

SOMERLERNEJO: THE STREAK CONTINUES!

Our annual Somerlernejo, which has run in one form or another for over fifty years, is adapting to the times and will take place virtually this year.

The programme is reduced from the planned offering, which would have been two weekend courses at Esperanto House. It will now be the advanced strand only, running for three 90-minute sessions on Saturday, August 15. **Ed Robertson** is taking the course, which will start

at 11:00, then resume after lunch at 14:00, with the final session starting at 17:00. That means that you're in for an intensive day of Esperanto without it becoming too tiring!

The event is free although we're limiting the numbers to ensure that participants can join in fully with discussions and contributions without being crowded out, so we recommend signing up quickly. We're restricting the course to people resident in the

UK initially, although that may change nearer the time if numbers allow.

You don't have to be a fluent speaker but since the only language in use will be Esperanto and you will be looking at literature and translation, we'd suggest that you consider coming back another year if you're not yet a semi-confident speaker.

Sign up at esperanto.org.uk/events/somerlernejo, and we'll send you details of how to join in! ■



BILL CHAPMAN: 1950-2020

Our Esperanto family received a terrible blow with news of the passing of Bill Chapman at the age of 69 on May 21.

Bill, known to perhaps most of you by his full name, Hilary, was a dignified man who effused an effortless charm, the perfect person to present Esperanto sympathetically to everyday people, which he rarely missed an opportunity to do. He had been a very keen Esperantist for over 50 years, participating in both local, national and international gatherings. We will feature a full obituary of Bill in the next issue of *La Brita Esperantisto*.

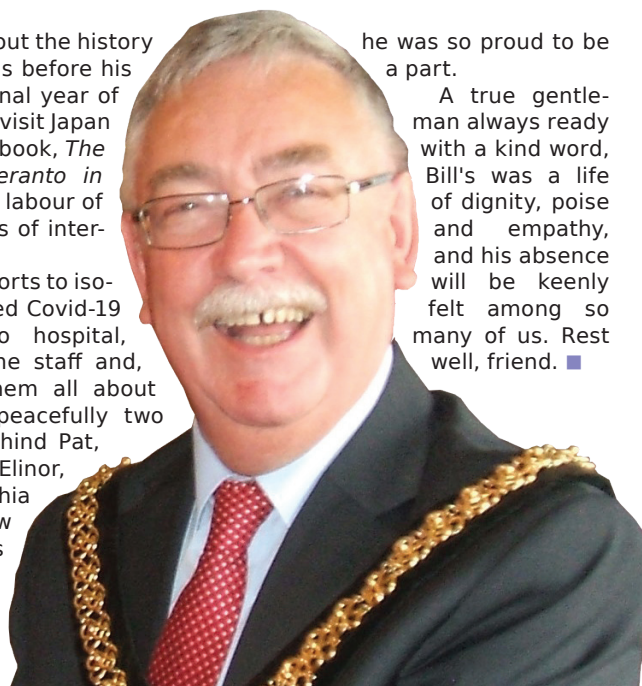
Shortly after the *Kunkongreso* in Dover last April, Bill was diagnosed with lung cancer. He fought the battle courageously over the following year of his life, living with the cancer rather than succumbing to it, as a video of him looking and sounding just like him-

self in an interview about the history of Conwy mere months before his death shows. In the final year of his life he managed to visit Japan twice and see his first book, *The Early History of Esperanto in the United Kingdom*, a labour of love spanning decades of interest, published.

Despite diligent efforts to isolate him, Bill contracted Covid-19 and was taken into hospital, where he charmed the staff and, true to form, told them all about Esperanto. He died peacefully two days later, leaving behind Pat, daughters Lucy and Elinor, grandchildren Sophia and Joseph, son-in-law Stuart, and hundreds of admirers in the global Esperanto community of which

he was so proud to be a part.

A true gentleman always ready with a kind word, Bill's was a life of dignity, poise and empathy, and his absence will be keenly felt among so many of us. Rest well, friend. ■



Hello, folks. As if things weren't unusual enough at the moment, here I am back in the editor's chair. Rico is absolutely fine and, all being well, will be resuming his role in the next issue.

With things being as they are currently, there was nothing about the future he would be able to report on that hadn't come directly from me and which could be subject to change at press time, and so we concluded that it would be easier all around if I produced this issue rather than left him with blanks to fill and no obvious way of filling them.

AGM 2020

The 2020 AGM was cancelled, as was relayed to members by email and post. It wasn't possible to host it virtually because EAB's governing document doesn't allow for a hybrid meeting. We are aware that other charities, including the National Trust, have definitively cancelled their AGMs, and that the latest guidance from the Charity Commission is that when it is neither safe nor possible to hold a meeting, trustees have the power to cancel it. EAB's trustees have therefore decided not to hold the 2020 AGM and have informed the Charity Commission of this decision.

Given that EAB's paperwork has already been filed and that this year's AGM would discuss the period November 2018 to October 2019, and therefore be extensively out of date, the trustees on balance feel that the better option is certainty rather than continual postponement.

SOUNDCLOUD

EAB has recently launched a channel on Soundcloud, featuring voices from Esperanto's past. We currently have presentations from 1989 by **Don Lord**, **John Wells** and **Eveline Rowe**, with more to come from, including others, **Ivo Lapenna**, **Marjorie Boulton**, and **Albert Goodheir**.



