

BRITHDIR PROGRESS REPORT – 5 – APRIL 2002.

We started work once again on the circle in mid April 2002, with a good team of people and pretty reasonable weather, plus the very exciting and spectacular lineup of 5 planets in the western evening sky; Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn all in Gemini, and Jupiter in Cancer.

It was decided to start work on the stone in the south-west, and, having completely exposed it, we started levering away to bring it out of the ground. The first day went well, and we started the second day full of cheerfulness and confidence that all was going fine. However, at mid morning, as Jamie and I stood each side of the stone and the others gently levered one end upwards, there was a great noise and the stone split neatly in half!!! We were stunned. What had we done?!

So, we had a cup of tea, and sat and thought and talked for a while, and finally decided to move the two halves of stone apart, as they were still only half an inch away from each other, and see what the newly exposed area of stone looked like. Once we separated the pieces, we could see that they had actually had a major split long ago, since earth and roots had covered the whole area apart from a hand sized bit where they had still been joined – rather like the hinge on an oyster shell. It was quite a relief to see that we had not actually split her ourselves, just put in the last bit of energy to help a process finish itself off. It also seemed very relevant to all those planets in Gemini, the sign of the twins, that we should end up with two stones instead of one.

We put one of the stones in the ground where it had been in its hole, and then agreed to roll the other half over to the gap in the west, next to the Owl stone. This went very smoothly, and we had that stone in a new socket and upright by Wednesday afternoon, with the newly exposed side of it hardly different in appearance to the rest of it, and both stones seeming happy in their new life apart!

Some of our crew had to leave on Friday morning, so on Thursday we had an expedition out. First we went to Nevern churchyard, where there is an astonishing avenue of yew trees, gnarled and ancient, and one of them bleeds; very red, strong smelling blood, a real Goddess tree. There is also a lovely phallic standing stone, right outside the church door, at the end of the avenue of yews, a carved stone from around 1000CE, which is beautiful too. We then visited a cup marked stone, which was very amazing, and we found that it was possible to see our circle from there, with binoculars, around five miles away, which was great. And finally on to the Witches Cauldron, a magnificent place on the coastal path, where there is a huge hole in the cliff, and in the bottom a chalybeate [iron] spring meets the sea, which rushes in through tunnels and boils and swirls about in the “cauldron”. These trips seem to be an important part of our work, they recharge our batteries, re-inspire our awareness and strengthen our connection with the land[and sea, of course!].

On Friday, some folk left and some arrived, an interesting energy shift. We had chosen the middle of three stones left in the south-east to work on, and as we dug around it, it became clear that it was one of the biggest so far, at least as big as the owl stone over in the north-west. We finally had the edges clear and tried for a lift, to break the suction with the earth. And our trusty pole cracked! So, we used the other pole, the smaller one, and that cracked too, though we did break the seal and get an inch of movement. What to do?

By now it was nearly 3pm, as we had had a late start, and getting on in the day, so we agreed to leave the big one and uncover the one beside it. What a difference! It was about the size of the south stone, say 5x3x2 feet, and within half an hour it was clear of earth, out of the ground and ready to go on rollers, to move a little closer to the south stone. Every move has been based on what felt right, and looked right, in terms of each stone and also the whole circle, without any measurement to direct us, so it was interesting that when Jon did measure, he found all the stones to be 16 megalithic yards from the centre! One wonders if those early people were like us, and if we are all using a intuitive measure like the rest of nature, a natural sense of rightness that is truly eternal.

Saturday we had planned to have a big fire and party in the circle, so in the morning some of the team collected wood while we gently but quickly got her ready to roll. All hands on the rope and up the field she went to her new home, where she dropped in nicely, at the usual 50 degree angle. At this point we had to break for lunch and shelter, as the rain had finally arrived. However, everyone was so keen that after lunch we all went back to work, where we used a technique seen on Rob Roys video the night before, which entailed pulling the stone up with a rope that went over a pole, thus magnifying the force exerted by quite a lot. There were also two people pushing with wooden levers from the other side to the rope-pullers. It was truly astonishing to see this stone go up in about 20 minutes, as though it was so eager to be up and not miss the party! Some hasty packing with rocks, and secure tamping with earth and by 5pm it was up, the fastest stone ever!

We finished our session with a lovely party and singsong and a big fire. Another three stones in place, and it is really a circle now, with a lovely energy to it. Once again we have all learnt so much and felt so much, and shared with lots of good folk. We hope to work on the last two stones in September, with a new big pole, though it will be sad to finish – what will we do then?!