

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK STATUS PUTS ANGLESEY ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE



GeoMôn
UNESCO
Global Geopark



GeoMôn

Anglesey's unique geology has been granted by UNESCO the equivalent of 'world heritage site' status, with the potential for a boost to local tourism and community development.

Independent research commissioned by the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) in 2015 revealed a potentially substantial financial benefit from GeoMôn activities, and UNESCO estimates Global Geopark status to be worth some £2.7 million a year to Anglesey.

UNESCO and partner geopark officials are visiting Anglesey in 2017 to scrutinise the work of GeoMôn, this being a process undertaken every four years to revalidate Anglesey's privileged status as a Global Geopark.

GeoMôn Director Dr Margaret Wood, who founded GeoMôn in 2005, will be hosting the visiting assessors and is proud of what has been achieved during 2016.

Dr Wood said: "The UNESCO accolade should prove to be a very real stimulus for local communities and we will

continue to work successfully with community councils, businesses and other bodies.

The IACC has been a much valued partner throughout. A Global Geopark must have a special geological heritage and be able to promote sustainable economic development through education and geotourism.

Anglesey has a unique and internationally important geoh heritage and, arguably, has the greatest geodiversity for its size of anywhere in Europe."

GeoMôn will continue to champion the sustainability and educational aims of a UNESCO Global Geopark by facilitating partnerships and by involving local communities in promoting the unique heritage of Anglesey, with the aim of creating jobs and opportunities through geotourism while at the same time protecting the landscape.

Geotourism has kept GeoMôn's 16 geological guides busy throughout 2016 leading visits to signposted 'geotrails' across the island.

In addition to the geological information boards erected at

13 key sites across Anglesey by GeoMôn, and the educational walks led across the island by the GeoMôn team, the organisation is adding to its customary field programme with additional walks at Cadnant Gardens and elsewhere.

Walks hosted by GeoMôn are now firmly established as a popular feature of Anglesey's annual Walking Festival, and four new GeoMôn walk lead-

ers and guides were trained during 2016.

"Anglesey's residents and visitors tread daily on rocks spanning four Eras, twelve Geological Periods and a staggering 1,800 million years of history," states Dr Wood. "We must never underestimate the extraordinary resource we have beneath our feet!"



GeoMôn's Dr Stewart Campbell describes Precambrian pillow lava to geotourists at Newborough.

GEOMÔN'S LANDMARK 'FOOTSTEPS THROUGH TIME' BOOK TO BE RE-PRINTED

The richly-illustrated book 'Footsteps Through Time: The Rocks and Landscape of Anglesey Explained' published by GeoMôn in 2014 is to be re-printed in 2017 following a generous book grant of £6,000 from Magnox, operator of Anglesey's Wylfa nuclear power station.

The 194 page large-format full-colour book is co-authored and illustrated by Dr Stewart Campbell, Dr Margaret Wood and Professor Brian Windley and showcases the unique geological history of Anglesey in an accessible and

stimulating way.

The book provides essential background information for a series of public information boards and 14 'geotrails' devised by GeoMôn and its partners for Anglesey's iconic and most-visited geological sites such as Llanddwyn Island at Newborough, and Parys Mountain.

The book is the first full account of Anglesey's geology for almost a century, the last being Edward Greenly's 1919 groundbreaking 'Geological Memoir of Anglesey'.

NEW CHAIR FOR GEOMÔN

Professor Colin Jago, Dean of College of Natural Sciences and a Professor in the School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University, became Chair of GeoMôn during 2016, following the sad death of previous incumbent Mr Paul Gasson.

GeoMôn is hoping to undertake some collaborative research with Professor Jago in the future, perhaps by adding a tourism module to coastal studies on Anglesey.

GeoMôn Board members were in 2016 joined by Mr Mark Gahan, formerly of Medrwn Mon and now work-

ing with the Commissioner for Future Generations, and Mr Mervyn Wynne Jones, formerly a government press officer with the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office.

Retiring from the Board in the past year was Terry Beggs, Anglesey author and former Master Mariner, whose generous support will be much missed.

GEOMÔN FACEBOOK PAGE

GeoMôn's Facebook page has recently been re-launched and now has approaching 200 people follow-

ing it. Regular contributions highlight sites of geological significance across Anglesey, and the page also shares the activities of other relevant Anglesey-based organisations

and bodies. The GeoMôn website continues to develop with the expert input of Sarah Wardlaw whose support the Director and Board gratefully acknowledge.

STATWS GEOPARC BYD-EANG UNESCO YN RHOI YNYS MÔN AR Y LLWYFAN RHYNGWLADOL



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Mae UNESCO wedi dyfarnu'r hyn sy'n cyfateb i statws 'safle treftadaeth y byd' i ddaeareg unigryw Ynys Môn, gyda'r potensial i hybu twristiaeth a gwaith datblygu cymunedol lleol.

Roedd ymchwil annibynnol a gomisiynwyd gan Gyngor Sir Ynys Môn (CSYM) yn 2015 wedi datgelu potensial am fudd ariannol sylweddol drwy weithgareddau GeoMôn, ac mae UNESCO yn amcangyfrif y bydd statws Geoparc Byd-eang yn werth tua £2.7 miliwn y flwyddyn i Ynys Môn.

Bydd UNESCO, a swyddogion geoparciau sy'n bartneriaid, yn ymweld â'r ynys yn 2017 i graffu ar waith GeoMôn, sy'n broses yr ymgymeryd â hi bob pedair blynedd i ailddilysu statws breintiedig Ynys Môn fel Geoparc Byd-eang.

Bydd Cyfarwyddwr GeoMôn, Dr Margaret Wood, a sefydlodd GeoMôn yn 2005, yn croesawu'r aseswyr ar eu hymweliad, ac mae'n falch o'r hyn a gyflawnwyd yn ystod 2016.

