

Barclodiad y Gawres

New Stone Age Ideas



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New Stone Age
Ideas

ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF ANGLESEY, ON A ROCKY PROMONTORY OVERLOOKING THE SEA, SITS A SOLITARY EARTH MOUND.



IT'S UP ABOVE THE BEACH, WHERE PEOPLE PLAY IN THE SAND, SWIM, GO SURFING AND FISHING.

IF YOU LOOK INSIDE THE MOUND, YOU CAN SEE STONES STANDING UPRIGHT IN A CIRCLE...

... HOLDING UP A MUCH BIGGER FLAT STONE.

SOME OF THE UPRIGHT STONES ARE CARVED WITH ZIG-ZAGS, SPIRALS AND LOZENGE SHAPES.

FISH? EELS? TOADS?
SOUNDS LIKE LEFTOVERS
FROM MY MEALS!

ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOUND SOME BURNT HUMAN BONES IN THE SIDE CHAMBERS. THESE WERE THE REMAINS OF TWO YOUNG MEN BURIED IN THE MOUND IN THE STONE AGE.

THEY ALSO FOUND SOME BONES OF SMALL FISH, EELS AND TOADS. AT FIRST THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS THOUGHT THESE WERE THE REMAINS OF SPECIAL MEALS CONNECTED WITH THE BURIALS - BUT NOW THEY'RE NOT SO SURE...

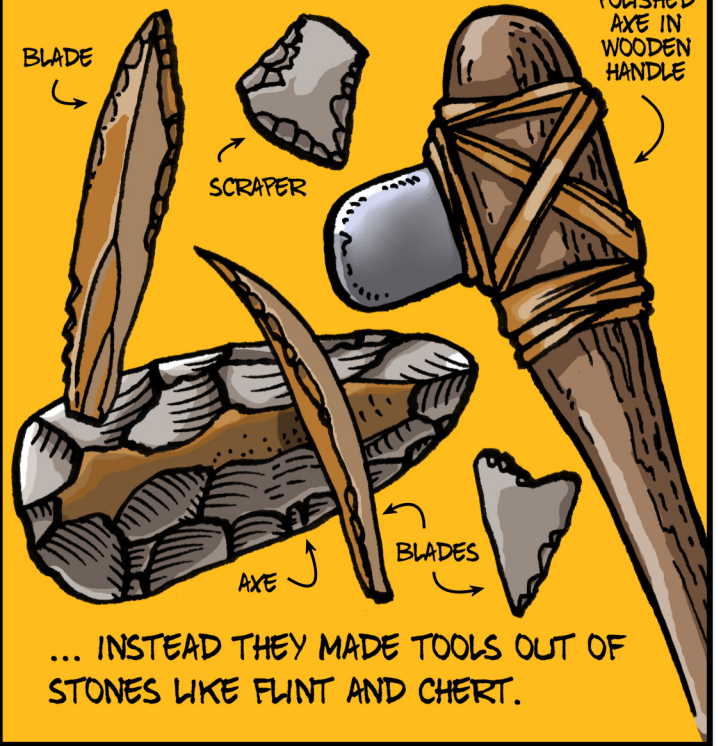
ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE REBUILT THE MOUND TO SHOW WHAT IT MIGHT HAVE LOOKED LIKE WHEN IT WAS FIRST BUILT. AND THEIR EXCAVATIONS HAVE HELPED US UNRAVEL THE STORY OF THIS MONUMENT.



THE MOUND WAS BUILT AT THE END OF THE **STONE AGE** IN A PERIOD ARCHAEOLOGISTS CALL THE **NEOLITHIC**, ALMOST 5,500 YEARS AGO.



