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## GeoMon Newsletter Summer 2008

### Dear Partners, Members and Friends

A lot has happened since I last wrote to you and I hope you have all had a less action packed time than we have had. In chronological order, I will try to give you as full a picture as possible of events as they occurred. First of all, with only a few days notice, we were asked to move out of the Prichard Jones Institute in Newborough as it was to be renovated. However, before we moved out we were able to have the Young Geologists' Christmas party in the Institute and a great deal of fun was had by all. As we needed an office somewhere, since we knew we would be inspected in the coming months, we frantically searched for an alternative and our Partners' Chair, John Williams, managed brilliantly to get the County Council to lend us an office in their Planning Department in Llangefni. This we gratefully accepted and we were resident there until last week. I must offer a huge thank you to Gareth Jones, the Property Manager for arranging this. We were under the impression that the Institute was ready to move into but yesterday when we arrived with our chattels we found they are still doing some carpentry, electrical work and await the carpet laying. However, we were able to leave our goods there and will unpack them when they are ready for our move back in.

In the meantime, we had our inspection to see if we are completely ready to be accepted internationally as a European and UNESCO Global Geopark. Two action packed days saw the inspectors questioning us and highlighting some aspects of our organisation which need to be in place in the ever more demanding requirements for entry. Firstly, they want to see us back in our own premises, have more financial stability to be sustainable, become company registered or have charitable status, produce a full business plan and cash flow for the next three years and have signage on the island indicating that we are a geopark. We have been working hard on all these aspects required and will give you a brief résumé below. One good thing is that we were told that we had not failed but were deferred until we had worked on their new conditions.

We are about to become a Company Limited by Guarantee with the option of attaining Charitable status later and this is being done by the Wales Co-operative – funded by the Welsh Assembly. This will mean some changes in our management team as we will become a company with directors and board members All our partners and members will become 'Friends of the Geopark' who can be voted on to the Board at the AGM annually, but as yet no details have been finalised. You will be kept fully informed and it would be helpful if you could attend our next Partners meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July in the Planning Dept of the County Council at 6.30pm where you can air your views. I have been busy trying to write a Business Plan with the help of the Management team and we are nearly there with the document. We have now completed a cash flow for this year and are working on the next three years. Much work has gone into obtaining signage on the island and our best option currently seems to be to have GeoMôn flags at various places or possible brown signs. This is on-going but you will no doubt see if we have success with it. An information board is about to be erected on the coast at Breakwater Country Park and we have two new trails at South Stack and Breakwater Park. They are down-loadable from the Council's website under the AONB's magazine, Swyn-y-Mor, also from the link on our own website [www.geomon.ork.uk](http://www.geomon.ork.uk). We are also looking into the possibility of working more closely with other permanent organisations in Anglesey to give us more sustainability. We have also produced a new leaflet which explains what a geopark is and highlights some of our important geological sites. Copies can be obtained from me or at our meetings.

The Young Geologists' club is again up and running since I had my new hip replacement at the end of last February, so I am now fully fit and running around as usual. We had a very successful excursion to the slate museum and our next trip is on 19<sup>th</sup> July to Red Wharf Bay. We are hoping that we will combine some of our events with the Young Archaeologists Club sometime in the future. We will also be having a stand at the Anglesey Show in the Craft Workers tent, next to the Food produce tent so if anyone wishes to help out there I would be extremely grateful. We also had a tent at the Isle of Anglesey walking festival at Plas Newydd and combined our Geology week with their fortnight of events. We provided geologists on 17 of the walks and this seems to have been very successful. Next year we will also run our week with theirs as this was such a success. We are very grateful to Mentermon for allowing us to participate in this way. We have a major educational book now at the printers written by Dr Jack Treagus of Manchester University. It will be of great use to sixth form students, college and university students for fieldwork and research purposes and concentrates on structural geology at specific sites on Anglesey. Mr Peter Loader, the Chief Examiner for A level Geology, WJEC says of the book "For those of us who teach and learn from the rocks of Anglesey, this is an invaluable book that will help a wider audience open a window into the history of the Earth and provide a manual by which to test the plate tectonic model". Thank you to Jack for his hard work and to John Conway and Pete for editing the book on behalf of the Geopark. I have given several talks on the geopark to groups on the island and was down to give one last week at the Friends of Parys Mountain. However, when I arrived the members who were present knew nothing about it, so I just hope that this does not happen again and will be more careful to make sure I have the booking in writing for future talks. I was also informed that the Geopark had folded! A surprise to me and I hastily told them that this was not the case and we are very much alive and working hard to achieve international status. We expect that we should have fulfilled all their new requirements by the meeting in March next year and will report this to them in January.

I look forward to your help in achieving our goals and developing geotourism in Anglesey to encourage more tourists to visit the island and hopefully to create more jobs.

With very best wishes to you all.

Margaret