



Gillian Hovell BA(Hons)

'The Muddy Archaeologist'



Professional freelance Ancient Historian, Archaeologist & Latin Expert

Award-winning writer and speaker

Lecturer for the British Museum & York University. Accredited Arts Society lecturer

Member of Society of Authors. Probationary Member of the Garden Media Guild

Adding colour, depth & context to our lives today by digging deep into ancient history

Presenting lively, passionate and engaging ancient history and archaeology that connects with our lives today to adults and children, academic and general public, through media, books, freelance writing, talks, tours & cruises, classes & courses, study days & workshops, interviews, **in person, in the field, on-line & in the media**

Specialisms

- **Adding dimensions** to topics and commenting on news by providing narratives from ancient history (especially prehistory, Greek & Roman) : including origins, contrasts, human angles, pathos and triumph, human achievements, derivatives, contrasts, common humanity, inspiration, mysteries, professions & business, great locations ...
- **Relating ANY topic of modern life to the ancient world** (and, vice versa, any aspect of the ancient world to our modern lives). eg. Gardens, food, art, health, jobs, nature, science, politics, words, philosophy ...
- **Deciphering and bringing to life archaeological eras and sites:** UK, Europe & Mediterranean all ranging from Stone Age, to Bronze Age, through the Iron Age and Roman era into Anglo-Saxons and beyond.
- **Expert in ancient civilisations** including Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, Etruscans, Egyptians, Mediterranean islands (Malta, Cyprus, Sicily, Crete, etc) and prehistory (from Orkney to the Near East)
- **Latin expert**, adding flavour and zest to our English language and to the vocabulary of every area of our modern lives
- **Expert in ancient art, literature & authors;** their part in ancient history and their legacy and impact on us today. Many courses explore the original Latin to fully appreciate the Roman view of their world.

Qualities

- Academically robust, clear, with a strong narrative to engage in a direct, passionate and lively manner
- Always tailored to particular audiences, markets and/or the general reader
- Lively, engaging, quirky & memorable. Known for smiling, passionate enthusiasm.
- Well-presented and delivered on time
- A strong following for work delivered in publications, on-line, in media and in person (Social Media posts & blogs known to reach over 20,000 people)
- Award Winning Writer: British Library/RHS annual international award *The Writer in the Garden*
- Personal experience of a multitude of archaeological sites in UK, Europe & the Mediterranean
- Ex-BBC Television: highly professional, no-fuss instant responses in live production/OB work, & working on relevant, engaging narratives to broad audiences.

All supported by

- Media experience
 - **Radio interviews:** BBC Radio 4, BBC local radio, independent local radio interviews, podcast for BBC History Magazine. Radio 2 Archaeology expert interview Nov.2018
 - **Presenter of BBC 2 'Digging for Britain'**/360 Production on-line blog support series of videos,
 - **Presenter** of on-line & Promotional videos made in-house & by FireForge Media to promote aspects of The Muddy Archaeologist, and self-made videos on sites, cruises and related work
Videos can be viewed at www.muddyarchaeologist.co.uk **media page** & '**Muddy Archaeologist**' **You Tube** videos
 - **Registered Expert** with **Past Preservers** (www.pastpreservers.com)
- decades of study and work in ancient history
 - **Latin & Ancient History BA (Hons)** Exeter University
 - **Author:** *Visiting the Past: Finding & Understanding Britain's archaeology* (The History Press, 3rd edition 2015);
Roman Britain (Crimson 2012);
Not Just a Load of Old Stones: A Mediterranean Tour (exploring and understanding ancient civilisations archaeological sites) Publication planned 2020
Latin Yesterday, Today & For Ever Publication planned 2020

- **Lecturer for York University:** Ancient history, archaeology & Latin public courses.
 - **Public Speaker** throughout the UK & abroad (Australia lecture tours 2018 & 2021) on ancient history and archaeology, including its relevance, appreciation and impact - and enjoyment - and on Latin's continuing place in today's world.
Clients include the British Museum, Ashmolean Museum Oxford, Classical Associations, The Arts Society, national media, universities and schools, local societies, WI ...
 - **Lecturer** on multiple self-initiated and commissioned courses (eg. Marlborough College Summer School, Denman WI & Rossett) on ancient history, ancient literature & art, archaeology & Latin.
 - **Tour/cruise lecturer** in UK, Europe & Mediterranean for UK, US, Canadian, Australian & NZ audiences. From Neolithic to Vikings and from Shetland to Italy, Greece, Ephesus and all eras and destinations between.
Includes Smithsonian Journeys, ASA Cultural Tours (Australians Studying Abroad), Academy Tours, Voyages to Antiquity (stepping into Mary Beard's shoes when she moved on), Saga specialist archaeological tours & cruises, and Visiting the Past Tours.
Highest possible ratings achieved in knowledge, accessibility, relevance, humour, organisation & hosting of and amiability to guests.
 - **Author of Blogs** as The Muddy Archaeologist for own promotion and others (eg. Voyages to Antiquity cruises) & **Social Media**.
 - **The Arts Society** (formerly NADFAS) **accreditation** as national lecturer on art of the ancient world.
Arts Society Australia Lecture Tour, 2018
 - Probationary Member of **Garden Media Guild**, adding colour with Gardeners' Ancient Roots.
 - Writer of numerous historical & archaeological **articles** for diverse magazines
- over ten years of hands-on work in archaeology
 - **Excavated on internationally important sites** such as UHI's Ness of Brodgar (Orkney), University of Texas' Oplontis (Pompeii), University of York's Star Carr (Mesolithic Yorkshire), Vindolanda (Hadrian's Wall).
 - **Founded and led community archaeology project** 2004-2013. Project leader, excavator, trainer, site director, community liaison, outreach, international academic conference speaker on archaeometallurgy, public lecturer, research ... Main project site included Neolithic, Bronze age, iron Age, Early Medieval & Medieval features.
 - **Supported local community projects**, supplying experience, research, excavation, equipment, guided walks, lectures & training.
 - Working independently and with individuals and educational and heritage establishments and media, and with a wide variety of institutions large and small in the UK, US & Australia.
- experience of travel and adventure beyond tour lecturing & leading
 - Charity trek through the Jordanian desert to Petra
 - Wild camping in Scotland and extended wild camp high level trekking in Himalayan Nepal, survived Altitude Sickness
 - Explored history/archaeology in UK, Europe (Shetland to Jordanian desert), Asia, US & Australia
 - Slept in Thai jungle, swam in the River Kwai, North Sea & with sharks, & ridden elephants in Thailand

History is everywhere. Let me help your audiences to discover its vibrant place in our lives.

**Gillian Hovell BA(Hons)
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