

# Bryn Celli Ddu

A Calendar Made of Stone





**Bryn Celli Ddu** is a NEOLITHIC BURIAL CHAMBER WITH SOLAR ALIGNMENT. PARK AT THE CAR PARK, CROSS THE ROAD AND ACCESS THE NEW PATHWAY AT THE RAMP. FOLLOW THE PATH ALONGSIDE THE RIVER AND BETWEEN THE HEDGES TO THE SITE. IT'S A TEN MINUTE WALK ON GOOD, FLAT GROUND.



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# Bryn Celli Ddu

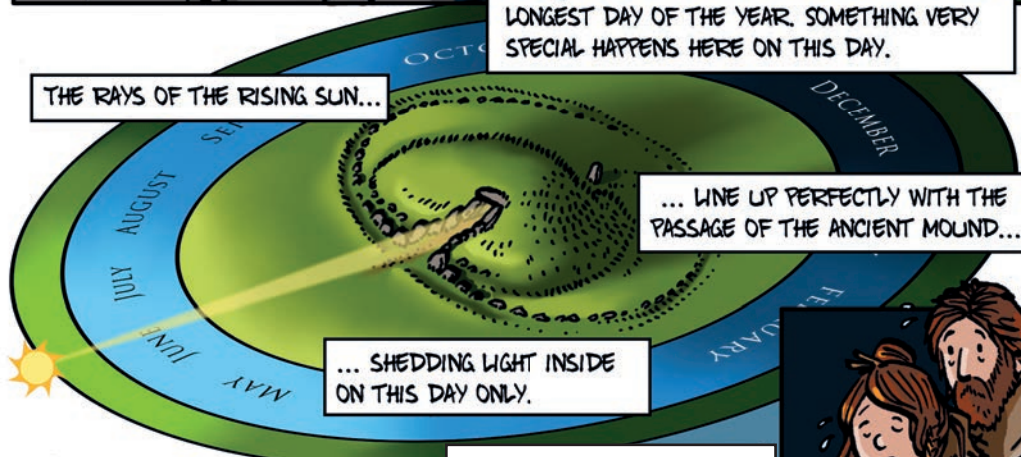
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SUNRISE...



IT'S JUNE 21 - THE "SUMMER SOLSTICE" - THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR. SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL HAPPENS HERE ON THIS DAY.

THE RAYS OF THE RISING SUN...



... LINE UP PERFECTLY WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE ANCIENT MOUND...

... SHEDDING LIGHT INSIDE ON THIS DAY ONLY.



THE MOUND AT BRYN CELLI DDU WAS EXCAVATED FIRST BY FREDERICK LUKIS IN 1865, AND THEN IN MUCH GREATER DETAIL BY WILFRID HEMP IN 1925.

THE MOUND WAS BUILT AROUND 5000 YEARS AGO IN A PERIOD ARCHAEOLOGISTS CALL THE "NEOLITHIC"\*

THE MOUND WAS WHERE PEOPLE IN THE NEOLITHIC BURIED THEIR DEAD.



