

# NEWSLETTER

## The Coming of Al-Andalus

The lightning expansion of the Islamic Arabs in the years 632 - 750 took in not only the North African littoral and most of Iberia, but also Iran, Afghanistan and large parts of Pakistan and Central Asia. It was the manifestation of the irresistible force of the idea whose time has come. In the first episode of his study of Moorish Andalusia, Peter Booker surveys the conquest of the fragile Visigothic kingdom and the establishment of the Abbasid Emirate and the subsequent Caliphate of Córdoba. Who were the conquerors? Why did the Muslim state evolve into a Caliphate? Why did the Caliphate in the mid-eleventh century dissolve into the petty kingdoms known as taifas? Join Peter in the first of his tetralogy of presentations on Al-Andalus.

### PORTUGUESE AZULEJOS

*RACHEL BARNARD*

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY, TAVIRA

MONDAY 14 AT 6 PM

### ALGARVE WILDLIFE: WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SUMMER

*CLIVE VINEY*

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY TAVIRA

MONDAY 21 AT 6 PM

### THE COMING OF AL-ANDALUS

*PETER KINGDON BOOKER*

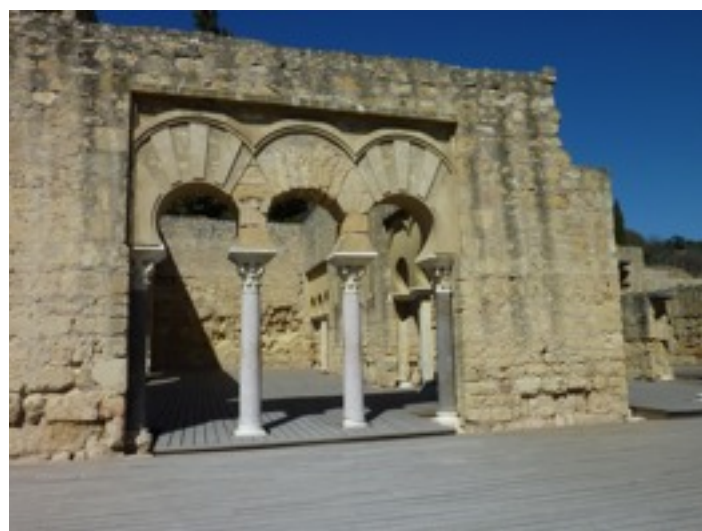
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY LAGOA

TUESDAY 22 AT 6 PM

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY TAVIRA

FRIDAY 25 AT 11 AM

### Medinat Al Zahara near Córdoba



## JUNE

Tuesday 12 at 6pm, Lagoa Library

Algarve Gardens: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

by Rosie Peddle

Monday 18 at 6 pm, Tavira Library

Cosmic and Climate Influence

by Clive Jackson

Tuesday 26 at 6pm, Lagoa Library

Friday 29 at 11am, Tavira Library

The Sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz

by Peter Kingdon Booker

**ALGARVE WILDLIFE: WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SUMMER**

Clive Viney addresses AHA with the second in his series on Algarve Wildlife. Having already spoken of the spring, Clive shows what we should look for in summer. He covers the commonest flowers of the countryside and on the seashore; some of the most brilliant insects; snakes and frogs; and of course the birdlife of the region. Clive is well known for his expertise on and enthusiasm for birdlife, and in this lecture series, he follows the format of his recent book *Algarve Wildlife - the natural year*.

**PORTUGUESE AZULEJOS**

Rachel Barnard, former lecturer at the University of Westminster, gives her second talk for AHA. She writes: In 1845 the Prussian ambassador to Lisbon wrote home to Berlin: *The azulejo is a part of Portugal's physiognomy. Azulejo is the term they employ to describe the fine squares of kiln-fired clay, glazed on one side. Few churches or houses do not have them. ...In the greater part of the houses, even in the poorer dwellings the interior walls are lined with them, some covered with them from top to bottom...* This talk explores the specific events influencing the artistic and functional use of azulejos over 500 years.

*At the end of 2011, Algarve History Association donated €200 to Madrugada, the charity for those affected by life limiting disease and Jouk's fashion show on 25 April raised a further €500 for Madrugada. More than 80 people attended the show. Our thanks go to Wendy Ashley, Jean Meadowcroft and Annie Newbold for working so hard at the raffle; to Tony Woods for the photos; to the models for their professional performances. A big thank you also to all of you who contribute towards the cost of running our organisation. Your donations enable us to run a website; provide hospitality for our speakers; make available books and other documents for those keen to further their own research; and make donations to worthwhile charities such as Madrugada.*

*Please note that the talk by Rosie Peddle scheduled for 8 May in Lagoa has been re-scheduled for 12 June.*

*Lynne*

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