



PRESS BIOG

Gillian Hovell, 'The Muddy Archaeologist'

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Expert on archaeology, ancient history & ancient civilisations, & Latin too.

Independent, Engaging, Passionate, Lively, Knowledgeable. Accessible. Inspirational.

Gillian has been on BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 2 and local radio stations (including BBC York, Stray fm, TwoLochs radio). She has also been on many video presentations and on television. Ex-BBC, she is a lively, competent and experienced expert guest on air.

Gillian is an independent and freelance archaeologist and ancient historian who specialises bringing the 'general audience' to a fresh fascination in the ancient world - from Britain's Stone Age to the Romans and beyond to Anglo-Saxon and Medieval times and all the stunning ancient civilisations and cultures of the Mediterranean.

She adds colour and depth to life today by digging deep into the past.

Accessible, authentic and engaging, Gillian shares her passion and expertise in archaeology and ancient history as an award-winning writer, author and presenter, in-person and via online presentations and courses and in the media. Jargon free and personal but academically robust, she lectures to diverse audiences nationally and internationally, including Lifelong Learning students for York University, and audiences at the British Museum. She also creates an increasingly wide range of ancient history narratives on her 'Muddy Archaeologist Online Courses' (launched as a response to covid).

Gillian can comment on:

- Archaeological discoveries and digs:
Comments and insights as they happen: why they are important, why they are of interest and fascination to us, and how they change our view of the past.
All eras from human evolution, through prehistory, Romans and the ancient civilisations of Britain, Europe and the Mediterranean to Anglo-Saxon and medieval.
- Media launches of TV and Radio programmes with an archaeological/ancient angle – their accuracy, the 'real' story & the great (or terrible!) reasons your audience can enjoy them.
eg. Netflix's recent *The Dig* was great and inspirational but had a skewed view of the women involved.
- Exhibitions
eg. British Museum's *Nero* this summer is Nero as you've never seen him before.
- Events eg. the national Festival of Archaeology every July – what's in it for your audience members?
- Anniversaries of discoveries, archaeologists, historical events
eg. Wilhelmina Jashemski began her pioneering work on Roman gardens in Pompeii in 1961, 60 years ago – over the next 20 years her work transformed our knowledge and view of life in Roman gardens.
- Archaeological issues, even controversial ones.
eg. Turkish TV quizzed me on the desire to return items from Troy during the British Museum's exhibition.
- Books on ancient history & archaeology: What's in the ancient era and story for the reader/listener? How do we connect to these? What, in brief, was the real story (if fiction).
- Cultural and social topics in ancient history: *all* modern life has fascinating echoes back into the ancient past ...
- And many more topics ...

[Showreel available here.](#)

Gillian Hovell

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