

The British Community Ladies Committee extend a warm welcome to all British ladies in Riyadh, whether newly arrived or here for a while.

We are a non-profit making group, which is not attached to the British Embassy but which has traditionally, with the kind permission of the British Ambassador, held the monthly coffee mornings on the Embassy premises.

Membership is restricted to British passport holders and to the wives of a British Passport holder. The aim of the group is twofold. Firstly, to encourage a feeling of community and corporate spirit amongst British women resident in Saudi Arabia, and to assist in any way possible in ensuring that recent arrivals settle into what is often perceived as an alien environment. It further assists helping members of the group to find new interests and make new friends.

Secondly, through various gatherings, the BCL arranges fund raising activities which benefit both Saudi and British charities.

We hold a coffee morning on the first Tuesday morning of every month in the Embassy Hall at the British Embassy on the DQ. On the third Tuesday of every month we have a Bingo coffee morning and

Many of you will remember the visit of Rhodri Morgan to Riyadh last year, especially since he kindly agreed to assist with the Charity Golf Day, an event which the British Community Ladies helped to organise.

"1 March is St David's Day. It is an occasion for Welsh people all over the world to celebrate their proud heritage and traditions. These are the things which draw us together. It is also the best day in the year to tell the rest of the world what modern Wales is all about.

Some describe Wales as one of the world's best kept secrets. That is changing. We are coming out of the shadows to let everyone know what a wonderful country Wales is: a special place, full of history but also a new country with new optimism and a new system of domestic devolved self-government that symbolises that new self confidence.

Last August at the World Summit in Johannesburg Wales took its place as a leading nation on sustainable development. The Welsh Assembly Government was one of the leaders in establishing a global network of sub-national and regional governments committed to sustainable development.

This is one way in which Wales via its new governmental institutions is making strides on the European stage and on the world stage.

There will be some observers who will be astonished

also arrange to have brunches at a hotel or visits to places of interest for ladies. These events are not restricted to British Passport holders only, and allow members the opportunity of bringing along a friend. Although we are somewhat restricted in our movements there are plenty of things to keep us occupied, and you can lead a very active life.

If you are going to live in a town other than Riyadh, contact the British Embassy, Consulate or Trade Office, they will be able to help you and perhaps put you in touch with the local British Ladies Group.

If you have any problems or would like further information please do not hesitate to call any of the committee members. We may not have all the answers you require but we will certainly try to help.

At this point in time we are looking for new committee members to fill the positions of Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, so if any of you ladies are interested in helping out please contact a committee member.

Best Wishes for a happy stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mal Brown
Chairperson



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that Wales is run by a Cabinet that has five women Ministers and four men Ministers, yes the only female majority Cabinet in the world. If you hear of another one, we'd like to hear from them.

Others will look at the strides we are making in education and training with the huge strides made in the research achievements of our universities and apprenticeships in training up 40% in the past four years.

Others will look at the massive investment in installing a broadband network around Wales and in the world class plants like the Airbus wing factory, where 500m GBP is being invested in the latest technology is one of Europe's largest aerospace facilities.

Some will be impressed at our 100% record in clean seas and clean beaches, all of them with European Blue Flag status, or at the extraordinary facilities for activity holidays including almost all the extreme sports you can think of.

What is certain is that Wales is a wonderful place to live, work, study, visit and do business.

I wish you all a very happy St David's Day!"

ST DAVID'S
DAY MESSAGE
FROM THE RT
HON RHODRI
MORGAN,
AM, FIRST
MINISTER FOR
WALES

