



'The Muddy Archaeologist'

Gillian Hovell BA(Hons)



Ancient & Classical Historian, Prehistorian, Archaeologist, Author
Award winner RHS/British Library 'Writer in the Garden' & Probationary Member of the Garden Media Guild

Gardeners' Ancient Roots

Lectures – Tour & Cruise Enhancement - Study Days - Media - Events - Courses

*Digging deep into ancient gardening myths, history & plants
to add Colour, Depth and Meaning to our Gardens today*

Lively, engaging and professional All talks are fully and richly illustrated with high quality digital images.

Sample Lectures

What's in a Name? Latin tags deciphered

Explore the richness of the Latin names of the wide variety of plants we encounter. Some are clues to their habitats, appearance and special unique features. Others are full of myths and fantastic stories. Let the Muddy Archaeologist unravel the hidden enlightening, funny and surprising tales, and let this Latin expert share the tricks of the trade in discovering them for yourselves.



The Ancient Gardeners' World : Gardening the Roman Way

A fascinating exploration of the astonishing uses of and beliefs about plants in the extremely thorough and opportunistic ancient Romans' attitude to gardening. Practical gardening books included soil improvement, and how and when to dig, plant or prune, all mingled with startling superstitious truths and fictions; would you take any of their advice?



Plants, trees, fruits were used for food and drink, medicine, religion, and public statement, as well as personal adornment and scent. And if, and when, the plants failed or were misused, the ancients wondered, was it the gods' vengeance, nature's fault or man's abuse? This richly illustrated talk shares frescoes and mosaics which depict a culture that was deeply rooted in the natural world; great writers, from Ovid's dramatic mythologies to Pliny's remarkable *Natural History*, give us direct access through their lively words to an ancient view of our gardens and plants that will surprise, entertain and maybe shock you into looking at your garden plants in a new way ...

A Land of Myths and Legends: Ancient stories that add colour to your plants

To the ancients, the natural world was full of stories. Myths, legends and old wives' tales coloured the landscape. Many lovers' stories ended with a metamorphosis into a flower, shrub or tree that we know well; the gods above had their sacred trees; garlands were wound with flowers with stories of their own. A walk through the land around you – or through our modern gardens – is a journey into a world of storytelling that still connects with us today.

Special Versions available for landscapes and destinations on your tour or cruise

Don't Try this at Home! Ancient Roman Potions, Poisons & Poultices

You had two choices in the ancient world if you were ill; pray to a god of your choice or pay for a doctor. The doctor's remedies mostly involved herbs (and worse) in a potion or paste that you applied or took internally. Cato the Censor famously insisted on treating everyone in his household with his own homemade medicines ... and plants provided the basis for much of his repertoire.

If plants have powers, they can be used or abused. Traditionally, poison was a woman's weapon, as implied in the biographies of the Roman Emperors ...



Study Days

Combine the ancient stories about the ancient roots of gardening with talks about the ancients' view of animals of our world for a thrilling fresh look at our natural world.

Gillian Hovell BA (Hons)
212 Woodfield Road,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire
HG1 4JF

Mob: 07860 637301 Tel: 01423 203516
email: Gillian@muddyarchaeologist.co.uk
Member of the Society of Authors

Looking forward to hearing from you
www.muddyarchaeologist.co.uk