

Messages to Dorothy Borneo. 2010

(*JoLt '94*): Where to start...? Back in 1994 JoLt celebrated its Tenth Anniversary and I was both extremely lucky and honoured to participate in what truly was a journey of a lifetime. At the time I was the youngest person JoLt had taken away (I had only just turned 15). I left Heathrow a shy, insecure child but returned with a lifetime of life-altering memories and friends. Most importantly I returned a confident young woman. Most of this was down to the inspiration and love of Dorothy (*aka Dot*) whom I regard as a second mum. Without JoLt and Dorothy I wouldn't be the woman I am today and certainly wouldn't have fulfilled my academic potential. JoLt is something I will never forget and pray many other youngsters get the same opportunity. JoLt gave me confidence, much laughter, friends, my first true love but most importantly it gave me Dorothy Dalton, my second mum. Thank you, Dorothy, for all your hard work and unwavering love and encouragement. Thank you for JoLt. With all my love.

(*JoLt '08*): I just want to say a huge thank you and give Dorothy a massive hug because that year really helped me deal with things that have happened since the trip. It has given me a lot of guts and confidence that I don't think I would have ever learnt without the help and friendships I made and still have now from everyone on JoLt. Xxxxx

(*JoLt '06*): I just wish to say a HUGE thanks to Dorothy, not just for taking me to India but also for giving me the courage to pursue and fulfil my dreams. JoLt has been, and will always be, a very large part of my life and things would not have been as they are for me today without it.

(*JoLt '08*): Spending four weeks with you in South Africa was the most memorable experience of my life and it truly changed my life for ever. I am now living in the Czech Republic and I know that I would never have found the confidence to move abroad if it hadn't been for JoLt! Thank you, and I wish you all the happiness for the future. BIG HUGS!

(*JoLt '08*): I'm in Saigon right now, travelling in South East Asia with my older brother. I just want to say that I would never have had the courage to do this if it wasn't for JoLt or Dorothy. X

(*JoLt '08*): The month I spent in South Africa with you and all of the other thirty extremely special people gave me a chance to find friends that will stay with me for a life time. There no words to say how grateful I am. I am so proud that I'm a JoLter and have the honour to know you!

(*JoLt '06*): Thanks, Dorothy, for everything. Your good work is something to be proud of and hundreds of JoLters still draw inspiration from their experiences. I'm confident that former JoLters will return to help maintain your mission and charity.

(*JoLt '88*): Hi, Dorothy, good luck from me on this your last trip. I will hopefully catch up with you soon and thanks for giving me the trip of a lifetime all those years ago.

(*JoLt '00*): Please wish Dorothy all the best. She is an amazing lady who is not only an inspiration but has given so much to so many people. She is a wonderful person who will be a friend for years to come.

(*JoLt '00*): Dorothy, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to go to Chile. Through your efforts, and that of the other JoLt helpers, you gave me the opportunity to experience travelling, just like my friends were doing, but which I couldn't have done on my own. I get a warm feeling in my stomach when I think about my month in Chile, and the memories still bring a smile to my face. You have brought pleasure to hundreds, if not thousands, of teenagers by your vision of giving everyone the opportunity to have a Journey of a Lifetime, and that makes you a very special person. Please keep in touch and enjoy retirement.

(*JoLt '96*): Hi Dorothy, I'm sure you have had a great trip. I still to this day have fond memories of my JoLt Expedition in 1996 and I can still remember the gut-wrenching feeling on the last night of a JoLt trip. You should be very proud of what you have achieved and once again you have made a new circle of friends.

Whether they all stay in contact or not, you can be proud that you will always be in their thoughts every time they think of their journey with you as their Leader (more of a friend and mother). You have been a loyal friend to me and my family and it is always great to see you whenever we get the chance. I hope you and Bill have a great and long semi-retirement and manage to keep up the travelling.

(JoLt '08): I'd like just to say thanks for all you did for us all and good luck in life. You had better not forget the '08 lot!

(JoLt '06): I would like to say a massive thank you. The month I spent in India was the best ever. It gave me the courage to speak out and take control of my life. I honestly don't think I would be where I am today without JoLt. I wish Dorothy every happiness in the future and happy travelling.

