



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
*Lyceum Clubs*

# Bulletin of the International Association *of Lyceum Clubs*

[www.lyceumclubs.org](http://www.lyceumclubs.org)

**BULLETIN Nº 57 – November 2020**

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## EDITORIAL

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Dear friends,

This year we are all in a special situation. The period of lockdown decided by our governments has not affected the dynamics of our clubs. The lockdown has allowed the emergence of some great ideas, and has also allowed some of us to take the time... to be more available, to reinvent new ways of working, to develop our thinking.... to look back on the past.

In spite of all our difficulties, you have taken up the challenge of maintaining the friendship that is the cement of our clubs; I would like to thank each and every one of you here. The presidents of federations and clubs, of course, but also each one of you, members, who have known how to be attentive, to care for the most isolated, to go shopping, to exchange books, to take part in videoconferences and .... to use your computers. Each of these gestures has greatly contributed to ensuring the durability of your clubs and maintaining their spirit.

So, the Lyceum flame has not been extinguished..... it has even been found again in Madrid. Madrid, you say? A city without clubs? I will let a member of the Paris club speak:

*“The 8th of March is a very important day in Spain and mainly for women because it is Women's Day.*

*All women of all ages, employees, intellectuals, artists, politicians, housewives, take to the streets and celebrate the power of women in a cheerful way.*

*One of the biggest, if not the biggest Spanish daily newspaper, El Pais has asked Marina Casado, a journalist, a literature teacher and poet to write a column about this important day.*

*One of my Spanish friends, knowing that I was a member of the French Lyceum, thought I would be interested in this article and passed it on to me.*

*It was indeed a most interesting article.*

*Marina chose to write an article about a group of brilliant women who were recognised in their field and who in 1926, under the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, created the Spanish Lyceum Club, inspired by the London Lyceum. It was the first women's and secular club in Spain.*

*Some of the members had a very interesting and prestigious intellectual profile; one of them was the first woman lawyer in Spain and thanks to her and her struggles women obtained the right to vote in Spain. Others were well-known writers, others were intellectuals, linguists, diplomats.*

*Although it was a secular and apolitical organisation oriented towards culture and charity, for the majority of its members in their personal and professional lives, women's rights and feminism were their priority.*

*The Lyceum of Madrid and Barcelona disappeared with the Civil War, the rise to power of Franco and the end of democracy in Spain.*

*Since I read Maria Casado's article I have managed to get in touch with her and we will meet during my next stay in Madrid, where she lives. We have started to exchange information and I am very much looking forward to meeting her and getting answers to my questions:*

*- What are the reasons why Maria Casado decided to write about the Spanish Lyceum which disappeared at the end of the 1930s?*

*- How did Maria Casado (born in 1989) hear about the Spanish Lyceum?*

*- Will this meeting lead to the creation of a new Lyceum in Spain?*

*It would be a wonderful way to end this story by giving new life to the Spanish Lyceum."*

*Marianne Bos- Salabert  
Member of LCI Paris  
[marianne.bos@orange.fr](mailto:marianne.bos@orange.fr)*

This episode rekindled my desire to create (or re-create) clubs. You know that this idea is close to my heart, and that I have the deep conviction that each of you can be the trigger... The most recent club creations are proof of this (Rabat, Vannes).

Finally, thank you to those who have friends in Madrid for getting in touch with Marianne. It is by uniting and federating our efforts that we will succeed.

*Friendly yours  
Muriel Hannart  
International President  
[president@lyceumclubs.org](mailto:president@lyceumclubs.org)*



## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

### Australia

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of Lyceum Clubs across Australia from late March 2020. During the closure, Members from all Clubs proved their resilience and creativity by staying connected. **Sydney** was fortunate to hold two of its major Club events early in the year. In February 2020, harpist Genevieve Lange spoke at the Club Lunch before performing to the delight of all. In March, at the Dame Mary Gilmore Dinner, Toni Ambrogetti was presented with the prize (\$1,500) for the top female post-graduate journalism student at the University of Technology, Sydney. The guest speaker was Prof. Catharine Lumby who is a Professor of Media at Macquarie University.



