

BRITISH SYRIAN SOCIETY EVENTS 2008

The British Syrian Society (BSS) held a number of events during 2008.

The most recent of these, arranged by the BSS and the British Museum to mark Damascus Capital of Arab Culture 2008 was entitled: Syria Through the Ages: A British Appreciation of Syrian Culture. It was held at the Assad Library in Damascus on Friday 19th December 2008.

This event was a follow on from a previous study day held at the British Museum in London in 2006.

The day consisted of lectures supported by slide presentations by British experts on Syrian Archaeology, Discoveries, Architecture, History, Science, Mosaics and Ceramics. The event provided a unique opportunity to look into the history of Syria and to celebrate its remarkable culture.



In March, the Palmyra Seminar had raised a number of recommendations regarding the future development of Palmyra and surrounding area. Participants in the seminar agreed that preserving the integrity of the archaeological site and its setting as an oasis in the desert is of a paramount importance for its stature as a remarkable site on the UNESCO world heritage list.

There was also agreement that the proposed work on the existing and future airport, the proposed railway station, and the planned southern ring road should only be considered after analysing alternative possibilities.

Studies were required to measure and evaluate the impacts on the environment, including the setting of the World Heritage Site, the oasis and the salt lake and informing UNESCO of the findings. It was clear, the final report said, that some existing proposals will need to be significantly re-evaluated.

