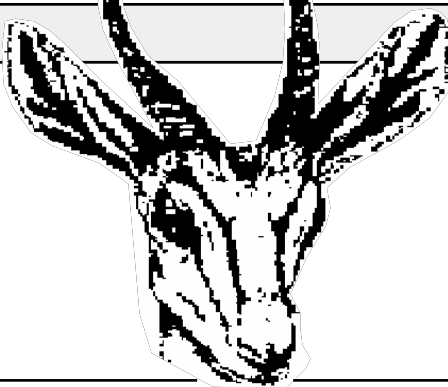


GAZELLE

Vol 19 no 4 - April 2004



مجموعة دبي للتاريخ الطبيعي

DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Members' News

Congratulations!

Our own Vice Chairman and Secretary **Valerie Chalmers** is this year's winner of the Bish Brown Award, conferred in recognition of her contributions towards a better understanding and appreciation of the natural history of the UAE. Val has been a DNHG Committee member for many years, as well as a regular lecturer and field trip leader. Her personal interests and activities have been focused on UAE plants and fossils, each of which she has both studied and collected for identification by experts in the U.K. She is one of the few resident amateur botanists to take a particular interest in grasses. The award is given in memory of J.N.B. "Bish" Brown, a remarkable all-around amateur naturalist and a founder of the UAE's first natural history group, the ENHG in Abu Dhabi.

Brien Holmes of Al-Ain has served for a number of years as Chairman of the Al-Ain chapter of the Emirates Natural History Group, during which time he has overseen a remarkable renaissance within that organization (now the largest such group in Al-Ain). So it is with some regret that we report that Brien and his wife will be returning to their native Canada this summer, with the result that he will be stepping down

as Al-Ain Chairman. We wish them well, and we hope that Brien will find an excuse to make his way back to the UAE, at least from time to time

The achievements of the Al-Ain ENHG have been the work of many people, but Brien played an important and much valued role in channeling and coordinating the efforts of other enthusiastic and energetic individuals - all in his characteristically calm and modest way. Al-Ain's pioneering web site for the natural history groups was a particular initiative of Brien's (he is one of the older "techies" around), but it has been safely entrusted to others well in advance of his departure. His influence was also evident in the Al-Ain group's cultivation of personal contact and friendly relationships with the local people of the Al-Ain/Buraimi hinterland.

Brien's own greatest natural history interest was in archeology and his active exploration has greatly advanced the identification and compilation of information about many sites in the greater Al-Ain/Buraimi area, particularly copper smelting sites, but including also the first Umm Al-Nar tombs known from within the Hajar Mountains in that area.

Keep in touch, Brien!

DNHG Membership

September marks the start of the new DNHG membership year. DNHG membership remains a bargain at Dhs. 100 for couples and Dh. 50 for singles. You can join or renew at meetings or by sending us a cheque made out to Lloyds Bank account no. 173746 posted to us at PO Box 9234, Dubai. (Please note we cannot cash cheques made out to the DNHG.)

DNHG membership entitles you to participate in field trips and helps pay for our lecture hall, publication and distribution of our monthly newsletter, the *Gazelle*, additions to our library, incidental expenses of speakers and occasional special projects.

New members who join in May will be automatically enrolled for the coming membership year (Sep 04-Sep 05).

This month's Contributors

The Editor would like to thank the following for their reports:

Jenny Irwin
Jo Raynor
David Palmer
Valerie Chalmers
Gary Feulner
and
Larry Woods



Field Trips etc ...

Evening Bug Collecting in the City

Provisional Date – Wed 5 May 7.00pm onwards...

Brigitte Howarth from Al Ain NHG is keen to collect night flying insects with us. The proposed venue is the new zoo site adjacent to Mushrif Park or otherwise Mushrif Park itself. Brigitte, who spoke on her specialist subject, hover flies, at a meeting about 2 years back, has an infectious interest in flying things, and gets very excited over very small things! Using a Mercury vapour lamp courtesy of ERWDA we will collect specimens to better understand the biodiversity of insect life the area. Access will be easy as equipment will need to be carried. Some walking in the dark may be required. Torches are recommended. As insects vary in their active period during night. The keen among us may be in for a long night! Others are free to leave earlier. Also those who can't make it on time may turn up later and just follow the bright light. Those not interested in bugs may try their luck at small mammals and reptiles.

If interested email Johanna joray@emirates.net.ae or talk to her at the May 2nd meeting. Final details should be available then.