*From left to right: Prof Monica Attard (UTS), Bronwyn Ambrogetti (the awardee's mother), Toni Ambrogetti (awardee), Prof. Catharine Lumby (Macquarie University), Dr Christine Jennett (President, Sydney Lyceum Club).*

During Club closures, some Members turned their attention to gardening, cleaning, baking and reading. Others continued their Circles by telephone, email, and the old-fashioned postal service. Many others connected using current technology. "Zoom" was the platform of choice.



Reflecting on past traditions, the **Melbourne** Lyceum Club encouraged Members to send in postcards. Some Members wrote poems on them. Others painted or decorated their postcards. The Creative Textiles and Classy Couture Circles invited Members to send in Suffolk puffs (also known as the fabric yoyo). These bright-coloured, fabric discs are shown in the photograph, in the bottom right-hand corner of page 2. These discs are now being assembled into a colourful wall-hanging to present to the Club to mark this extraordinary period in history.

From late July, as restrictions eased in Australian states, Lyceum Clubs resumed regular activities. **Adelaide** held a Morning Tea to welcome new members. **Brisbane** held a very successful Club Evening Debate. The **Karrakatta Club** is looking forward to the upcoming Club Luncheon. **Perth** Members are helping pack up as they prepare to relocate to new premises.

All Australian Members send warm wishes  
to our friends around the world.  
Stay safe until we meet again in person.



*Angela Gordon, AALC President*

## Belgium

Dear friends of the International Lyceum Club

How is life for you?

For us, in Belgium, we remain confined, we go out prudently, we have a few friends at home. We are masked, we wash our hands...

To compensate for this slowing down of life, I regularly send philosophical messages, reminders about history with a capital H, witty jokes always in good taste. This allows us to keep in almost permanent contact with each other, which is very much appreciated by our members.

Here's the outline of our projects organized and allowed by Covid-19 rules.

- Lunches or cocktails already planned among members
- Private concerts
- Conference on « The Prince » by Machiavelli
- Trip to Amsterdam with a visit of the Anne-Frank Museum
- Trip to Ostend for a visit to the home of Léon Spilliaert, a Belgian Symbolist painter; as well as a visit to the home of James Ensor, a Belgian anarchist painter and engraver.
- Trip to Saint-Idesbald, walk along the "artists' path" through the dunes, the woods, the small villages and in particular to the studio of the painter Paul Delvaux where we will be welcomed by his niece
- Trip to Bruges for a visit of the Memling Museum under the direction of the Curator
- Trip to Lessines for a visit of the Hospital Notre Dame à la Rose and the Château d'Attre
- A walk along the streets to visit the architectural sites representing Art Nouveau in Brussels
- A visit of the house of Paul Magritte, a pioneer of surrealism
- A visit of the Opéra de La Monnaie in Brussels under the guidance of its Director
- A visit of the Han Caves by the director of this historical site
- Finally, a visit of the Lussato Foundation for its exhibits and Japanese art

We look forward to seeing you all soon and in great shape.

Long live the Lyceum, long live its members!

*Claudie Gorse, President of the International Lyceum Club of Belgium*

## France

[www.lyceumfrance.org](http://www.lyceumfrance.org)

At the beginning of this year 2020, the diaries of all Lyceum members were full of regular activities, special events, national and international meetings eagerly awaited by all of them as happy promises of exchanges and discoveries.

For the past few weeks, however, an unexpected actor, an emerging virus, has invited itself into the landscape, which will come to brutally stop the life of the world, a colossus with feet of clay, and paralyse all our lives.

Suddenly, our overloaded diaries have given way to a sidereal void and a solitude that is painful for some.

