

Henge tours with David Rowan

in other's words ...

A number of people have kindly written a few words about their experiences on the Henge tours: the full tours of Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight, the evening tour of Stonehenge by Moonlight and the Sacred Landscape Ley Line walk. Here's how they found things (names are confidential) ...

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

Hello dear David,

I'm back in Canada after a wonderful trip to England and Holland! I've been raving about your exceptional full day tour of "Stonehenge by sunset and starlight" and highly recommending it to everyone! :)

I loved every moment of it and am truly grateful that not only was I guided to discover your tour "by chance", but the Weather Spirits gifted us with such perfect weather for the special New Moon occasion! I couldn't have asked for more, in the company of such a knowledgeable and personable guide! :)

I enjoyed every part of the tour and loved that you progress slowly from the landscape and mysteries of Avebury up to Stonehenge as the grand finale! It was just so perfect and highly exceeded my expectations in every possible way! I cherish it all of course, including the ancient trees and stones we met along the way, the wonderful pubs and especially the starlit splendour within Stonehenge itself under a canopy of a billion brilliantly shining stars and planets, constellations... the Universe in all its glory, crowned by the huge monolithic circle of the shadowed stones surrounding the few of us like-minded souls that had the privilege of being there... Wow...!!!! I've told everyone that words can't express it - you have to experience it! :)

A big heart-felt thank you again for everything, even braving the entire day with an injured ankle! You're a wonderful being and it was a pleasure experiencing it all with you and my dear friends!

Many Blessings to you,
L, Canada

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

Going on a trip to Stonehenge was something I had wanted to do for some time. I had been planning to go on my own, when my friend emailed me David Rowan's itinerary.

David organized the day with such precision from start to finish, nothing was too much trouble for him, and he made sure everyone's needs were met.

His knowledge and enthusiasm for something he is so passionate about, was evident.

The whole day was filled from start to finish with so much information about astrology, Avebury, and Stonehenge. To be able to go into Stonehenge at sunset and starlight was something I will treasure for the rest of my life.

Then to top all this off with a fabulous meal in a beautiful restaurant

Thank you so much for organizing such an amazing day! 😊

With Love

H. xxx

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

(facebook post)

Had the most amazing experience yesterday thanks to [David Rowan](#) and his lovely wife, we had a very busy 14 hour tour of Stonehenge (ACTUALLY INSIDE THE STONES THEMSELVES FROM 6PM-7 AND 10PM-11) and the most fascinating things that lie around it ... Met some awesome people had my sister alongside me all day - IT WAS MAGIC, in it's highest form, a HUGE thank you ... S.

Stonehenge by Moonlight

'The evening tour was superb...much more than I had hoped it would be - from the entertaining talk in Avebury about the history and folklore surrounding the stones, to the enchanting and magical visit to Stonehenge within the circle itself.

The whole evening was completely enjoyable, David's talks are very educational but also highly entertaining, and I learnt new facts about the area that I hadn't come across before. Watching the sunset over Avebury was truly beautiful. The evening was exciting and unlike anything I had done before. The atmosphere whilst waiting to go within the circle in Stonehenge was electrifying, and the full moon shining down whilst inside is something I will never forget. Standing beside the huge stones, on a moonlit night will also be engraved in my memory. A fantastic evening and highly recommended!

Z, Wales.

Stonehenge by Moonlight

As a child in the sixties I'd grown up able to roam freely around the sacred site of Stonehenge with our car parked by the stones and no other soul in sight. But more recent visits had proved sterile and depressing, circling the fenced-off stones with huge hordes of tourists like dirty water going round a plug-hole. So the opportunity for a special access visit inside the site under a full moon was something to be seized.