Jabeeb Camels and Iron Age Trip.

Date not yet set: 14th or 21st May, 7.00am

This trip covers camels, dunes, bugs and an iron age site. Just about an hour from Dubai towards Al Ain, this trip will head off the main highway and go through the camel farm region near Jabeeb. We will have a short look at the camel camp and then on to some low dunes to examine the bug life and animal tracks or watch more camels if you prefer. Then on over

a few easy dunes to examine a couple of Iron Age pottery scatter sites first discovered by Brien Holmes from the Al Ain ENHG. Hopefully Brien will be on hand to guide us. 4WD is necessary and numbers will be limited. Non-4WDers may be able to fill empty seats. The weather is very warm at this time so we will have an early start, 7.00am, and aim to be off the sand by 11.00am. More details will be available at the May 2nd meeting.

Contact Johanna joray@emirates.net.ae or talk to her at the meeting to sign up.



Archaeology Symposium Report

Johanna Raynor writes: On the 7th and 8th April I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the 2nd Annual Symposium on Recent Archaeological Work in the UAE, organised by the Zayed Centre for Heritage and History. Held at the stunningly sited Grand Mercure Hotel on Jebel Hafit, this symposium was organised so that working archaeologists in the UAE could network and present an overall picture of the work happening in the UAE.

Over two days, the findings were presented in chronological order for the age of each site. Thus on Wednesday we heard about the progress on neolithic finds in the Empty Quarter, Marawah Island and Jebel Buhais. The following day we heard about the Al Sufouh camels and Dilmun seals from the Wadi Suq period (2000 - 1000 BC) followed by the Julphar aged Wadi Sur wall (subject of our recent visit). The day finished with an outline of the historical context of the 19thC Fujairah Fort and environs, a survey of Mosques in Abu Dhabi's western region and a survey of older existing homes in Ras al-Khaimah. Thanks to the generosity of a number of the ar-

chaeologists in speaking to the DNHG, some of these findings were familiar to me. Put in context with the further findings and new discoveries of parallel projects, a clearer picture of the historical context of what we see out there, be they tombs, pottery scatters or ruined dwellings, could be seen. I hope we can encourage others from this meeting to speak to our members next year.

The far-sightedness of the Zayed Centre, in organising these symposia following on from the first Archaeological Conference of 2001, is making this history available to experts and amateurs, local and expats as never before. See the book table for the *Findings of the 2001 Archaeological Conference*. Thanks, Johanna, for this report.

Our Next Speaker

Architect **Peter Jackson** first worked in Dubai in the early 1970's. In 1975 he researched and co-authored "A Windtower House in Dubai" with Dr Anne Coles. This would be an initiation into a world of historic buildings. He has since written many papers of architectural research, and in 1986, a book, "Historic Buildings of Harare", and spent many years jumping out of, then subsequently flying, single engine aircraft.

In 1976, he moved to Zambia, and in 1980, jointly established a new practice in Zimbabwe; Architects Partnership won several architectural competitions and undertook a wide range of public and private sector projects. For many years he was Honorary Historic Buildings Advisor to the City of Harare. The practice was closed in 2001 due to Mugabe's collapsing political-economic environment.

In 2002, with his teacher wife, Jutta, he returned to Dubai, and last year joined Godwin Austen Johnson Architects.



Volunteers for Members' Night

As has been our custom for several years, the DNHG's June meeting (June 2) will be Members' Night, featuring 2 or 3 shorter presentations by DNHG members. Experience has shown that most members have something that they are interested enough in to talk for 15 to 20 minutes (or more). Talks should be natural history oriented, but otherwise there are very few restrictions. If you are interested, please let one of the DNHG Committee members know. Contact details can be found on page 7.

Help Wanted

The DNHG still needs a Librarian and additional Field Trip Coordinator for the coming year.

Librarian: The hardest work is done. Outgoing Librarian Deanne White has overseen the move and cataloguing of most of the DNHG Library collection, which is now open for use at the Emirates Academy library. This is the most accessible that our library collection has ever been, and we hope that it will prove a convenient reference. However, a small amount of new and miscellaneous material remains to be catalogued, and a modest amount of regular effort is required to ensure that systems are observed and record-keeping is maintained.

