

various wise thoughts to enlighten the audience and in continuance of this tradition I list below a number of such thoughts:

- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- If you cannot be kind, at least have the decency to be vague – or to paraphrase my own mother, and heaven forbid that I would admit to taking advice from one of my parents, if you cannot say anything nice about someone perhaps it is best not to say anything at all.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you will not have a leg to stand on.
- If you lend someone SR20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- When everything's coming your way, you are in the wrong lane.
- Birthdays are good for you – the more you have the longer you live.
- You can learn a lot from crayons - some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull, some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.

Further to the theme of education, on behalf of the Board and the membership of the RGBB, I was delighted to offer congratulations to Jim Scarth, Director Saudi Arabia for the British Council here in Riyadh on his recent appointment in the Queen's Birthday Honours List to be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. This acknowledgement of his work in support of the British Council and the in promotion of British Saudi educational relations is well deserved.

Finally as we escape for the summer holidays I would like to thank all of the members of the RGBB who support the Board and attend the various events - this support has made the RGBB the envy of much of the rest of the international community here in Riyadh. The British Community and the active engagement of many of its members in the life of the community is something to be proud of – this was especially demonstrated with the recent ICING Ball where over SR325,000 was raised for charitable causes. We are indeed fortunate to be here in Riyadh and working in a vibrant economy. However we should not take our good fortune for granted – as we all know pride comes before a fall. Only recently a delegation of British MP's visited Riyadh and some of us had the good fortune to meet with them to "Promote UK PLC" - shortly afterwards one of them fell spectacularly from grace embroiled in the current parliamentary expenses scandal. On a more personal note some, if not all, of us know of friends and family who through misfortune and no fault of their own are indeed facing many difficulties as a result of the global recession – including former members of the RGBB - we should all be mindful of our good fortune.

Owain Raw-Rees  
Chairman



The RGBB News is compiled by Andrew Mead at MMSL in cooperation with Jumana House and printed in Riyadh by Star Printing.

Three copies of each edition are planned for each year and over a thousand copies are distributed to members of British Business Groups in Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam & Bahrain.

A full page advert is charged at SR 3500 and a half page at SR2000. Invoices are raised by the RGBB for payment to the RGBB. Discounted figures of SR3000 for a full page and SR1800 for a half page are given for a three edition commitment.

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