The event was organised beautifully. We met first at Avebury and got to know David and the rest of our group in the pub. David gave a very interesting talk about the history of Avebury, and even though this was not my first experience here, I learned many new things. He also explained a great deal of Stonehenge's history, and what I especially enjoyed was the way he blended knowledge and learning with other theories, but never confusing them and presenting supposition as fact. This is all too common a fault with guides at sacred sites, but not one that David made. We then walked around the village talking about the stones and experiencing the energy of the place. David was both entertaining and informative, happy to answer questions and discuss ideas.

Later as darkness fell we drove to Stonehenge in convoy along a ley line. It was very strange arriving at the site in darkness with nobody else about. The reflective strips on the security guards' jackets blazed out under the headlights of our group's cars and made the whole thing seem rather clandestine. Barriers were removed and we entered the car park. After a quick briefing we were led under the tunnel and up towards the looming stones.

I had been very excited about the prospect of the full moon washing the stones with lunar glory. But it was a cold and cloudy night, the rain only just managing to hold off. The heavy cloud meant that the sky was a weird orange-purple colour, presumably reflected from Salisbury. The road was crowded close by too, and regular car headlights swept past noisily. My first feeling was of disappointment. This was not silent nor silver, and didn't feel particularly magical at all.

However ... once inside the stones everything changed. The atmosphere thickened. I felt enfolded in stone. It's impossible to get this sensation as an ordinary tourist circling in daylight. You need to actually be inside the temple, feeling it from the core. The stones are enormous and it's not until you lean your

small human frame against their massive permanence that you fully appreciate this. David had urged us to go barefoot inside the circle and despite the very chilly wind I took his advice. I'm so glad I did. As he'd said, the ground was warm despite the cold weather. And actually connecting skin to earth with the sacred energy was something not to be missed.

I had a quite profound experience that night inside the darkness of the henge. I'd hoped to perform some kind of healing for a dear friend suffering a terminal illness. Where better than the inner sanctum of Stonehenge? Instead I received knowledge and understanding in the form of a clear insight. I was deeply moved by this and will carry the certainty with me forever. My friend has since died and what I experienced that night at Stonehenge has helped me cope with the grief.

I don't know how long we were inside the henge because time felt different there, but after a while David gathered us together to look in restricted torchlight at an astrological chart. Then it was time to leave. The security guard appeared and counted us back out, returning us to our cars. It was quite bizarre re-entering the 21st century.

We reconvened in a nearby pub to finish off the wonderful evening. Everyone was buzzing and we all needed to regroup ourselves. David was as informative and entertaining as ever – a really likeable man and so very different to what I'd imagined. Because of the nature of his studies and website I'd imagined someone rather lofty and ethereal. But here was a man of the earth, well-grounded in knowledge and spirit, and fascinating. He ensured the group gained what they wanted and needed from the visit and I would thoroughly recommend the experience. It's something everyone should do at least once in their lifetime, and I shall certainly be repeating it.

Kit Berry, author

(name given with permission)

Stonehenge at Sunset, by Moonlight and Starlight

David Rowan's tours are an exceptional blend of knowledge, insight and humour. His mastery of setting the scene allows you to go back with him through the ages and experience a greater empathy and understanding of what went before. He can turn the rainiest of days into a journey of fascination. I would strongly recommend you book him.

R.

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

Well what a day! I could almost say I landed on a different planet, being from London. The scenery was so peaceful and tranquil and the air even felt different compared to London. Viewing the animals and the mowed grassy plains was so beautiful and it made me remember how much I loved being close to nature. The tour is very thorough. We did a bit of walking which made me out of breath (I'm a bit unfit!) and we visited different kinds of stones and sites which left a lot to the imagination as to why there were there in the first place.

We visited Stonehenge twice. Once in the day and once at night. We actually got to be right next to the stones in the circle at Stonehenge, which is really something. My favourite was the night time visit as we had stars in the clear skies shining down on us and the whole view looked simply unreal and magical.

The food in the evening was very tasty and our tour hosts were very helpful and friendly throughout.

best wishes,

A, London.

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Dave, thanks for the opportunity, illuminating as it was, in more ways than one.