I would like to praise all the club presidents who, faced with this unprecedented and brutal situation, reacted remarkably and adapted immediately. They have been able to reinvent their usual activities with multiple virtual, literary and cultural proposals, visits to museums, musical works, all of which are precious windows on the world that have made it possible to preserve a stimulating intellectual activity and a strong friendly bond.

Lockdown without the Internet would have been quite different.

Fortunately, some clubs had managed to carry out their planned events before this forced immobility; indeed, Lille and Dijon celebrated the anniversary of their foundations during beautiful festive and friendly meetings, bringing together many members from all the clubs.

In July, a high point for the French Federation, which had the great pleasure of adding a 15th club, that of Vannes-Bretagne Sud. This creation is due to the initiative of Anne-Marie d'Haucourt, former editor of the International Bulletin, who wished to found this club in her new home place. This group brings together women of all ages, some of them very young, and shows a great dynamism.

It is a very positive sign of vitality for our French Lyceum community. We all hope that the future will be tinged with this same colour of renewed dynamism.

*Isabelle Bertrand President of the French Federation of Lyceum Clubs*

*The photo below: The meeting of the Presidents of Lyon  
Members of the Board of the Federation with the two webmasters in medallions*



## Finland

Dear friends, warm greetings from Oulu Lyceum Club! Our club meets once a month except during the summer months. Last year's activities ended with the traditional Lucia Festival and this year we started with Beethoven's Fidelio Opera. In February, we held our annual meeting. Then the activity stopped completely! At the beginning of March, the Finnish government issued strict regulations to curb the COVID-19 epidemic: schools and jobs shifted to remote working, public facilities for culture and hobbies were closed. However, there was no lockdown or an obligation to wear masks. People over the age of 70 were advised to avoid all kinds of contact e.g. avoid going shopping.

*Our Lucia, a member of our Club*



The pandemic was a shock to everyone. Suddenly the safety and security in the world changed! Everyone was concerned about their own health and the health of their loved ones, and some were also concerned about their livelihood. It was especially oppressive for the elderly in the nursing homes and their relatives, as the nursing homes would not allow visitors.

Finland has been protected by our government's quick response with its regulations and recommendations, as well as the desire of citizens to obey instructions. At the time of writing, there have been 8,200 corona cases in Finland, of which about 70% are in the Helsinki metropolitan area and only about 2.5% (less than 200) in the Oulu region. We have great sympathy for the people of those countries that have been afflicted much more severely by the pandemic.

Those of you who participated in the IALC Culture Days 2018 in Oulu, know that Oulu is a fairly small city in Northern Finland with great outdoor opportunities. Spending time outdoors is also safe and one avoids big crowds. We took plenty of time to enjoy outdoors during the spring. Some of us continued our hobbies online. Video calls were widely used. Many of us have a summer cottage to where we could retreat into the closeness of nature. People living in detached houses were busy in their gardens and meeting friends there. Everyone longed for social life and hobbies and some became distressed in isolation. Entrepreneurs were weighed down by fear of their own and their employees' livelihoods. Parents with school-aged children were so overwhelmed by distance schooling while also working from home at the same time. Fortunately, this happened in the spring and the summer brought new opportunities in addition to the sun.

The Oulu club has had its meetings in Hotel De Gamla Hem, so the club has had no financial consequences from the suspension of operations. The Helsinki Club owns their conference apartments, which they also rent to others. When the rental income stopped, this long break has been also financially difficult for them.

In May, the children still went to school for a couple of weeks before the holidays. The whole of Finland opened up during the summer and now things are almost back to normal. There has now been a slight increase of the disease in Finland as well. We believe the situation will remain under control and we will soon be able to resume operations at the club as well.

*Päivi Kytömäki  
President of the Lyceum club of Oulu*

## Germany

The last six months – as was the case everywhere – were dominated by the corona pandemic. In Germany there was an assembly ban for 2 months from mid-March on. Therefore, all presentation activities of the German clubs were cancelled throughout the summer.

