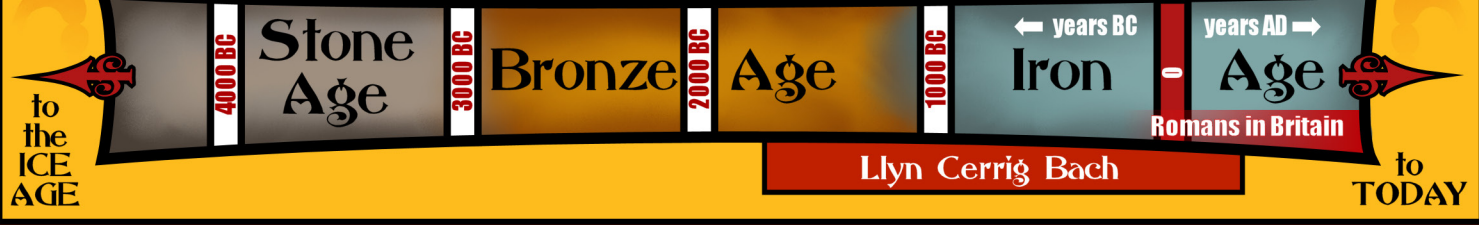


Llyn Cerrig Bach

Links Through Time



Llyn Cerrig Bach

Links through time

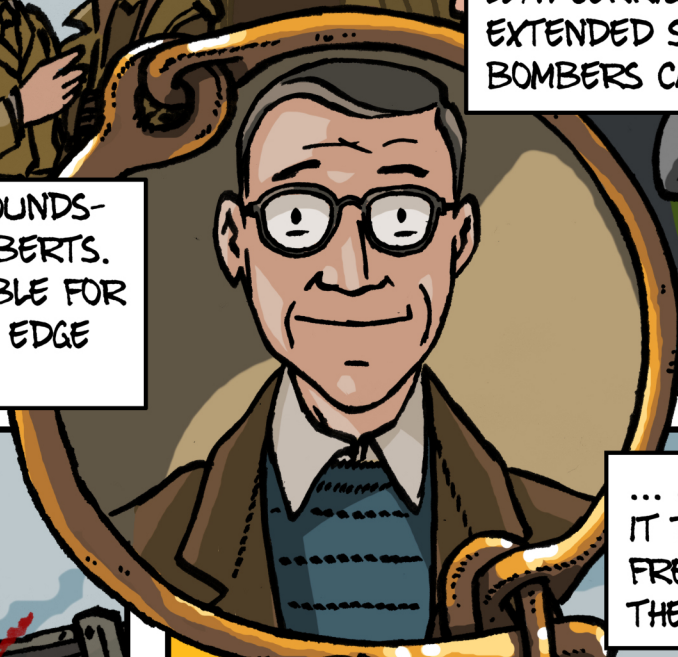
THE R.A.F. AIRBASE AT VALLEY, 1943:

THE SECOND WORLD WAR RAGES IN EUROPE. BRITAIN PREPARES FOR AN AIR WAR OVER FRANCE AND GERMANY.



THE AIRFIELD AT THE EDGE OF LLYN CERRIG BACH IS BEING EXTENDED SO THAT BIG AMERICAN BOMBERS CAN LAND.

THE MAN IN CHARGE IS GROUNDS-KEEPER WILLIAM OWEN ROBERTS. HIS CREWS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DREDGING PEAT FROM THE EDGE OF THE LAKE.



ONE DAY, A WORKS LORRY GETS STUCK IN THE MUD BESIDE THE LAKE.

... AND HIS CREW USE IT TO PULL THE LORRY FREE. THEY KEEP USING THE CHAIN ALL DAY LONG.



MR. ROBERTS SPOTS AN OLD CHAIN IN THE MUD...



CURIOUS ABOUT THE UNUSUAL CHAIN...

