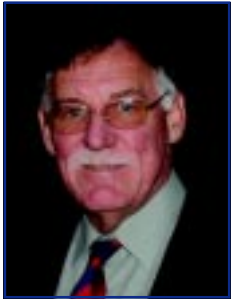


# Notes from the Eastern Chair



**Geoff Fennah MBE**  
Chairman, British Business Association Eastern Province

Hopefully everyone is now back from their long relaxing vacations, fully rested and ready for a busy run in to the end of the year. EP is continuing to thrive on the business front while in contrast the rest of the World seems to be on a sudden downward slide. It is hard to believe that the World economy can de-stabilize so suddenly. At the time of writing it is hard to see an end to the problems with numerous established business operations looking very fragile. Is it not a truly crazy World when the US Federal Reserve is the sponsor for Manchester United!!

Membership of BBA is continuing to hold at around 180 with new arrivals being offset by departures. This is a reflection of the changing demographics and the increasingly transient nature of the expatriate base tending to work short term contracts in support of the significant project activities.

It is interesting to note the appointment of an ex EP stalwart, Owain Raw-Rees (moved on a free transfer a few years ago!!) as the new Chairman for RGBB. We look forward to a continuing productive relationship between the two groups. We have some new additions to our Committee – welcome to Michael (Rolly) Rollings as Events Secretary and Zane Thirlwall who will be our Business Development focal point. We also said our goodbyes to BBA Secretary, Donna Steven who has moved on to Germany – a big thanks to Donna for all her hard work on our behalf. Fortunately, we have quickly found an excellent replacement in Pamela Baxter who has already started to make her mark on the office administration.

The annual Opportunity Arabia 5 Conference, organised by the Middle East Association, took place



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in London in late August and was again very successful with over 200 British companies in attendance. BBA contributed to the success of the event and were ably represented on the day by our roving EP experts, Colin Clarke and Jon Carter!! The British Trade Office also has a busy schedule for the rest of the year with a number of Trade Missions visiting Saudi Arabia and as usual we stand ready to provide support, as needed.

Socially, we are busy working on a joint venture social event between BBA and the Bahrain British Business Forum (BBBF). The theme will be a Poppy Ball (successfully operated by BBBF in the past) and will be held on 13 November in the Crowne Plaza, Bahrain. I won't say too much here, but suffice to say, a very special evening is planned.

If you need to contact us then contact me directly or send an e-mail to our Secretary (Pamela) at [bbakhobar@atheer.net.sa](mailto:bbakhobar@atheer.net.sa) or via the website [www.bbaep.com](http://www.bbaep.com)

**Geoff Fennah**  
Chairman, EPBBA

## Art on Display



Two BAE Systems wives from Dhahran recently held an exhibition of their art work at Al-Nada Compound in Al-Khobar. Photographer Sandra Mason and watercolour artist June Ross put on an impressive display of work showing many aspects of life in Saudi Arabia. On display were scenes from Jeddah, Riyadh and the Asir, as well as images from the Eastern Province. The Exhibition was sponsored by the Libra Group from Bahrain, and was very well attended by many people of all nationalities from the local community.



Both June and Sandra are well known within the artistic community of the Eastern Province. They have participated in and organised many larger Exhibitions. They also regularly organise exhibitions of different Saudi and British artists' work for the British Trade Office in Al-Khobar. These have proved to be very popular with the many Saudi and British people who attend meetings and receptions there. Within the common ground of art, it is a rewarding way for June and Sandra to integrate the two cultures.