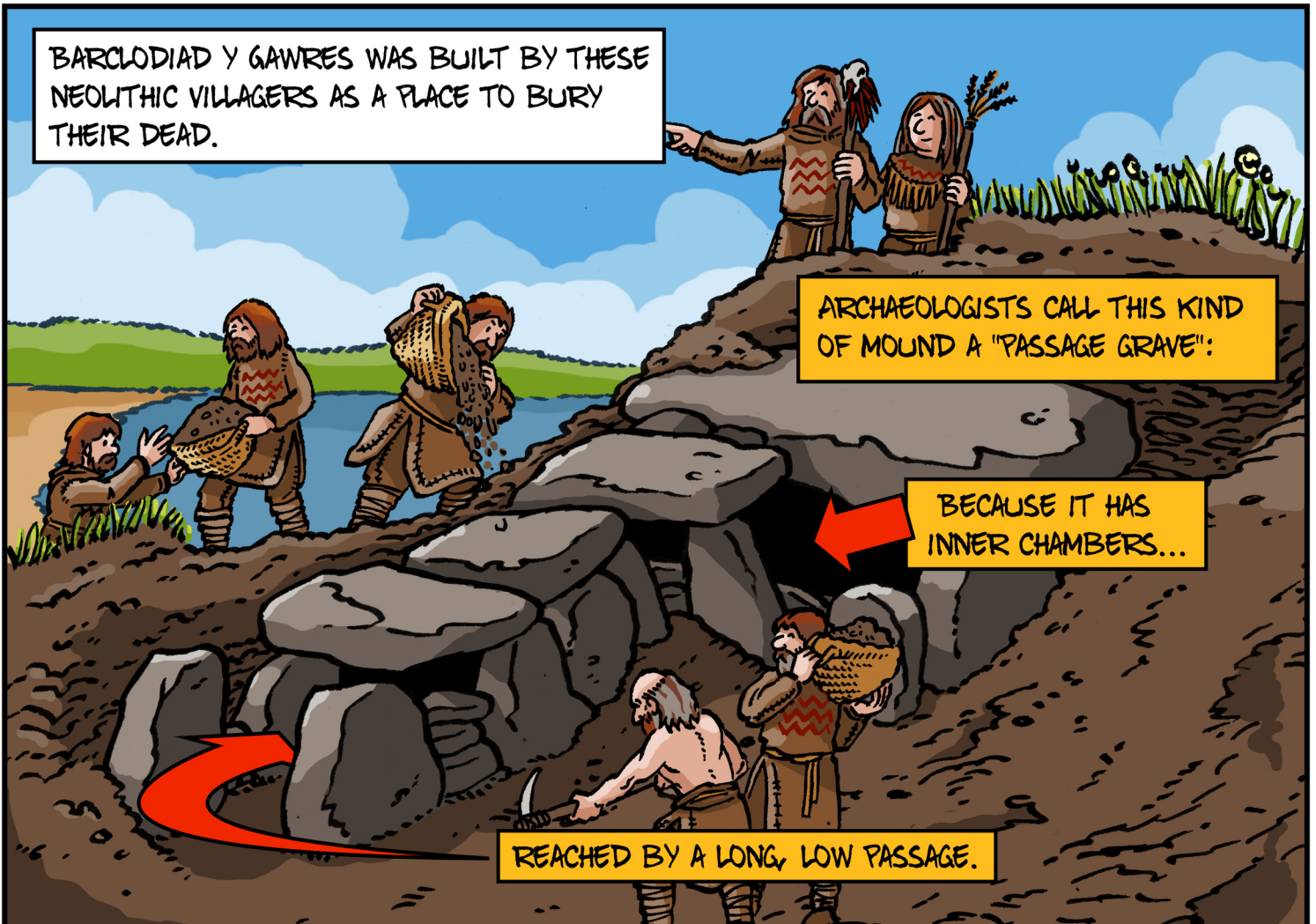
IT'S CALLED THE "STONE AGE" BECAUSE PEOPLE DIDN'T MAKE TOOLS OUT OF METALS LIKE BRONZE OR IRON...



... INSTEAD THEY MADE TOOLS OUT OF STONES LIKE FLINT AND CHERT.