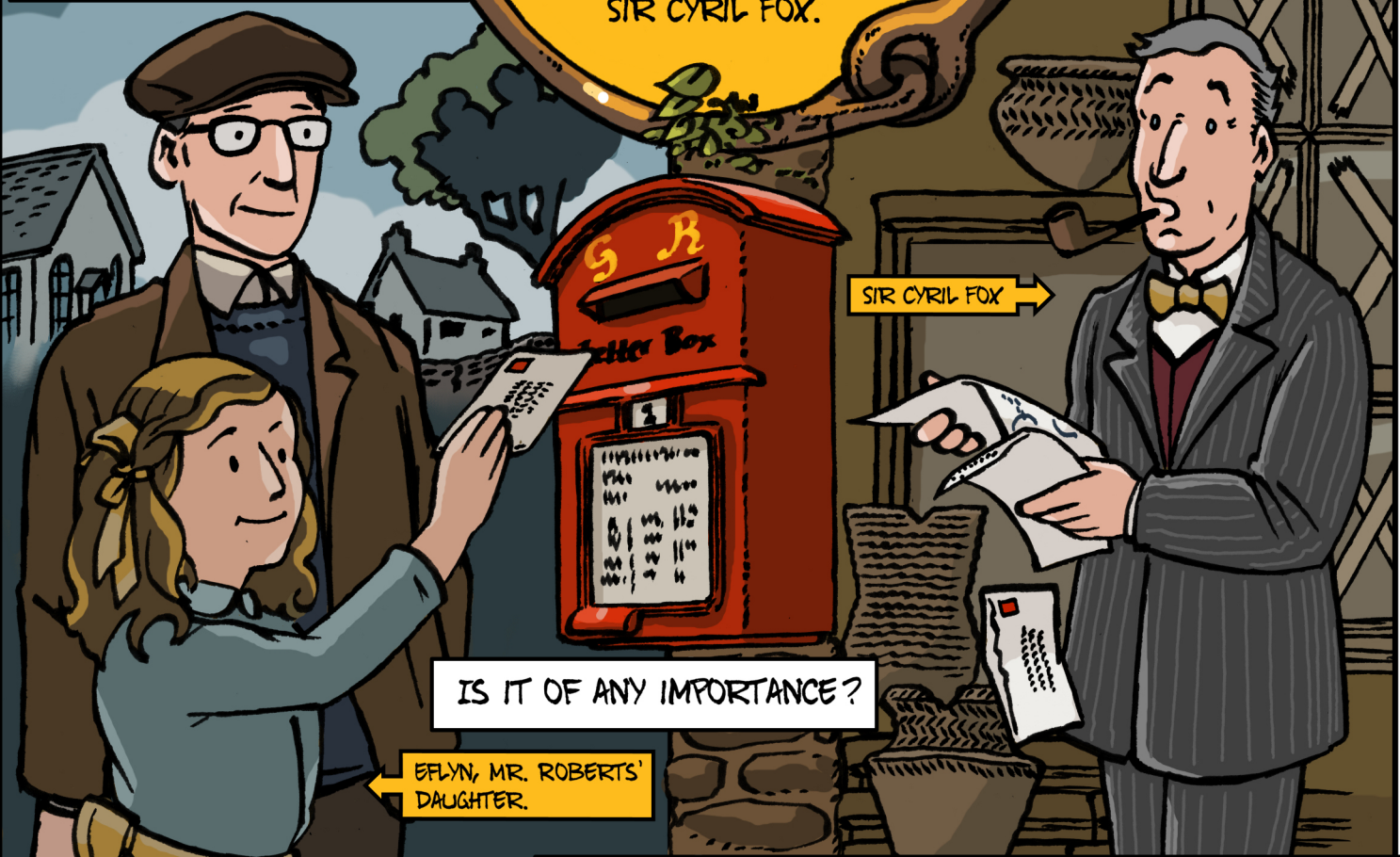
MR. ROBERTS TAKES IT TO MR. JONES, AN ENGINEER IN RHOSNEIGR.

I WONDER IF ANYONE DOWN IN CARDIFF WOULD KNOW?

IT'S VERY STRONG - BUT IT SEEMS OLD.

BUT MR. JONES CAN'T IDENTIFY IT EITHER. HE MAKES A SKETCH OF THE CHAIN, AND MR. ROBERTS SENDS THE DRAWING AND A LETTER DESCRIBING THE CHAIN TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES IN CARDIFF, TO THE DIRECTOR - THE FAMOUS ARCHAEOLOGIST SIR CYRIL FOX.

IS THE UNUSUAL CHAIN OLD, MR. ROBERTS WONDERS?



SIR CYRIL FOX

IS IT OF ANY IMPORTANCE?

