

Charlotte Higgins - 'Under Another Sky: Journeys in Roman Britain' and 'It's all Greek to me'.

In 'Under Another Sky', Charlotte Higgins explores the monuments of Roman Britain. The group loved the way she traced the various artefacts, sometimes on foot and sometimes in her ancient VW camper van. We were all a little ashamed that we hadn't previously known about a number of them, particularly those near where we grew up. Many of these artefacts highlight the diversity of races and cultures that made up the Roman Empire, indicating a lack of racial prejudice that is in stark contrast to the story of the British Empire (see the review on our webpage of '10 Cities that made an Empire'). Higgins concludes the book with a helpful list of places to visit - one to refer to once we can all travel freely again!

In 'It's all Greek to me', Higgins offers what she describes a 'bluffers' guide to Greek history. Nevertheless some of us more familiar with Roman than Greek history found it a little hard going at times. However, it was packed full of fascinating information, in particular some useful cribs for the Greek novice – a history timeline, a who's who, a guide to the gods, a list of English words and their Greek roots, and 10 'essential Greek quotes'. Well worth dipping into