

Bahrain Society



Editor: Laurel Winter

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A Talk by Mr Mohamed Abdulwahed Al-Kooheji

Mr Al-Kooheji is a Bahraini National currently employed at Kings College Hospital in London as an Orthopaedic Surgeon. His talk covered his experiences of living and working in the British Isles with a particular perspective on the challenges facing a Bahraini in this environment

Over 50 members of the Bahrain Society met on Thursday, 5th March 2015 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London to listen to this talk.

All present agreed that the talk was fascinating as it covered Mr Kooheji's training and work experience in Bahrain, Ireland and the United Kingdom. He also gave an interesting insight into the hospitals in Bahrain and his (complimentary) views of working in the British National Health Service.

Some of you may remember the Al-Kooheji family in Bahrain.



Mr Al-Kooheji, Brigadier Peter Sincock, Chairman of Bahrain Society, Mr Hasan Monfaradi, Committee member.



Mr Hasan Monfaradi with two members of the Bahrain Embassy.

Membership Secretary

In February, Bob Cowell, took over as Membership Secretary. He has spent a significant amount of time researching historical records and engaging in personal contact with some members in order to rationalise the membership list and member contact information held by the Society.

He has developed a computer database that meets the requirements of the Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Assistant Secretary and, with their help, has managed to bring the membership list up to date. His efforts have been challenged by the fact that many people have changed addresses without contacting the Society and many have also changed email addresses. Some have been quite surprised that he was quoting an email address that they had abandoned two addresses ago.

He has managed to persuade many of you to switch to the use of email for newsletters and this, not only reduces Society costs, is ECO friendly and contributes to Saving The Planet. It also reduces the workload on Committee volunteers.

One of the membership aspects he has identified is that there are still members paying their annual subscriptions by cheque. This means extra work for the Hon Treasurer in reminding people who may have forgotten to send in their cheque each October. The setting up of a Standing Order is preferred by far. Standing Order forms can be obtained from Bob by emailing him on bahraingsociety@robertcowell.co.uk or telephoning him on 01483 770896.

Your continuing support in streamlining the Society's processes is much appreciated.

Committee Members

Brig Peter Sincock, MBE, Chairman
Sir John Shepherd, Vice Chairman
Mrs Laurel Winter, Hon Secretary
Mr Robert Jarman, Hon Treasurer
Mrs Margaret Colley, Assistant Secretary
Miss Enid Billington
Mr Peter Blood
Mrs Wendy Brigden
Mrs Lynn Collins
Mr Bob Cowell
Mr Hasan Monfaradi
Mr Stuart Read
Mr Vic Whittingham

Sir Harold Walker

After many years as a Committee Member and Chairman of the Society Sir Harold Walker has resigned as a Committee Member but of course as an ex Chairman remains as a Vice President of the Society and so, as always, remains at the centre of Society affairs. We wish to express our gratitude for his hard work and support to the Society over many years.

New Members

We welcome Dr Helena Taylor as a member of the Society.

Forthcoming Events



Wednesday, 27th May 2015 a private tour of Lords Cricket Ground followed by a late afternoon "high tea" at The Lords Tavern.

Monday, 1st June 2015 - The Ambassador's Reception at the Jumeirah Carlton Hotel, London.

Tuesday, 7th July 2015 at 2.00 pm. Private visit to the Prince's School of Traditional Art, 19-11 Charlotte Road, London, EC2A 3SG.

Late September/early October visit to Kensington Palace followed by Afternoon Tea in The Orangery.

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall on Monday 23rd November 2015. His Excellency Sheikh Rashed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of the Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain will be the senior guest at our Dinner.

March/April 2016 potential Society visit to Bahrain (see update).

Contributions for the newsletter and suggestions for events, speakers etc. would be welcomed by your committee Please contact Laurel Winter on telephone number: 01223 844471 or email: laurel.winter@ntlworld.com

Update on Bahrain Visit

Following discussions with the Foreign Minister during a recent visit by our Chairman to Bahrain it has been agreed that a more appropriate time for a Society visit would be in 2016. Currently it is envisaged that the most appropriate time would be March/April 2016.

We are aware that there is a great deal of interest in a visit and share your disappointment at its postponement from 2015. We will communicate the arrangements to you once dates have been finalised.

Lords Visit

That is the Cricket Grounds, not the House. We have had a good response to date; we are not limited to numbers. The closing date is the 18th May 2015, so you still have the opportunity to attend.

Obituary

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the death of Victor Ralph Winton. Ralph passed away on the 16th December 2014. Between 1961 and 1963 Ralph was Deputy Manager of the Eastern Bank Bahrain. He returned to Bahrain in 1971 as General Manager for the Gulf with the Standard Chartered Bank and left Bahrain in 1977. Ralph is survived by his wife, Denise, to whom we send our deepest condolences.