



Barry Miller
51886
British Senate Chairman 2008



165 The Greenway, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7JD,
United Kingdom

30th October 2008

Eighty years ago in 1928 the Junior Chambers of Lincoln, Birmingham, Sheffield and Nottingham formed got together and formed what we know today as JCI UK. Of course to most Senators the national organisation was fondly known for many years as BJC.

This years national conference was the ideal opportunity to celebrate the 80th anniversary, especially as it was being hosted in one of the originating cities, Nottingham. The conference theme was 'exploring innovation'. This was very apt. The key note speaker Dawn Gibbons, the Barefoot Entrepreneur was a fascinating and entertaining. She has always had a "passion to transform Britain into a happier, healthier and more prosperous nation. I thrive on change and make it a force for good." She never imagined that her company would grow to be a global brand in 26 countries with a turnover in exceeding £30m pa and that she would win many awards including Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year and be awarded an MBE. This made me wonder whether the members of those four Junior Chambers back in 1928 had any idea that they were starting an organisation that would go on to withstand the challenges of a fast changing society over 80 years and give some many young people the opportunity to grow and become successful. I doubt it.

The highlight of the weekend was a 1920's themed banquet to celebrate the success of the 80th anniversary. A good number of past National Presidents were present all of whom had a part to play in the proceeding of the evening. All of the delegates to the conference received a brochure which included an entertaining look back at Junior Chamber in each of the last eight decades. Many thanks to David Grainger (30164) for compiling this digest. You will find a copy of this celebration included with this newsletter.

The Senate also celebrated this anniversary with a banquet at the Wells cathedral palace. This was a fantastic venue for a Senate event and was again attended by a good number of past National Presidents. The evening was set off by a splash of colour from Richard Kilburn (38986) who looked dashing in his red toastmaster's tailcoat. Mike Mander (27176) and Richard hosted us to a lovely senate weekend in Wells which also included a fantastic tour of the cathedrals high parts.

We have also had a wonderful Senate weekend around Banbury featuring some of the area's unique heritage including the Aunt Sally competition. If you are wondering what this is, you'll need to ask a Senator who was there. Thanks to Gayle (41790), Bernard (3986), Roger and Judi.

Looking forward the next Senate event is our Drumming Out in the lovely Surrey countryside, 15th to 18th January. You'll find an advert in the newsletter, further details are on our website and you can contact me by phone, email or letter to answer any questions you may have. On the Saturday we will be showcasing British wine with an (indoor!) tour of Denbies. Our tour will include the 360° Cinema Experience and the indoor 'people mover' which passes through the working winery. Our sumptuous lunch will be at the wine estate which will, of course, feature Denbies wine. The banquet and event HQ is the lovely Hilton Cobham in the surrey countryside.

Very best wishes and Senate friendship to you all.

Barry