During the lockdown, the Lyceum Clubs kept in touch and gave their members encouragement through diverse methods. The Cologne and Berlin steering committees, for example, manufactured protective masks and sent them to all members.

In addition, the **Berlin** club members were given a list of literature and assorted links for virtual museum visits and music presentations. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, there was a summer get-together in the garden of the Dahlem Kunsthaus – with masks and discrete distance, but animated conversations and delicious finger food. The members were happy to be able to be together in larger numbers after so long.

The ladies of the **ILC Frankfurt**, who met for a walk and coffee and cake afterwards in the garden of a café/restaurant run by a Lyceum Club member, also enjoyed this experience.

The **Cologne steering committee** kept in contact with its members via Zoom. The stipend recipients offered active help and a new web site was constructed. An Image film was also shot and uploaded to YouTube.

Among other projects, the Lyceum Club in **Karlsruhe** also recorded a CD with its stipend recipient, Marlene Gomez, an oboist, and sent it to their members as well as to the steering committees of all the German Lyceum Clubs.

The **Stuttgart** members stayed in contact via telephone and email, pleasing the ladies with photos of flowers from their gardens. A new meeting will first take place on September 9<sup>th</sup>, as the ladies fear contagion in public transportation.

In **Munich** – the smallest Lyceum Club – the ladies met in July for walks, and coffee and cake. This was also practised in Hamburg, in smaller groups though, according to the allowed standards; in groups of two, three, four, and later also six and seven.

The regular activities of each individual club are due to begin again in September, though this will not be easy on account of the rising rate of infection. The clubs require larger rooms in order to observe the minimum distance of 1.5 meter between members. It will be simpler with the smaller group activities such as literature and music circles, bridge games and languages.

We are all trying to bring our clubs through this difficult time, which requires much effort and creativity from the steering committees. For this I express my heartfelt gratitude.

*Dorette Schuppert*  
*President of the Federation of Lyceum Clubs in Germany.*

## Italy

### **Lyceum Club of Catania**

At the end of February, the Lyceum Club of Catania was forced to interrupt any type of activity due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the middle of a rich season of events planned until June 2020.

This decision was fully supported by all the members of the club, to whom we sent a letter in which we express our regret for the suspension of the program and we wish a prompt restart in autumn.

We are fully committed to keeping this promise and we are already setting the new agenda starting from the end of October. However, any initiative at the moment will depend on the evolution of this unprecedented global event.

I send you my warmest regards and I wish the Lyceum Club a flourishing 2020/21 season.

*Sincerely,*  
*Maria Santagati, President of the Catania Lyceum Club*

### **Cremona branch**

The social year began with the fourth “CREMONA LETTERATURA” event on the theme of “Dove va la poesia Italiana?” (Where is Italian poetry heading?) which featured renowned Italian speakers and was followed by the presentation “Il Filo: storia e storie” (History and stories), Il Filo being the historic Cremona Amateur Dramatics Society which has been our new base since October.

The activity of the Lyceum continued with an Organ Concert given by Maestro Paolo Bottini in St. Omobono (the church dedicated to the patron saint of Cremona) to accompany the exhibition entitled “Immagini e voci del XVIII sec. La chiesa dei S.S. Egidio e Omobono” (Images and sounds of the XVIII century. The church of Saints Egidio and Omobono) in association with ANISA and the Cremona Civic Museum...We then had a convivial gathering during which our dear Monsignor Vincenzo Rini united us in his last unforgettable thoughts...Two more talks: Leonardo ritrovato” (Leonardo rediscovered) by Egidio Bandini and “Cremona provincia della musica” (Cremona, province of music) by Roberto Codazzi.

