

Darwin in Patagonia

Lecture by Stuart Blake

Thursday 5 March 2020

at 6.00 pm

at the Embassy of Argentina, 65 Brook Street, London W1K 4AH

followed by a reception with “empanadas” and a glass of wine

Presented together with:



“They can be described only by negative characters; without habitations, without water, without trees, without mountains, they support merely a few dwarf plants. Why then, and the case is not peculiar to myself, have these arid wastes taken so firm a hold on my memory?”

These were Charles Darwin’s thoughts on Patagonia: not particularly flattering, but clearly a memorable experience. Darwin spent over eight months in and around Patagonia (and only one month in the Galápagos), and it is clear Patagonia played a crucial role in helping him form his theory of evolution.

Join us on a scientific and historical tour of Patagonia as experienced by Darwin, led by Stuart Blake.



Our lecturer is perfectly suited to the task. Born and raised on a farm in southern Patagonia, Stuart was interested in genetics from an early age as he grew up in the world of sheep breeding. A descendant of one of the original pioneer families of southern Patagonia, several generations of Blakes have – like Darwin – linked Cambridge University with Patagonia. Stuart himself went on to study genetics at St Andrew’s University, and while living in London was a committee member of this Society. Over the years his interest in science, history, tourism and Patagonia has led him to travel many of the paths Darwin travelled and to understand deeply the science, the history and the significance behind Darwin’s achievements. Come and learn where Fitzroy Springs are (only the locals know!), hear how “Don Carlos” mastered the boleadoras, and find out why the theory of evolution owes so much to both the endless Patagonian landscapes and to what Darwin ate for his asado supper on a windy Patagonian night with the gauchos.

The event is **FREE**. Places are limited; registration is required.

Priority until 27.2.2020 to full members of the Anglo-Argentine Society and Canning House

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