Field Trip Coordinator: All who participate in our field trips seem to enjoy them, but it takes a certain amount of effort to make them happen. The job description is to have or solicit ideas, identify and recruit potential trip leaders, and provide "how to" guidance and encouragement. This need not be done in a vacuum - the Committee is available to assist, but Committee members all have other primary responsibilities. At the moment, the DNHG is relying on a relatively small number of trip leaders. We are worried that a few of these are going to stop

making suggestions, because every time they suggest an idea, they are asked to lead!

Transport Problems?

We understand that there are members who live in distant parts of Dubai [eg Bur Dubai / Deira] who do not have their own transport and are experiencing difficulty in travelling to our lectures. We would like to hear from lecture attendees living in the far corners who do have their own transport and are prepared to give others a lift.


If you can help please contact Jen Robinson, Treasurer, 050-5982494

Letters to the Editor:

Hi! I am a first year undergraduate at Durham University studying Anthropology and I would really love to gain some work experience in the field. I was a member of the Dubai Natural History group when I was at school in Dubai at Dubai College and am hoping you can help - even if it's just to advise me who to contact to get more involved in anthropology in the UAE. If you have any information that could possibly help me, please contact me by email at sarajane-smith1@hotmail.com. It would be much appreciated!

Kind regards,
Sara Jane Smith

And...

Dear Editor:  Given the repeated references in your pages to "Larry Woods's dumpsite" in Sharjah - recently refined in your December 03 issue to simply read the "Larry Woods Dumpsite," as if to imply an official designation - I regret to inform you that I have been moved to begin legal proceedings against your esteemed publication and parent organization. Having consulted the local firm of Sheikh,

Rattle & Roll, I was at first led to believe that I had an open and shut case. Alas, my case has been shut all too soon with the discovery by new DNHG member and apparently sometime legal scholar John Chilton - allegedly a professor at an institute of higher learning somewhat suspiciously referred to as the "American University of Sharjah" - that there is a precedent in the state of Ohio which will render my suit null and void. Therefore, as there would now appear no way of preventing the title "Larry Woods Dumpsite" from continuing to be used by your journal, I should like it known that I would rather prefer to be remembered by the honour bestowed upon me at the following website address for "Lawrence Woods State Nature Preserve": www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap/location/lawrence_woods.htm (I am obliged to note that I just tried this URL myself and found it blocked by our local authorities. The work of your scheming chairman, no doubt!)

Yours titularly,
Larry/Lawrence Woods
Near a dumpsite by any other name in Sharjah





Field Clips ...

E.mail your reports to pvana@emirates.net.ae, (Arial 10 justified) or deliver them to Anne Millen on floppy disk at monthly meetings.

Inter-Emirates Weekend Reports

The Emirates Natural History Group in Al-Ain hosted Inter-Emirates Weekend 2004 and provided an action-packed weekend of activities and workshops. Thursday afternoon workshops included discussions of research on human DNA in Arabian populations, which being conducted in an attempt to establish or confirm the historical patterns of migration into the area, and also research into the brain of the camel.

Thursday night dinner was held in the delightfully peaceful and atmospheric courtyard of the East Fort at the Al-Ain Museum complex. Dessert was a cake in the form of a remarkably tall mud brick fort.

The photo competition featured great variety among the winning entries (including two by Al-Ain's Nasser Omeir): an impish looking toad among debris, a panorama of sand dunes, a close-up of a camel about to smooch the camera, a yellow toad-headed agama with its tail coiled, and a close up of a colourful dragonfly.

There was too much on offer to see and do it all, so whether you were in attendance or not, you may be interested in the following brief reports from various field trips and other activities:

Wadi Khutwah: Led by Brien Holmes, Chairman of the Al Ain ENHG, we entered the Khutwah oasis from upstream, by way of Jazira, an 'island of greenery' and an iron age settlement with houses and cave dwellings. Nobody lives there now. We saw

mango trees 100 years old, fig, lemon, lime and orange trees and banana plantations.

At Khutwah, we parked on the opposite side of the gorge near a copper smelting area. Bones have been found here and the evidence suggests that this area was occupied 1000 years ago by people who were small in stature and came from Yemen and Somalia.

In the oasis itself, I noticed quite a big change since I last visited this area. Brien explained that the inhabitants are digging up the date palms and are replanting the 'fields' with cash crops such as mint, parsley, spinach, radish and onion which are more profitable.

