

Chairman's report

JCI British Senate year 2013

I pursued three themes for my year as Senate Chairman: continuing to build senate friendship within the UK, developing a supportive relationship with JCI UK and extending our friendship internationally.

To build senate friendship within the UK we put together a quality programme of varied events up and down the country – wherever possible choosing locations close to JCI UK chambers in order to encourage Senators to meet with current members of JCI UK and vice versa. The year began with a walking weekend based on my home village in North Yorkshire. This was followed by a trip to the sea side and our visit to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight with a special dinner in the Royal Yacht Club. Gentle walking, a blues festival and picnicking enticed us to the Malvern Hills on one of the hottest summer weekends of the year. Urban exploring accompanied the AGM weekend in Birmingham. A jewel in the programme was the very special lunch hosted by Baroness Margaret Eaton in the House of Lords. Last but not least, was our stylish and definitely one off drumming out party in Sheffield and the Peak District. Looking back on the year, over 150 senators (plus guests) attended at least one event and we had over 100 senators at two of our main events. Encouragingly, we also had senators from every decade which bodes us well for the future.

Internationally, we welcomed over 36 senators (plus partners) from overseas to our gatherings – which always makes for interesting reunions. We welcomed ambassadors from Europe and the US Senate. I was lucky enough to travel to Vaxholm (Stockholm) for the Spring ASE Board, the Crayfish Party in Sweden; we hosted a party in Monaco at the European Conference (and LOVED the martini cocktails!), sipped Caipirinhas at the world conference in Rio, stayed in the Greta Garbo suite for the Swedish senate 'drumming' out and finally kept my promise by attending the US Senate Annual Convention in sunny Baltimore. I think this was enough international spirit for one year!

I made a real effort to support JCI UK, regularly meeting Emma Eastwood the JCI UK president for 2013. I facilitated one of their board meetings and joined in strategy sessions. It was a pleasure to get to know many current members and to meet them in their local chambers informally or at their special dinners. As a Senate we supported the LEAP programme and attended sessions at the National Convention. I do hope that we can build this relationship even further next year – in the centenary year of JCI.

The Accounts for 2013 will be presented separately. I consciously sought to reduce the annual deficit during the year and we ended the year with a small but reduced deficit and a good platform for going forward.

I should like to put on record my thanks to my Senate Council and all senate friends who made the year special one. Thank you to Bill Preece who delivered a fantastic drumming out. And a precious thanks to Mike Ashton – my special advisor - who was always there with a word of advice, a wacky idea and a glass of champagne. God bless him.

In senate friendship

Liz Walmsley #35749

JCI British Senate Chairman 2013