

Kingswood, UK - Chartered 1960

The Youngster



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Alan has passed on to the editor the latest magazine from the Ballarrat club in Australia. This was one of its articles.

Even though we are in lockdown it is good to reflect that we are part of an international organisation and that people all round the world are going through similar experiences.

Bruce Price recently received a letter from former International Secretary General, Ingvar Wallin, who had translated the following poem from Swedish to English. It is an interesting comparison keeping in mind it comes from the Northern Hemisphere and from a language other than English.

It was March 2020

The streets were empty, shops closed, no one would go out.
But spring did not understand, and the flowers began to bloom, the sun was shining and the birds were singing, soon the swallows were coming, the sky was blue. The morning light came ever earlier.

It was March 2020...

The young people would study via the internet, and do things indoors.

The people could not go out and shop, nor go to the hairdresser.

Soon there was no more room left in the hospitals, and people continued to get sick.

But spring did not understand this, it was time to go out in the garden, everything was green.

It was March 2020...

The people would isolate themselves to protect parents and grandparents, families and children.

No more Sunday meals with the family, no parties.

Fear became realistic and the days went one by one in the same way.

But spring did not understand this, and the apple trees, the cherry trees bloomed like many other trees.

The greenery on all trees turned out more and more.

The people started reading, playing family games, learning a new language, call friends, sing on the balcony.

The people learned how to find joy and to be together.

The people finally began to understand how important health is, began to realize that many people suffered and had difficulties.

That the world's economy began to tremble.

But spring did not know all this, and the flowers were turned into fruits, the birds made their nest and chirped, the swallows had arrived.

But spring had taught people the strength of life.

Everything will go well, stay home, take care of you and each other, and then we will be able to enjoy life.

(Ulla Backstrom, March 2020)

Ed: Thank you Alan, thank you Ingvar, thank you Bruce, thank you Ulla. Should it be retitled 'It was 2020'?

To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right

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Keeping in Touch

I have always thought the club has a central theme of friendship which keeps us together and moving forward. These difficult times are testing the links we have. I know that many members meet outside the club activities and this is now impossible so we must look for alternative methods of communication. The telephone is a direct way of keeping in touch and can relieve the loneliness that the current quarantine rules force on some. The more technology aware members have been checking on each other by Facebook and WhatsApp but these are essentially one to one methods.

At the end of March we tried to meet via Skype but found it rather cumbersome, then Zoom began to receive lots of publicity as a way of connecting people. Mike, Roger and I began experimenting with the programme and on April 4th we held our first Virtual Coffee Morning. Eight cameras were linked and an enjoyable hour was spent catching up with our news and experiences in the shutdown.



We now have 22 members able to log into Zoom meetings and are now past our fourth Virtual Coffee Morning, when 27 members and wives joined in the conversations. We exchange experiences with the restrictions and how our neighbours or relatives help those who are not able to leave their homes. The charity shops are all closed so the jigsaws we usually sell at the Coffee Morning are available for members to borrow, delivered to the doorstep to avoid contact. Graham now shows videos culled from the internet to entertain us and break up the chatting with music.

We will be holding a Zoom Board of Governors to try to carry on with the business side of Y'sdom. One subject for discussion is the idea that members make a small donation to our charity funds to replace the lost income of the real Coffee Morning we normally hold; after all we would have spent cash on coffee and cake had we been able to hold our usual event.

Wally