(JoLt '08): JoLt '08 was the most inspirational time ever. The biggest thank you I can give to Dorothy is by saying her jolly JoLter creation thoroughly changed my life and my outlook. The wonder of travel and the friendships I have made will never leave me, and neither will the kindness of such an incredible lady. Thank you, Dorothy. I'm sure that even with JoLt '10 being your last expedition, you will never fail to have a hugely positive and lasting impact on everyone you meet. JoLters for life!!!!

(JoLt '08): Well, what shall I say to lovely, amazing Dorothy? I don't want just to say thank you for taking me to Africa but for setting up and running JoLt so successfully over many years and for changing people's lives. And now I know why JoLt is a Journey of the lifetime, because I have always wanted to do it again but can never repeat the experience exactly. So it is definitely a journey of a lifetime!! JoLters and the Africa trip are always in my thoughts and I miss you all very much!! So Dorothy, a BIG thank you once again. I bet you will still do this amazing travelling but with JoLters' memories packed with you!!

(JoLt '00): Thanks for the best time I had in Chile and good luck in Borneo.

(JoLt '04): Dear Dorothy, you are an inspiration and I owe so much to you. You gave me one of the most special experiences of my life, an opportunity which allowed me to grow, explore, relate, challenge myself, meet the love of my life and dear friends; an experience which helped to define who I am today. I will never forget the things that you did for me before, during and after that journey of a lifetime. Thank you for encouraging and supporting me to become a trustee, another invaluable experience. You have touched my life in such a special way and it blows my mind to think of all the other people you have helped in the same way. You are an inspiration because you have given selflessly and continually and more importantly, you have demonstrated the joy in giving and the value of generosity. My wish for you is to continue to receive in all that you give, to enjoy the joy that you have brought to so many and to live your life without limits. You are a uniquely special person and I hope that you are blessed in the way that you have blessed so many others.

(JoLt '00): Dorothy, I hope you will enjoy your last trip as a JoLt leader. You have been a great lady to all of us and you have been doing it for many years and your time had come to end as a JoLt leader. Put your feet up and enjoy your life.

(JoLt '06): Dear Dorothy, thank you soooooo much for giving me, the Journey - Of - My Lifetime in '06. You are an outstanding lady and what you have done for all of us JoLters is much more than remarkable. None of us (I'm sure) could believe that we could ever get to the parts of the world you have taken us to and you have made it all possible for us. I'm sure you will still go on to do lots of incredible and wonderful things in your 'retirement'?

(JoLt '88): We would love to send our very best wishes to Dorothy. She has taken so many youngsters on a journey of a lifetime and they have many brilliant experiences to thank her for, I am sure of that. We know that we can't repay her for the experiences she gave us the opportunity to enjoy. I know that you will all be tired but hope you have had a fantastic trip and have a safe journey home. We wish Dorothy all our love and best wishes for now and her 'hopefully' relaxing time for herself and her family..?!

(JoLt '04): Dear Dorothy, my leader and inspiration, I have written this to tell you that you have affected my life in an unbelievable way by allowing me to partake in one of your life-changing journeys of self-exploration. I think you are one of the most amazing people I have ever met and I am so glad that I have had the privilege to spend time with you and become your friend. As I'm sure others will say, your travelling with

us made our journeys much more fun and exciting.. I wish you a lovely, peaceful and restful retirement from JoLt but as always hope to see you at interviews. I send you love from the bottom of my heart and promise the biggest hug I have ever given the next time we cross paths (which I know we shall).

(*JoLt '00*): Hi Dorothy, you were a good leader when we were in Chile. I'd like to say thank you for letting me to have the opportunity to join the JoLt '00 expedition. It was the most brilliant experience I ever had and it was once in a lifetime for me.

