

# BRITISH AMBASSADOR HOSTS 150 GUESTS FOR IFTAR



On 20 September 2008 the British Ambassador, His Excellency William Patey CMG hosted an Iftar meal for 150 distinguished guests. After Maghreb prayers in the garden of the Ambassador's residence, the ambassador and his guests enjoyed a light meal to break the fast. Among the ambassador's distinguished guests were government officials, military officers, journalists, heads of charitable organisations and ambassadors.

The Iftar also saw the launch of an embassy booklet "Muslims of Britain", which details the history of Islam in the UK and highlights the diverse and important contributions made by Muslims to British life. As the booklet makes clear there is evidence that Islam reached the British Isles over 1000 years ago. Indeed the important British author and poet Geoffrey Chaucer included references to Islamic scholars in his work the Canterbury Tales in 1386 AD (corresponding to 788H) And the ancient universities of Oxford and

Cambridge established university chairs of Arabic in the 1630s (1040H-1050H).

The booklet also discusses the important role played by Muslims in life throughout the United Kingdom. From journalists, to policemen, from politicians to

teachers, British Muslims are changing and shaping Britain. Muslims in Britain celebrates the many thousands of British Muslims who travel to Saudi Arabia each year to perform the Hajj. And the booklet discusses the City of London's role as the world centre for Islamic Finance.

