



Peter Browning 49104

British Senate Chairman 2006



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Chairman's Annual Report to the AGM

Sunday 10th September 2006

By the AGM when this will formally be presented my year will be nearly three-quarters of the way through and my Drumming Out will be fast approaching when we will all say phew!

I called my year a pilgrimage in my January letter to you all and that is what I have continued to refer to it as and you will have read in the European Newsletter that David Grainger has picked up on the theme. The pilgrimage started in York and has since visited nine countries and will be at least ten by the end of the year.

British JCI Senate Programme

So far this year we have had excellent attendance with between 25 and 40 at each of the events and Morag and I have had great pleasure in attending all but one.

- Senski – another excellent event in Selva, Italy attracting senators from several countries although probably the last.
- Canterbury Tales – first UK leg of the pilgrimage with all the expected elements of a good Senate weekend.
- Walking and Water – an opportunity for some exercise to work off the excess food and drink.
- Celtic Weekend at St Davids – a Bill Preece weekend of the expected standard where the pilgrims paid their dues with a donation to the Cathedral restoration project!
- Drive yourself Crazy – a weekend of skill and culture – not what I expected from Basingstoke!
- Gourmet & Jazz - a wonderful weekend in Melton Mowbray where informality ruled.

I am also please to report that we have managed to attract a good number of the newer senators and some we seldom see to these events. I am sure the fun and fellowship that they experienced will encourage them to attend other events in the future.

Apart from this Barnsley weekend we have Coniston Cold in Yorkshire; The King and I in Warwick and The JCI Awards Weekend in Newcastle still to come. I am sure they will all be up to senate expectations as well.

The first Drumming Out to be held in Wales is also promising to be an event to remember. We already have bookings from 100 people representing 12 countries.

International Senate Events

Morag and I enjoy the international side of The Senate and I have been pleased in recent years to see more British Senators attending a variety of international events of which this year's highlight must be the European Conference and Pre Tour in Estonia. We have been represented at fourteen events that I know of in at least eleven countries. Morag and I have been to 9 events so far with the US Fall Meeting in Indianapolis and the 50th Anniversary of JCI Norway still to come.

- Danish Drumming Out – Aarhus – *a fun "New Year" concert followed by superb fellowship.*
- Swedish CCD – Uppsala – *A chance to congratulate Kerstin Avenberg (a former member of the British Senate) on her year. The largest BF delegation with 14!*
- ASE Spring Meeting – Antalya – *the largest BF delegation again and we visited Ali's Dam!*
- German Spring Meeting - Hannover – *superb organisation as you would expect in Germany. Made even better with an excellent programme and senate hospitality. Not sure if we had the largest BF delegation but it must have been close if it wasn't!*
- Birthday party north of the Artic Circle – Bodø – *we went to bed when it got dark! (PS from Morag – it didn't)*
- Pre Tour – St Petersburg & Estonia – *an "experience" enjoyed by senators from 19 countries including 32 from the UK*
- European Conference – Tallinn – *the "best European Conference ever" is what many said. The daytime senate bar was definitely a hit with the 70 odd British senators there. Included a pilgrimage to the ASE AGM*
- Crayfish Party – Halmstad – *a depleted British showing due to terrorist threats but we still put on a cabaret and were the largest BF delegation (4) at the lunch - I came back with the Halmstad Vandringpris "Laxen"!*
- Senotium – Haugesund & Avaldsnes – *our only "planned" trip to Norway this year and a pilgrimage to St Olav's Church and the "birth place" of Norway - our third experience of excellent Senotium hospitality.*

We would have gone to more but could not be at two senate events in different countries at the same time!



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ASE (Association of Senators in Europe)

During the year I have represented the British Senate at all the ASE board meetings. The 2005/6 ones were in York, Antalya and Tallinn while the 2006/7 board has had one in Tallinn with one in Bergen still to come. I am also pleased to report that Clare Ashton was elected to serve on the board as an Ambassador for 2006/7. She is joined on the board by two appointed members – Paul Hill as GLC and Ian Nelson as European Newsletter Editor.

JCI UK

Junior Chamber is going through difficult times at present and has significant challenges to ensure it is not more history than future. The senate is always willing to help where it can when it is asked and I am pleased to report that we will be awarding six Senate Bursaries per year to assist enthusiastic new JCI members to attend an international JCI event. This is in addition to the 'Best New Member' award that has been in existence for several years.

By the AGM I will have attended three JCI UK National Board meetings. During the year we have also been asked to support various chambers and I am pleased to say senators have responded positively to these informal calls for help. One of the JCI UK successes this year has been the re-launch of JCI in the North East. Within 3 months of the re-launch they had signed up 50 members and it has been so successful that the 2006 Awards Weekend will be hosted by them in Newcastle.

Next year's National President has asked us to provide more help next year and Phil Spring is working with Amanda Fitzsimmons to identify how we can best support JCI UK to be successful.

Membership

The number of Senatorships awarded world wide is now approaching 67,000 and there have been approximately 1100 British Senatorships awarded. This year they have been joined by Jonathan Stone # 66244 from Wakefield who is the current JCI UK National President and married to Senator # 64612 (Amanda). I am sure there will be others awarded during the rest of the 2006 and we look forward to welcoming them to senate events in the future. Sadly we lost the 1978 Senate Chairman, Leon Jessel # 667 in March and we have also been told about one other senator, Malcolm Peters # 6030, who has died during this year.

We have been working recently on updating and improving our database so that we can keep in better touch with all the British Senators. Please help us to update records, especially email addresses, where you can.

Newsletter

This year we have continued the good work started last year to improve the newsletter and we are now in the process of moving to 4 editions per year. Thanks to Henry and Ian for all their hard work to ensure that the newsletter continues to be a success.

Thanks

Finally I would like to thank my council and all the organisers of the events for all their hard work and support during the year to ensure that the British Senate remains one of the exemplars of the Senate world.

Morag and I have greatly enjoyed my year so far and are looking forward to what remains of it.

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