DURING THE NEOLITHIC, THE INHABITANTS OF ANGLESEY LIVED IN SMALL VILLAGES ACROSS THE ISLAND. EACH VILLAGE WAS SURROUNDED BY FIELDS FOR THEIR CROPS AND ANIMALS.

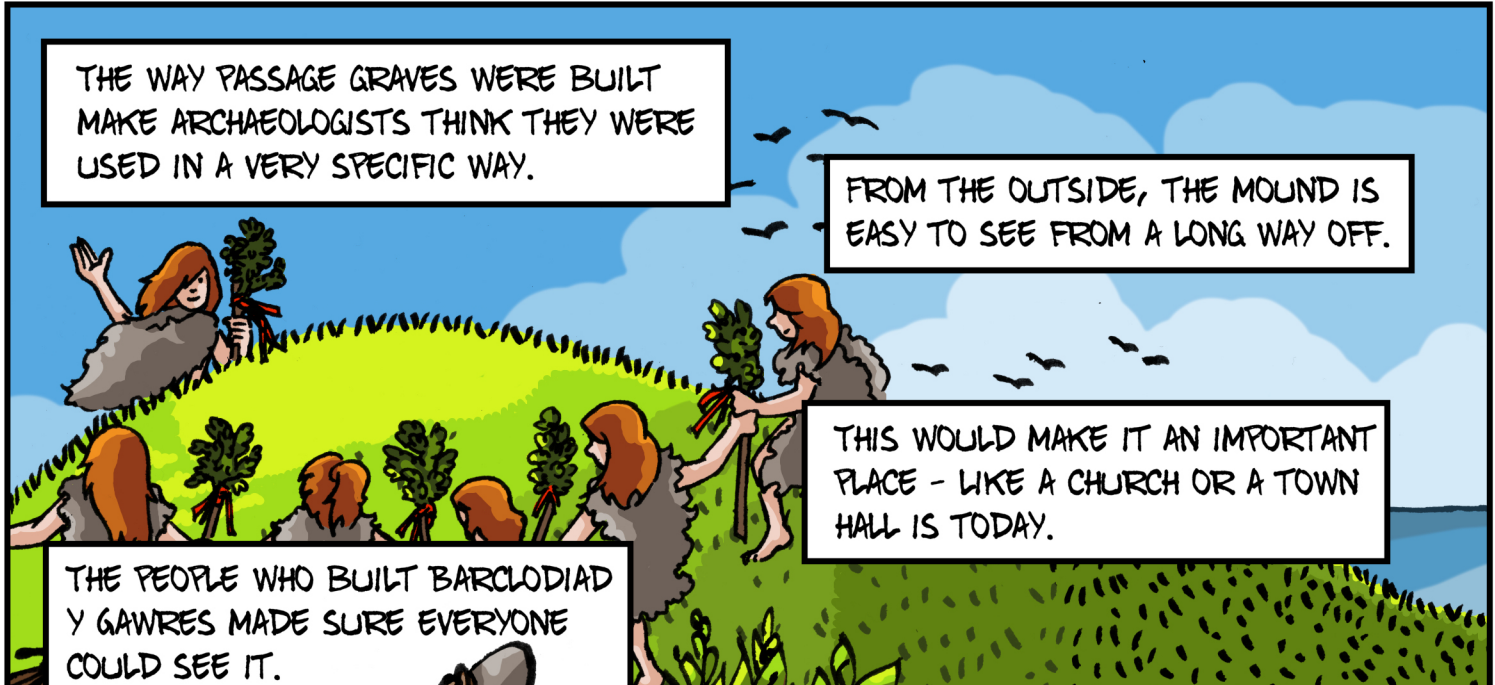
BARCLODIAD Y GAWRES WAS BUILT BY THESE NEOLITHIC VILLAGERS AS A PLACE TO BURY THEIR DEAD.



ARCHAEOLOGISTS CALL THIS KIND OF MOUND A "PASSAGE GRAVE":

BECAUSE IT HAS INNER CHAMBERS...