After a tour of the oasis which included visiting one of the fields, looking at the village clock and looking around one of the old houses, we set off down the gorge, at times by way of the falaj system. Brien pointed out to us more copper smelting sites and burial grounds. We climbed up to see the grave of a man murdered in the wadi who had to be buried there also because his body was too badly decomposed to be moved. Our return route was by way of the wadi bed, passing deep pools of water and looking at the wildlife in and around the pools. I was delighted to see the orchid *Epipactis veratrifolia* in full bloom together with the maidenhair fern *Adiantum capillus veneris* and *Nerium oleander*, a recognized association common to wadi sites with permanent water or seepage. *Thanks to Valerie Chalmers for this report.*

Hili Archeological Sites

On the Friday morning of the inter-emirates weekend, a small group of us visited the Hili archaeological area with Dr Laurence Garey of the UAEU medical school. We first wandered around the very extensive area of Hili 8, which is next to the archaeological park. The area is fenced, but the gate is open. People who like the atmosphere of

wide open and mostly unexplored archaeological sites will find much to enjoy there. After a brief inspection of the now crumbling remains of the bronze age tower and settlement, we looked at several recently reconstructed *umm al nar* style tombs, debated the merits of reconstruction, and speculated on whether reconstructions were biased by expectations based on other sites.

We then visited the Hili archaeological park itself, and admired the magnificent stonework and carvings on the monumental tomb (if it is a tomb). After visiting the other sites in the park we paused at the rectangular Tomb N, which is right next to one of the circular tombs and is currently covered with plastic sheets. This is one of the sites from which Dr Garey has obtained bones for DNA analysis in the hope of being able to establish continuity or otherwise between ancient and modern residents of these and other parts of Arabia.

Next we moved on to the remains of the large iron age town a short distance away at Rumeilah, but were unable to gain admission to the site because of the absence from town that day of Walid Yasin, the chief archaeologist at the Al Ain museum. So we moved on to one of the newest finds in Al Ain, a possibly very ancient fortification built into the side of the rocky outcrop of Nagfa, which extends into Al Ain from Jebel Hafeet. The site is very close to the brand-new sports stadium, and was presumably built to guard the nearby oasis. Excavation has recently started on this site, and the full extent of it is not yet known. *(contributed by David Palmer)*

Wadi Subaitah

There were only four who set out to experience the delights of Wadi Subaitah, which made it a very quiet and relaxing trip. We began with a walk up through the coolness of the palm grove and orchard into the village and our first stop was by the cistern which was



Dubai Natural History Group Recorders

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Seashells - Sandy Fowler
res 344 2243
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Astronomy - Lamjed El-Kefi
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pearldiv@emirates.net.ae

Marine Life - Lamjed El-Kefi

Geology - Gary Feulner
res 306 5570
fax 330 3550

Insects – Gary Feulner

Fossils - Valerie Chalmers
res 349 4816,
fax 340 0990

Plants – Valerie Chalmers

Mammals - **Recorder needed**

The recorders are not necessarily scientific experts in their designated fields. In fact, most are not. However, they are interested and knowledgeable amateurs - please contact them if you have any interesting reports or queries.

The intention is that information will be channelled through to the *Gazelle* editor, so new information can be shared with all our readers.

full of water. The two photographers in the party spent a long while here as there was wonderful dappled sunshine on the vegetation and several beautiful dragonflies. The other two of us strolled ahead along the falaj at our own pace. The falaj was a delight as it hugs the side of the mountain with very steep drops in some places on one side – not for the faint hearted! All the way along there are glorious views across the wadi and also up to the mountains. The plant life was abundant and my stroll was very slow as there was much to observe! We eventually all reached the pool at the head of the wadi and cooled off in the shade. Jerry, our leader, entering the pool to get some good "water shots"!

Our return walk was blessed with a cool breeze and we again followed the falaj at our own pace. It was a wonderful trip with much to recommend it for future visits. It is an easy walk but there is much natural history to observe. The plant life was abundant. I, as an amateur, recorded seventy different plants. One completely new one for me – great excitement! - with several tantalizingly still unidentified. The falaj itself was home to frogs and fish and there was much insect life in evidence, especially near the gardens and the village. The photo opportunities were very varied, and there is evidence of copper smelting higher up the side of the wadi which we did not visit on this trip. Many thanks to Jerry for a great day out! *And thanks to Jenny Irwin for this report.*

Musing over Molluscs

Not long after the new year I joined Dr. Richard Hornby of Abu Dhabi for an excursion at low tide along an area of rocky beach pavement near Jebel Ali. Dick had previously conducted a professional survey of the flora and fauna of the UAE coastline, and the Abu Dhabi ENHG (of which Dick is a past Chairman) has recently devoted particular attention

to this area near the Dubai-Abu Dhabi border, which it is feared will suffer from development before too long. The rocky pavement is unusual along this coast, and the area is also characterised by an almost unique accumulation of coarse coral debris, which Dick dated to c.1996, following two years of extended, unusually high sea surface temperatures.

