

Polish YMCA GB and Mazury - Summary of the Year 2020

2020 was a time of anxiety, change and adaptation to 'new norms' and temporary realities for each of us. Changes had to be made within our organisation, in order that we could continue to serve you and the wider community of Poles in the UK. Here are some of the projects from the past year.

January:

It was wonderful to see so many Mazury and Polska YMCA members and friends gather together at our headquarters in Ealing, for our traditional Christmas carolling. Mazury also had the honour of performing in Greenford for the finale of 'WOŚP'.

February/March:

All three Mazury groups (Junior, Middle and Senior) performed in POSK at the 'Colourful Folklore 2' festival. It was an inaugural performance for over 25 new members of our group! At the start of the first wave of Covid restrictions, Mazury classes were forced to close but (in the spirit of keeping people united), a series of weekly mini dance tasks were released for members, their families and friends to partake in.

April:

April saw the start of the YMCA and Mazury support group. Our volunteers helped people in need of support in Ealing: providing phone contact and shopping for people who were isolating/vulnerable. Our members supported Kolbe House Care Home: organising distribution of tablets and disinfecting gels. An extensive article about Mazury was published on the [British Poles](#) portal.

May:

Members and friends of the Polish YMCA took part in '[Polish Heritage Days](#)'. Over 800 people sent in photos for our Polish flag project and more than 40 participants made up the online virtual choir singing '[Barka](#)'. Zosia and Lucjan gave an interview for '[Lockdown Folkdown](#)' and delivered [video material about Polish folk dance](#) for Merseyside Polonia's PHD event. '[Magazyn z Wysp](#)' aired material about Mazury. We joined 'Project Paradise'; together with PIN UK we collected food and clothes for the homeless. In cooperation with the Polish Hearth Club, we organised an online presentation by traveller Marek Kaminski: 'Power to Change'.

June-October:

In June, with the help of our Summer Camp leaders, [cleaning and sorting in our headquarters](#) began in earnest. From July to October, a project prepared by Mazury's Musical Director Jadwiga Słomka, commemorating the [80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain](#), was held. The project included (amongst others), [the recording and amalgamation of patriotic songs](#), a lecture by Prof. Norman Davies and the laying of wreaths at [the Polish War Memorial in Northolt](#). In September, we celebrated the [10th Anniversary of Zosia and Lucjan's leadership of Mazury](#). In October, Jadzia and Alicja gave an [Interview on 'Radio Islanders'](#).

November:

On the occasion of Independence Day (encouraging the participation of our members and friends), we prepared [collages celebrating our heritage](#) entitled #naszapolskość. Several members of Mazury's virtual choir performed the [Polish National Anthem](#). Mazury online dance classes began on Zoom for all 3 groups.

December:

Mazury members recorded '[Silent Night](#)' and '[Oj Maluśki](#)'; both carols were put together by Jadwiga Słomka. The newly formed middle group choir 'Fiołki', sang '[Lulajże Jezuniu](#)'.

Many thanks to our volunteers; it is **because** of them that all our projects could be realised. Looking forward to 2021, we warmly invite you to join us on Saturday **13th March** for our **virtual YMCA Quiz**.

Skontaktuj się z nami:

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