

Tekst 9

We get the Stonehenge we deserve

Robin McKie

1 **T**here was a familiar sound to the fanfare that greeted the announcement
that scientists had uncovered the true purpose of Stonehenge. It was
really a royal burial ground for an ancient dynasty, said researchers led
5 by Mike Parker Pearson from Sheffield University. Radiocarbon dating
of human remains found nearby suggested it was a cemetery right from the start
of its construction about 3,000 BC.

2 We got the “Revealed: the secret of Stonehenge” headlines which, some
readers might have noticed, had a close similarity to those in April, when
Geoffrey Wainwright said that the true purpose of the great Wiltshire stone
10 circle was as “the Lourdes of the Bronze Age”, where the sick and wounded
sought cures by appealing to the great bluestones, which had been dragged to
Wiltshire from Wales for their magical healing properties. Stonehenge was the
accident and emergency ward of the southwest, said the former English Heritage
archaeologist Wainwright. Look at the graves of sick and deformed people in the
15 area, he added. Nor was he impressed that his theory had a new rival. “A very
elegant theory,” he remarked about it, “lacking only the quality of a shred of
evidence.”

3 There are more theories about Stonehenge’s purpose than there are stones in
it. The trend goes right back to the idea that its monoliths were assembled on
20 Salisbury Plain by the magician Merlin, although why he bothered to do so
remains a mystery. Every age gets the Stonehenge it deserves, as the
archaeologist Jacquetta Hawkes once remarked. In medieval times it was built
by giants; in the 1960s, at the dawn of the computing era, researchers said you
could have used it as a giant calculator; and in more mystical New Age times it
25 was a spaceport for aliens.

4 For my money the suggestion that
it was really built as the base for
Britain’s first public inquiry is the
best. I would argue that the World
30 Heritage site is probably best viewed
today as a monument to government
prevarication and deceit.

5 Ministers now seem to have
abandoned any attempt to protect it,
35 and so cars and lorries will continue to
hurtle by and tourists will be stuffed into its cramped visitors centre. According
to the government, it’s low-rent tat – which is the Stonehenge Britain deserves.



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- 1p **40** Which of the following characterises the first sentence?
In this sentence the writer
- A** expresses enthusiasm.
 - B** shows concern.
 - C** uses a mocking tone.
- 1p **41** “a new rival” (line 15)
Which theory is meant?
The theory referred to in line(s)
- A** 3 (“a royal ... ancient dynasty”).
 - B** 5-6 (“a cemetery ... 3,000 BC”).
 - C** 10-12 (“the Lourdes ... healing properties”).
 - D** 12-13 (“the accident ... the southwest”).
- 1p **42** Which of the following is the writer’s intention in writing this article?
- A** To call for action to protect Stonehenge from the damaging influx of too many visitors.
 - B** To criticise the authorities for their policy with regard to Stonehenge.
 - C** To discuss why the purpose of Stonehenge is still obscure.
 - D** To make clear that Stonehenge has lost its value as a historic monument.