

# THE PLACE OF BRITAIN IN EUROPE

A SOUL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE  
ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN  
AS ITS SUMMER CONFERENCE FOR 2023

**2ND - 6TH AUGUST**  
AT RUDOLF STEINER HOUSE, LONDON



## The Place of Britain in Europe – A ‘Soul of Europe’ Conference

The idea to hold the last in the series of ‘Soul of Europe’ conferences (inaugurated in Amsterdam in 2005) in Britain, was first mooted at the conference in Georgia in 2018. This was two years after the referendum in 2016, in which the decision was taken that this country should distance itself from the European Union. Since then, there has been a gradual, dawning realisation that a whole historical phase in its relationship with its fellow European nations has come to an end and a new one has not yet begun. Central to this realisation is the awareness that there is no consensus as to the identity of what humanly and spiritually inhabits the geographical entity known as the British Isles.

This conference, which is hosted by the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain, is an invitation to participate in a journey of exploration of the place of Britain in Europe, enshrined by the image that we have chosen as a guiding star, the transformative journey from the keenly observing Eagle, through the poisonous sting of the Scorpion to the redemptive visionary insights of the Dove.

Simon Blaxland-de Lange, Jutta Vetter, Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange, Adrian Locher

## CONTRIBUTORS

### **Marjatta van Boeschoten - Welcome and concluding words**

Marjatta van Boeschoten was a Steiner Waldorf pupil and then practiced as a lawyer. After having two children, she founded a management development consultancy based on the social development impulse of Bernard Lievegoed. Her work was predominantly in large national and international companies, UK government departments and the IAEA within the United Nations. For many years she was on the Board of Triodos Bank NL. She is now the General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain and a member of the Extended Executive Board at the Goetheanum

### **Hans Hasler – Introduction: Highlights of the past 11 Soul of Europe conferences**

One of the founding fathers of the Soul of Europe conferences, Hans Hasler initially worked in curative education, then 30 years at the Goetheanum in different tasks. He is now retired and living in Finland.

### **Tom Ravetz – Lecture: Nationhood and Folk Souls**

Tom Ravetz encountered Anthroposophy and The Christian Community in Botton Village, from where he went to the priests’ training. He was ordained in 1991. He has worked in a number of congregations and has been involved in training priests. He writes and speaks on a variety of theological and spiritual topics. He lives in Forest Row with his wife, Deborah.

### **Aonghus Gordon OBE Med – Lecture: How Bacon’s vision led to industrialisation and then to John Ruskin’s vision of morphology for transformation**

Aonghus Gordon started Ruskin Mill Trust in 1981. It is now one of the UK’s leading educational charities working with learning disabilities, with twelve centres across England, Wales and Scotland. Aonghus has pioneered its unique method of Practical Skills Therapeutic Education (PSTE), inspired by Rudolf Steiner, John Ruskin and William Morris’s ideas about social renewal, healthy human development and the importance of art, crafts and land work. Thousands of young people have benefited from this integrative education method. Aonghus recently received an OBE for his work in cultural heritage and education.

### **Pieter van der Ree – Lecture: Spiritual roots of Britain, the St John Imagination and their potential for the future**

Pieter van der Ree studied architecture at the Technical University in Delft (Netherlands). Since 1990 he has been working as an architect in the field of ecological building and organic architecture. Between 2005 and 2020 he was professor for Organic Architecture at the Alanus Hochschule near Bonn (Germany). He is coordinator of the Art Section of the Anthroposophical Society in the Netherlands and part of the international Art Section team at the Goetheanum (CH).

### **Coralee Frederickson – Lecture: The Genius of the English language & Workshop: Eurythmy**

Coralee Frederickson is a eurythmist with a PhD in English Literature. She was director of the Norwegian University College of Eurythmy and of Eurythmy Järna-China. She is presently co-carrier of the Alanus Master’s in Educational Eurythmy in English.

### **Angus Jenkinson – Lecture: The image and practical karmic consequences of Brexit on Britain and Europe**

Angus Jenkinson is an interdisciplinary postformal researcher and practitioner working mainly in the field of social design. He is a member of the Social Sciences, Science, and Arts Sections. Professionally, he has had senior roles in industry and as a research professor. He remains an affiliated research fellow of a Belgian university while engaged in independent research into the autonomous living identity of organisations. He is a fellow of four academic bodies and an author of four books. He lives in England.

