

Notes from the Eastern Chair



Brian Willey
Chairman, British Business Association Eastern Province

My year as chairman is almost over. The year has zipped by very quickly and it has been an interesting one since I took office last May to say the least. We hold our AGM on 24th April and look forward to receiving nominations from our membership for the various committee positions.

Business and community life has been extremely busy of late with many visitors over the winter season. I take my hat off to the British Trade Office team who have been working so hard to promote British business here through their UKTI connections. Mike Hurley, Richard Wood and the rest of the team are vital to us here in the Eastern Province - both for local companies who require market information and/or introductions to senior members of business and government organisations - and to the visitors from the UK who need up to date and pertinent local market research. Round of applause please.

The Jeddah Economic Forum created a lot of interest with some high profile speakers and visitors in February. I had the honour of representing the BBA EP at a dinner hosted by our Ambassador for HRH The Duke of York who was here in his capacity as Special Representative for International Trade and Investment. He was accompanied by a group of all-party MPs from the UK whose special interest is Saudi Arabia. They were all delighted with the success of their visit. More importantly, they agreed that they have to promote the many and varied business opportunities available here to the UK business community when they return to the UK.

The recent UK-Saudi Arabia Conference held in London on 23rd February also boosted the economic, political and business profile of Saudi Arabia and reinforced the close ties between the two Kingdoms, a point made very clear by our Foreign Secretary during his opening speech.

I look forward to a busy and fruitful year ahead and welcome anyone from both the Riyadh and Jeddah BBGs who visit the Eastern Province to any of our events or meetings.

Below:
The Corps of Drums of the Royal Marines at the QBP in Alkhobar.
Picture by Norman Sheppard





British Business Association

The British Business Association (BBA) – Eastern Province
 P.O.Box 1868, Al Bustan Compound, AlKhobar 31952
 Telephone: 03 882 5300 Ext 2010 Fax: 03 882 5384
 E-mail: bbakhobar@atheer.net.sa
 Secretary: Carole Hurley

Committee

Brian Willey - Chairman
 The Alireza Group
 Tel: 882 5700 x 4002 Fax: 882 7217
 E-mail: brianwilley@rezayat.com.sa

Bill Hedges - Vice-Chairman
 BAe Systems
 Tel: 330 0125 Fax: 330 0128
 E-Mail: bill.hedges@baesystems.com

Mike Tunstall - General Secretary
 Al Mutlaq Group
 Tel: 882 2211 Fax: 882 6668
 E-mail: mike@shabakah.net.sa

Russell Brooke - Treasurer
 MEDCO
 Tel: 882 6991 Ext 241 Fax: 882 7196
 E-mail: russell@medco1.com

Michael Nugent - Events Secretary
 Le Gulf Meridien Hotel
 Tel: 864 6000 x 2431 Fax: 894 5244
 E-mail: michael.nugent@meridien-alkhobar.com

Mike Hurley - Member Ex Officio
 Head of the British Trade Office
 Tel: 882 5300 x 2003 Fax: 882 5384
 E-mail: mike.hurley@fco.gov.uk

Richard Wood - British Trade Office Liaison
 2nd Secretary Commercial BTO
 Tel: 882 5300 x 2006 Fax: 882 5384
 E-mail: richard.wood@fco.gov.uk

Geoff Fennah - Jubail Chairman
 Saudi Chevron
 Tel: 03-357 4912 Fax: 03-358 9801
 E-mail: geoff.fennah@saudichevron.com

Norman Sheppard - Bulletin Editor
 Saudi Aramco
 Tel: 873 4124 Fax: 873 0294
 E-mail: norman.sheppard@aramco.com