I particularly enjoyed the progression of events, from the pub to that rather nice space outside the barn, to the perimeter of the stone circle in immaculate summer weather to the Stones. It all flowed very well, and helped to put everything in a greater perspective, rather than seeing each in abstract isolation. Painted a nice picture in my memory.

I would very much like to have finished off the evening in the pub for a debrief, but there it is.

Re the children, yes they were well behaved, and usually are in these situations. 'A' was thoroughly into the whole thing, she loves learning and discovering. She is also really interested in how the past has shaped our present, and anything to do with how life was in times gone by is of particular interest. You succeeded in imparting your knowledge and insights in a way that captured her imagination completely.

So thanks again, and I would like to do it again another time.

D, Surrey

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

(facebook post)

An amazing experience David, thank you for making this happen. I would love to join you on another tour; one fix of Stonehenge on a starry starry night is never going to be enough. I feel as though I could become an addict!

C, Marlborough

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

My earliest memory of Stonehenge was from seeing pictures of it in my mums old ancient landscape books as a child, i remember looking at the pictures & thinking 'wow! what a lovely place'. The second time was very different, i remember watching the wicker man .. I remember having a conversation with someone about Stonehenge & that film the wicker man & thought no way would i want to go to a place where people dress up in strange costume & worship stones earth & perform demonic rituals! however my conclusions then were fuelled by dogma & stories I'd heard from people around me at the time & feel, a distance from my own spiritual awareness.

The third time, Stonehenge actually came to me...Stonehenge just kept popping up in a friendly way on the TV, in books i was reading in pictures the words unlock doors within & healing centre kept coming to my mind.. & for me that was a sign from God so i put it in prayer & thought if i am supposed to go there i will.

Soon after that the opportunity presented itself for me to go. I remember reading the itinerary for the day & thinking 'inside the circle at sunset & twilight' it was definitely a conformation for me to go.

As I walked towards the circle for the first time i remember feeling overwhelmed with how massive the stones were & how mystical it looked. The closer I got to the stones & stumbled around the more overwhelmed I became as frightening images & a strange energy surrounded me, However, this feeling eventually gave way to peace as I settled down to meditate ... I prayed for the love within Stonehenge to connect with the love within me & flow throughout... soon enough, I felt completely relaxed & looked out onto the the most beautiful sun setting right before my eyes.

The second trip inside the circle at twilight was totally different; I felt totally connected straight away under the starry night sky, no torches no cameras ... I could just see the shadowy tops of the stones in the darkness & for me it was beautiful; the stars looked so close like you could reach up & touch them.

I remember thinking wow this really is a moment to savour. I felt blessed as I listened to a talk about the planets & was given time for the group to meditate. I

prayed for the earth all living creatures & world peace, the word 'oneness' kept coming to my mind. Since the trip my appreciation for nature is much more connected & I feel a beautiful serene energy around me; an energy of peace, unity & oneness.

K, London

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Stonehenge by the full moon was unbelievable! This was not the first time that I had been in to the stones after hours but it was definitely the most dramatic.

After an informative chat from Dave we started the evening walking around Avebury. As the sun set a partially eclipsed full moon rose in a perfectly clear sky. We then made our way to Stonehenge and I watched the moon gradually become whole again, which seemed like a small miracle unfolding before my eyes. But this was overshadowed by Stonehenge bathed in the full moon light. Dave was absolutely right when he said that 'Avebury is a Moon temple best seen in the sun and Stonehenge is a Sun temple best seen by the moon'.

I was able to gain even more from my time in the stones by Dave's information on the astrology of the night and how best to work with it. Not sure how much more effective my meditation was but then there are never any guarantees. This is one not to be missed.

