

BRITISH SENATE

2011



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December 2011 Newsletter

DECEMBER UPDATE

Athene and I are just back from a brilliant weekend in Sheffield at the JCI UK National Convention 2011. We had an excellent Senate programme organised by Tracey Viner, with help from Penny Gill and Sally-Anne Greenfield. A return to BJC/JCI UK tradition saw a Senate Breakfast take place on the Sunday morning of the Convention and it was marvellous to see around 50 Senators and guests in attendance.

It was very clear that JCI UK have greatly valued the support they've received from the Senate in 2011 – support acknowledged at the Gala Dinner when outgoing National President Alli Cowell presented the "Senator of the Year" award to "The British Senate" as a whole as an acknowledgement of our support this year. It's fair to say that the relationship between our two organisations (in reality both part of one organisation) has never been closer,

and when you add in the better relationship too with the BJC Foundation, it would be true to say that we (finally) have everyone pulling in the same direction. Not that Alli or I would be immodest enough to claim all the credit for this – we have built on the excellent work done by our respective predecessors.

The benefits though are there for all to see – JCI UK membership has grown by over 25% in 2011 – the first year in many that has seen a growth, bucking the trend around the world. No local chambers have closed and expansion plans are in place for re-launches at Birmingham, Liverpool, Cardiff, Swansea and Derby. The North East/Newcastle has also been investigated. So many reasons to be optimistic – and it would be remiss of me not to pay a huge tribute to Alli Cowell who has led JCI UK with an enthusiasm and contagious inspiration from start to finish. She has given me tremendous support and encouragement and it's been a great year to be so involved with the national organisation.

Those who know Solveig Malvik, National President in 2012, will know that JCI UK is going to be in very capable hands for the next twelve months too – as is British Senate of course with Julie Blakey taking over from me in January.

Solveig was one of four new Senators created at Sheffield – how exciting is that – so a warm welcome also to Paul Thwaite, Lorna Bainbridge, and Julia Goodfellow-Smith, and also another new Senator from the week before – Tina Strack.

SCOTLAND

Athene and I spent a very enjoyable weekend in Perthshire attending the annual Scottish Senate Dinner to mark the end of Claire Strachan's year in the Chair – though I hope to say a proper “Goodbye” to her at the Drumming Out in Northampton. Claire is replaced for 2012 by Scott Johnston and I'm sure that he and Julie will continue to build on the close relationship that exists between our two organisations.

DRUMMING OUT

Is it really that time already? My Drumming Out in Northampton starts on Thursday 12th January and ends on Sunday 14th January with Julie's Senate Breakfast. Bookings have been building steadily in recent weeks but there is now some urgency and if you've not yet booked and want to be there for all or part of the weekend, please do get your booking in as soon as you can – full

details and a booking form are on the Senate website – www.britishsenate.org.uk

2012

Dates for your diaries in 2012:

March 23/25 – Lake District Weekend, Grange over Sands

May 18/21 – Center Parcs Weekend, Sherwood Forest

July 20/22 – Drive Yourself Crazy Weekend, Basingstoke

Full details on the Senate website – www.britishsenate.org.uk

LAST EDITION

This is my final e-newsletter as your Chairman. Thank you to everyone for your support in 2011 and thank you too to everyone who's given help to JCI UK. I hope to see many of you at some point over the Drumming Out weekend.

In the meantime, I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas season and all the best for 2012.

David Butcher

British Senate Chairman 2011 - #46828