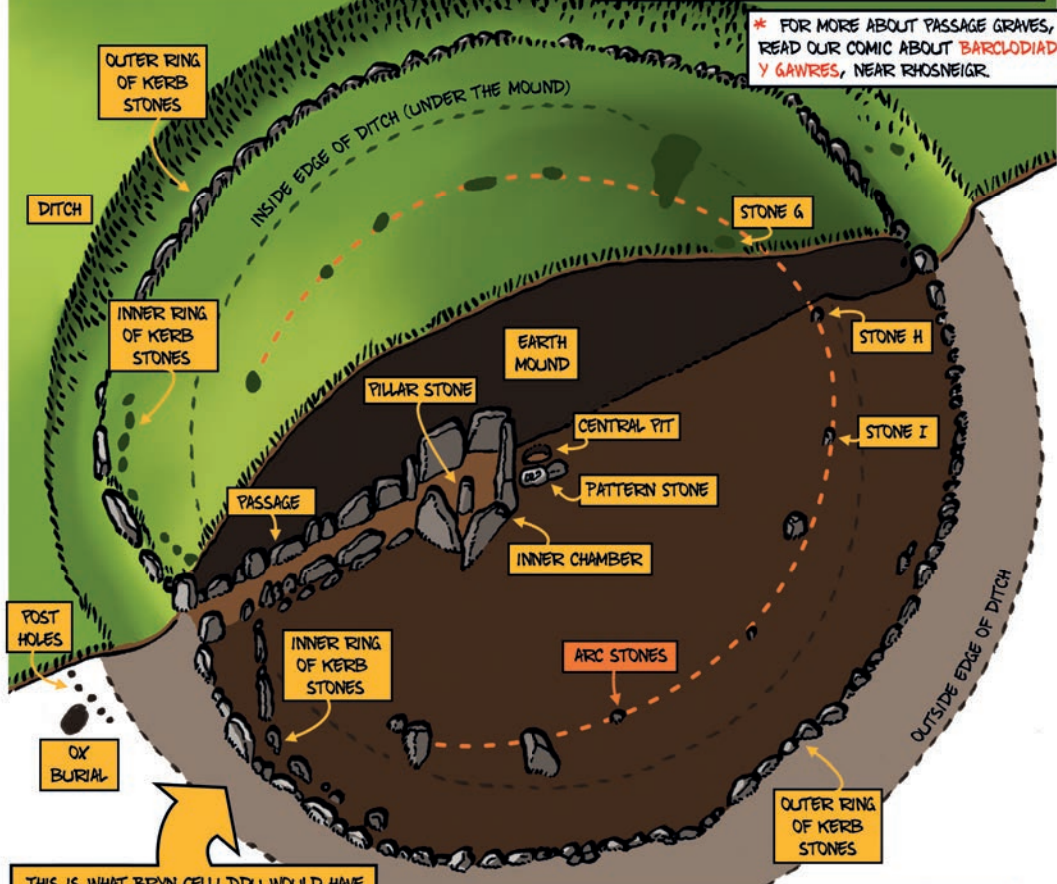
BUT WHY DID OUR ANCESTORS BUILD THE MOUND SO THAT THE SUN'S LIGHT SHONE INSIDE THE BURIAL MOUND ON THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR?

\* SEE THE TIMELINE ON THE FRONT COVER.

THE EXCAVATIONS REVEALED CLUES THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE MOUND.

BRYN CELW DDU IS A "PASSAGE TOMB"\*- YOU REACH THE **INNER CHAMBER** BY GOING DOWN A LONG, LOW **PASSAGE**.

\* FOR MORE ABOUT PASSAGE GRAVES, READ OUR COMIC ABOUT **BARCLODIAD Y GAWRES**, NEAR RHOSNEIGR.



THIS IS WHAT BRYN CELW DDU WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE IN THE NEOLITHIC. THE MOUND YOU SEE TODAY ISN'T NEARLY AS BIG AS IT WOULD HAVE ORIGINALLY BEEN. WE'VE CUT AWAY PART OF THE MOUND SO YOU CAN SEE INSIDE. WE'VE ALSO TAKEN AWAY THE ROOF STONES OVER THE PASSAGE AND INNER CHAMBER SO YOU CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY.

IT HAS SOME FEATURES THAT MAKE IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER BURIAL CHAMBERS ON ANGLESEY.

YOU CAN VISIT SOME OF THE OTHER PASSAGE GRAVES ON ANGLESEY- CHECK OUT THE MAP ON THE BACK COVER!

THE **PATTERN STONE** HAD SPIRAL AND ZIG-ZAG DECORATIONS CARVED INTO BOTH SIDES. BUT WHY WAS IT BURIED? WHO WAS MEANT TO SEE THE CARVINGS?

THE STONE WILL BE DISPLAYED AT ST FAGANS NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM. A MODERN COPY HAS BEEN SET UP ON SITE, SO YOU CAN SEE THE DECORATION.





THE MOST IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE FEATURES IN THE MOUND CONTAIN AN IMPORTANT "ALIGNMENT" - THEY ARE MADE TO LINE UP WITH THE RISING SUN ON ONE SPECIAL DAY: THE SUMMER SOLSTICE.

ALL THE ARC STONES ARE LINED UP SO THAT THEY MIRROR EACH OTHER ACROSS THE CENTRAL PIT.

