

Bahrain Society visit to Bahrain 10-15th May 2016

37 Members flew to Bahrain on 10th May, staying at the Gulf Hotel ready for a very busy week. The Group was met by Mahmoud and Ali who looked after us throughout the visit.

Wednesday 11th May

The first visit of the day was to meet H.E. Shaikha Hala Bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, Director of Culture and Art Directorate, at the Bahrain International Museum. She was delighted to show us a Supermarine Spitfire Mk.XIX soon to be displayed at the museum.

This was followed by a visit to the Foreign Ministry to meet H.E. Dr. Dhafer Ahmed Alumran, Assistant Undersecretary for GCC and Western Countries Affairs.

Then an excellent lunch at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel as guests of Mr. Khalid Rashid Al-Zayani, chairman of the Bahrain British Business Forum (BBBF). The lunch was to celebrate 200 years of Bahraini/British friendship. Our Chairman, Brigadier Peter Sincock, MBE, gave a [speech](#) to the gathering.

In the evening the Group was invited to a reception at the British Embassy as guests of the British Ambassador, Mr. Simon Martin CMG.

Thursday 12th May

The Group headed for Awali where many had lived and worked and where some members had grown up. A tour of the town was followed by a visit to the BAPCO Club where the Group was met by members of the BAPCO management.

The Group was then greeted by Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Chief Executive of the National Oil and Gas Authority.

The Awali event was followed by a visit to the Officers Club in Manama where the Group was greeted by H.E. Lt.Gen. Shaikh Rashed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior. An excellent lunch followed in beautiful surroundings.

The evening started with a spirited concert in St. Christopher's Cathedral by the St. Christopher's School Community Big Band conducted by Paul Bagshaw. This was followed by a visit to the British Club where, after meeting the General Manager, David Endall, the Group enjoyed drinks with Club representatives and sampled the Club's cuisine.

Friday 13th May

The Group visited the Bahrain International Circuit. First there was a visit to the Sakhir Tower then visits to the Press Centre and the Central Control

Room. Mr. Umair Tahir gave the Group a most interesting and informative tour.

Next stop was the Royal Golf Club. The Group was greeted once again by H.E. Dr. Dhafer Ahmed Al Omran along with Andrew and Dena Wales. A delightful buffet lunch was served in their circular restaurant. The Group was able to inspect the 18th green. The golf course has lighting so that play can continue after dark.

Then to a tour of Muharraq and the new areas surrounding it.

Saturday 14th May

The Group went to the Sofitel Hotel at Zellaq for relaxation by the seaside. This was followed by a buffet lunch at the hotel. Then back to the Bahrain International Circuit to visit the shop there. Then on to Awali to visit the Princess Sabeka Park. After dropping most off at the Gulf Hotel, some continued to Manama Suq for a shopping adventure.

Sunday 15th May

Visit to the Foreign Ministry for a meeting with H.E. Mrs. Ales Samaan, former Bahrain Ambassador to the UK.

At lunch time, an audience with H.H. Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, at his Majlis in Rifa'a.

In the evening, a farewell buffet meal at the Gulf Hotel.

Monday 16th May

Return to UK.