



Latin & Ancient History Course

Pliny the Elder's Natural History

September - December 2016

10-week Course Information

£120 for ten 2-hour richly illustrated sessions on Mondays

2 parallel courses: choose your venue
10-12 noon Christ Church, Harrogate & 1.15-3.15pm North Stainley Village Hall

Brief details of the proposed topics to be covered each week

- Week 1** **Pliny the Elder & His 'Natural History'**
5 Sept The man, his life and times, and introduction to his great work
- Week 2** **Book 2**
12 Sept Survey of the physics of the universe, the cosmos;
omens, weather and earthquakes
- Week 3** **Books 3-6**
19 Sept Geography & societies/cultures of the known world of the Romans
26 Sept, 3, 10 & 17 Oct No sessions
- Week 4** **Book 7**
24 Oct Anthropology & the physiology of man, and how Rome perceived other people.
- Week 5** **Books 8-11**
31 Oct Zoology and the Roman understanding of how nature works;
Land animals, sea animals, bird and insects.
- Week 6** **Books 12-19**
7 Nov Botany, agriculture and horticulture
- Week 7** **Books 20-27**
14 Nov Plant products as used in medicine
- Week 8** **Books 28-32**
21 Nov Medical zoology; the medicines produced by animals and their use.
- Week 9** **Books 33-37**
28 Nov Minerals (and medicines acquired from them), metal working,
the fine arts, and gemstones.
- Week 10** **Christmas ...**
5 Dec A festive summing up
12 Dec (Spare date)

Aim:

- Gain an insight into how the 1st century AD Romans (not just Pliny) viewed the cosmos, the human world and the natural world around them and their place within it.
- Discover how the Romans used the resources of the world around them.
- Appreciate the sources of Rome's knowledge about its world.
- Read selections of Pliny the Elder's '*Natural History*' in the original Latin and through this discover the ongoing link with Latin that every area of natural history has.

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