

The Arts Society Lincoln

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY - WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2026

The 19th Century Cultural Revolution in the Heart of Europe

Skellingthorpe Community Centre, LN6 5UY
10.00am – 3.00pm

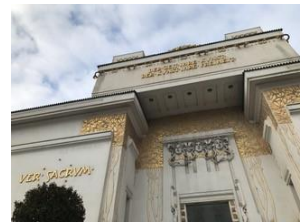
We have been extremely fortunate in booking Gavin Plumley for our Special Interest Day following his hugely popular lecture in September 2023 on The Two Gustavs: Mahler and Klimt.

Cultural Revolution in the Heart of Europe

During the 19th century, when many Central European countries were still under the control of the Habsburgs, art and culture were often the only ways in which the Empire's constituent crownlands could express their national identities. A century after the end of Habsburg dominance in Central Europe, this special interest day looks at the arts and culture in the imperial capital of Vienna and the principal metropolises of the Czechs and the Hungarians.

The Art and Culture of Vienna 1900

Vienna was the capital of a vast empire and one of the most exciting artistic laboratories in the world. Around 1900, it produced painters such as Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Richard Gerstl, architects like Otto Wagner and Adolf Loos, the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud and the composer Gustav Mahler. Looking at these and others figures in context, the opening session of this special interest day asks how and why the City of Dreams became a cultural hotbed around 1900.



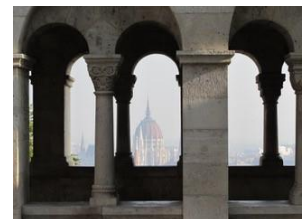
The Magic of Prague and the Czech Cultural Revival



As part of the Habsburg Empire, Prague was beloved of kings and princes. During the 19th century, however, the Czechs sought to reclaim the city for their own. Looking at their roots and mythology, the Czech people imagined a new future through art, reshaping movements such as Romanticism and symbolism in patriotic ways. Looking at painters including Alfons Mucha, Otakar Lebeda and Jakub Schikaneder and composers like Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák, as well as their forward-thinking literary and architectural contemporaries, this talk shows how the Czechs reclaimed both country and capital through cultural means.

A Hungarian Metropolis

Budapest was formed in 1873 by the unification of Buda and Pest, situated on either side of the Danube. The new capital was the focus of resurgent Hungarian nationalism, finding expression in lavish new buildings, the continent's first underground railway system and paintings of specifically Hungarian subjects and locales. Meanwhile, in the countryside, composers like Bartók and Kodály began collecting the music of their compatriots. Placing these endeavours in a historical framework, the final lecture of the day explores how Hungarians came to understand their national identity through culture.



The writer and broadcaster Gavin Plumley appears on BBC Radio 3 and 4, and contributes to newspapers, magazines and opera and concert programmes worldwide. He lectures widely about the culture of Central Europe. Recent appearances include Klimt and The Kiss in cinemas worldwide, and talks for the Hay and Cheltenham Literature Festivals, the Royal Opera House, the National Gallery, the National Trust, the National Theatre, the British Museum and the V&A. Gavin's first book, A Home for All Seasons, is out now.

The Day will comprise of three hour-long lectures, with coffee/tea available from 10.00, and a buffet lunch served prior to the afternoon lecture. The cost of the Day is £47.00 per person for members and £49.00 for guests and will conclude at approximately 3.00pm. Bookings, using the enclosed emailed form, will close on Monday 6 April, after which date no refunds can be made.

Skellingthorpe Community Centre is easy to find and there is plenty of free off-road parking.

Those who attended last year will vouch that it was an excellent day, with the added benefit of the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. We very much look forward to seeing you on the 29th of April.