



Guildford Travel Club presents John Pilkington: *A Short Stroll through the Middle East*

21 February 2012



John Pilkington is an old friend and past president of the Club. His Radio 4 adventure travel programmes have won wide acclaim, but it's for his thought-provoking talks and spellbinding photos that people know him best. He has lectured to over 1,000 audiences in five countries, and in 2006 received the Royal Geographical Society's Ness Award for popularising geography and the wider understanding of the world.

Starting in Beirut, he followed a winding route through Lebanon and Syria, then crossed the Euphrates to Iraq and finally Iran, where he hiked through the Valleys of the Assassins and got briefly arrested in the holy city of Qom, before finishing on a parched island in the Persian Gulf. He says these countries "are in the news for all the wrong reasons", and to his surprise found families and whole communities working together to survive the harsh climate and political strife.



Guildford Travel Club presents John Pilkington: *Georgia to Afghanistan*

4 February 2014



In an exciting sequel to his last talk for us, our president follows a spectacular branch of the Silk Road from the Caucasus across the Caspian Sea to Samarkand. He then turns south-east to explore the High Pamirs of Afghanistan - a region well-known to Marco Polo - before making a dramatic finale at the source of the Oxus in the heart of Central Asia. His stunning photos and entertaining and informative commentary make this a talk not to be missed.

John has been called "one of Britain's greatest tellers of travellers' tales". He has spoken to over 1,000 audiences in five countries, and holds the Royal Geographical Society's Ness Award for popularising geography and the wider understanding of the world.