One of Dick's principal techniques is to leave no stone unturned, literally. By and large, the underside of rocks is home to a greater variety of intertidal life than the upper side, probably because it provides shelter from waves, sunlight, desiccation and perhaps some predators. Over, under, around and through the loose rock and coral we saw algae (brown, red and green - now considered only distantly related and classified as separate phyla); flatworms; polychaete worms that build tunnels; polychaete worms that crawl; encrusting sponges (one had turned a snail bright red); sponges that look like worms; sea squirts; sea slugs; suspected bryozoans; tiny porcelain crabs; other tiny, deformed crabs that decorate their shells with algae - so many odd life forms, in fact, that the more readily identifiable molluscs began to seem downright familiar.

Dick Hornby was able to correct my misidentification of a species that I had first encountered more than a year ago, but it took both our heads plus inspection of the shells with *Seashells of Eastern Arabia*, by Bosch et al., in front of us, to puzzle out a collection of similar looking ('similar but different') Muricoid shells of the sort called "dog whelks" (does anyone know why?), all relatively thick, knobby, grey-brown gastropods, generally exposed on the intertidal rocks. In appearance, they seemed to intergrade, but after study it was possible to distinguish them quickly and confidently by reference to the number and form of the 'teeth' situated along the interior of the aperture. Thus we made them out to be *Cronia cf.*



Field Clips...

margariticola (#481), *Morula anaxares* (#484), *Morula granulata* (#486) and *Thais savignyi* (#493). Also present was the more distinctive *Cronia cf. konkanensis* (#480). [Numbers refer to numbers in *Seashells of Eastern Arabia*.] Report by Gary Feulner.

Clam Shrimps

If and when it ever rains again, one thing to watch for in wadi pools is clam shrimps. After scattered showers last autumn in the Masafi area, several DNHG members hiking in an out-of-the-way area in early November encountered a large, clear pool in an upper wadi. In it they saw some 15-20 clam shrimps, shimmering like little jewels in the water as they moved.

Clam Shrimps or Branchiopods are small (~1cm) shrimp-like crustaceans that build a carapace around themselves like a transparent clam shell. They live in ephemeral freshwater pools, where they swim and feed by waving an array of foot-like appendages. They were first reported in the UAE by Dr. Richard Hornby at Jebel Hafeet in 1999, and have since been found at perhaps a half dozen other sites, none north of Hatta. Most of the individuals seen near Masafi had a store of tiny yellow eggs or cysts stored in the dorsal part of their shells and had dull greenish bodies, but a few (still immature) were almost totally transparent.

Clam shrimps do not seem to occur in pools where wadi fish are present, and they are preyed on by diving beetles. Moreover, even where they occur, they appear to have adopted the ephemeral lifestyle of their more famous cousins such as tadpole shrimp (*Triops* spp.) and fairy shrimp. Dick Hornby's original ~50 animals were absent a month later, and the smaller Masafi population was gone just a week later, although it is unknown whether this was due to their natural life cycle or to predation. More details about Clam

Shrimps and their life cycles can be found in an article by Dick Hornby in *Tribulus*, v.9.1 (Spring 1999). Report by Gary Feulner.

Emperor Dragonfly Swarms

True to form, the Vagrant Emperor dragonfly (*Hemianax ephippiger*) was swarming (migrating?) in January and early February, and could be seen from Ras al-Khaimah all the way south to Masirah Island in Oman, in all kinds of environments. Numbers, however, did not seem to be as great as in many previous years, most likely due to the continuing drought.

The Vagrant Emperor is a relatively large, yellow-green dragonfly with a heavy thorax and a comparatively narrow abdomen. Adult males have a bright blue patch just behind the wings, at the junction of the thorax and abdomen. They seldom perch, flying almost continuously by day, often relatively high (more than 2-1/2 meters above the ground). Report by Gary Feulner.

Book



Reviews

Phoenix 20

No, it's not a new nightclub - it's the latest annual volume of the *Phoenix*, No. 20 a journal published by the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia (ABBA) project, with sponsorship from Saudi Arabia's National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development.

