

Very Rev'd James Atwell – Dean of Winchester Cathedral, School Governor, Member of the Cathedrals' Fabric Commission and Launch Guest

Wednesday 13th November 2013 2.30am, Winchester Cathedral Close.

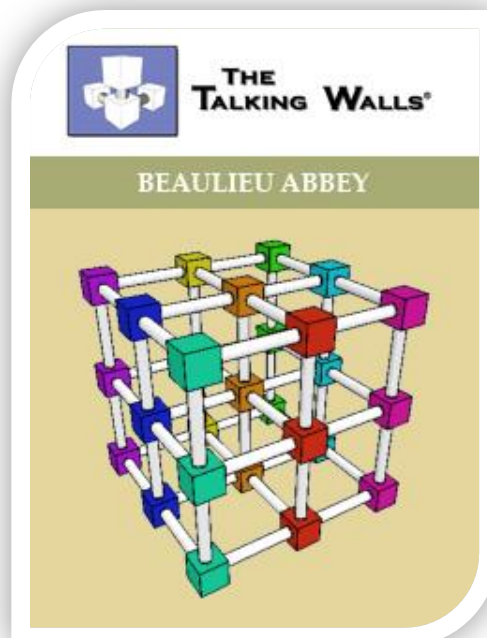
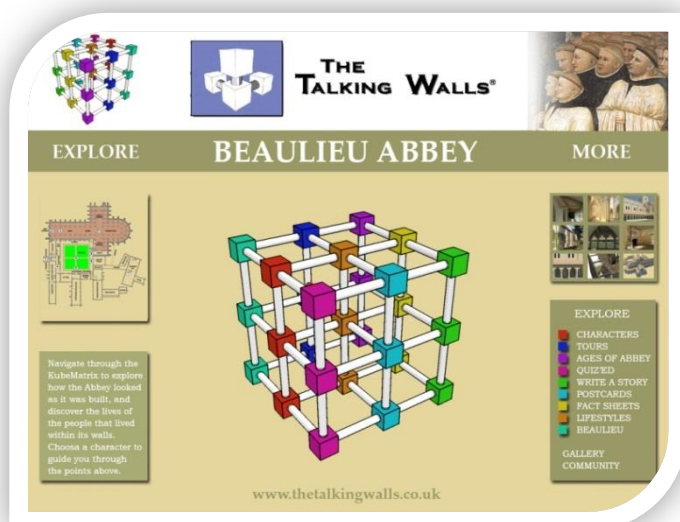
The interview with the Dean will relate to his experience of the Beaulieu Abbey application, the choice of content available through the application and if having choice enhanced his experience. Questions concerning the mix of visitors to religious heritage sites such as Beaulieu Abbey and whether an interpretation should provide different types of experiences for the different groups that visit will be asked to learn more about the site's history and purpose. Discussion regarding cultural heritage software's ability to engage and enhance a visitor's experience at a religious cultural heritage site will be planned.

Background information:

1. I would like to start by asking you about your position as Dean of Winchester Cathedral?
What does this involve?
2. What led you to this position? (education / work)
3. Did you always have a special personal interest in this type of work? (influence)
4. What led you to move to become a Member of the Cathedrals' Fabric Commission and a School Governor?
5. With the various roles you have now, which do you feel interests you the most?

Religious Cultural Heritage:

1. From my brief research (and your comments), you appear to have a keen interest in the cathedrals themselves, would you mind explaining this in more depth, (i.e. perhaps the importance of buildings such as cathedrals as our architectural heritage or the past ages they evoke, the stories they hold?)
2. How important is educating visitors about a cathedral such as Winchester?
3. From my experience of visiting the cathedral – and working with Cheryl on 'interactive apps' with our Digital Media students (QR Code Riddle Route as an example), the cathedral is very open to all forms of interpretation and educational formats for all ages. How difficult is it to choose the interpretation content for visitors to engage with? (especially with the wealth of history at Winchester)
4. This must be made even more difficult with visitors of all nationalities / cultures as well as religious beliefs? (Cheryl explained about some cultures not understanding our history of kings and queens, the importance)
5. Would you like to see more interpretation, more forms of interpretation or do you feel this may intrude on the ambience and overall experience of the cathedral space?



Visitor Interpretation at Beaulieu:

1. The abbey is the foundation of Beaulieu, when visitors come to Beaulieu, the focus generally appears to be the motor museum and / or palace house. Would you normally visit Beaulieu to see the Abbey or its other attractions?
2. If the Abbey, what would be your vision of the perfect visitor interpretation for the Abbey?
3. And with limiting factors?
4. What do you think is the most important aspect of the abbey to portray in an interpretation for visitors? (building/space, people, lifestyle, community or combination of all?)
5. How would you (personally) plan to engage other visitors with this aspect?

Launch event at Beaulieu:

1. Taking you back to when we first met at the Launch, would you be able to tell me what you may remember about your initial impression of the Talking Walls' prototype?
2. What experience of other heritage interpretation at similar sites did you have at the time?
3. How did the proposed project compare with heritage interpretation previously experienced?
4. With the technology available then, and your experience as a heritage visitor, do you feel there could have been a different way of presenting the same information?
5. Do you remember if the demonstration clearly conveyed information on how to use the application and what could be found using the application? i.e. were you able to leave knowing that you would be able to use the application again?
6. Was the launch event useful for understanding the way the kiosk application would be used at the museum i.e. in context with the site etc.?
7. Do you think that the kiosk application was a good addition / facility for visitors to the museum to engage them with the history of the site? (perhaps other platforms may have been better?)
8. Do you think there may have been a better way to launch the kiosk application?

Thank you.