On 27 January, we went to Florence to take part in the National Conference of the Lyceum. Then the coronavirus arrived and Cremona was unfortunately badly affected...Our headquarters were closed and we all had to stay at home...We had several sad losses: close family of our friends and also our dear Monsignor Rini who was always there at our meetings and he was a great friend to all of us. We have often telephoned one another and sent updates so we could feel united. We are still united in the hope that we can soon see one another again.

*President Laura Ruffini*

### **Lyceum Club of Florence**

On 9 March 2020, the Italian government under Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte imposed a national quarantine, limiting the movement of the population except for necessity, work, and health circumstances, in response to the growing pandemic of COVID-19. Additional lockdown restrictions required the temporary closure of non-essential shops and businesses.

The activity of the International Lyceum Club in Florence, which had already decided to remain in stand-by from the end of January, was abruptly closed. Since the II World War, this was the second exceptional situation our Club had to face. The Board of Directors, at the request of the President, considered this terrible circumstance as an opportunity. As the American writer William Arthur Ward stated, *“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails”* ...We decided to be realistic, adjusting our sails and rolling with the tide...

Proud of the history of our Club, we have decided to take this opportunity to do what we never have time to do... we have updated our site, translated its texts into English, continued our cultural activity through the potential offered by the web. Musicians performed and recorded their concerts not to abandon the Florence Lyceum Club, nor miss the opportunity to enjoy its audience; lecturers recorded their lectures, making them available online; curators and experts have turned many exhibitions into virtual ones, providing a bilingual version that can be enjoyed worldwide also by friends from other Lyceum Clubs).

Then, exclusive interviews with scientists and doctors, to understand the reality of the situation...

The members and friends followed with interest and appreciated the closeness of the Club, even if the older ones, without internet devices, could not benefit from these efforts: our Secretary phoned them regularly to keep in touch with all of them.

The result was that the programming continued well beyond the scheduled agenda, and that the site had, in a few months, more than 14,000 visitors: therefore, the President and the Board decided to reserve some initiatives only to the members, hoping to invite occasional visitors to join the Club.

The awareness of losing entries is real and so is the worry of paying the rent: two members of the Club died during the last month (Dr Luciana Gasbarre and Princess Giorgiana Corsini), making the Club lose two extraordinary women, rich in intellectual life and ideas.

Recurring letters from the President to the members have informed them about the program but also about the concerns of this time, giving the feeling of active involvement of all the members in a spirit of great solidarity.

While the situation is still fluid, we are working, preparing for online or face-to-face programming, depending on the health conditions, not wanting to expose our members' health to any additional risk.

We don't know what awaits us in the future, but we have never been and we'll never be like a sailboat in a dead calm.

*Donatella Lippi, President of the International Lyceum Club of Florence*

## The Netherlands

### Six Garden Parties

The Lyceum Club in the Dutch city of Groningen was founded on June 13<sup>th</sup> 1929. Every year on or around this day a coffee get-together is organised at a restaurant to celebrate the Club's 'birthday'. We always select a restaurant with a large patio so as to be able to sit outside when the weather permits, with the inside offering enough space in case of rain. In and around Groningen there are several such restaurants with patios along the water. Annually, some 70 to 80 members attend the celebrations.

This year, however, Covid-19 intervened. Due to strict government-regulations, it was not possible to celebrate our birthday in the usual way, with so many people present. We members of the Board had to come up with an alternative – for celebrate we must!

We decided on outdoor-celebrations in small numbers in the gardens of several of our members. Small groups in the open pose fewer hazards, it seems, and our Club boasts a number of members with beautifully spacy gardens and homes to match. Six members readily offered the use of their gardens and houses and 64 members registered and were distributed equally over the gardens.

And so, on Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>, ten to twelve members gathered in each of the various gardens for coffee and a delicious treat to accompany it, followed by a glass of wine to bring a toast to our Club. How pleased we all were to



meet and greet each other for the first time since early March! And how the various hostesses had exerted themselves to offer everyone a plentiful reception! For a brief time, the horrid virus was out of our minds – to the extent that we were inclined to forget about ‘social distancing’. How fortunate we also were with the lovely weather, allowing us to enjoy each other’s company and the beautiful gardens to the full.

