

Press Release

The Romans come to North Yorkshire! Again

Western Civilization: From the Ancient Greeks until the Present: The Romans

‘What did the Romans ever do for us’? In answer to this famous question John Cleese produces an infamously long and impressive list of surviving achievements. Dr John Gibbins will endeavour to audit this list of claims and to explore the mind and values of a people whose lifestyle, culture, legal and political system rivalled that of the Ancient Greeks whose own culture was embodied in Ancient Rome.

Both high and popular culture are explored in the five week course with every effort made to utilize local sources available at York, Aldborough, Piercebridge and Hadrian’s Wall sites and museums. Amongst institutions for attention will be included Roman language (Latin); writing, mechanics, medicine, law, politics, religion, housing; bathing, entertainments and roads; though the epic conflicts between people and rulers, the Republic and Empire, will centre the discussions. Introductions will be given to Cicero, Seneca and Lucretius; the historians Tacitus, Livy, the Pliny’s and Virgil; Sulla, Ovid, and Horace the poets, and the late aesthete Emperors, Julian, Marcus Aurelias and Maurius. The first lecture will cover ‘The Hellenization of the Tribes, Foundation Myths and the conquest of Kingship’.

The course, supported by the Northallerton and District Local history Society, will run from 7th March until 4th April 2011 from 14.00 to 16.00 on subsequent Mondays at the Sacred Heart Hall, Thirsk Road, Northallerton where parking is available. Refreshments and then an open seminar, to which Dr Gibbins invites local experts into conversation on the weekly topic, will follow a digitally aided lecture. The fee is either £4 per lecture or £16 for a full set of five lectures. For advanced booking call 01845 527944 or email john@jgibbins.vispa.com

If you attend you will be able to confirm the old adage that ‘All roads lead to Rome’.