EFLYN, MR. ROBERTS' DAUGHTER.

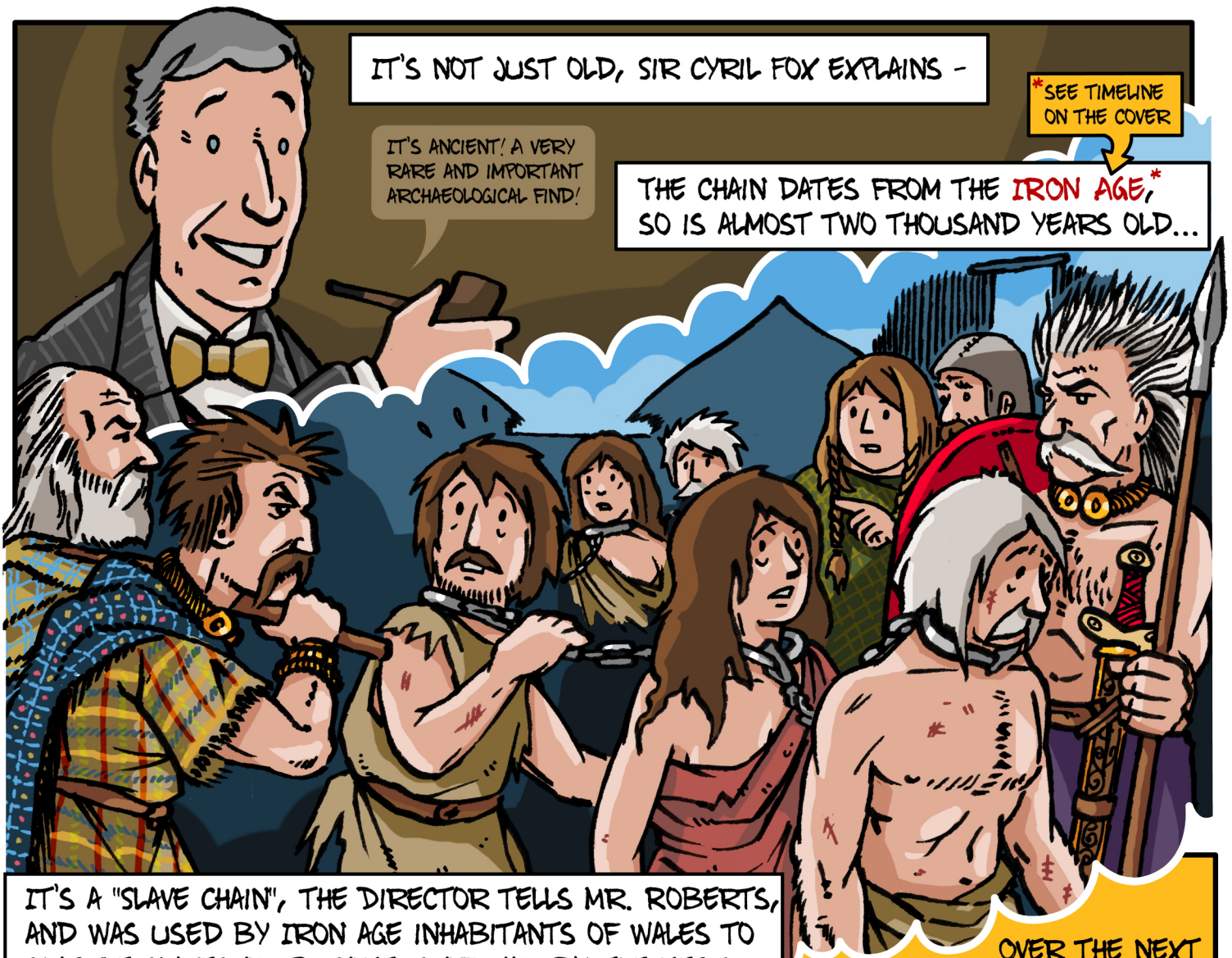
MR. ROBERTS HAS NO IDEA OF JUST HOW OLD AND HOW IMPORTANT HIS ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY IS!

IT'S NOT JUST OLD, SIR CYRIL FOX EXPLAINS -

*SEE TIMELINE ON THE COVER

IT'S ANCIENT! A VERY RARE AND IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND!