Covid-19 may still reign supreme, but we had six wonderful garden parties in spite of it!

*Gerdien W.F. Auf dem Brinke-Edelkoort  
President*

## New Zealand

### Whakatane Lyceum Club



Our club rooms not only provide a wonderful venue for all the different interests of members, but are appreciated by other groups in the area whose rental assists with running costs and keeping our subscriptions to an affordable level.

Whakatane, a coastal town in the Bay of Plenty in New Zealand sadly became known to the world over the tragic loss of life and horrendous burns from the volcanic eruption on Whakaari (White Island), but in complete contrast claims the highest sunshine

hours for New Zealand and the record for the most yellowfin tuna caught in the country.

The club hosts six different circles and a monthly club meeting, the only weekly activity is the Mah-jong players, but this is followed closely by the movie circle who, even if they are not rapturous about the film, enjoy the camaraderie of lunch at a cafe afterward.

How fortunate our club is to be in New Zealand, being islands without adjoining neighbours making it easier to control our borders and the arrival of the Covid -19 virus. During the "lockdown" period our members, apart from walking, seemed to fill in the time by catching up on those things that should be done but not essential, - like cleaning drawers of papers, cupboards, clothes, those photos .....In the beginning it was recommended the "seniors" stayed home, so many of our members had others doing the grocery shop and quickly learned if one desires to save money get someone else to do it - they stick to the list!

However, many suffered great sorrow in not being allowed to hold funeral services so had no support for their grief with not even sons or daughters allowed to travel to be with them, and could see no reason why they were barred from the mortuary when the deaths were not from the corona virus, particularly with masks and protective gear being available.

Our return to resumption of gatherings was welcomed by Lyceum members, firstly with a luncheon with the speaker's commentary on his train trip in Russia highlighted with a slide show, secondly with the Art and Garden circle's guest showing some of his fascinating collection of Moghul paintings.

The pandemic has shown New Zealand is an enviable country, but as time passes on from the strange times, how long will our residents feel the effect of isolation from travel, friends and family overseas. In the meantime, how lucky we are to have the valuable association and support from Lyceum friends.

*Marilyn Mackinder, President New Zealand  
Southern Hemisphere Vice President Lyceum International*

### International Lyceum Club of Lisbon

The International Lyceum Club of Lisbon began its 2020 activities with the New Year's Grand Concert, early January. Several activities of a cultural nature were scheduled on a weekly basis, such as guided tours to exhibitions, teas with the presence of guest speakers who addressed the following topics during this period: "The Role of Women in War time"- "D. Maria II and the Royal Collections". Likewise, we had the commemorative tea of Women's Day with the presence of Professor and researcher Elisa Fortunato, one of the personalities nominated for the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physics.

We had also programmed a 3-day journey to Algarve (Costa Vicentina), which ended up being cancelled, due to lockdown which our country was subjected to, facing Covid-19.

There was a need to find alternative ways for the Club's members to keep in touch to minimise the effects of the lockdown period, and thus a WhatsApp group was created.

It was with great sadness we were forced to cancel the BCI Meeting and Cultural Days in Lisbon in May 2020. It is rescheduled for September 2021. Let's hope this pandemic will be overcome by then and that all of us, members of Lyceum clubs, from all countries, may return to their routines.

The activities our Club had programmed for the period April to July had to be cancelled due to the pandemic prevailing all over the world.

Although the programme couldn't be fulfilled, we did have a few visits out in the open in the city of Lisbon: we visited the Zoological Garden, the Estufa Fria, the S. Jorge Castle and we enjoyed tea at the President's home where there were some poem readings.

The engagement of our members was reduced due to the fear of COVID-19 contagion.

Fortunately, so far, only one Club member has been infected with the coronavirus.

