

Farewell from Andy Henderson HM Consul General - Jeddah



Andy Henderson

As I prepare to leave Jeddah on final departure, I can not believe where the three years have disappeared. It seems like only yesterday that Julia and I arrived in the Kingdom, with our daughters, to take over from Innes Rae. I think I must be getting old!

My first major event in Jeddah was the Queen's Birthday Party where Wayne Evans introduced us to many members of the British Business Group. I am pleased to say that our friendly contacts with the BBG have continued to this day. And who could ever forget the rain-soaked State of the Nation? Thoroughly soaked – inside and out if I remember.

As I leave Saudi Arabia on "Exit only", I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all members of the BBG for their support in our efforts on behalf of British business in the Kingdom and for their many kindnesses and friendship to us personally.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to live and work in Jeddah and an experience we will never forget. I wish you all every success in the future.

Ma'asalama.

Andy



Carsten Pigott

Andy Henderson's successor in Jeddah is Carsten Pigott who was born in 1953 and spent his first 10 years in Germany, the UK, Lebanon and Syria before returning to school in York in 1963.

He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1972. He was posted to Lagos in 1975 before studying Arabic in Lebanon and London from 1977 to 1979. Between 1979 and 1984 he served in Khartoum and then Tripoli as Third, later Second, Secretary (Commercial). From 1984 to 1986 he was desk officer at the Foreign Office for Libya, later Jordan and Syria. In 1987 he was posted to Beijing as First Secretary (Political) with responsibility for negotiations over the future of Hong Kong. 1991 saw his return to London as Deputy Head of Personnel Policy for two years before being posted to Addis Ababa as Deputy Head of Mission. This included responsibility for Eritrea, Djibouti and NW Somalia. Carsten had a brief posting to New Delhi before returning to London as Counsellor. For the last 5 years Carsten has been the Foreign Office's senior "inspector" of British diplomatic posts overseas, in which capacity he visited Saudi Arabia in 2001.

Carsten and his wife Sue have a son and daughter at university in Britain.

CHANGES IN LONDON

Many of our readers will know Richard Parry from TradePartnersUK. Richard has had Saudi Arabia on his list of responsibilities for many years and has been a regular visitor to the Kingdom; indeed the photograph above right was taken in Riyadh when he was accompanying Baroness Symons on her recent tour.



Richard Parry

With the restructuring of TradePartnersUK support into industry sectors, Richard is moving across to the Leisure Desk and whilst his remit now includes several other countries (which I sure he will want to familiarise himself with) KSA will remain on his list for possible future calls.

His successor is Fergus Harradence who went to school in Sheffield, then attended Cambridge University, where he read history. He worked as a political researcher for the BBC and as a parliamentary lobbyist before joining the Confederation of British Industry as a Senior Policy Advisor on Land Use Planning.



Fergus Harradence

He joined the Department of Trade and Industry in January 2000, working on skills development and labour market analysis. He then became Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary for 18 months, before undertaking an 8 month secondment to the private sector with Ericsson, then joining TPUK as Head of the Middle East Unit.



Sir Alan Munro, during a recent visit to the Kingdom as leader of the ITIM Mission