STONES 6 AND I LINE UP WITH THE ANGLED STONES AT THE BACK OF THE INNER CHAMBER.

STONE H IS LINED UP WITH THE RISING SUN ON JUNE 21.

STONE H IS ALSO LINED UP WITH BOTH SIDES OF THE PASSAGE.

RISING SUN SHINES IN THIS WAY ON JUNE 21.

(MISSING STONE?)

THE FIRST PERSON TO NOTICE THE ALIGNMENT WAS THE ASTRONOMER SIR NORMAN LOCKYER IN 1907...



BUT ARCHAEOLOGISTS AT THE TIME DIDN'T BELIEVE HIS THEORY!


THEN, IN THE 1980'S, THE ARCHAEOLOGIST FRANCES LYNCH NOTICED THAT LOCKYER'S THEORY LINED UP FEATURES THAT WERE MADE BEFORE THE MOUND ITSELF WAS BUILT - LIKE THE CENTRAL PIT.



AND THEN, IN 2005, DR. STEVE BURROW FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES PROVED THAT LOCKYER'S SOLSTICE ALIGNMENT DID, IN FACT, EXIST.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO PROVE THAT A THEORY IS A FACT IN ARCHAEOLOGY!


BUT WHY DID OUR NEOLITHIC ANCESTORS WANT THIS PASSAGE TOMB TO HAVE SUCH AN ALIGNMENT? WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THE SUMMER SOLSTICE THAT WAS SPECIAL TO THEM?



PERHAPS THIS SPECIAL DAY -  
THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR  
- WAS SHARED WITH THEIR ANCESTORS.

BY BUILDING THE PASSAGE SO  
THAT ONCE A YEAR...

... THE SUN MANAGED TO REACH  
INTO THE INNER CHAMBER...



PERHAPS THE PEOPLE WHO  
BUILT THE MOUND BELIEVED  
THEY WERE BRINGING A SPECIAL  
KIND OF "LIFE" TO THE DEAD.

WAS IT A WAY OF ASKING THEM  
TO HELP LOOK AFTER THE THINGS  
THAT WERE STILL IMPORTANT TO  
THE LIVING?

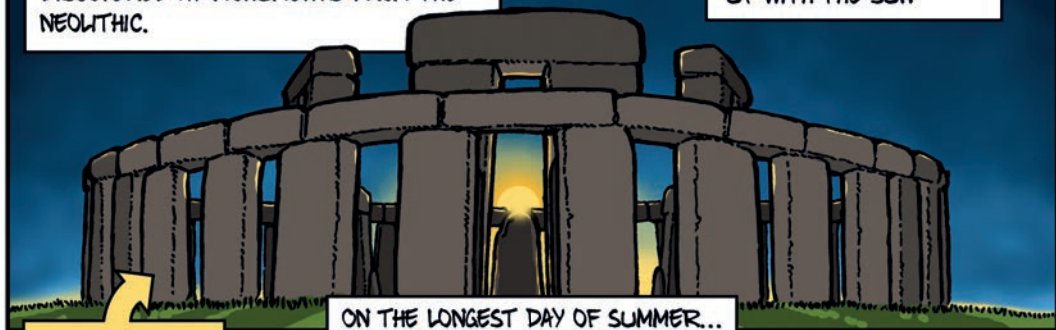
PERHAPS OTHER STONES  
MADE DIFFERENT SORTS OF  
CONNECTIONS TO THE ANCESTORS...

... LINKS THAT PEOPLE BELIEVED  
WOULD BRING FERTILITY TO  
THEIR CROPS AND ANIMALS.



THERE ARE OTHER SITES ACROSS BRITAIN WHERE SIMILAR ALIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED AT MONUMENTS FROM THE NEOLITHIC.

THEY ALSO HAVE STONES OR PASSAGES WHICH LINE UP WITH THE SUN -



ON THE LONGEST DAY OF SUMMER...

STONEHENGE IN ENGLAND, WHERE THE MASSIVE UPRIGHTS OF THE STONE CIRCLE FRAME THE RISING SUN BOTH ON THE LONGEST DAY OF SUMMER - AND THE SHORTEST DAY OF WINTER.