### **Simon Blaxland-de Lange – Lecture: Shakespeare and the Evolution of Consciousness**

Simon Blaxland-de Lange was born in Liverpool and has mainly worked with children and adults with special needs and as a translator. He co-founded Pericles Translations and Research and Pericles Training, Work and Therapy with his wife Paulamaria, and has written biographical studies of Owen Barfield and Cecil Harwood.

### **Wilbert Lambrechts – Lecture: The Real Europe**

Wilbert Lambrechts is a poet, writer of essays, lecturer and biographer, writing in Dutch and in German. He studied German language and literature, general literary theory and the theory of science. He has a special interest in Goethe, Hölderlin, Rudolf Steiner and Rainer Maria Rilke. He was a teacher of languages, literature, poetry and theatre in the Waldorf School of Antwerp for more than thirty years, later for some years member and president of the board of the Belgian Anthroposophical Society. He has three children, four grandchildren and lives in Antwerp, Belgium.

### **Andrew Welburn – Lecture: English Romantic Poets and their contribution to European Culture**

Andrew Welburn has written and lectured widely on Romantic literature in its broad, English sense - as expressing the aspirations of modern consciousness through a sense of our connection to the cosmos and our freedom to shape our destiny. In the 1970’s in early youth, he came in contact with the work of Rudolf Steiner, and has striven to combine academic study with spiritual awareness, especially in work on William Blake the great visionary poet, and Percy Bysshe Shelley. Studies continue and widen: research on the evolution of consciousness has recently focussed on human development since the Neanderthals (in a forthcoming book on Rudolf Steiner and prehistory).

	WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST	THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST	FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST	SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST	SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST		
8.30		Early Bird Singing					
9.00		Imagination & Practical Announcements					
9.15 - 10.15		LECTURE by Tom Ravetz Nationhood and Folk Souls	LECTURE by Coralee Frederickson The Genius of the English language	LECTURE by Wilbert Lambrechts The Real Europe	LECTURE by Paul Mackay The Mission of Europe in the present time		
10.15 - 11.00		COFFEE BREAK					
11.00 - 12.00		LECTURE by Aonghus Gordon How Bacon's vision led to industrialisation and then to John Ruskin's vision of morphology for transformation	LECTURE by Angus Jenkinson The image and practical karmic consequences of Brexit on Britain and Europe	LECTURE by Andrew Welburn English Romantic Poets and their contribution to European Culture	HARVESTING THE CONFERENCE Adrian Locher 12.15 - 12.30: Concluding Words Marjatta van Boeschoten		
12.00 - 12.45		Conversation groups			12.30 - 12.45: Singing		
13.00 - 14.30		LUNCH BREAK					
14.30 - 15.30		FROM 14.00 Registration & Welcome COFFEE / TEA	ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES Singing, Painting, Speech, Eurythmy, Bothmer Gymnastics, Nature Walk (See right hand panel for information)			ARTISTIC ACTIVITY 1 Singing - Marilyn Edwards  ARTISTIC ACTIVITY 2 Painting - Mary-Anne Paterson  ARTISTIC ACTIVITY 3 Speech - Sarah Kane  ARTISTIC ACTIVITY 4 Eurythmy - Coralee Frederickson  ARTISTIC ACTIVITY 5 Bothmer Gymnastics - Katharine Brayne  ARTISTIC ACTIVITY 6 Nature walk - Patrick Dixon	
15.30 - 16.00		OPENING Harp - Liehsja Andrea & Opening verse - Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange Welcome - Marjatta van Boeschoten General Secretary of the AS in GB Conference introduction - Members of the Organising Group Gerald Häfner on behalf of the Section of Social Sciences at the Goetheanum Hans Hasler: Highlights of the past 11 Soul of Europe conferences	TEA BREAK				
16.00 - 17.00			LECTURE by Pieter van der Ree Spiritual roots of Britain, the St John Imagination and their potential for the future	LECTURE by Simon Blaxland-de Lange Shakespeare and the Evolution of Consciousness	ARTISTIC PRESENTATION Relating to the Hibernian Mysteries by Dan Skinner		
17.00 - 17.45	Plenum						
18.00	DINNER BREAK						
19.30	ONE OF THE FOUR SORROWS OF THE GAEL The Fate of the Children of Lir Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange and Liehsja Andrea (harp), Simon Blaxland-de Lange (singing), Sarah Kane (speech) & Coralee Frederickson (eurythmy)		EARTH-SILVER AND SUN-GOLD Artistic performance inspired by the St John Imagination Sigune Brinch (eurythmy), Gregers Brinch (music) and Angelina Gazquez (speech)	SHAKESPEARE SCENES Sarah Kane and Ensemble	THE FOUR QUARTETS BY T.S. ELIOT Ashley Ramsden		

