseline data and adopting rigorous protocols to achieve credible data retrieval. The lichen genera *Umbilicaria* and *Lasallia*, proved ideal for this work, the signatures (abundance ratios) of the different radioactive nuclei taken up by the thalli (vegetative tissue), providing consistent values and reliable baseline data.

**Biog:** Mark Seaward MSc, PhD, DSc, FSB, is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Biology at Bradford University, has a strong interest in biomonitoring pollution, particularly heavy metals and radionuclides, for which he has been internationally honoured, including the Acharius Medal, the Ursula Duncan Award and Doctor honoris causa of Wrocław University. He was the editor of *The Naturalist* for 34 years, is the author and editor of numerous books, and written more than 430 scientific papers, mostly concerned with biomonitoring, urban ecology, lichens, biodeterioration, and the history of botany. He is widely travelled, his research and lecturing work not only taking him throughout Europe, but across the globe, even to remote islands.

**Venue:** The New Headingley Club 56 St Michael's Rd., Leeds LS6 3BG

**Time:** Club opens at 7:00pm for drinks & the room at 7:30; talk begins promptly at 7:45pm

**Entry:** Donation please for room hire and expenses: **£3 at the door**



Café Scientifique Headingley is a programme run under the auspices of the Headingley Development Trust [www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk](http://www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk)