
July 2020 - The Year So Far

In the words of our local organisations



Henry Acres, JCI Glasgow co-Chair

JCI Glasgow has been moving from strength to strength. We have some new enthusiastic members and, following on from our award-winning skills development programme in 2019, JCI Glasgow is finding new life.



At the start of 2020, we agreed to focus on sustainability, for the environment and for our members. A timely theme given Glasgow was due to host COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Summit, later this year. COP26 will now take place in November 2021. Given the COVID-19 crisis, our sustainability theme has become even more important, finding ways for our members to thrive in this difficult period.

“The steps we take to rebuild our economies will have a profound impact on our societies’ future sustainability, resilience and wellbeing, and COP26 can be a moment where the world unites behind a clean resilient recovery” - a quote from COP26 President

Lockdown has shown us the incredible value we gain from the international side of JCI. We have all very much enjoyed online events with new friends from across the world. JCI Glasgow has recently connected with our twinned chapter, JCI Oulu, and formed a very successful joint quiz team for the JCI Tri-Nations at home quiz. We are really looking forward to a future opportunity to meet with JCI Oulu in person!

This year has presented new challenges, but it is important to recognise the great opportunities too. Opportunities for growth and development that will bring lasting change to JCI Glasgow.

Judy Mariens, JCI Edinburgh President

Wow, we're already half a year into 2020. Time has literally flown by. We started the year with the theme Beyond Borders and this has become reality in more ways than we ever could have imagined.



At the Burns Dinner in January, we welcomed JCI friends from all over Europe and with our new virtual offering of events and training, we even had overseas friends joining. JCI Edinburgh members competed for Scotland at the unofficial European Debating Competition and became the winning team.

With an amazing board and pool of members, we want to continue this journey and work on a strong second half of the year, together with JCI Scotland and our neighbouring organisations, JCI Aberdeen and JCI Glasgow. Watch JCI Edinburgh's Facebook video to find out more about what we have done in the past 6 months!

James Reid, JCI Aberdeen President

It's fair to say 2020 hasn't exactly turned out how any of us would have expected. It's been a year where we've had to learn how to balance working from home with home-schooling, nip away from video conferences to take our toddlers to the toilet, had business meetings in our pyjamas with the camera off "because my broadband is having issues" and seen our city centres turn into near ghost towns.



The COVID pandemic has hit a lot of people and businesses very hard and the re-building is going to take a significant amount of time, but it has also brought out the best in our society. That famous national attitude of taking everything in our stride in the face of change and adversity has come to the fore and our society has adapted with astonishing speed. Teachers rolled out online learning almost overnight, people have been going to the shops on behalf of their neighbours if they are unable to due to shielding, local support groups have popped up all over the country, mental health awareness seems to be at an all-time high and people are actively looking to support small local businesses over large international chains.

All of this shows the spirit of community is alive and well all across the country and none more so than in JCI. Usually our board discussions centre on training events, conferences and constitutional matters but now, in this new world we find ourselves in, that has changed. Personally I have found the level of support I've had both locally and nationally invaluable. In an odd way, even though none of us have physically seen each other for months; it feels like we're closer as a national organisation.

Locally, Aberdeen has been having the same struggles as everyone but we have managed to arrange a few online training events and we were well represented at the JCI Scotland awards ceremony back in April (wow that seems so long ago now!) which was a great night enjoyed by everyone who attended. We have more online training sessions in the pipeline over the next few months but, and I think I speak for all JC's when I say this, we hope it won't be long before we can get back to face to face sessions again. I am also confident that JCI Aberdeen will be there to help support small local businesses and organisations as the local economy begins to re-open and I will be there to ensure we do our bit to help give them custom and support.

In the meantime, I hope everyone manages to stay safe and, as restrictions are slowly lifted, is able to get out and enjoy some of the summer sun that we've been promised.

And finally, a special thanks to Judy, James and Henry, and to those on your local boards. We are so proud of all your hard work this year, and truly appreciate everything you do.

We can't wait to see what the rest of 2020 brings for JCI Aberdeen, JCI Edinburgh, JCI Glasgow and of course, JCI Scotland.

Keep an eye on our website and local Facebook pages for upcoming events!

Challenge Your Status Quo - Now More Than Ever