C, Marlborough

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

Hi David,

Just a quick note to say many thanks for such inside information inaccessible to others, who were not with us on our day with you on the 'Stonehenge' tour. Your knowledge and detailed information made the tour simply brilliant .. you were again right in your forecast for what turned out to be a stunning sunny day and a clear night in the Henge itself, the 10pm visit was breathtaking, I have never seen the sky lit up with so many stars and visible planets, it was brilliant, a memory that will stay forever but re visited again next year - hopefully for another great day! An excellent day, brilliant company on the party itself and access into what can only be described as the very 'Ma tones, many thanks again,

S and J (Wales/Marlborough)

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Dear David

Many many thanks for a really wonderful evening at Henge. You were so generous, sharing your knowledge, passion and humour, what a treat to be shown the stones by you. I have never visited the site before and it was a very inspiring evening for me on many levels.

Kind regards

C, Bath

Sacred Landscape Tour

When I was first invited to a Leyline Day I didn't know what to expect ... Well it was one of the most fun, informative days that I have had - it was well organised but not too structured and Dave's knowledge was amazing on every location that we visited - the man is a walking encyclopaedia! I think the most memorable part of the day was when we were sat on top of the hill at Alton Barnes overlooking the white horse on the hill. I have been on several Leyline Days in the past and have always taken my 2 children who thoroughly enjoyed it too.

J. D. Hampshire

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Hi David

Stonehenge was an awesome experience. I still cannot believe I was in such a awesome place on such a wonderful occasion. It will always remain with me the incredible brightness of the Moon and the whole atmosphere of sharing the experience with a group of like minded people. The evening was truly wonderful.

I don't know if it's just a coincidence or not, but since I came with you inside Stonehenge my knee has not been hurting at all, the pain seems to have disappeared.

Love
S London

Sacred Landscape Tour

Not only does David take the time to arrange the Sacred Landscape Tour free of charge, his dedication and commitment to making the day special by giving his time, energy and enthusiasm to others consistently over many years, the scenery, pleasant company and sheer enjoyment of the day, make it an event not to be missed.

Lots of love,
J. Hampshire. xx

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

(facebook post)

Excellent photos. Thanks to you and Reena for providing a both enjoyable, informative and interesting day. Will remember for a long time.

A, Surrey

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Hi David

Just a quick note to say thanks for Stonehenge by Moonlight on Wednesday. I expected a wonderful spooky deep and dark experience and was surprised and delighted to find myself in the middle of a city of li .

Best Wishes

S T

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

Yes - it all went to plan and was magickal amongst the stones by sunset and by starlight. Thank you David x

B, London

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Dear David

Just a note to say thank you for the truly magical night you laid on for us last night. It was such an experience I am still speechless!!! Please put me down for next year along with about 20 others that I know would want to join me!!

I am not sure if you are interested in feedback - being in a service industry I thrive on it! - but thought you might like some for future reference:

Your talk - absolutely fantastic. You are truly passionate about what you do and are so interesting ... I could have listened to you for hours! Just brilliant.

Stonehenge....amazing. You really did a fantastic job there. The chart was a fantastic treat and I can not fault the visit there.

I really am so grateful to have had this opportunity and can't thank you enough. In the words of Arnie....."I will be back!".

Take care and chat soon

xxxx

S, Bradford on Avon.

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Hi Dave,

Thanks again for the Stonehenge tour last week, the memories are still fresh and amazing and we have both experienced some positive effects from our time in the circle.

E and C, Bournemouth

P.S. the pictures from Stonehenge are wicked!

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

Thank you David, we had a amazing time yesterday.

Speak soon

Love

K, London x

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Hello David, nice to hear from you. I was going to write to you to thank you for your excellent Stonehenge tour the other night, I thoroughly enjoyed it. To imbibe the atmosphere of the place was an unmissable experience.

S,
Derby

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Dear David,

Hello! I just wanted to thank you so much again for an amazing evening inside Stonehenge yesterday. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and your talks were fascinating. It definitely makes me want to learn more.

My friend 'M' also had a wonderful time.

Thanks again.