THE CHAIN DATES FROM THE **IRON AGE**,* SO IS ALMOST TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD...



IT'S A "SLAVE CHAIN", THE DIRECTOR TELLS MR. ROBERTS, AND WAS USED BY IRON AGE INHABITANTS OF WALES TO SHACKLE SLAVES OR PRISONERS OF WAR BY THE NECK.

OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WITH MR. ROBERTS' HELP, MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY OBJECTS MADE OF BRONZE AND IRON ARE RECOVERED FROM THE PEAT, ALONG WITH MANY MORE FRAGMENTS OF WOOD AND BONE.



PART OF A TRUMPET

SICKLE BLADE

SPEAR HEAD

PART OF A CHARIOT

BRONZE DECORATION

PIECE OF COOKING POT

SIR CYRIL FOX SOON ARRIVES TO DIRECT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AND WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THE DISCOVERIES.



HORSE BITS

SICKLES

SPEAR HEADS

BARREL HOOPS

BENT SWORDS

BLACKSMITH'S TONGS

IRON BARS FOR TRADE

SHIELD DECORATION

BRONZE PANELS FOR DECORATION

BUT WHY ARE THESE OBJECTS BURIED IN THE PEAT?



PEOPLE IN THE IRON AGE BELIEVED THAT RIVERS, STREAMS AND LAKES COULD BE GATEWAYS...

... TO ANOTHER WORLD.

THE REALM OF THE GODS...

... AND THE DEAD.

OBJECTS COULD BE DROPPED INTO WATER AS OFFERINGS TO THE GODS AND THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.

MANY OF THE OBJECTS DISCOVERED HAD BEEN BROKEN OR BENT - "KILLING" THEM SO THAT THEY COULD MAKE THE JOURNEY TO THIS OTHER WORLD...

... AND SHOWING THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER FOR USE BY PEOPLE IN OUR WORLD...

... BUT BY THOSE WHO LIVED IN THE OTHER WORLD.

BY MAKING THESE OFFERINGS PEOPLE COULD ASK THE GODS OR THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD FOR HELP.

PERHAPS THE SICKLES AND TOOLS WERE TO ASK FOR HELP WITH CROPS AND ANIMALS...

...PERHAPS THE WEAPONS WERE TO ASK FOR HELP IN WAR.

HOW DID THESE OBJECTS SURVIVE?



AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE, CENTURIES PASS...



MUD AND DEAD PLANTS COMPRESS INTO PEAT...