REACHED BY A LONG, LOW PASSAGE.




THE WAY PASSAGE GRAVES WERE BUILT
MAKE ARCHAEOLOGISTS THINK THEY WERE
USED IN A VERY SPECIFIC WAY.

FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE MOUND IS
EASY TO SEE FROM A LONG WAY OFF.

THIS WOULD MAKE IT AN IMPORTANT
PLACE - LIKE A CHURCH OR A TOWN
HALL IS TODAY.

THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT BARCLODIAD
Y GAWRES MADE SURE EVERYONE
COULD SEE IT.



A LOT OF PEOPLE COULD GATHER OUTSIDE
THE MOUND - AND EVERYONE COULD SEE
THESE GATHERINGS.

A PASSAGE GRAVE LIKE
BARCLODIAD Y GAWRES
WOULD BE A SPECIAL
PLACE FOR THE WHOLE
COMMUNITY.

THIS WOULD MAKE IT A GOOD PLACE TO HOLD
MEETINGS, DANCES AND CEREMONIES.

BUT WHAT ABOUT INSIDE
THE PASSAGE GRAVE... ?

ONLY ONE PERSON AT A TIME COULD GET DOWN THE PASSAGE. THE CEILING WAS VERY LOW, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DARK.

EVEN IN THE INNER CHAMBER, THERE WOULDN'T BE MUCH ROOM.

YOU WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO TAKE A SMALL LAMP WITH YOU.

IF THE OUTSIDE OF THE MOUND WAS A PLACE FOR LOTS OF PEOPLE, THEN INSIDE THE MOUND WAS PERHAPS FOR ONLY ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

IT'S SO DARK...

ORIGINALLY IT HAD A HIGH STONE ROOF.

THE MOUND HAS BEEN CUT AWAY SO YOU CAN SEE INSIDE.

SOIL PILED OVER TURF, STACKED OVER RUBBLE.

SIDE-CHAMBER

LIVING PEOPLE ARE ONLY VISITORS HERE - THE INSIDE OF THE MOUND BELONGS TO THE DEAD: THERE ARE THE REMAINS OF TWO OF THEM IN A SIDE-CHAMBER.

LOOK! THE STONES AROUND YOU HAVE BEEN CARVED WITH STRANGE SHAPES.

THE TINY LIGHT MAKES THE SHAPES MOVE...

IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU'RE REALLY SEEING.



PERHAPS INSIDE THE MOUND WAS A PLACE WHERE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD COULD MEET.

