



Gillian Hovell BA(Hons)

'The Muddy Archaeologist'

As seen and heard on BBC News & Radio programmes



Professional freelance Ancient Historian, Archaeologist & Latin Expert

Published & Award-winning writer and speaker – in person, in the field, on screen & in the media
Lecturer for the British Museum & York University. Creator & Presenter of The Muddy Archaeologist Online Courses
Accredited Arts Society lecturer. Member of Society of Authors


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, online courses, books, freelance writing, talks, tours & cruises,
classes & courses, study days & workshops, interviews,
in person, in the field, on-line & in the media

Specialisms

- **Adding fresh dimensions** to topics, commenting on & providing engaging insights on news.
- **Providing rich dynamic 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: Finding the New through the Timeless.** eg. Gardens, interior design, professions, food, art, health, nature, science, politics, society, words, philosophy ...
- **Deciphering and bringing to life archaeological eras, sites, destinations & exhibitions:** UK, Europe & Mediterranean. Ranging from Stone Age, to Bronze Age, through the Iron Age and Roman era into Anglo-Saxons and beyond.
- **Expert in ancient civilizations** including prehistory (from Orkney to the Near East) and Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, Etruscans, Egyptians, Mediterranean islands (Malta, Cyprus, Sicily, Crete, etc).
- **Latin expert**, adding flavour and zest to our English language and to the vocabulary of every area of our modern lives. Also educating lifelong learning into the joys of Latin grammar and translation.
- **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 & accessibility.
- Well-presented, professional 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 30,000 people).
- Award Winning Writer: British Library/RHS international award.
- Personal experience of a multitude of archaeological sites in UK, Europe & the Mediterranean.
- Published award-winning writer.  Member of the Society of Authors.

All supported by

- Media experience
 - Creator of **Muddy Archaeologist [Online Courses & Talks](#)** – archaeology, Latin, Ancient history.
 - Provider of richly illustrated engaging **online talks and study days** for countless audiences & clients.
 - **TV & Radio interviews:** BBC News Channel; Radio 4 ('Today' & 'BH'), Radio 5, multiple BBC local radio stations, independent local radio interviews, TRT 'Showcase' (on Troy), podcast for BBC History Magazine. Radio 2 Archaeology & Latin expert interviews. [Showreel here](#).
 - **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
- 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) (Working title); *Latin Yesterday, Today & For Ever* (in draft). Countless published articles on diverse topics. Cont./...

- **Lecturer, York University:** Ancient history, archaeology & Latin public courses. In person & online.
 - **Public Speaker throughout the UK & internationally** (including Europe, Australia & NZ lecture tours) 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** (formerly NADFAS), national media, museums, Marlborough Summer School, universities and schools, local societies, WI ... Regularly rated 'outstanding' and 'excellent'.
 - **Lecturer** on multiple self-initiated and commissioned courses, in person & online (eg. Ciceroni Travel, Marlborough College Summer School, Denman WI & Rossett School) on ancient history, ancient literature & art, archaeology & Latin.
 - **Creator of 'The Muddy Archaeologist Online Courses'** from 2020 in response to Covid-19
 - **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 Travel, Voyages to Antiquity (stepping into Mary Beard's shoes when she moved on), Ciceroni Travel, Saga specialist archaeological tours & cruises, Aurora Expeditions & 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 & 2023 booked tour of Australia & NZ.
 - 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), Cambridge University's Roman Aldborough.
 - **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 & NZ.
 - experience of travel and adventure
 - 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

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



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