

## THE LIFE AND WORK OF CHARLES DARWIN/ R.S. Callow

Charles Darwin was one of the most famous scientists of the modern era. His theory of evolution by natural selection is widely accepted amongst scientists who continue to gather evidence in its support. Nevertheless its social and moral implications remain disturbing and controversial. By contrast, Darwin himself was a genial, caring friend and father and a pillar of Victorian respectability. He shied away from controversy, especially in public. This course will probe the nature of the man and consider how it influenced his approach to the gathering and interpretation of evidence.

The aim is to examine the development of Darwin's ideas in the context of their time. In the process, we shall investigate Darwin's family background, his experiences at university and his discoveries during the voyage of HMS *Beagle*. We shall also look into some of his voluminous correspondence, not only with distinguished scientists all over the world but also with ordinary people many of whom were accomplished amateur naturalists. We shall explore the progression of Darwin's theories through his published works, including not only the celebrated *On the Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man* but also lesser known books such as those on Climbing Plants and Earthworms.

Each session will begin with a presentation exploring some aspect of Darwin's life and its contribution to his thinking. It will be followed by discussion of a topic, based on reading matter chosen at the previous meeting. During these discussions, we shall attempt to evaluate the relevance of Darwin's ideas not only to his contemporaries but also to our own lives. Lectures will be supported by supplementary notes and by Power-Point presentations which will include graphical and textual evidence. Discussions will be informed by the lectures, recommended books and supplementary notes issued in advance. Participants will be encouraged to prepare for topics under discussion, to form their own views and to discuss them with others.

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North City Library, Rochdale Road, Manchester, M9 4AF  
Mondays 10.30 ! 12.30, 18<sup>th</sup> January ! 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 (inclusive)

Dr R.S. Callow                      60, Primrose Lane/ Glossop/ Derbyshire/ SK13 6LW  
F/G: 01457 865049; vallesiana@aol.com

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DATE	TOPIC
18 January	Moral and Academic Foundations
25 January	HMS <i>Beagle</i> , the Argentine and its Antediluvian fauna
01 February	Brazil and Tierra del Fuego ! encounters with human diversity
08 February	Mountains that Rise and Fall
15 February	Fame and Family Life
22 February	Darwin and Wallace ! two men with the same big idea
01 March	<i>On the Origin of Species</i>
08 March	Champions and Adversaries ! The Oxford Debate
15 March	<i>The Descent of Man</i>
22 March	The quintessential Victorian Naturalist

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## Booklist

- Boulter, M. (2008). *Darwin's Garden ! Down House and The Origin of Species*. Constable, London. ISBN 978 1 84529 599 8
- Browne, J. (2006). *Darwin's Origin of Species ! a biography*. Atlantic Books, London. ISBN 978 1 84354 394 7
- Browne, J. (2003). *Charles Darwin ! Voyaging (Volume I of a biography)*. Pimlico, London. ISBN 978 1 84413 314 7
- Browne, J. (2003). *Charles Darwin ! The Power of Place (Volume II of a biography)*. Pimlico, London. ISBN 978 0 71266 837 8
- Burkhardt, F. (Ed., 2008). *Charles Darwin - The Beagle Letters*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge UK. ISBN 978 0 521 89838 6
- Burkhardt, F. (Ed., 2008). *Origins ! selected letters of Charles Darwin 1822! 1859*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge UK. ISBN 978 0 521 89862 1
- Darwin, C. *The Voyage of the 'Beagle' (Wordsworth Classics of World Literature)*. Wordsworth Editions Ltd. ISBN 1853264768
- Darwin, C. (1859). *The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection*. Penguin Classics (Ed. J.W. Burrow), Penguin Books, London, 1968.
- Darwin, C. (1871). *The Descent of Man: Selection in Relation to Sex*. Penguin Books Ltd, ISBN 1573921769
- Darwin, C. (1872). *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*. Fontana Press. ISBN 978 0 00638 734 3
- Darwin, C. (1875). *The Movement and Habits of Climbing Plants*. The Echo Library. ISBN 978 1 40684 242 5
- Darwin, C. (1875). *Insectivorous Plants*. Kessinger Publishing Company. ISBN 978 0 54816 436 5
- Darwin, C. (1877). *The Different Forms of Flowers on Plants of the Same Species*. BiblioBazaar, LLC. ISBN 978 1 43467 374 9
- Darwin, C. (1881). *The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Worms*. Hard Press. ISBN 978 1 40692 356 8
- Darwin, F. (Ed., 1887). *Autobiography of Charles Darwin*. NuVision Publications. ISBN 978 1 59547 927 3
- Desmond, A. And Moore, J. (2009). *Darwin's sacred cause*. Allen Lane. Penguin Books, London. ISBN 978 1 846 14035 8
- Grant, P.R. (1986). *Ecology and Evolution of Darwin's Finches*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. ISBN 0 961 04866 5
- Keynes, R. (2003). *Fossils, finches and Fuegians ! Charles Darwin's Adventures and Discoveries on the Beagle, 1832! 1836*. Harper Collins, London. ISBN 0 00 710190 2
- McCalman, I. (2009). *Darwin's Armada*. Simon and Schuster, London. ISBN 978 1 84737 266 6
- Moorehead, A. (1969). *Darwin and the Beagle*. Hamish Hamilton, London. ISBN 241 01731 9
- Nicholas, F.W. and Nicholas, J.M. (Ann. Ed.,2008). *Charles Darwin in Australia*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. ISBN 978 0 521 72867 6
- Wilson, E.O. (Ed., 2006). *From so simple a beginning: Darwin's four great books*. W.W. Norton & Co. Ltd. ISBN 0393061345