



Dawood Taylor

## Message from the Chairman of the BGG Jeddah

Unfortunately I have to start my message with further tragic news since the last newsletter. The events in Al Khobar and Riyadh are well known to you all and there is no need to dwell on the facts.

Our sympathies and condolences go out to all of the families and friends of those died and were injured during these dreadful incidents.

Personal security is of paramount importance to all members of the British community at this time and it is advisable to reference the BGG web site for further information and details of the Warden's Notices, which are regularly posted.

It is also sad to have to advise you that our esteemed and well liked Consul General, Carsten Pigott, has also departed the Kingdom, having been requested by the FCO to take up another posting requiring his extensive experience of the Arab world and of course his fluency in Arabic. His good wife Susan will depart the country to join up with Carsten at the end of June. We at the BGG wish them every success and happiness in their new postings. Cecille El Beleidi, who is known to many of you, will take on the role of Acting Consul-General in the absence of Carsten until his replacement arrives.

On a happier note, a wonderful evening was had by all who attended the presentation by Dr. Shobrak, a Taif based Ornithologist who spoke on the subject of "Birds of Saudi Arabia". These evenings are a means by which members and wives of the BGG can congregate together in safe surroundings, enjoy a good meal, excellent presentations and speakers, good company and after dinner conversations.

The summer break is now upon us. Exams for the children are now over and plans are being made for travel, if travel has not already taken place. This summer could be a watershed for the British expatriate community. What happens over the next few months could have a significant impact on the plans of families presently living in the Kingdom. It is a difficult time and difficult decisions may have to be made but as I have said in previous newsletters, there is good and evil wherever we go or live. What is happening in the Kingdom at this time is not indicative of the Kingdom most of us have grown to love, albeit with the idiosyncrasies we have to accept to live with in this part of the world. Inshallah, what we are seeing at this time, as tragic as the circumstances are, will not be a constant in the future, allowing us all to get back to a "normal" environment both in our work and social lives.

Those of you leaving the Kingdom for the summer may I wish you a most enjoyable break and I look forward to meeting up with you again during one of BGG functions on your return.

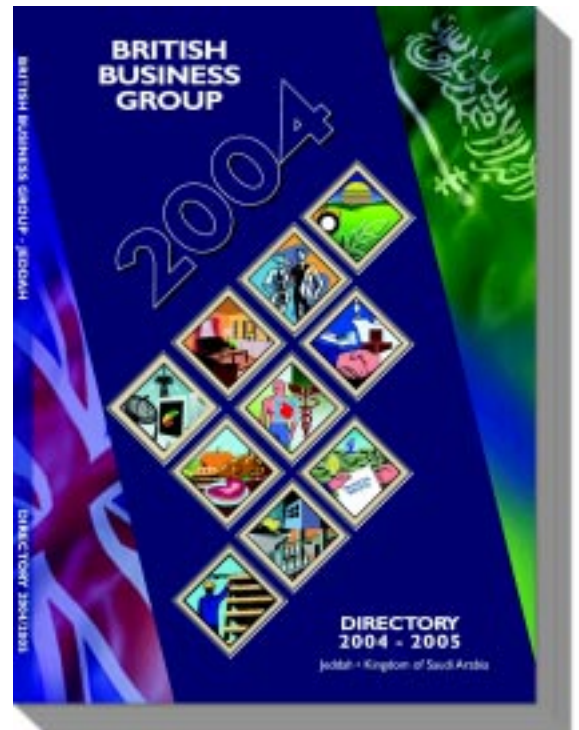
## NEW BGG DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

The new 2004 Edition of the BGG Directory is now available. This publication contains valuable information not only for people wishing to do business in Saudi Arabia particularly in Jeddah, but also provides a good reference for contacts with locally based British Businessmen.

In the present security environment, the BGG Committee have decided not to distribute these Directories as freely as last year.

For the time being they will be passed out directly to BGG Members and issued upon specific request, which will allow us to monitor where the directories are.

In this respect please contact the BGG office secretary@bbg-jed.org to arrange for receipt of your personal copy of the directory.



Carsten Piggot, HM Consul-General, left Jeddah on 4 June.



Until a replacement is nominated, Cecille El Beleidi will be Acting Consul-General.

Cecille is no stranger to the Kingdom having spent the last year and a half as Head of the Trade & Investment Section in Jeddah. She had previously served at the British Embassy in Riyadh between 1998 and 2000.