### **Paul Mackay – Lecture: The Mission of Europe in the present time**

After obtaining his economics Doctorand at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam and MBA at INSEAD in Fontainebleau Paul Mackay joined the investment banking activities of ABNAMRO. After some years he decided to give his life a new direction. He co-founded and became the executive director of Triodos Bank, a bank focused on transparency and sustainability. He was also executive director and later chairperson of the supervisory board of the GLS Bank in Germany. From 1996 to 2018 he was on the executive board at the Goetheanum, School for Spiritual Science based on the works of Rudolf Steiner. From 2000 to 2015 he was the leader of the School's Section for Social Sciences. In that capacity he initiated the conferences on the Soul of Europe. As of 2020 he is a member of the board of WWF Germany; as of 2022 he is also a member of the board of WWF International with its seat in Switzerland.

### **Dan Skinner - Artistic Presentation relating to the Hibernian Mysteries**

Dan Skinner is an actor and speech and drama teacher: he was performer and director with The Rose Theatre Company and an actor with Pantheatre, under the direction of Enrique Pardo. With Portal Productions he performed in Rudolf Steiner's four Mystery dramas. He has worked as a roleplay actor for the NHS and the British Heart Foundation. Having recently finished a 12 year journey in Steiner Waldorf schools, both as a class teacher and upper school drama teacher, he is currently teaching speech and drama for Eurythmy India, a new eurythmy training, of which he is a course director.

### **Mary-Anne Paterson – Workshop: Painting**

Mary-Anne Paterson is an international teacher and has lectured at the Universities of St Petersburg, Prague and Alanus, Germany. She has given numerous workshops in Asia, Israel and the U.K. She has been a Social Arts Practitioner and Arts Therapist for 20 years, with a Dip Art Therapy from Tobias School of Art and a Dip Drama from LAMDA. She is a member of the Social Arts faculty at Emerson College U.K.

### **Sarah Kane –Director: Shakespeare Scenes & Workshop: Speech and Drama**

Sarah Kane studied Steiner's approach to speaking, then Chekhov's approach to acting with many of his original students in the 1980s. She now integrates them in her teaching, directing and performing, which happens all over the world, including at Rudolf Steiner House, London.

### **Katharine Brayne – Workshop: Bothmer Gymnastics**

A Waldorf educator/trainee of Bothmer Gym and Games in the UK, China and across Europe, and now training in Psychotherapy in London, Katharine bridges movement and meaning to generate open space and fresh perspectives for understanding and connection across borders; whether external (geographic) or internal (personal-spiritual). When not studying or bridging concepts/percepts, she can be found walking the cliffs or surfing off the coast of North Norfolk.

### **Marilyn Edwards – Workshop: Singing**

Marilyn Edwards taught music and singing in primary schools for several years after completing her Tonalis Music Education training in 2002. She has a great love of singing in groups, which leads to vitality, joy and friendship. She feels particularly connected to singing the sacred songs of Taize and Threshold groups.

### **Patrick Dixon – Workshop: Nature Walks**

Patrick Dixon originally trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and has performed in solo pieces (written by himself) as well as in ensemble pieces, including Shakespeare and Steiner's Mystery dramas. Over the years, he has given many talks on various subjects, such as botany, entomology, zoology, technology to technosophy and other subjects, all from an Anthroposophic perspective which challenges the one sided authority of Scientific Materialism.

### **Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange – Performance: One of the four Sorrows of the Gael: The Fate of the Children of Lir**

Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange studied at the Akademie Voor Podium-Vorming in The Hague and moved to London where she worked as film and tv actress and model, married Mick Rhodes, editor of the BBC Natural History Unit and traveled widely meeting natural history film makers. At 28 she heard a lecture by Francis Edmunds on The Grail, which changed her life. She gave up her acting career and moved to Sussex to attend Emerson College. Through the College she met her present husband. They co-founded the various parts of Pericles throughout the nineties. She has 5 daughters and 10 grandchildren.

