



Sarah Sands

Sarah Sands is a former newspaper editor, both at the Telegraph and the Evening Standard and a former editor of BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

She was Chair of G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council in 2021 and sat on the council for the following four years. She is on the board of Channel 4 and a Trustee of the John Innes Centre and of Newmarket Racing Committee.

She is an author of books including *The Interior Silence*, *The Hedgehog Diaries* and *on the Audible Constellations and Consolations*. She lives in Norfolk.



Lesley Smith is Boudicca

The story of Boudicca, although much of it is cloaked in poor evidence, is still extraordinary. Britannia was a remote outpost of the Roman Empire and in the early years of Roman occupation was still divided into many Celtic tribal kingdoms. Among these, in the part that we now know as East Anglia, was the kingdom of the Iceni, whose warrior queen Boudicca stood against the Roman invaders when her male counterparts were too weak to do so.

This inspiring and mighty Queen was on a mission of revenge for the rape of her daughters and possessed an absolute determination to teach the Romans on her land a sharp lesson. Gathering support from other Celtic tribes, the red-headed queen swept across eastern England, and came close to driving the Romans out altogether. In the end she fell, but her glorious rebellion sent shock waves across the mighty Roman Empire. This is her story.

Lesley Smith, M.Phil, M.Univ. (Hon.), F.S.A. (Scot.), is a medical historian holding an M.Phil in Tudor medicine, is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and is also a Member of the Society of Medical Writers. In addition to these qualifications, Lesley was awarded an Honorary Masters Degree in 2010 by the University of Derby for 'Services to History in the Community' and has 38 academic publications. She is also published in the wider community and has written for local county magazines.

She has appeared in more than 150 television programmes some of which have been broadcast to other countries. Lesley is also well known for her highly entertaining and informative costumed portrayals of a variety of historical characters, which she gave both at Tutbury Castle and still does all across the UK.

Lesley is the former Curator of Tutbury Castle in Staffordshire and retired in July 2024 after almost 25 years. Lesley has performed at two previous NWR conferences, most recently in Birmingham in 2021.