C. M. Newbury

Stonehenge by Moonlight

Dear Dave

Thank you for a lovely evening. WE loved it. 'J' was p impressed with the astrology ! 'C' was in a terrible teenager strop and as soon as sh ent into the stones, her energy completely lifted!

Lots of love

J xxxxxxxxx, Wiltshire

Stonehenge at Sunset and by Starlight

Stonehenge ... a Day and a Night to Remember

My first visit to Stonehenge was as a young child some 40 years ago: I knew nothing of their history back then, only that they were some giant stones on the way to Cornwall and Devon and that they were great for of hide and seek. We would regularly stop off there and my parents would let my younger brother and I have a run about before the next bit of what was, in those days, a mammoth journey. Later, as I grew older and learned more about their supposed history, they intrigued me: the thought of going there again was exciting and enchanting but my parents no longer wanted to make the journey so I had to be content with reading about them and other mysterious stone circles dotted across the country. Many years later, on a visit to Cornwall with my new husband, we stopped off there just before dawn: we watched as the familiar silhouette became more distinct in the softly g light and I longed to touch the old stones once more, to quietly lean against them as I had as a child and imagine what secrets they held but, by then, the barriers had been erected, the place was a busy tourist destination and the chance was lost ... or so I thought.

In the autumn of 2008, a 'friend' request popped up on Facebook page from a person called David Rowan. I didn't have a clue who this individual was so I contacted the person showing as our 'mutual friend' to d out a bit more. She assured me that this chap David was a nice bloke and that he was a very interesting man: so I added him as a friend little kno ing then that he was to be the architect of helping me to fulfil a cherished dream.

As short while after this, I posted up a couple of pic s of Stonehenge and David sent me a message suggesting that I might want t have a look at some of his pictures. Now, being a very inquisitive (i.e. nosey) person, I ha already had a mooch about on David's page when I 'added' him but, this time, I had a really good rummage about and was amazed at what I saw –

Stonehenge, apparently no barriers and ... no people – how had he managed that?

Curiosity got the better of me so I clicked on a link to David's own website and read about the guided tours of the Sacred Landscape he conducted starting in Avebury and culminating in two private visits to Stone nge, one at sunset and then later under either starlight or moonlight dependi upon the moon phase.

One of the tours for 2009 was at the New Moon and was very close to my husband's birthday in July: we were planning to be in the South West for a week, so I contacted David via email and made a preliminary booking which needed to be completed on his website. Of course, me being a technophobe, I managed to mess it up and couldn't access the site again so I had to send the confirmation the old fashioned way. A short while later, whilst waxing lyrical about the trip and David to a friend, she said that she would like to go too, so I gave her David's contact details and she booked two places for herself and her daughter – she had to do it the old fashioned way too, so clearly ours is a friendship of like minds.....!

As the months rolled onwards the excitement became more and more tangible and we chatted about what we were hoping to experience on the trip and mused about what the old stones were used for when they were shiny and new: we were full of anticipation, life was good.

It was only a matter of time therefore, before we would be reminded not take things for granted. In the spring of 2009, whilst my husband and I were away for one of our short wandering trips in Dorset, my friend's daughter unexpectedly accepted a lift home from a friend on the back of his motorbike: they were involved in a collision, she was lucky to survive. Over the following couple of months, whilst my friend tried to stitch the fabric of their lives back together, David reached out to her, speaking at length on the phone and sending bits and pieces that would help speed the healing process, mentally and physically. For our part, the recession took a huge bite out of us, leaving us reeling and rudderless and, again, David offered help and support to us, to people he had never met. My friend and I were grateful for his kindness and we were desperately looking forward to our trip: we read many of the articles David posted and although we were looking forward to meeting him, we both wondered, more than once, how on earth we would be able to relate, intellectually, with this academic man – two scatty women, one of them blonde (me, so I can say it!) who couldn't even access his website correctly, and two relatively cynical non Pagans.