The pandemic situation was improving during the Summer months, but, right now, it is getting a bit more troublesome, as in many European nations.

We will restart our activities on 7th October, still cautious, but hoping for better days.



We have some photos we share with you.

*Maria Teresa Abreu Matos* President of the Lyceum Club of Lisbon



S. Jorge Castle



Zoo Garden



Tea at the President's home

## Sweden

Due to the Corona virus little has happened since the April Bulletin. All of our meetings with lecturers have been cancelled from February.

Sweden has not been as closed down as have most other countries. But most of the elderly part of the Swedish population take the advice and recommendation from the Health Authorities seriously.

Thus, our members, mostly 65+, stay at home or meet with friends outdoors – this summer was fortunately perfect for that.

On June 24, we had a digital annual meeting, and are very pleased to announce that Marie-Louise Lagergrén was elected president. She has for a long time been a member of our club and also been a member of the Board.

So, for the time being we wait for the Corona to disappear or be held back by an acceptable vaccine.



*The English born Crown Princess Margareta, nicknamed Daisy, died 100 years ago at the age of 38. We owe her gratitude for initiating the founding, in 1911, of our Lyceum club in the spirit of Constance Smedley. Today, Queen Silvia is our patron.*

*Princess Christina, sister of King Carl Gustaf, has co-written a most charming book depicting her much-loved maternal grandmother.*

*Christina Bratt and Marie-Louise Lagergrén*

## Switzerland

Lockdown due to Coronavirus in Switzerland started on 16th March and lasted in its severest form until nearly the end of May. This meant a complete stop to all our Lyceum activities which created a lot of heartache for all the clubs who saw their wonderfully varied programmes for the spring and summer season come to nothing. It also meant that a lot of our clubs, and indeed the Swiss federation, could not hold their regular AGMs, which subsequently all had to be done in written format.

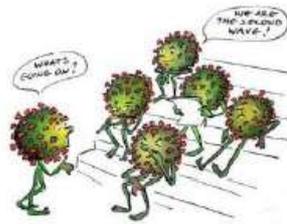
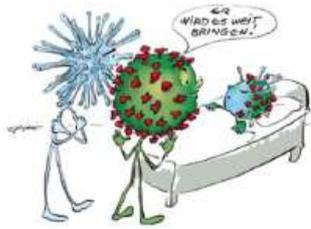
The enforced slow-down of everyday life gave us the opportunity to question our hectic lifestyles, to rearrange our priorities and not to feel guilty doing 'nothing'! All our club committees ended up being much busier than usual, trying by one means or another, to keep in contact with their members. This took the form of regular phone calls to our most elderly members who are not connected to the internet; for the younger members, the digital age with all its possibilities kickstarted a huge amount of creativity: one club created a blog, which proved very popular, other clubs sent weekly digital newsletters to the members which offered interesting articles on literature, languages, music and art. One club's artists offered virtual tours of their ateliers and another provided readings of fairy tales from around the world. The lockdown provided proof, if it was ever needed, that it is vital for all of us to stay up to date with modern technology!

Once restrictions were relaxed, many clubs offered summer programmes with outings, museum visits and tea parties/barbecues to make the most of the wonderful summer weather. It was evident that members were desperate to renew the personal contacts and made them value what the Lyceum membership actually means.

Our clubs are now providing a 'normal' programme, while conforming to current hygiene measures prescribed by the Swiss government., though. Conferences and concerts that had to be cancelled earlier in the year, are being scheduled now over the coming months.

To finish on a positive and humorous note, I am including here a little series of cartoons from during the lockdown period; the club of Basel has a wonderful cartoonist, Elena Pini, who regularly brought a smile to our faces during these trying times. Only the first cartoon, 'lockdown', is from an unfortunately unknown source, but is included because it is so spot-on!

*Janet Blümli, Swiss federation president*



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
*Lyceum Clubs*

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