

## **Brecon u3a**

*Margot Hollingdale*

Last Thursday, Joe Botting revealed the remarkable fossil deposits at Castle Bank which he and his wife, Lucy Muir, discovered during Lockdown. Both are experienced Palaeontologists studying the sequence of ancient life forms which confirm evolution as found in rock formations. From the beginning of our solar system the lifeless Pre-Cambrian period existed until about 500 million years ago when single cell structures started to develop under water, then moving into the Cambrian and Ordovician ages when plants and creatures emerged onto land - it is possible to find and catalogue fossils of 400-million-year-old vertebrates and hard-shelled animals. The link that has been missing is soft bodied creatures, and that is what Joe and Lucy have identified in a small deposit of Ordovician mudstone in Mid Wales. Most finds are only 2 millimetres long, and because Joe and Lucy are only Honorary Academics, they turned to crowdfunding to purchase microscopes capable of magnifying 2 microns - the width of optics nerves and gut contents - so as to record and share their amazing discovery!

Tomorrow, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June, Jonathan Morgan will talk about entrepreneurs of Welsh origin – Rags to Riches. In the afternoon, “Gardening” will look at New Horizons. There will be a discussion about the Philosophy of Work (notes available on our website) and “Play reading” will enjoy a double session, downstairs, 1.15 to 3.15pm.