Suddenly, July was upon us and it became apparent that the sunny heat wave folk had been mentioning since spring was not a certainty at all. David contacted us with details of the itinerary for the forthcoming day and mentioned, in passing, that we might want to consider bringing waterproofs: we laughed and shrugged it off, it was going to be a glorious day, we were sure of it.

We arrived at Avebury, with our umbrellas, anoraks and a change of clothes (just in case ...) and my friend, her daughter and I wandered around the Henge shop whilst waiting for David to arrive: my husband, being an old hand at this

shopping lark, wisely stayed outside sporting his leather hat adorned with the feathers of a hapless pheasant. As I paid for a couple of trinkets David, accompanied by his (lovely) wife Reena came in and we introduced ourselves: by the time I'd got outside my husband and David were chatting, bonding perhaps over the shared appreciation of male headgear – both were wearing similar hats!

So, the day commenced. We stood in the car park as David explained what the day was to hold for us and then he began the tour of Avebury by showing us some superb illustrations of the landscape as it would have looked before the village was built. We walked around the perimeter, the rain had begun to come down but not too heavily and David was pointing things out to us as we went. It was my friend and her daughter's first time there but we love the place and go there very regularly (avoiding the main Pagan holidays.....) so I thought we knew the area reasonably well: I was mistaken. As we climbed up to the ridge, where the chalk is visible beneath the grass, David pointed out aspects of the landscape that had eluded us before.

The rest of the day was spent visiting Silbury Hill, West Kennet Long Barrow, the Sanctuary, Woodhenge, a walkway near Stonehenge and Old Sarum punctuated by a very nice lunch at a pub near a white horse: it's lovely. Whilst we were there, David presented my husband and I with copies of our birth charts which he had prepared earlier and he explained the planetary aspects which made us who we are: both were incredibly accurate, warts and all. David and my husband spent some considerable time discussing sacred geometry and the impact this has had on many aspects of history, religion and architecture: who would have thought that my burly bricklayer would have had so much in common with this intellectual astrologer – still waters run deep ...

Later in the afternoon we retired to another pub (is there a theme developing here ...) and David presented birth charts to my friend and her daughter – both were again very accurate. Those of us who had dry clothes to change into got tidied up (I balanced on a chair trying, unsuccessfully, to get the legs of my jeans under the hand dryer ...) and then David explained how the two evening visits to Stonehenge would progress. A tangible sense of excitement spread around our little group, the rain was still doing its 'thing' outside but David had done a weather chart which indicated that the rain would clear by about 6.30pm ... we set off for Stonehenge.

As we arrived, the rain stopped: no, seriously, it really did. The sky began to clear of clouds and the sun shone. We approached the Security Guards who,

after checking David's credentials, waved us through to the car park much to the surprise of people who were still drifting around by the fence: the place was shut, why were we being allowed in? One of the Guards checked that we understood the rules and regulations and that we all had torches for later: he walked us down to the tunnel entrance and ... we went in.

We almost bounced up the path to the stones, as we reached the area where the rope had been removed for us to pass through; we all just looked at each other and followed David and Reena inside.

It's hard to describe what it feels like once you're inside. You are conscious of the road and the cars a short distance away and of people nearby but in some way it's as if you are alone and that time has stood still for you. At first we all stood about taking photographs, perhaps anxious to capture images of the stones from this unique perspective before the Guard decided that we were frauds and returned to chuck us out.

One by one, we began to wander around, at first tentatively among the stones ... David and Reena wandered about with us, apparently as much in awe as any of us were. As the sun began to slide from the sky, we all tried to capture an iconic image of the stones with the sun between them and then we wandered again, almost rushing to experience it all before we had to leave, outside and inside, looking at the stones from all perspectives and seeing the old familiar landscape with fresh eyes. All too soon the Guard came over and we moved away from the stones, back through the tunnel to the cars: the modern world came noisily rushing back as the ancient stones faded silently from view in the dimming light.