### **Liehsja Andrea – Performance (harp): One of the four Sorrows of the Gael: The Fate of the Children of Lir**

Liehsja Andrea studied Music and English at university, graduating in 2003. Since then, she has worked as a freelance musician as a soloist and in orchestras, and developed her skills in improvisation in therapeutic settings and as a member of a band for seven years. Since becoming a mother of two, she has focussed her energy on teaching the harp. This production of the Children of Lir showcases Liehsja's compositions for voice and harp, bringing together her love of the spoken word and music.

### **Angelina Gazquez – Performance (speech): EARTH-SILVER AND SUN-GOLD**

Angelina Gazquez, was born in Düsseldorf, Germany. She studied speech formation and drama at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland and with Erna Grund, with further training in Theatre pedagogy at the Theaterwerkstatt Heidelberg. She was a member of the mystery drama stage group at the Goetheanum from 2008 - 2020. She has 30 years of free lance work as an actress, director, speaker and theatre pedagogue as well as in adult education. She lives and works since 2016 in Italy.

### **Sigune Brinch – Performance (eurythmy): EARTH-SILVER AND SUN-GOLD**

Sigune Brinch was born in Basel Switzerland. She studied Eurythmy under Elena Zuccoli at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland and later completed an MA in Eurythmy Performance at Alanus University, in Bonn, Germany. She has over 33 years' experience as a free-lance eurythmist, performer, choreographer, director and educator. She has been Principal of Peredur Eurythmy since 2016.

### **Gregers Brinch – Performance (music): EARTH-SILVER AND SUN-GOLD**

Gregers Brinch is a Danish contemporary classical composer living in the UK. He studied composition in Hamburg with Elmar Lampson and piano with Alan Newcome and later Ulrike Bauer. Nature and drama feature as inspirations for Brinch's work, but it is his study of intervals that has served to lend him his own unique voice as a composer. His works have been performed frequently in the US and the UK, as well as in Denmark, Germany and France.

### **Ashley Ramsden – Performance: The Four Quartets by T.S. Eliot**

Ashley Ramsden is the founding director of the School of Storytelling at Emerson College. He has brought his work to audiences all over the world.

## EARTH-SILVER AND SUN-GOLD



An artistic performance with eurythmy, music and speech, inspired by Rudolf Steiner's St John Imagination. Rudolf Steiner indicated that this particular Imagination, which involves the Archangel Uriel...

*'would have to be transposed into powerful music, so that the cosmic Mystery, as it can be experienced at this season of St. John, would speak to our hearts..... The silver-shining that rays up from below and is revealed in the form-giving beauty of the light above, must be expressed at St. John's-tide through appropriate musical instruments..... All this would have to be given voice in the music, so that in looking up to the heights we would be looking at the weaving gold*

*of the cosmos and would see the glowing form of Uriel emerging from the light-filled gold and directing his gaze and his gesture down to the Earth. All this would have to be not in any fixed form, but in living movement.'*

Rudolf Steiner, The Four Seasons and the Archangels

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### BOOKING

You can book and pay online at

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/rudolf-steiner-house/t-dvjyolz](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rudolf-steiner-house/t-dvjyolz)

where you will also be asked to make your first and second artistic activities choices.

Alternatively, you can complete the Booking Form and either post it to Ilona Pimbert at Rudolf Steiner House, or scan and email to: [ilona.pimbert.rsh@anth.org.uk](mailto:ilona.pimbert.rsh@anth.org.uk)

### ACCOMMODATION

Ilona Pimbert at Rudolf Steiner House will gladly assist you in finding affordable accommodation. We have reserved several reasonably priced twin rooms in nearby Regent's University. Enquiries to E: [ilona.pimbert.rsh@anth.org.uk](mailto:ilona.pimbert.rsh@anth.org.uk) or T: 0207 723 4400

### MEALS

The Rudolf Steiner House Café will be open for teas & coffees and light refreshments throughout the conference but is unable to provide hot meals for large groups. We are pleased to partner with Regent's University, a 10-minute walk through Regents Park, who will provide buffet-style lunch and supper at their canteen for a very good price. No need to book in advance, as meals will be paid on a meal-by-meal basis (card only).

### COST

The conference fee is £160. A bursary is available on request by contacting Doris Bailiss in advance: [doris.bailiss.rsh@anth.org.uk](mailto:doris.bailiss.rsh@anth.org.uk).

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