

INTRODUCTION

After an unusually protracted cool season the sun is returning again to limit the scope and range of possible field trips. Throughout the winter the Committee has tried to maintain its target of one field trip and one lecture per month. Although perhaps the field trips started a little late, lectures have been thriving more than in any previous year.

Since September there have been six field trips: to Coleman's Rock near Al Hamra, to ancient mining sites near the Wadi Jizzi, to excavations at Baat, to Sohar's ancient field systems, to excavations at Tawi Silaim, and to the palace at Jabrin. There have been six lectures: by Professor Howard Bowen-Jones, Mr. David Critchfield, Miss Beatrice de Cardi, Mr. Roger Wood, Professor R.B. Serjeant and Dr. Karen Frifelt.

Attendance at all these events has been good and an all-time record of over 80 members and guests came to showing of a the film, "The Empty Quarter", at Gordon Lucas's house. There was also a very good demand for reproductions of an early painting of Muscat Harbour, made available by David Insall. The least well-attended event of the period was the Annual General Meeting which attracted thirteen members and five apologies. Perhaps the timing, so close to Christmas but necessarily late because of Eid al Adha, was inopportune. However the Committee elected by so small a mandate meets every month in its endeavour to further the aims of the Association. We should welcome suggestions by members for field trips, (preferably accompanied by an offer to lead), and for suitable informal functions. We should also welcome contributions for further issues of the Bulletin.