Mrs the President of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs, Muriel Hannart

Mrs the Vice-President of the Northern Hemisphere, Monique Gätcher

Mrs the President of the French Federation, Sabine Coiffe,

Mrs the Past-President of the French Federation, Jacqueline Suttin,

Mrs the Past-President of the Swiss Association, Janet Blümli,

Mrs the Vice-President of the German Association, Erika Pratsch

Mrs the President of the Club of Amsterdam, Bettine Polak

Mrs the President of the Club of Edinburgh, Diane Burrow

Mrs the President of the Club of Florence, Giovanna Corsi

Mrs the President of the Club of Paris, my sister, Pascale Anderson Mair

Mrs the Past-President of the Club of Orléans, my mum, Anne-Marguerite Chupin,

Dear Ladies and Friends,

It is with great emotion and pleasure that I welcome you today to mark the official re-opening of the Lyceum Club of London which coincides with the 120th Anniversary of the Lyceum.

Until last year, I never thought that I would one day be standing here with you for something so special as the Relaunch of the London Club. But when you are surrounded by talented and dedicated friends who worked hard to reignite Constance Smedley’s spirit, when you have the full support of the President of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs and you receive encouragement by many members, and when you have the chance to have two longstanding Lyceum members, president and past-president of their respective club in your family who have been sharing their own experience, impossible does not exist and they have given me the wings to make sure the club take-off.

I would like to thank you all for joining today. To make the day even more unique, I am delighted to welcome two very special guests and renowned British artists: Diana Armfield, Constance and Maxwell Armfield’s niece and Helen Whittaker who came specially from York to present her glass works which you might have already noticed when entering the Club. Thank you very much Diana and Helen for being with us.

Of course, you will hear a lot about Constance, the history of the Lyceum and our vision, but today is also the opportunity to show our appreciation to our members, for being part of this community of women from different backgrounds and profiles but with a common interest in the arts, sciences and social concerns, a shared willingness to pursue lifelong learning and to contribute to the life of the Club. Our members are the greatest value of the Club where they can find friendship.

I wish you wonderful celebrations and may the Lyceum and our club continue to grow and thrive in the 21st century.