



Cymdeithas Cenhedloedd
Unedig Addysg Gwyddoniaeth
a Diwylliant



Geo Mŏn
Geoparc UNESCO
byd-eang



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Geo Mŏn
UNESCO
Global Geopark

GEOMŐN NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Welcome

GeoMŏn has had a busy summer. We have had a guided walk, many visitors to the Watch House and exhibitions at the Anglesey Show, Beaumaris Food Festival and the Telford Bridge 200th year celebration in Menai Bridge. Margaret Wood is leading three days of geology excursions for Cambridge U3A members in early September.



We had a great turnout for the guided geological walk, held in early July, at Newborough Forest and Llanddwyn Island, with over 40 people attending. The walk was led by Dr. Margaret Wood and Niall Groome (PhD student, Cardiff University). We were treated to some

expert guidance on pillow lavas, peperites, rhodochrosite and subduction zones, at one of the classic Geosites on Anglesey.

We are grateful to our Corporate members, Outdoor Alternative, Holiday Accommodation, Hogan Group and Robertson Geo, for their continuing support.

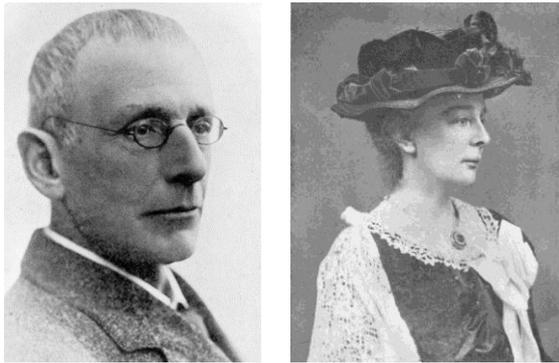
Date for your diary!

29th September 2pm

A Greenly centenary geodiversity walk through Eglwys St. Cristiolus church, Llangristiolus



This guided walk will celebrate the centenary of the first geological map of Anglesey produced in 1920 by Edward Greenly, ably assisted by his wife Annie. It followed the publication of his book the *Geology of Anglesey*, the previous year in 1919. It takes place in the graveyard where they are buried.



The walk will start in the car park to the church at 2pm and will last about 1 to 1½ hours. We will look at the diversity of headstones and what they tell us about the geology of the area and the social background. There are paths but some of the walk will take place over grass and the ground is uneven. I am afraid that as this is a graveyard dogs will not be allowed inside the perimeter walls. A copy of the leaflet will be available.

A geodiversity and geoconservation leaflet has also been produced for the cemetery by the UNESCO GeoMôn Global Geopark and Chester University.

Professor Cynthia Burek, Trustee GeoMôn Geopark (Education portfolio)

Grant awards

We were delighted to be notified recently that we have been awarded grants, one from the Anglesey Charitable Trust and the other from Amlwch Town Council towards the cost of an interactive touch screen for our Visitor Centre at Amlwch Port. The screen is expected to be installed in September and will allow visitors a hands-on, interactive experience with a range of geoscience related videos, apps and animations. We also plan to use the screen at outreach days in local schools and community engagement events. If you have any ideas about suitable geoscience media content that we can use, please do get in touch.

AONB photo competition!

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the first geology map of Anglesey we are holding a geology photo competition.



The winner will be awarded the opportunity to attend a Geo-Kayaking course at a location on the island as well as having their picture included in the 2020 Wales Protected Landscapes calendar. Second prize will be a copy of

the *Footsteps through Time* and third prize a place on a geological walk with free packed lunch.

The photos must be submitted by 20 September, 2019. For more details see:
<https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/Residents/Countryside/Areas-of-Outstanding-Natural-Beauty-AONBs/AONB-photo-competition.aspx>

Membership

We have had an encouraging growth in membership in recent months and are extremely grateful to those new members that have very kindly supported us.

We would like to continue to build on this and if you can please assist by recruiting just one more member each, this would help significantly towards our target of doubling our membership. If you know of any businesses in your local area that would like to support the Geopark trust, 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.

If you have any queries regarding membership, please contact Gavin Rowlands on 07903-342129 or ddraiggoch@sbcglobal.net

Geological Clock

If you are visiting the Watch House, Amlwch Port, be sure to take a look at the geological clock adjacent to the building. This clock is comprised of rock samples from every geological age and was constructed by a local stonemason using mainly Anglesey rocks. It provides a very interesting perspective of geological time and highlights the wide range of geology that exists on the island.



Want to learn more and volunteer for Geomôn?

Would you like to learn more about the geology of Anglesey whilst helping other people to appreciate it too? We are looking for new volunteers to help in our exhibition centre in the Watch

House in Amlwch Port. To help you prepare we can offer you sessions to learn about the geology as well as opportunities to shadow experienced volunteers.



Usually volunteers help for one day a week, talking to visitors and showing them our new interactive audiovisual displays.

If you are interested please contact Margaret Wood on 01248 871287, college@btinternet.com or Sheila Bennell on sheilagrugor@hotmail.com

Fforest Ffawr UNESCO Global Geopark, Brecon Beacons



Geomôn is only one of the two Global Geoparks in Wales. If you are travelling to south Wales why not make it an extra special trip by visiting the Fforest Ffawr UNESCO Global Geopark, a cracked and crumpled layer-cake of rocks, over 470

million years in the making. This is a landscape sculpted by ice then transformed by man – a witness to the birth of the Industrial Revolution.

Fforest Fawr Geopark is set within the Brecon Beacons National Park in south Wales. It comprises the western half of the National Park, stretching from Llandovery in the north to the edge of Merthyr Tydfil in the south, from Llandeilo in the west to Brecon in the east. Visit:

<https://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk>

Meet the Directors This month – Dr Margaret Wood, our founder!



Originally a Geography teacher in Manchester, Margaret moved to Manchester University, running the Spark Source Mass Spectrometer. In 1969 the unit analysed dust from the first moon landing, subsequently analysing samples from every Apollo Mission. A career highlight came in the early 1970's when, whilst jointly running an adult field course in Anglesey, she discovered the oldest fossils in the UK, stromatolites (cyanobacteria) now dated as 860 million years old; this was noted in 'Nature' 1973. She then gained a London B.Sc., an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. and

became a consulting partner with clients including most Water Boards and many large companies in the UK. In 1991 she came to Anglesey and worked for the Countryside Council for Wales as a Monitoring Geologist, then Geologist for North Wales, writing management reports for geological SSSI and starting 2nd tier sites across Wales (RIGS). On retiring, inspired by the data collected, she conceived the idea of GeoMôn and started working towards membership of the European Geopark Network – this was achieved in 2009. In 2010 GeoMôn became affiliated to UNESCO, and in 2015 it became a full member UNESCO's new programme for geoparks, giving status parallel to World Heritage sites and of equal value. All this took a huge amount of work and is an amazing achievement. As members of GeoMôn we are so grateful to Margaret for her hard work. In turn, she would like to express her sincere thanks for all the management and volunteer work that keeps GeoMôn running.

Want more information?

See our Website www.geomon.co.uk, and our Facebook page *GeoMon Anglesey Geopark* for updates.



Also have a look at the *Geology of Anglesey* Facebook page for information from others interested in the geology. You can ask questions here and post photographs.

Guess the location!



More next time