



GEOMÔN NEWSLETTER

January 2019

Welcome

Welcome to the latest newsletter from GeoMôn Anglesey Geopark. 2018 was a busy year for GeoMôn with a large school visit, support for students and research projects, visits to other Geoparks and many visitors at our centre in Amlwch. This has been a year of consolidation following our successful validation by UNESCO at the end of 2017. The GeoMôn board is currently working with the joint advisory committee of the Anglesey AONB to make us more sustainable.

Another highlight was being told that at last, our geopark will be able to buy and sell slate goods. UNESCO has a rule that we are not allowed to sell any rocks, minerals or fossils from inside or outside our geoparks without rare permission. After four years of trying we finally got permission because of our history. There was a slate mine on the coast at nearby Llanelian and, once the

mine was fairly used up, the redundant, experienced miners then went over to the mainland as experts and worked there. The huge dumps of slate waste scarring the hills round Snowdonia are ideal for many uses including building material, household goods and crafts. So we can now use it to sell in our centre at Porth Amlwch.



The upper parts of the Tyllau Duon Slate Quarry
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Visits to other Geoparks

Each year, as part of our membership of the European and UNESCO Geopark networks, the managing director of Geomôn, Margaret Wood, and a representative from Anglesey Council have to attend two Geopark meetings.

These visits allow Geomôn personnel to interact with people from other Geoparks, to gain insights into how other Geoparks work, and to develop ideas for future developments here in Anglesey.

This year the first visit was to the European Geopark meeting in the Karavanke Karawanke Geopark on the border of Austria-Slovenia in the Alps. It was a good meeting held in a pretty Alpine Ski resort. The September meeting was the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks held in Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, Trentino, Italy.



Awards, Teaching and Research

Dr Margaret Wood received an Honorary Fellowship from Bangor University in July for her services to geology.

Several students are being supported by Margaret Wood. Two are Open University students and the third, Neil Groome, is a geochemist now in his second year studying for a PhD at Cardiff University and doing his study at Newborough. He has completed some maps of the area and lots of geochemical analyses in Cardiff so we look forward to him finishing as he will be suggesting a new longer trail in the forest and on Llanddwyn Island. We hope that the fruits of his labours will form the basis

of a good exhibition for the Pilot House of Llanddwyn Island.

In other research Margaret Wood and Terry Williams are dating limestones to see how they fit age patterns, type of fossils.

Last March we ran a very successful geology field study trip, held over four days, for 86 students and staff from the Lycée International School in London. This was organised by Margaret Wood, supported by three other geologists and many of our geoguides. We were very grateful for all their help. This was a very large group compared to what we have done before and had its issues such as trying to get two large buses down narrow lanes. The students ended up walking fairly long distances to some sites but at least they got lots of healthy exercise as a bonus!

Membership Information

Gavin Rowlands is our new Membership Secretary and can help with any queries you may have regarding membership. You can contact him on 07903 342129 or at ddraiggoch@sbcglobal.net

So that we can increase awareness of the Geopark trust and its activities, we would like to recruit more members, both individual and corporate. If you can assist by recruiting just one more member each, this would help significantly towards our target of doubling our membership. If you know of any companies in your local area that would like to support us, please encourage them to join up as Corporate

Members – the rates are very affordable (see website) - and in return we will place their company logo on our website and give acknowledgement for their support in our social media, newsletters and visitor centre. Where possible, an annual standing order is our preferred payment method for individuals and companies.

So that we can communicate with our membership more effectively, it would be very helpful if all members could please provide an email address. If you have not already provided one, can you please contact Gavin. This will also help to keep our postal costs to a minimum.

Full details on the different rates of membership are available on the website

<http://www.geomon.co.uk/membership/4533383911>

Watch House Visitors

Last year our exhibition centre in the Watch House in Amlwch Port was open for 158 days between March to October.

There was a total of 3767 visitors with around one fifth from Wales, three quarters



from England and smaller numbers from a wide range of countries including Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and Hong Kong. Feedback from visitors is excellent and all the volunteers enjoy their work

showing that this is a very worthwhile venture. It's a lovely place to be based too.

Volunteering Opportunities

Although we have a small dedicated team of volunteers we are always looking for more people to help out in the Watch House and to cover holidays, illness etc. If you would like to help please contact Sheila Bennell at sheilagrugor@btinternet.com. We will show you around the Facilities and give you an overview of the geology of Anglesey. If you have any other ideas of how you could help please contact Margaret Wood at college@btinternet.com

Greenly centenary

In 2019 geologists around the UK and worldwide will be celebrating the centenary of the publication of Edward Greenly's



two volume book, *The Geology of Anglesey*, the culmination of twenty five years work. Although aspects of the survey were revised by later workers it remains a classic study and he will be remembered by geologists as a pioneer in grass roots geological field work and techniques, in one of the most complex geological settings in the UK. His wife Annie assisted his work and produced the index for the books. Terry Williams produced a paper about Annie's work in 2007 in *The Role of Women in the*