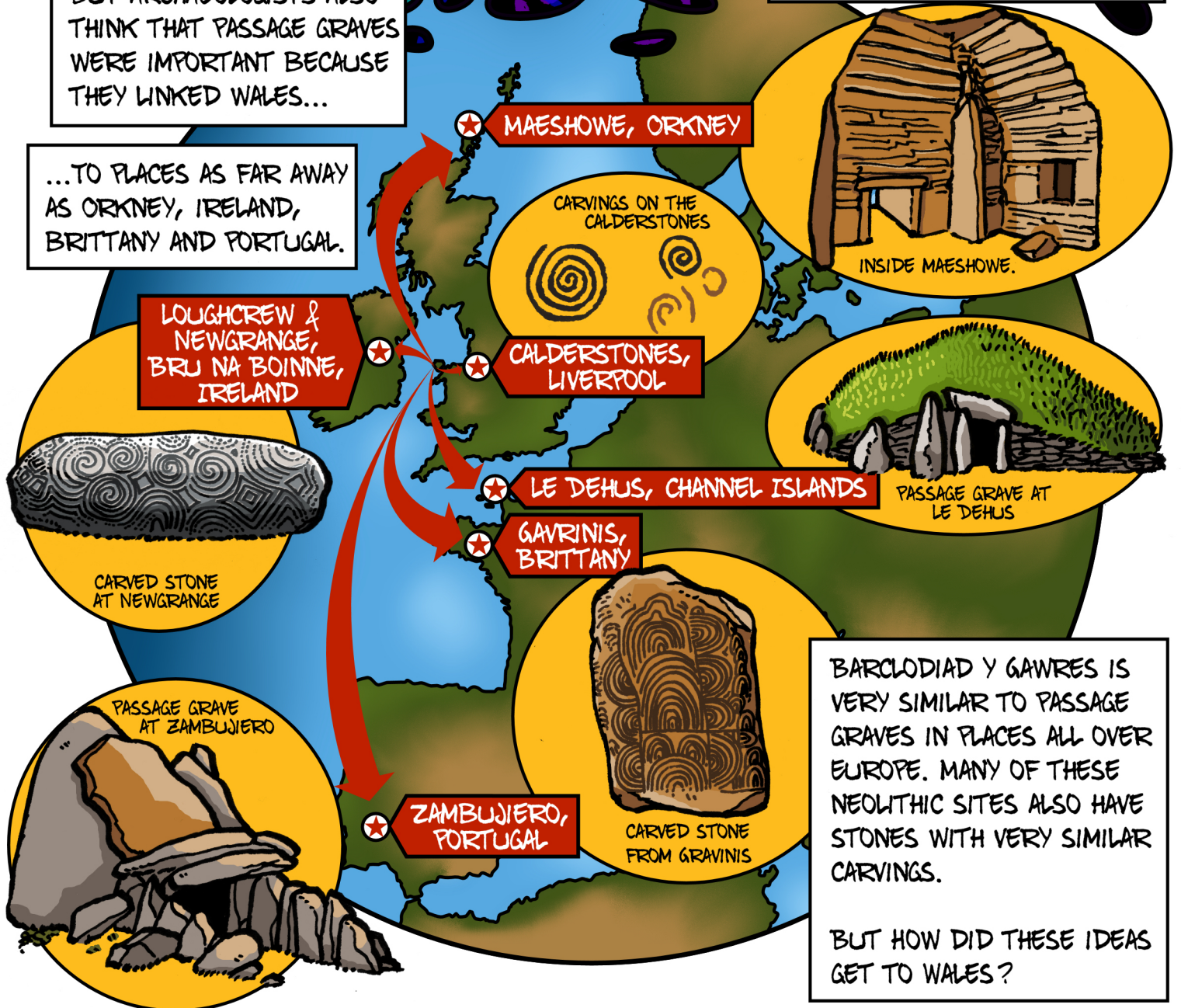
ARCHAEOLOGISTS THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO SEE WHERE THEIR ANCESTORS WERE...

PERHAPS THE SYMBOLS CARVED ON THE STONES HELPED MAKE THOSE LINKS.

... AND THAT SPECIAL PEOPLE - WE MIGHT CALL THEM PRIESTS OR SHAMEN - COULD GO INTO THE PASSAGE GRAVE AND SEEK ADVICE OR GUIDANCE FROM THESE ANCESTORS.

BUT ARCHAEOLOGISTS ALSO THINK THAT PASSAGE GRAVES WERE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY LINKED WALES...