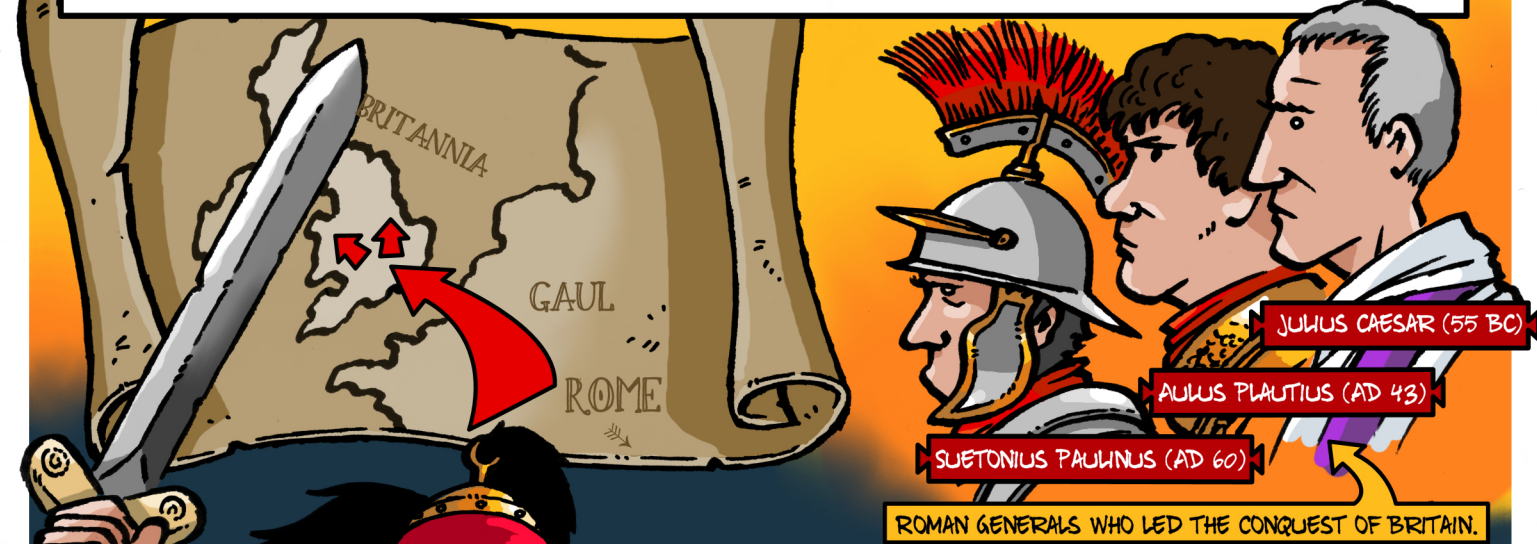


THERE'S NO OXYGEN, WHICH MEANS NO RUST OR CORROSION...



WHICH PRESERVES WOOD, BONE AND METAL.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS NOW KNOW THAT THE OBJECTS FROM LLYN CERRIG BACH DATE FROM BETWEEN 400 BC TO AD 700 - BUT THE "SLAVE CHAINS" DATE FROM ABOUT AD 60...



ROMAN GENERALS WHO LED THE CONQUEST OF BRITAIN.

WHEN THE ROMANS FINALLY REACHED ANGLESEY!



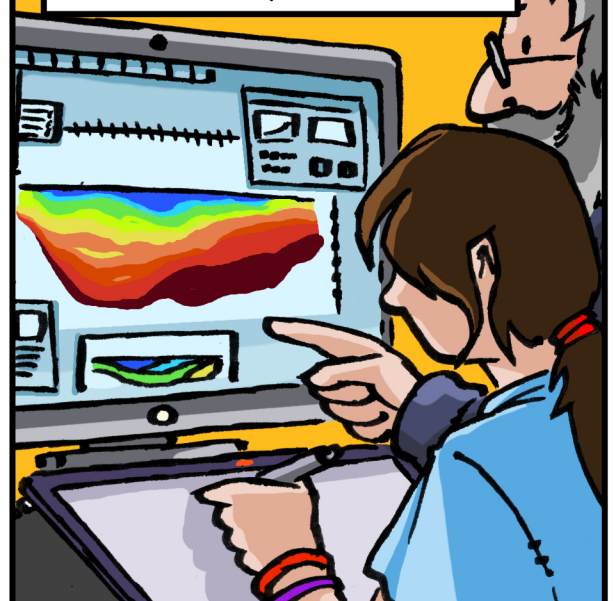
WAS THE OFFERING OF THE SLAVE CHAINS PART OF A RITUAL TO ASK THE GODS FOR HELP IN BATTLE AGAINST THE ROMANS - MAYBE EVEN WHILE THE ROMAN ARMY WAS ASSEMBLING ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MENAI STRAITS FOR THEIR FINAL ASSAULT ON THE ISLAND?

ARCHAEOLOGISTS WILL CONTINUE THEIR RESEARCH, LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT IRON AGE ANGLESEY...



USING NEW EXCAVATION AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES.

NEW SURVEYS, FOR EXAMPLE.



... COULD CHANGE OUR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT LLYN CERRIG BACH WAS LIKE TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

THE SITE OF LLYN CERRIG BACH HAS BECOME WORLD FAMOUS FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES MADE THERE...

... AND WHAT THEY HAVE TOLD US ABOUT THE PAST.

THE VANISHED IRON AGE LANDSCAPE IS NOW ALSO HOME TO NESTING SEA AND FRESH-WATER BIRDS...

EXHIBITIONS NOW DISPLAY THE AMAZING IRON AGE FINDS IN CARDIFF AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES, AND IN MUSEUMS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

... MAKING IT AN IMPORTANT PLACE FOR THE FUTURE, TOO.

RECONSTRUCTION OF AN IRON AGE TRUMPET - BASED ON THE PIECES FOUND AT LLYN CERRIG BACH!

RECONSTRUCTED IRON AGE CHARIOT BASED ON FRAGMENTS FOUND AT LLYN CERRIG BACH!