David led us to a local pub, one frequented by soldiers and locals alike and we talked about whether the rain would continue to hold on, whether we would be able to see any stars and what we had experienced earlier. By now we were all very relaxed with each other and were talking about many different things: our hopes, dreams, worries, and aspirations – it was as if we'd all known each other for years. We were trying not to wish the time away but it was obvious that we were all eagerly anticipating getting back to the stones as quickly as possible. From my seat I could glimpse the sky and it seemed to be darkening, ominously: I sent up a silent plea that it would be dry and clear.....

After what seemed like an eternity, David motioned that it was time to leave the pub and head back to Stonehenge for our final visit of the day.

As we approached along the now almost deserted road, the atmosphere within our car became charged with anticipation and for the first time that day we four were almost silent. The Guard approached as we drew up to the barriers and he again waved us through to the empty car park. After checking that each one of us was in possession of a working torch he allowed us once again to go through the tunnel, this time emerging from the artificial light into a landscape barely discernible.

There was no rain, a slight chill was in the soft breeze that danced around us and the sky above us was almost clear. It was a deep, sapphire blue with shadowy clouds moving slowly across the canopy - behind them was a scattering of diamond like stars which flickered as the clouds floated past: I sent up a silent 'thank you'. The atmosphere within the stones this time was different. Reena had told us earlier that the stones take on a different perspective when it gets dark and that certainly seemed to be the case: they loomed above us, appearing to have grown substantially and, whilst it was not menacing or frightening (far from it), the stones seemed to preside over intense energies which were almost tangible. Although the road was nearby, once we were within the stones it was as though the outside world had ceased to exist for us. David suggested that we might like to look at an astrological chart he had prepared for the evening so, for the only time during this visit, our torches were switched on as we gathered round to look: once this was finished David recommended a period of meditation or silence. We all drifted off to find a place to immerse ourselves ...

Although I doubted very much that my husband would meditate, I knew that the experience had impacted on him, so I left him to his own thoughts and found myself a place between two stones, 'my' stones, out of the way of anyone else. My eyes were by now quite well adjusted to the enveloping darkness and I was vaguely aware that there were other people about, I could hear soft footsteps and caught the sound of breathing on the breeze but to all intents and purposes I felt alone: it was as if the place was charmed and I don't mean by the fictitious Halliwell sisters!

I wandered off to see what my better half was up to: he was standing motionless, eyes closed ... Seeing my friend and her daughter standing companionably together and Reena meditating I approached my husband again and thought he'd dropped off to sleep as he was so still: I was about to wander off to 'my' stones again when he opened his eyes, so we walked off together away from the main body of the stones and stood for some time looking back at them. Above us the stars twinkled and winked at us in the moonless sky and the stones stood silently, as they had done for thousands of years before and, Goddess willing, they would do for thousands of years to come. It was a nice feeling, to be able to share that sensation of timelessness with someone you

love.

For the final time that day, David called us together our private visit to Stonehenge began to draw to a close. He and Reena presented us with some mementos of the evening and we stood noiselessly for a few moments, each drawing our own consciousness back to mundane reality from the enduring landscape of the stones. As if by magic, (just like Mr Benn!) the Guard appeared to escort us back to the tunnel: the glaring artificial lights intruding upon our still sensitive eyes as we made our way reluctantly back to the cars. The day was at an end and, as we made our farewells, we all commented that it had been a day to remember and not just because of the sights we had seen. Those of us, who could, sat slumbering in the car with images of ancient scenes, sparkling stars and half seen figures dancing in our heads accompanied by rain, wind, new friendships and waltzing umbrellas.

Truly a unique, exhilarating and uplifting experience: seeing Stonehenge in that way, going beyond the fences and barriers, being able to be so close to the stones again is something that will stay with us all for a long time. If you get the opportunity to experience this for yourself, it is wholeheartedly recommended: by the way, if David suggests taking waterproofs ... please make sure you take his advice!

Bright Blessings

S., Surrey

July 2009

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