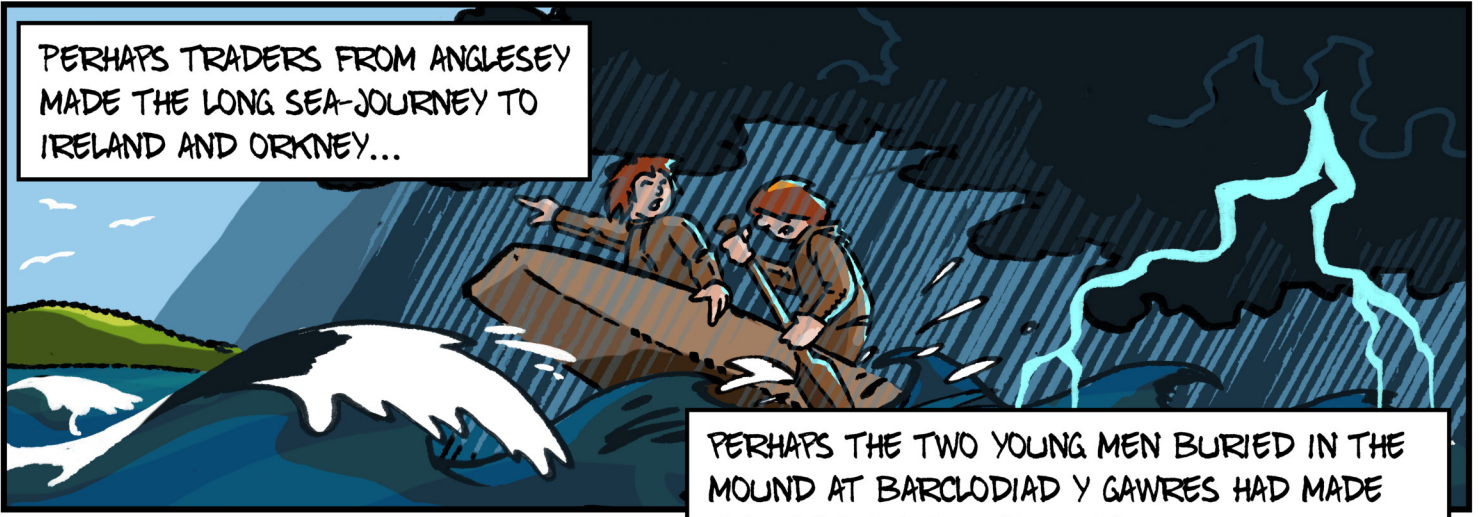
...TO PLACES AS FAR AWAY AS ORKNEY, IRELAND, BRITTANY AND PORTUGAL.



BARCLODIAD Y GAWRES IS VERY SIMILAR TO PASSAGE GRAVES IN PLACES ALL OVER EUROPE. MANY OF THESE NEOLITHIC SITES ALSO HAVE STONES WITH VERY SIMILAR CARVINGS.

BUT HOW DID THESE IDEAS GET TO WALES?

PERHAPS TRADERS FROM ANGLESEY MADE THE LONG SEA-JOURNEY TO IRELAND AND ORKNEY...



PERHAPS THE TWO YOUNG MEN BURIED IN THE MOUND AT BARCLODIAD Y GAWRES HAD MADE THOSE DANGEROUS JOURNEYS.

BUT OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS, PEOPLE FORGOT ABOUT THE TWO YOUNG MEN... AND ABOUT THE MOUND.



LATER PEOPLE LOOKED AT THE STONES AT THE EDGE OF THE SEA AND TOLD FANTASTIC STORIES ABOUT THEM...

HOW A GIANT DROPPED THEM FROM HER APRON!



BUT THE REAL STORY OF BARCLODIAD Y GAWRES IS ABOUT TRADERS AND ANCESTORS.



IT'S ABOUT HOW THE STONE AGE INHABITANTS OF ANGLESEY JOURNEYED TO THE FARTHEST EDGES OF THEIR WORLD...

... AND BROUGHT NEW IDEAS BACK TO WALES!

THE END

FOLLOW the STORY!