NEWGRANGE IN IRELAND, WHERE THE RAYS OF THE SUN ON THE SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR SHINES RIGHT INTO THE INNER CHAMBER OF THE PASSAGE TOMB.

... OR THE SHORTEST DAY OF WINTER.



MAYBE, HAVING A CALENDAR LIKE THE MOUND AT BRYN CELW DDU MEANT THAT NEOLITHIC OR BRONZE AGE PEOPLE COULD JOIN IN CELEBRATIONS AT THESE DISTANT SITES - BY KNOWING WHEN IT WAS TIME TO TRAVEL.



EVEN TODAY, KNOWING WHEN THINGS ARE HAPPENING IS IMPORTANT.



AND WE STILL NEED WAYS OF KEEPING TRACK OF SPECIAL DAYS IN THE YEAR!

AT BRYN CELLI DDU, PEOPLE STILL USE THE SUMMER SOLSTICE AS A CHANCE TO SHARE WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO LIVE IN THE TIME OF OUR NEOLITHIC ANCESTORS.

TO SEE THE TOOLS THEY WOULD HAVE MADE...

ANIMAL FUR AND HIDE

EVEN TASTE THE FOOD THEY WOULD HAVE EATEN!

MAKING A FLINT AXE

FRUITS, NUTS AND GRAINS

FEATHERS AND TEETH

NEOLITHIC BREAD!

TRY OUT THE CLOTHES THEY MIGHT HAVE WORN...

ARCHAEOLOGISTS CALL THIS "EXPERIMENTAL" ARCHAEOLOGY, AND IT'S AN IMPORTANT WAY OF FIGURING OUT HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE LIVED IN THE DISTANT PAST.

FOR US, IT'S A CHANCE TO GET A GLIMPSE OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN WALES 5000 YEARS AGO!

THE END



# The Neolithic Year

a boardgame for two players

BUT WATCH OUT! EACH CIRCLE CAN SLOW DOWN OR SPEED UP YOUR JOURNEY!

FOLLOW THE PATH THROUGH THE NEOLITHIC YEAR. ONE PLAYER IS **THE HUNTERS**, THE OTHER IS **THE FARMERS**. USE STONES OR PEBBLES AS YOUR PLAYING PIECES; ROLL A DIE OR FLIP A COIN TO TAKE TURNS MOVING. START AT BRYN CELLI DDU AT THE SUMMER SOLSTICE; THE FIRST PLAYER TO GET BACK THERE IS THE WINNER!





# Build your own Passage Grave!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! WHY NOT BUILD A PASSAGE GRAVE NEXT TIME YOU'RE DOWN BY THE SEA (THERE ARE LOTS OF NICE BEACHES ON ANGLESEY!)

- 1 START BY DRAWING A CIRCLE IN THE SAND. THEN GATHER ENOUGH STONES TO BUILD THE INNER CHAMBER AND PASSAGE.



- 2 BUILD THE WALLS OF THE INNER CHAMBER AND PASSAGE.



MAKE THE PASSAGE AND THE CHAMBER ALIGN WITH SOMETHING ON THE HORIZON. MAYBE THE POSITION OF THE SUN WHEN YOU'RE BUILDING THE PASSAGE GRAVE!

- 3 CAREFULLY BUILD A ROOF OF FLAT STONES OVER THE CHAMBER AND PASSAGE WALLS.



- 4 NOW BUILD A RING OF KERB STONES AROUND THE CIRCLE YOU FIRST DREW IN THE SAND.



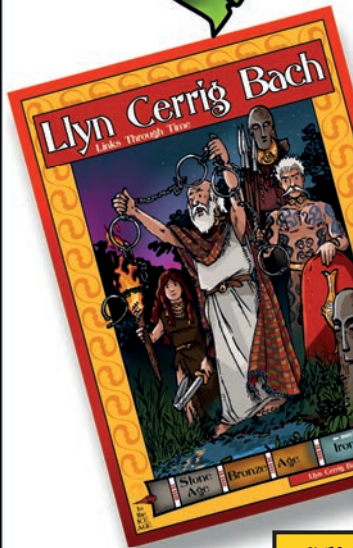
- 5 FINALLY, BUILD A MOUND OF SAND OVER THE CHAMBER AND PASSAGE, RIGHT UP TO THE EDGE OF THE KERB STONES. YOUR PASSAGE GRAVE IS COMPLETE!



