



# *Les Amis De l'œuvre de Blasco Mentor*

## Le petit journal N° 7 février/mars/avril 2023

### Editorial

This is the seventh edition of our little newspaper. Some of our members have expressed their interest in its content, Thank you for continuing to send us your suggestions, we will relay them and defend them if necessary with the municipality.

This little journal aims to inform you of the highlights, to let you know our point of view and to make you aware of the events around the work of Mentor. This is also the purpose of our association: to participate in highlighting the legacy and donation of Blasco Mentor (his work and his property, Casa Nieves) to our municipality to benefit our village from these cultural benefits.

Today it is a question of saving Casa Nieves which has suffered the ravages of time. The work is immense and will require years of effort to find the necessary funding.

### Casa Nieves

If you walk past the Mentor property, you can see scaffolding. Indeed a few weeks ago the first phase of the work began!

In February, work began on repairing and removing asbestos from roofs at a cost of €145,000. In addition to these emergency works, the roof terrace was repaired and the stone wall supporting it was reinforced (amount 51,000 euros).

This will be followed by the safety of the sculpture workshop, the repair of the large external staircase and the waterproofing of the large terrace. This work will be financed by the aid of 277,000 euros granted by Mission Bern in 2022.

At the request of the municipality, another aid (up to an amount of 100,000 euros) was granted by the Syndicat mixte du Bassin Versant du Gapeau to renovate the terraces of the Mentor property. The reconstruction (and/or) renovation of dry stone walls is intended to manage rainwater runoff to the heart of the village. A preliminary study will be carried out before work and comparison studies after restoration.

As a reminder, the renovation work of the entire property is estimated at 1,600,000 euros



## Exhibition

With a group of students of the Professional License in Cultural Project Management from the University of La Garde, Luc Bénito (author and director we told you about in our little newspaper No. 5) went to meet the students of the Guy Menut school and their teachers.

Around 3 works by Mentor representing views of Solliès-Toucas, the students organized visits to the village to find the points of view and proposed to the students to create their own representations of the landscapes painted by Blasco Mentor.

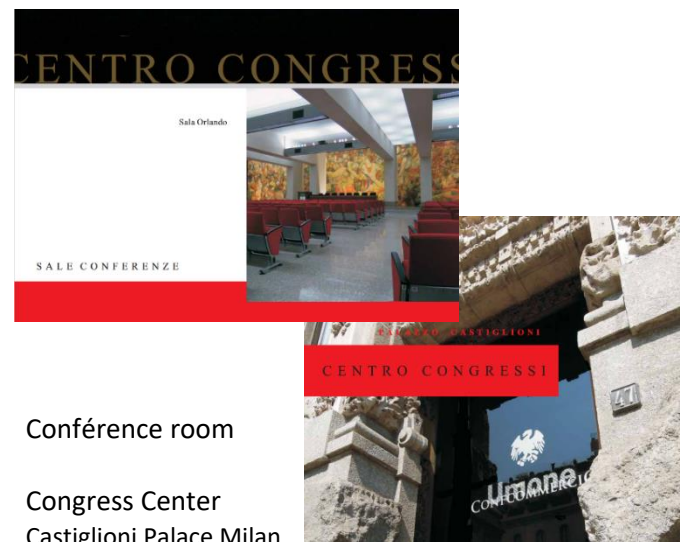
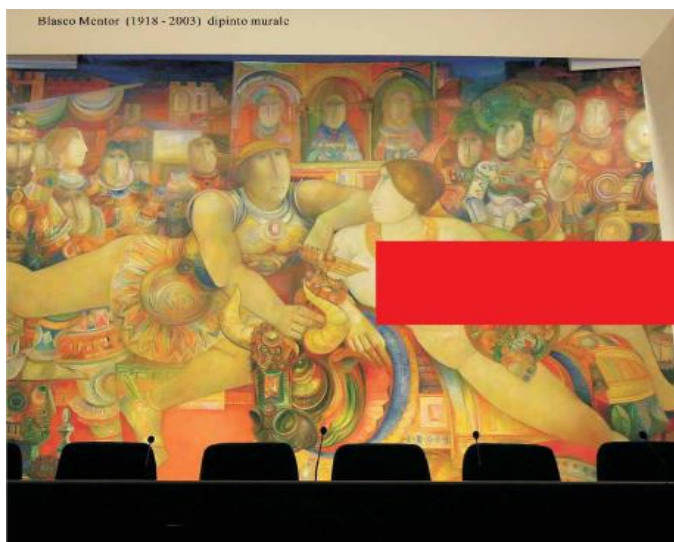
On Saturday, March 18, the children's creations were the subject of an ephemeral hanging at the Moulin Arnaud, accompanied by the original works.



## Our projects

This spring we worked on a new project: to introduce the children of our village to the magnificent murals "Mercury and Abundance", by Blasco Mentor, completed in 1976 at Palazzo Castiglione for the Union of Tourism and Labour of Milan. At that time, this 250 M2 project was the largest in Europe.

To finance this outing for the students of the Guy Menut school, we sent a grant application to the FDVA (Fonds d'Aide à la Vie Associative). The case is under investigation.



## Annual General Meeting

On May 26, our Annual General Meeting will be held. This year we will meet at the Moulin Arnaud at 6:30 pm. We invite you to come in large numbers and remind you that to take part in the votes, members must be up to date with their membership fees for the year 2023 (you can nevertheless put yourself in good standing at the beginning of the meeting).

## News

To enrich our "testimonials" section, we are looking for people who have known Blasco Mentor and who would agree to talk to us about the artist and life at Casa Nieves.

Thank you in advance for your contributions that will allow us to better know and recognize the artist and the work.

*Les amis de l'œuvre de Blasco Mentor*

Mairie de Solliès-Toucas, place Clément Ballestra, 83210 Solliès-Toucas

Tel. 07 86 65 11 14

Mail : [contact@blasco-mentor-solliestoucas.fr](mailto:contact@blasco-mentor-solliestoucas.fr)

Site internet : <https://blasco-mentor-solliestoucas.fr>