TODAY, THE DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM OWEN ROBERTS IS PROUD OF THE DISCOVERIES HER FATHER MADE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

EFLYN HAS BEEN A TEACHER ALL HER LIFE AND NOW TALKS TO SCHOOL GROUPS ABOUT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT LLYN CERRIG BACH.

... AND WHAT THEY CONTINUE TO TELL US ABOUT OUR IRON AGE ANCESTORS!

THE END

FOLLOW the STORY!

THERE ARE MORE PREHISTORIC SITES TO DISCOVER ON ANGLESEY!

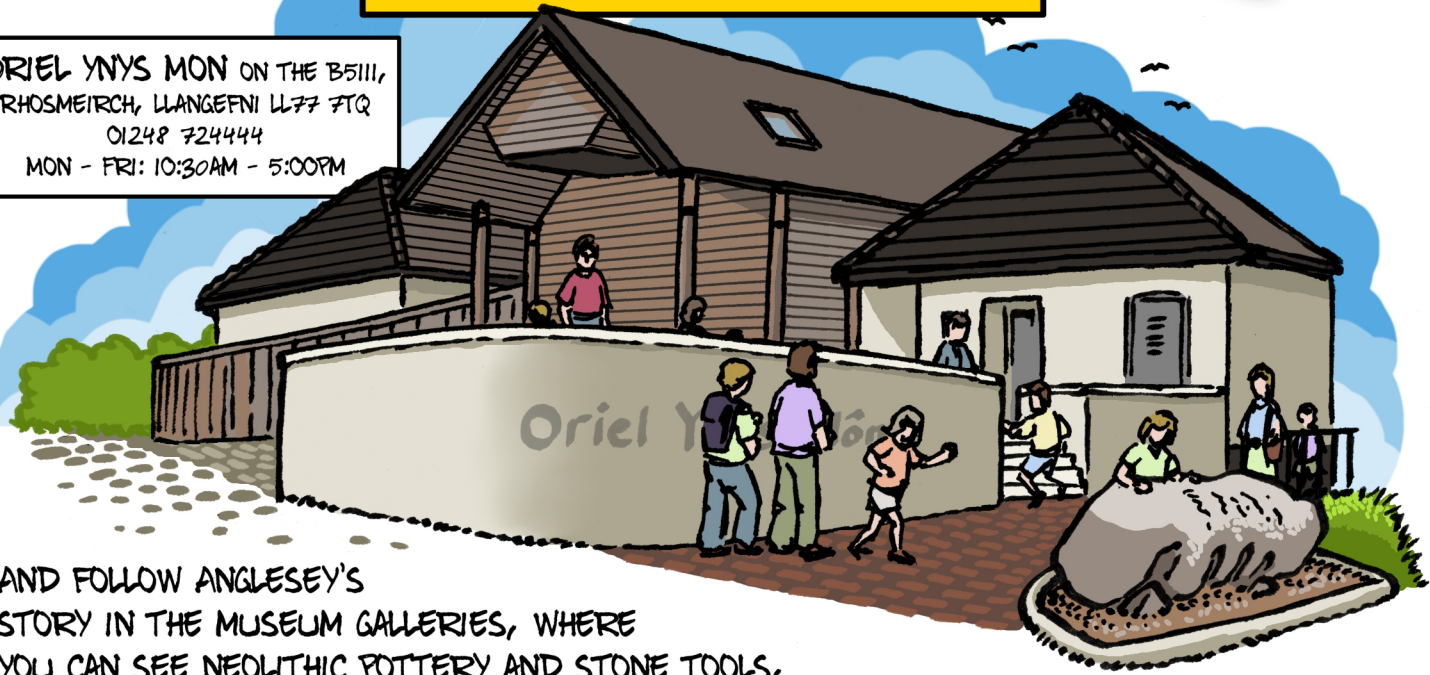
VISIT THE PASSAGE GRAVE AT **BARCLODIAD Y GAWRES** WITH ITS AMAZING CARVED STONES!

AND EXPLORE THE BURIAL CHAMBER 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 **LANGEFNI**, OR AT **BEAUMARIS CASTLE**.

ORIEL YNYS MON ON THE B5111,
RHOSMEIRCH, LANGEFNI 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!