**Ymarfer 17**

A professor has made a "wonderful" discovery that claims Stonehenge stood for 400 years in the Preseli Hills in west Wales before being moved to Salisbury Plain.

Professor Mike Parker Pearson and his team say they have evidence that the ancient monument's famous bluestones had a previous life as a stone circle at Waun Mawn in the Preseli Hills, Pembrokeshire.

They claim they stood there for four centuries before being dragged 140 miles – by hand - to the famous Wiltshire site, where they were resurrected.

Stonehenge, believed to be a tribute to the dead, is actually a second-hand monument, brought by neolithic people migrating east into England from Wales.

Mike said he had long held the theory that the smaller bluestones, which surrounded Stonehenge in a wide circle during its earliest phase, had started life as a monument in Wales. However, finding the site of a stone circle which no longer exists, 5,000 years after it was moved, is no simple task.

The research started in 2010, with excavations beginning in 2012, but as the years went by they experienced many set-backs involving bronze and iron age circles which weren't what they were looking for.

A few years later it was a despondent group, led by Dave Shaw, who decided to excavate Waun Mawn, an “unpromising” marshy site described as “small and unremarkable”, which had turned up nothing in the geophysics surveys.

“It was the last throw of the dice, we were in last chance saloon,” Mike said.