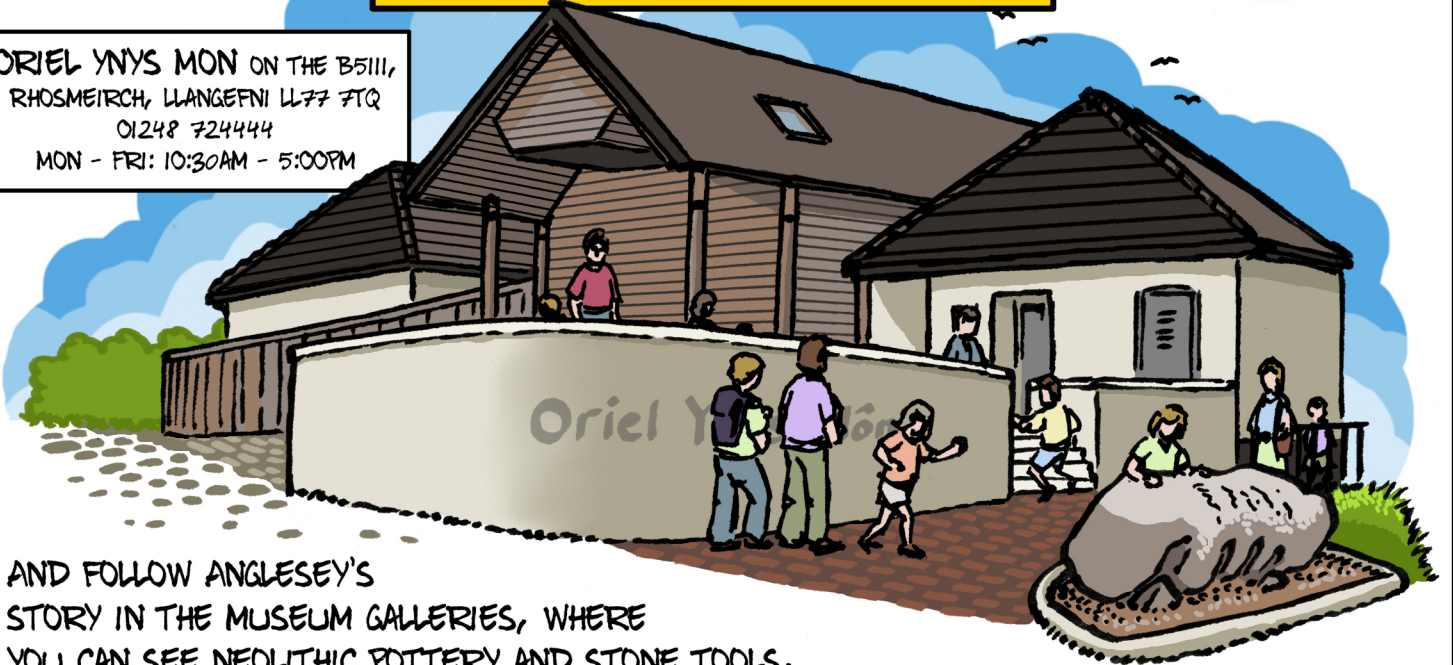
THERE ARE MORE PRE-HISTORIC SITES TO DISCOVER ON ANGLESEY!

VISIT THE FIND SITE AT **LLYN CERRIG BACH**, AND EXPLORE THE MOUND AT **BRYN CELLI DDU**, WHERE THE STONES ARE ALIGNED WITH THE SUMMER SOLSTICE!



PICK UP THE COMICS FOR EACH SITE AT **ORIEL YNYS MON** MUSEUM IN **LLANGFNFI**, OR AT **BEAUMARIS CASTLE**.

ORIEL YNYS MON ON THE B5111,
RHOSMEIRCH, LLANGFNFI LL77 7TQ
01248 724444
MON - FRI: 10:30AM - 5:00PM



AND FOLLOW ANGLESEY'S STORY IN THE MUSEUM GALLERIES, WHERE YOU CAN SEE NEOLITHIC POTTERY AND STONE TOOLS, BRONZE AGE WEAPONS AND EVEN REPLICA SLAVE CHAINS FROM LLYN CERRIG BACH!



AND WHY NOT CHECK OUT SOME OF THE OTHER FANTASTIC PLACES ON THE BACK COVER MAP? FIND OUT EVEN MORE ABOUT ANGLESEY'S RICH PREHISTORIC PAST: EXPLORE THE **HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN HUT GROUP**, **CAER LEB** AND **DIN LLIGWY HUT GROUP** TO SEE WHERE IRON AGE FAMILIES LIVED, OR DROP IN ON **LLYNON MILL** TO LOOK AROUND A LIFE-SIZE IRON AGE ROUNDHOUSE!