

THE BRITISH MUSEUM COME TO VISIT STONEHENGE

July 12, 2014 Susan Greaney Day of Archaeology 2014, Museum Archaeology British Museum, exhibition, Museums, Salisbury Museum, Stonehenge, Tintagel Castle

Yesterday started a little later than usual as I returned at 11.30pm the previous night from a preview of the new archaeology gallery at Salisbury Museum. The new galleries are absolutely stunning – it was a privilege to be among the first to see them and to hear speeches from the HLF representative, the chairman and the director. Adrian, Jane, Stef and their colleagues have made a super-human effort to get the galleries finished and looking stunning.



The new Wessex galleries at Salisbury Museum

As many of you know, I've been working since 2009 on the new Stonehenge visitor centre project. The new galleries at Salisbury are part of a museums partnership between that museum, Wiltshire Museum and Stonehenge (English Heritage) – all three venues have been working together to produce new galleries, telling different parts of the same story. And now all three are open, which is fantastic news. If you haven't been to see any of these new displays – go, and go to all three!



The Amesbury Archer

On to yesterday then. In the morning I had an hour or so of working at home, catching up with e-mails and sorting out payment for one of my suppliers who has been making replica objects for our Neolithic houses at Stonehenge. A surprising amount of my time is taken up with such paperwork. I'm also reviewing the interviews that I took part in yesterday – we interviewed three exhibition design companies for a desperately needed new interpretation project at Tintagel Castle. That's my project for the next year or so – a new exhibition and lots of new interpretation for the castle and island. Of the three companies two were very good, so I created a positives and negatives list for each, coming to my own conclusion about which one to appoint.



Arthur's Seat, Tintagel (I do get to work at some lovely places!)

At 9.30am I left to drive to Stonehenge, to meet a party of 39 staff from the British Museum – curators, keepers and exhibitions staff. They have organised a team trip to Stonehenge, and I met them, showed them around the exhibition and Neolithic houses, and then left them to walk or take the land train down to Stonehenge.



Here is Rosie Weetch, project curator for the forthcoming Celts exhibition at the British Museum, trying our interactive sarsen!

Whilst they were doing that I went to work for an hour or so in the Stonehenge offices, catching up with a few colleagues, a few more e-mails and making a decision with my colleague Rob on the Tintagel designer – I'm really pleased with the company we've chosen so it should be an exciting few months ahead!

After lunch I head back to the visitor centre to give the British Museum staff a short background talk on the project. It was a real pleasure to meet colleagues from the museum, with similar visitor profile and issues with huge numbers, and show off the work we have done at Stonehenge. We have some interesting questions/ discussions at the end of the day, and had some wonderfully positive feedback – great to receive from such eminent colleagues! Here are some of their tweets from the visit:



Helen Copping
@crazymuseumlady

Fabulous day at [#stonehenge](#) The new visitor centre and changes to the site are wonderful, they've made...

[instagram.com/p/qUWUieqx9G/](https://www.instagram.com/p/qUWUieqx9G/)

2 4:45 PM - Jul 11, 2014 · South West, England

[See Helen Copping's other Tweets](#)



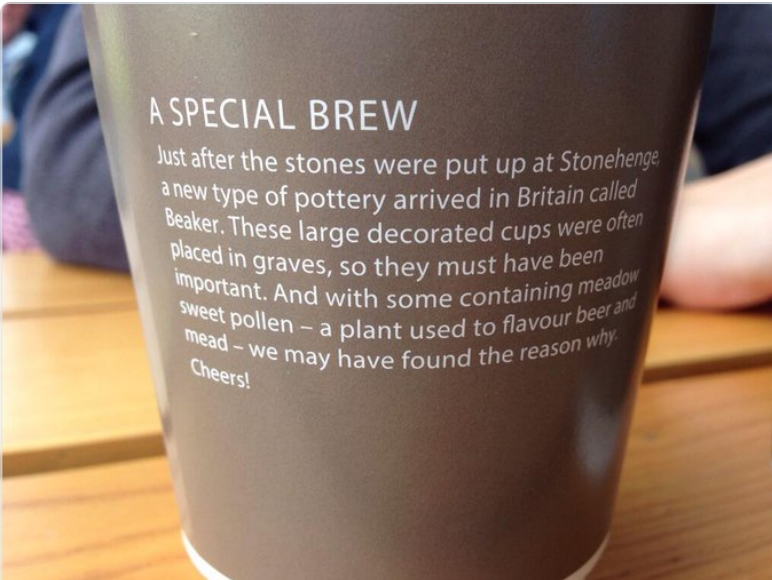
Amy

@AmyElizabee

Resting after a fab day out in Wiltshire. Thanks [@NWilkinBM](#) and [@EH_Stonehenge](#) for an amazing visit!

2 7:14 PM - Jul 11, 2014

[See Amy's other Tweets](#)



Dr Claire

@patterns4living

Happy Day of Archaeology! Spending my day on our departmental outing to [#Stonehenge](#). [#dayofarch](#) [#beakers](#)

3 10:18 AM - Jul 11, 2014

[See Dr Claire's other Tweets](#)

That's the end of the day for me – I clear up the education room and head back to Bristol for some post-work Friday beers.

Thanks DoA crew – as ever this year's posts have been inspiring and educating!