

Summer 2020 Revisited

Last year I wrote: 'Generally we have 'something new' every year.'

This summer was completely new.

And like nothing I have experienced in my adult life.

For the first time since 1973, there was no Vacational Studies summer with the school full of happy youngsters making contacts. With the Covid pandemic restrictions on gatherings and the new concept of 'social-distancing' in force, I realised as early as April that we would not be able to proceed in July.

In January the 2020 Course was practically full with youngsters and was fully-staffed. It was distressing to have to dismantle what I had so painstakingly created. The majority of parents decided to roll their applications forward to the summer of 2021, but there was a void that impacted like a bereavement.

I decided that those aspects of VacStuds that were my area of expertise should go online, so I arranged Masterclasses and Board Meetings. The response was gratifying. Indeed, one of the regular participants told me in an email: 'I truly love and enjoy these classes. I've learned so much from them! I'm looking forward to more poetry Masterclasses from you.' I am touched by this.

The Sports/Social Crew of 2020 were: Lawrence Randle, Paddy Douglass, Pablo Mol, Benedict Smith, Alex Aparicio, Ellyn Roberts, Lars Mucklejohn, Louise Gogstad, John Bryer, Carlotta Gottardi, Rutger van der Peijl, Benedetta Magni, Fran Martinez, Nils Euler, Joshua Gray, Charlotte Ehret, Adrana Tur, Elie Nicolas and Sebastiaan de Vries. They also decided to arrange 'VacStuds 2020 at Home' with a programme including Folies Bergères, 'Eurovision' and Masterclasses given by Neal Caplin, Ellyn Roberts and Joshua Gray.

The 2020 Prefects joined in, too. They were: Alessandro Piveteau; Carmen Gómez Pacheco; Elinor Tandberg; Fee Seltensrijch; Haakon Lindstad; Kristian Øvrum; Lucia Gianazza; Michelle Pretka; Nyame de Vries; Sophie Günther, Thea Moarbes, Andrea Restaini, Caroline Raffel, Claudia Carbonara, Erik Hoffmann Ramirez, Madalena Valente and Nora Grindheim Berner.

I look forward to seeing them on 11 July 2021.

I am gratified and humbled by the loyalty and affection to my organisation that has been shown in these times by staff, youngsters and parents. My thanks to everyone who is waiting for a year to let their children have the best time of their lives in the summer of 2021.

I can hardly wait...

Ian Mucklejohn – 7 August 2020