Vol. 20 includes short reports on topics such as exotic birds breeding in Arabian cities (with separate attention given to the golden backed weaver, which breeds in Dubai and Abu Dhabi; first Arabian breeding by the Yellow Wagtail; breeding by Shikras in the UAE, reports on recommended bird-watching sites in Yemen and Saudi Arabia; and a report on the

latest survey, in the Riyadh area, by ABBA coordinator Mike Jennings (always entertaining and informative reading). Behaviour is featured as well as breeding, including play activity by Fan-Tailed Ravens and communal behaviour in the Socotra Cormorant.

A limited number of copies of *Phoenix* No. 20 are available through the DNHG. Interested birdwatchers should contact Gary Feulner. It is also possible to subscribe directly. This is most easily done by visiting the ABBA website, which also contains reporting forms and an extensive bibliography, at: <http://dSPACE.dial.pipex.com/arabian.birds/>

Tribulus 13.2

A new *Tribulus* is now out and will be on sale at our May lecture (a bargain at Dh. 15). It features, as always, original research and reports from the UAE and neighbouring areas.

Tribulus 13.2 reports on elephant trackways from the Miocene of Abu Dhabi's Western Region, and follows up with experimental track-making by an iguana lizard on the sabkha at Dab'iyyah - an environment similar to Mesozoic deposits in Europe that preserve large reptile tracks.

Also included are papers on Abu Dhabi's dew forest - a zone where the *Haloxylon persicum* tree promotes its own growth and that of a few other desert plants by precipitating and dripping dew onto the ground below it; the discovery of *Triops* in the UAE - the tadpole shrimp which can aestivate for years, and appears after rain in fresh water pools; and invertebrate life in wadi pools (in particular the Hatta Pools).

For the archeology-minded, Dr. Geoffrey King reviews Dr. Walid Yasin's book on the development of falaj systems and irrigation in the UAE.



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Seashore Field Guide

The latest DNHG library addition is A Field Guide to the Seashores of Eastern Africa. While that may seem somewhat distant, the tropical and subtropical shores of the Indian Ocean constitute a coherent and recognized marine biogeographic province, and many species of littoral (near the seashore) organisms can be found throughout the region. In fact, this book is probably the best single field guide presently available for our area - it is recommended by no less than seashore expert Dr. Richard Hornby -- and permits the identification of large numbers of organisms found in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, from seaside trees and shrubs through seaweed and sponges to jellyfish, worms, crustaceans, sea slugs, starfish, and on to fish, turtles and sea snakes and finally shore birds, including many organisms that

normal people can't even distinguish as animal or plant. *Thanks to Gary Feulner for these reviews.*

And it is a long time since we mentioned Sandy Fowler's master-piece, available to members through the library:

A Rough Sheller's Guide To The Northern Emirates

Most shell-collectors new to the Emirates are soon faced with the situation of having a book to identify their newly collected shells but no guide as to *where* to go shelling. Sandy Fowler, committee member-at-large, family physician at Dubai London Clinic, and enthusiastic shell-collector, has produced "A Rough Sheller's Guide to The Northern Emirates". In it, Sandy details the Gulf beaches from Ghantoot south of Jebel Ali to Sha'am north of Ras Al Khaimah, and the East coast beaches from

Dibba to Khor Kalba. The guide gives precise location details including GPS readings, whether 4-wheel drive is needed to reach the beach, the shells you can expect to find on each beach, and the best tides to go. There are photographs in plenty of the beaches and the shells. A section on first aid and common sense is included, as well as advice on cleaning your shells after collecting.

It is not for publication, but is retained in the DNHG library, freely available to anyone who wants to borrow it and copy any or all of it for their own use - even if it is more than 96 megabytes!



Dubai Natural History Group Programme

Lectures at Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, 7.30 for 8.00pm

02 May An Early Survey of a Bastakia Windtower House - Peter Jackson

06 Jun Members' Night:

Mhd. Arfan Asif - Wildlife Photography (Birds and Macro)

Johanna Raynor - Nature Reserves of Northern Thailand

Peter van Amsterdam - Vehicle Tips for Off-Road Driving and Sand Driving

Field Trips (DNHG members only, please).

Wed 5 May (to be confirmed) Evening Bug Collecting in the City with Brigette Howarth

May 14th / 21st (to be confirmed) Jabeeb Camels and Iron Age Trip with Jo Raynor and Brien
Holmes