(*JoLt '00*): Dear Dorothy, you were and always will be known for the changes you helped make in many lives (including mine) who have joined you on JoLt's trips of a lifetime. I was with you in 2000 and it was "chilly". It is a country I would love to go back to again as it holds a lot of good memories. I thank you for selecting me to be part of the group. I wish you all the best and hope you have a jolly good time being a Nana, after your trip. PS. Heading to Canada for nine months

(*JoLt '00*): Dorothy, who knew that what started out as an idea and a love for travelling, more than twenty five years ago, would grow into something that has inspired and encouraged so many young, and now not so young, people? I have many, many happy memories of the things we achieved, the sights we saw and the people we met in Chile. I can't thank you enough for everything you've given me and the friendships I've made. JoLt has a very special place in my heart and I know I have the courage and the confidence to let nothing stand in the way of me achieving my goals and fulfilling my dreams. I wish you a peaceful and happy retirement, post-JoLt, but somehow I doubt that it will be restful!

(*JoLt '08*): Wonderful Dorothy, what can I say that has not already been said? You are a truly remarkable lady and a true inspiration to many people. I don't think you will ever fully understand what JoLt has done for me both motivationally and confidence-wise. JoLt has taught me that anything is achievable if you put your mind to it and I will take that with me into everything I do in the future. I have met some truly amazing people and made friends that I will keep for my whole life. You have changed many peoples' lives over the years including mine. When your final JoLt comes to an end, I hope that you can look back and be able to take some fantastic memories with you but I guess it will be nice to hang up your walking boots for a bit!! I wish I could be there with you to enjoy your last JoLt. Lastly I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done. You are truly one in a million!!

(*JoLt '06*): My dear Dorothy, what a special person you are and how many peoples' lives you have changed with your wonderful work with JoLt. I can honestly say that my month in India '06 was, quite frankly, the best of my life. When I was told I had been nominated for the trip, I really didn't like the idea. How wrong I was. The people I met, and the experiences I had will stay with me for life. You were always so encouraging and loveable to everyone. And if anyone needed a hug you were there in a shot!!!! The work you have done over the years is truly inspirational and the energy you have to go with it is absolutely enormous. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity you gave me to be part of the JoLt family. It has a place in my heart forever, and so have you!! I wish you all the best in everything you do in the future, and I hope I will be able to see you more if I am in London.

(*JoLt '00*): Thank you for taking me on a great JoLt trip to Chile. It showed me that there was more to the outside world and it also showed me that there were things I could do with my disabled family that I thought I would not be able to do. JoLt is my second family and I am grateful to be part of it. I will always help out JoLt when needed. I will always be in touch and good luck with your travel in the future.

(*JoLt '98*): Dear Dorothy, thank you for having the inspiration for JoLt and for the dedication and commitment you have shown over many years. I hope you enjoy your last JoLt trip. Thank you.

(*JoLt '84*): I never knew how much JoLt would become part of my life when I first went out as a young JoLter in 1984! I was a very fortunate JoLter and later (1998 onwards), honoured to be a leader. I have many memories from each and every trip and they will be kept close to me – they cover the whole range - happy, embarrassing, worrying, proud, you name it! And, of course, I am proud to be the one remembered as the person who refused to go to the toilets! (I still see those moving tracks in the loo! And the stench!!) JoLt has taught me many things and I hope the same goes for you too - important lessons such as endurance, patience and tolerance along with others. Even travelling together 24/7/4 is a task in itself. Endurance is essential as each one of us has a personal goal to strive to achieve – within JoLt's activities or within ourselves. Patience

is a virtue if you haven't already learnt that – travelling together you learn to be patient and tolerant of others as well as of your own pain. At the end of it all, you come out stronger and more confident. (For some of you there will come a day, a time when you truly reflect and see what you have gained from JoLt and what you have contributed to it.)

(JoLt '08): I would just like to say a massive thank you to Dorothy for all she has done for me personally and for every other JoLter! I miss you all loads and I miss her comforting hugs! If only I could turn back time and do it all again! I do hope this trip is half as fantastic as Africa was. All the love in the world to Dorothy xxxx

(JoLt '00): I really appreciated the chance to go to Chile. I had an absolutely amazing time. I also think that Dorothy and the rest of the JoLt leaders are amazing people and I thank each and everyone of them.