WILL YOUR PASSAGE GRAVE LAST 5,000 YEARS LIKE BRYN CELLI DDU?



# FOLLOW the STORY!



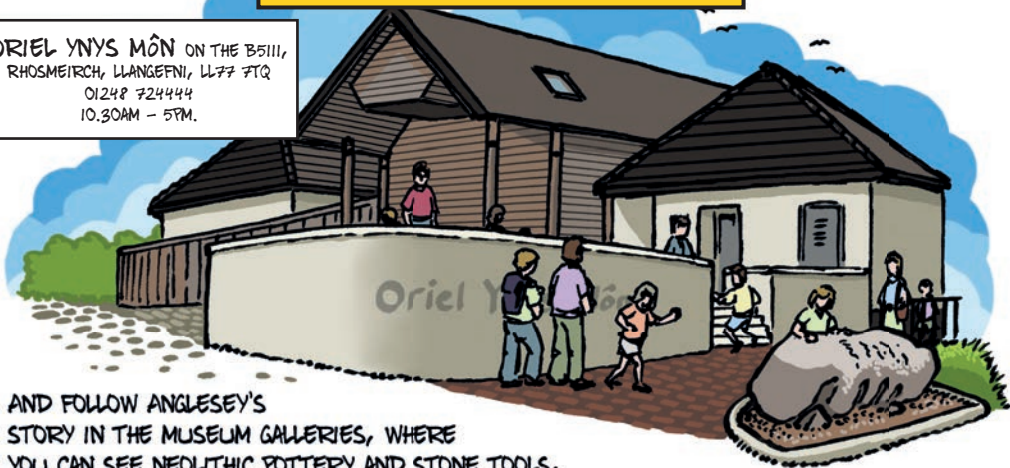
THERE ARE MORE  
PREHISTORIC SITES TO  
DISCOVER ON ANGLESEY!

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

AND EXPLORE THE IRON AGE  
FIND SITE AT **LLYN CERRIG  
BACH**, WHERE THEY FOUND  
SWORDS AND SLAVE CHAINS!

CHECK OUT THE CADW WEBSITE FOR MORE COMICS  
LIKE THIS [WWW.CADW.GOV.WALES](http://WWW.CADW.GOV.WALES)

**ORIEL YNYS MÔN** ON THE B5111,  
RHOSMEIRCH, LLANGFNI, LL77 7TQ  
01248 724444  
10.30AM - 5PM.



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**!



Gwreiddiau  
Origins

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 **LLYNNON MILL**  
TO LOOK AROUND A LIFE-SIZE IRON AGE ROUNDHOUSE!

# Map of the island of Anglesey

SHOWING THE MAIN PREHISTORIC SITES

- plus
- Towns
  - Museums, etc
  - Main Roads

TWO MILES

SEA ROUTES  
NORTH TO  
ORKNEY

SEA ROUTES  
SOUTH AND WEST  
TOWARDS  
IRELAND

LAND ROUTES  
SOUTH AND EAST  
TOWARDS THE REST OF  
WALES  
ALSO ENGLAND  
AND EUROPE

North  
Wales

Bryn Celli ddu

LUGWY BURIAL CHAMBER

Moelfre

DIN LUGWY HUT GROUP

Benllech

BS109

Beaumaris

A5025

Menai Bridge

Plas Newydd

A4080

CHER LEB SETTLEMENT

CASTELL BRYN GWYN

BODWYR BURIAL CHAMBER

DIN DRYFOL BURIAL CHAMBER

BS104

BS110

PRESADDFED BURIAL CHAMBER

Lyynn Mill

BS112

TREMEHELYDD STANDING STONE

A5025

A5

A55

Tŷ NEWYDD BURIAL CHAMBER

BS104

TREFFIGNATH BURIAL CHAMBER

Holyhead

Tŷ MAWR STANDING STONE

CAER Y TWIR

HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN HUT GROUP

PENRHOS FEILW STANDING STONES

LYN CERRIG BACH FIND SITE

Rhosneigr

BARCLODDIAD Y GWAIRES BURIAL CHAMBER

Aberffraw