



GeoMôn

**Newsletter Autumn, 2006**

**Anglesey Geopark**

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## **Dear Partners and Members**

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter.

Four of us, Stewart Campbell, Ray Roberts, Jacqui Malpas and I went to the second International Geopark Conference in Belfast where I delivered a paper, on behalf of the Geopark Partnership, which showed how our audit of geological sites in Anglesey underpins the work that can be done in the Geopark. We also learnt about our application which was submitted in June. Although we have not yet achieved UNESCO status we were told the good news that we need only to fulfil a few more conditions before we are accepted. We are in the privileged state of being able to do this and send in another application during the coming year. As the European Geopark Network has now become UNESCO Global Geoparks, the stakes for entry have been raised and new applicants are now limited to 2 per country (only 2 new ones for the entire UK at any one time). We are in the good position of being able to apply anyway as we are already in the system. We are now able to call ourselves a Geopark and must act and be run as one. This we have already started to do.

Since our last newsletter, we have lost our dear friend and patron Sir Kyffin Williams R.A. Kyffin was a great supporter of the Geopark and was there at its inception. His last words to me, the day before he died, were "how is the Geopark going?" I told him that it was progressing and that the reference/work room in our centre was to be called after him, the 'Kyffin Room'. He was genuinely thrilled about this and my lasting memory of him will be that kind and gentle smile on his face. I have had the many geological specimens which I had given to him over the years returned to me and these will be displayed, a few at a time, in the room named after him, together with his great uncle Andrew's ceremonial suit which Kyffin had given me. This uncle was Andrew Ramsay, one of the fathers of geology and author of a Geology of North Wales. He was also the second Director General of the British Geological Survey (if anyone has a spare mannequin lurking in their attic we would be grateful if we could use it to hang his suit in our workroom). In respect to Kyffins Room, Terry Beggs has carved and placed the name on the door of the workroom and the name GeoMôn on the office door, they look magnificent, thanks Terry. Terry has also constructed a desk and bookcase for the office.

The Marquess of Anglesey, has very kindly agreed to be our new patron and for this we are truly grateful. Lady Anglesey, a member of the Geopark, has suggested that we should try for charitable status and that we have 'Friends of the Geopark'. I think both of these suggestions are well worth looking into and I will do that when I work full time as Geopark Director from April 1<sup>st</sup>. At the moment I am working full time on the Geological Audit (survey) of North Wales so cannot give enough time for all I would like to do.

We are lucky to have obtained the services of Carolyn Davies as our Office Manager and she will be working in our office part time from January. Carolyn's managing skills are legendary and we know how good she is. She used to organise Stewart and myself for many years in CCW until she retired, so now she can set up all the office systems and cataloguing in PJI for us and keep it in pristine order as well as helping us with all the projects we will be working on. Welcome Carolyn, we hope you enjoy working on our team. Sue Brooks (RIGS) will also be doing some work with us on specific Geopark projects on a part time basis, so welcome too to Sue. Sue has been doing valiant work for RIGS over a long period and is currently working with me voluntarily by delivering RIGS packages to land owners with RIGS on their land- not an easy job.

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Thanks to Robert Williams, Forest Enterprise, Wales (FEW), and his team, we now have most of our belongings in the PJI. As a partner in the Geopark, we have been able to help each other, which is how partnerships work. Robert asked us to show a presence at a forestry event but it was when we were in Belfast. To make up for this we offered to do a geological walk in the forest. This took place on 10<sup>th</sup> August and a limit of 30 people was set. It was organised by FEW. It was such a success that they had to turn away 26 people. They will now be invited to do the trail during Geopark week (first week of June) next year. In preparation for the walk, Robert and team cleaned some rocky faces in the forest ridge and cleared areas to make a simple path. While doing this work, some fantastic new rocks were uncovered which will now be included in a trail which is being marked out, currently, with waymarkers. Robert was also able to use our large work/display room for a meeting and this facility is available to any of our partners. We also plan to create trail leaflets for the forest and Llanddwyn Island within the next year and display them in the forestry car park. I hope that we can develop similar liaisons with other Geopark partners.

Last Saturday (11.11.06) saw the first Geopark Young Geologists' Club meeting at the PJI and it was a huge success. The event was organised by the Natural History Keeper from Grosvenor Museum in Chester, Kate Riddington ably assisted by Elaine Tilson (RIKS UK Officer) recently returned from her Australian home. From the Geopark Sue Brooks and I assisted and a young student Cai did a splendid job. As many children were only 5 year old, parents were invited too and got to grips with making dinosaurs. Some super Dinasauro bones and even a coprolite (Dinasauro poo) were loaned by Dave of Stonescience (thanks Dave- I woke him up at 8am to raid his museum on the day). As you can imagine the coprolite caused the most amusement and the children had a whale of a time. Having said that, one parent said to me that he had had so much fun could he come to the next meeting but leave his child at home! One little boy said he could not wait until January 20<sup>th</sup> for the next one and a little girl said it was her dream to take her dinosaur home.

Our website is now up and running and I hope you have all had a look at it at [www.geomon.org.uk](http://www.geomon.org.uk)

The Geopark week next June is currently under discussion and so far we have come up with 3 days of field excursions, 2 days Geocache (look up on the internet to see what this is about) a week of orienteering in the forest (arranged by FEW) and possibly some story telling and/or talks. We were going to organise some art/geology competitions with Kyffin but now we will have to see if this can be rearranged. Any other suggestions are welcome.

Our next Partners Meeting will be held in the PJI on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm so you can see how the centre is developing and what other projects we are doing. We will be serving mince pies and coffee during the meeting. John will be sending agendas out nearer to the day. We hope to see you at the meeting, but for those who cannot attend, the Geopark Management Team would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Margaret