

## **Old Man's Beard**

**A type of lichen commonly found growing on trees, it is pale green in colour with a wispy, hair like appearance. It is formed by a symbiosis of two or more organisms, often fungi and algae.**

**Lichen plays an important ecological role, providing microhabitats, shelter and food for small invertebrates. These in turn are prey for larger insects and birds.**

**It prefers clean, unpolluted air so is often used as a bioindicator to show where pollution levels are low.**

### **Uses:**

- **Colour for dyeing textiles**
- **Herbal medicines**
- **Cosmetics, preservatives & deodorants**
- **Antibacterial & Antifungal**
- **Tinder for fire making - flammable**

