

**Message from TDEG Member, Sue Barber –**

Dear all (please could this be sent out to members)

I attended this brilliant talk on Zoom last evening., wearing my British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) "hat".

Norfolk and Norwich Association of  
British Federation of Women Graduates



Our next speaker is our own Cynthia Burek. As well serving as a Director of BFWG, she is Professor of Geoconservation at the University of Chester and serves on the steering group of the Geodiversity Action Plan (UKGAP).

Her topic is: **Geoconservation and Geoparks** (7:00 pm on Monday 17 January 2022)

Geoconservation is the Cinderella conservation science. However, the recognition of Global Geoparks by UNESCO in December 2015 has the potential to change that. Cynthia is a Trustee of the GeoMon Anglesey Geopark and will illustrate her talk with reference to GeoMon and show the importance of that recognition. If you want to know where the other Geoparks are, come and listen to the talk. Perhaps start a bucket list!

The presentation was very informative and Cynthia is a real enthusiast. She pointed out a few facts which may seem obvious at first glance, but which are important. GEODIVERSITY UNDERPINS BIODIVERSITY, I feel was the most significant phrase. If certain areas are not protected, then the habitat for many species is at risk.

She stressed the difference between CONSERVATION ....the "keep from harm and protect for the future, indefinitely " ideology, and PRESERVATION which means "keeping in the present state, and is time limited". Again, obvious when put like this, but fundamental to what we all strive for. (My own personal feeling throughout this part of the talk was that Peak Park do tend to Preserve rather than Conserve.)

The First two UNESCO GeoParks in the UK were the Dorset Jurassic coast, and the Northern Ireland Giant's Causeway. Interestingly the Giant's Causeway means that there is an international boundary which may be swam across!

Cynthia is a Trustee of the GeoMôn UNESCO Global Geopark, in Anglesey, which is important geologically as the junction of tectonic plates. (More info here - <https://www.geomon.co.uk/> )

These designations may be lost, if sites are damaged, in the same way as the UNESCO City of Culture status may be granted and lost. Her final summing up was a simple statement/phrase: Holistic Interdependence of Nature.

I hope this is of interest to members

Kind regards

Sue

Further information available here - <https://unesco.org.uk/geoparks/>