Dyweddodd Dr Wood: "The UNESCO accolade should prove to be a very real stimulus for local communities and we

will continue to work successfully with community councils, businesses and other bodies. The IACC has been a much valued partner throughout. A Global Geopark must have a special geological heritage and be able to promote sustainable economic development through education and geotourism. Anglesey has a unique and internationally important geo-heritage and, arguably, has the greatest geodiversity for its size of anywhere in Europe."

Bydd GeoMôn yn parhau i hyrwyddo nodau cynaliadwyedd ac addysgol Geoparc Byd-eang UNESCO drwy hwyluso partneriaethau, a thrwy gynnwys cymunedau lleol yn y gwaith o hyrwyddo treftadaeth unigryw Ynys Môn.

Y nod yw creu swyddi a chyfleoedd drwy geo-dwristiaeth, gan ddiogelu'r tirlun ar yr un pryd.

Mae Geo-dwristiaeth wedi cadw 16 tywysydd daearegol GeoMôn yn brysur drwy gydol 2016, yn arwain ymweliadau â 'geo-lwybrau' ar draws yr ynys. Yn ogystal â'r byrddau gwybodaeth daearegol a godwyd gan GeoMôn mewn 13 safle allweddol ledled Ynys Môn, ynghyd â'r teithiau

cerdded addysgol a arweinwyd ar draws yr ynys gan dîm GeoMôn, mae'r sefydliad yn ychwanegu rhagor o deithiau cerdded at ei raglen maes arferol, rhai yng Ngerddi Cadnant a manau eraill.

Mae teithiau cerdded a arweinir gan GeoMôn wedi'u hen sefydlu bellach fel nodwedd boblogaidd o Wyl Gerdded Ynys Môn, a gynhelir yn flynyddol, a hyfforddwyd pedwar arweinydd a thywyswr



Dr Stewart Campbell o GeoMôn yn disgrifio lafa clustog cyn-Gambriaidd i geo-dwristiaid yn Niwbwrch.

AILARGRAFFU LLYFR NODEDIG GEOMÔN, 'FOOTSTEPS THROUGH TIME'

Bydd y llyfr 'Footsteps Through Time: The Rocks and Landscape of Anglesey Explained', sy'n gyfoeth o luniau, ac a gyhoeddwyd gan GeoMôn yn 2014, yn cael ei ailargraffu yn 2017 yn dilyn cael grant llyfrau hael o £6,000 gan Magnox, sef gweithredwr Gorsaf Bŵer yr Wylfa ar Ynys Môn.

Mae'r llyfr fformat mawr 194 tudalen hwn, y mae'r cyfan ohono mewn lliw, wedi cael ei ysgrifennu a'i ddarlunio ar y cyd rhwng Dr Stewart Campbell, Dr Margaret Wood a'r Athro Brian Windley, ac mae'n arddangos hanes

daearegol unigryw Ynys Môn mewn modd hygyrch a chyffrous. Mae'r llyfr yn darparu gwybodaeth gefndirol hanfodol ar gyfer cyfres o fyrdau gwybodaeth cyhoeddus, ynghyd â 14 o 'geo-lwybrau', a ddyfeisiwyd gan GeoMôn a'i bartneriaid ar gyfer y safleoedd daearegol eiconig yr ymwelir â hwy amlaf ar yr ynys, fel Ynys Llanddwyn yn Niwbwrch a Mynydd Parys. Y llyfr hwn yw'r cyntaf ers bron i ganrif i roi darlun cyflawn o ddaeareg Ynys Môn, y diwethaf oedd llyfr arloesol Edward Greenly ym 1919, sef 'Geological Memoir of Anglesey'.

CADEIRYDD NEWYDD AR GYFER GEOMÔN

Daeth yr Athro Colin Jago, Deon Coleg y Gwyddorau Naturiol ac Athro yn Ysgol Gwyddorau Eigion Prifysgol Bangor, yn Gadeirydd GeoMôn yn ystod 2016, yn dilyn marwolaeth drist y cadeirydd blaenorol, Mr Paul Gasson. Mae GeoMôn yn gobeithio ymgymryd â rhywfaint o ymchwil cydweithredol gyda'r Athro Jago yn y dyfodol, hwyrach drwy ychwanegu modiwl twristiaeth at astudiaethau arfordirol ar Ynys Môn. Yn ymuno o'r newydd ag aelodau Bwrdd GeoMôn yn 2016 yr oedd Mr Mark Gahan, gynt o Medrwn Môn,

sydd bellach yn gweithio gyda Chomisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, ynghyd â Mr Mervyn Wynne Jones, a fu'n flaenorol yn swyddog y wasg i'r llywodraeth yn y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn ac yn y Swyddfa Dramor. Yn ymddeol o'r Bwrdd y llynedd yr oedd Terry Beggs, awdur o Ynys Môn a chyn Gaptan, y byddid yn colli ei gymorth hael yn fawr iawn.

TUDALEN FACEBOOK GEOMÔN

Ail-lansiwyd tudalen Facebook GeoMôn yn ddiweddar, ac mae hyd at 200 o bobl yn ei dilyn erbyn hyn.

Mae cyfraniadau rheolaidd yn amlygu safleoedd o bwys daearegol ledled Ynys Môn, ac mae'r dudalen hefyd yn rhannu gweithgareddau sefydliadau a chyrrff perthnasol eraill a

leolir ym Môn. Mae gwefan GeoMôn yn parhau i datblygu gyda chymorth arbenigol Sarah Wardlaw, y mae ei chefnogaeth yn cael ei gwerthfawrogi'n fawr gan y Cyfarwyddwr a'r Bwrdd.