



SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

Tuesday 17th March 2026

11.30 – 3pm at The Blue Ball, Sidford

The Art and Culture of fin-de-siecle Vienna

A two-lecture special interest day

By Gavin Plumley

Lecture 1: Vienna 1900

At the turn of the last century, Vienna was the capital of a vast empire and one of the most exciting artistic laboratories in the world. It produced painters such as Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka, architects like Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffmann, the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, the composer Gustav Mahler and the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. Looking at these and others figures in the context of the society in which they worked, this talk asks how and why the City of Dreams became a cultural hotbed around 1900.

Lecture 2: Gustav Klimt, Imperial Muralist turned Radical Painter

Klimt was one of the most prominent figures in the Viennese fin-de-siècle, creating paintings whose sexual themes and bold use of colour and gold shocked an unsuspecting populace. Less is known about his early years as a muralist for the grand municipal buildings and royal and aristocratic palaces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This lecture looks at the many changes in Klimt's life, his rejection of public pomp and the impact on his style and works.

The cost of the day, including coffee on arrival and a light buffet lunch will be £42 per person.

Payment can be made by BACS (preferred method) to:

The Arts Society Sidmouth; Sort Code: 405240; Acc. No. 00060214

If payment is by BACS please email or call me to confirm your booking.

catherinebech10@gmail.com 01395 708693/07717743348

Alternatively, complete the slip below and send with your cheque to:

Catherine Bech, 1 Sea View Terrace, Higher Hill View, Sidmouth, EX10 9DQ.

Please reserve places at £42 each for the Special Interest Morning on Tuesday 17th March. I enclose my cheque payable to The Arts Society Sidmouth.

Name/s:

Email:

Phone no:

GAVIN PLUMLEY



Gavin is a writer, broadcaster and lecturer who 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. His first book, *A Home for All Seasons*,

The Times named Gavin Plumley a ‘leading cultural historian’, known for his work on Central European art and music; Gavin’s expertise spans various periods and disciplines.

Born in Dundee in 1981, Gavin is half-Welsh, half-English. He studied music at Keble College, Oxford and lives in Herefordshire with his husband, Alastair Tighe, and their dogs, Nimrod and Scudder.