The recordings were originally made by **Ivor Hueting**. We've gone to a fair bit of trouble to edit the digitised versions to remove the customary hiss associated with audio cassettes, so pop along to soundcloud.com/esperanto-asocio to listen to presentations on themes as diverse as *Trukoj en kinfilmoj*, *Angla prononcivortaro* and *Japana skribsistemo*.



I should note, by the way, that Rico has set up his own account called *Legindaj Legendoj* for which he takes advantage of his fantastic voice to read out excerpts of Auld, Boulton, Rabbe Burns, John Lennon, and many others: soundcloud.com/user-91009235

BELFAST

Following the cancellation of the Universala Kongreso in Montreal, the next in line is Belfast 2021. UEA is currently busy with administration surrounding the cancellation, so there is nothing to report on Belfast quite yet. Both I, representing EAB, and **Lorna Flanagan**, representing the local Esperantists, have been in touch with UEA and are looking forward to working with them. We'll provide more information once we have it.



BURSARIES

Five candidates successfully qualified for £200 grants for Somera Esperanto-Studado under EAB's bursary scheme. Since the event is now virtual and doesn't cost much to participate in, EAB has agreed with all candidates that they can use the bursaries next year instead rather than apply again.

The Tutmonda Ekzamena Tago for the CEFR exams in Esperanto was cancelled and, when I last heard, will be rescheduled for later in the year. EAB will still commit to its scheme of refunding up to £50 to successful candidates and will promote it once the revised date is known.

LANGUAGE SHOW

Anthony Bodineau is happy to reprise his role of leading EAB's presence at the Language Show after doing such a good job with local Esperantists last year. The organisers are not currently accepting bookings until they can be sure that they can hold the event safely. We are in contact with them and intend to be present should the situation change.

GERDA REAPERIS!

EAB will soon publish *Gerda Malaperis!*, the set text for its elementary course, having acquired permission for that and three more of Claude Piron's books from Gersi Alfredo Bays, the owner of Fonto, the previous publisher.

NOJEF

The trustees of the Norwich Jubilee Esperanto Foundation have been working for several years towards collapsing that charity within EAB, as articulated by **Bill Chapman** in 2016's AGM.

NoJEF had a problem



which is nice in the real world but not good for charities: more income than it could be spend. The trustees' hands were tied in that NoJEF's trust deeds were extremely restrictive in how they may spend the charity's income. After several years' consultation with the Charity Commission, they have now received permission to transfer NoJEF's money to EAB. NoJEF's cash has already been handed over; its investments will follow in due course.

EAB will therefore absorb NoJEF's role of providing educational travel grants but with expanded scope, no longer limiting to under-25s. We're going to work on setting up guidelines and will make an announcement further down the line.

OFFICE

I confess to having always found it strange that a small handful of people come to the office unannounced as though it's a social club, even more so when somebody arrives at 4.45pm or complains afterwards about a wasted journey because the office happened to be closed. Everybody gets a warm welcome, of course, but it's only courteous to speak with Viv before turning up. The office is a workplace and it might be that she has a strict deadline to work towards, which puts her under pressure if she can't work solidly on the task. On other occasions, the office might be closed on a particular day because we've asked Viv to work a weekend. Please speak with Viv beforehand, as most people are polite enough to do already.

AND FINALLY



Right, that's all from me. All being well, it will be Rico back in the editor's chair for the following issue of *Update*. I'll next see you in *La Brita Esperantisto*.

Tim Owen

TRUSTEE NOTES FROM APRIL AND MAY

Between issues of *Update* the trustees have got together for not one but two meetings.

The first was short but extraordinary, owing to the cancellation of the AGM. Members had already been informed in a letter announcing the cancellation that the trustees would meet briefly in order to appoint a new colleague.

Simone Davis was a new candidate for trusteeship and was on the ballot for the AGM. Since she would almost certainly have been elected, the trustees chose to co-opt her, meaning that she could come on board and immediately start contributing to the running of the charity rather than be held in limbo. With similar thinking in mind, Rich Smith and Damon Lord stepped down, since they had originally announced that they wouldn't be standing as candidates this year.

RECONVENING IN MAY

The new board of trustees (Ian Carter, Edmund Grimley Evans, Clare Hunter, Ed Robertson, Lajo Miller and Simone Davis) met on May 2 and 3 via Zoom for what would normally have been the annual working weekend at Barlaston. Clearly the normally lengthy agenda needed to be reduced: nobody should be expected to spend two whole days sitting at a computer screen. That didn't stop lots of topics being covered, though, as they sat together for two two-hour sessions on the Saturday and Sunday.

They initially had to minute that the AGM had been cancelled and look into options for holding it later and elsewhere. They also spoke about the location of the 2021 AGM. The AGM usually takes place during the annual conference but since EAB pledged not to run one so as not to compete with the Universala Kongreso in Belfast, the trustees shared opinions on what to do. The consensus was that it would be better to hold it on the mainland rather than in Belfast, since we can't be sure how many EAB members will be over there and won't be able to count on there not being something more attractive to members happening at the same time.

TREASURER

Clare presented a summary of the financial results for 2019, drawing attention to the huge surplus and reminding her colleagues that this was attributable to considerable legacies and unrealised gains from financial movements. Figures for the year to date showed better than anticipated performance.

Clare shared longitudinal price data for the charity's investments, confirming that EAB receives income from its investments and has never during her years as treasurer had to sell investments to improve cash flow. She informed the trustees that certain firms were being instructed not to pay out dividends by the Financial Conduct Authority and that this, alongside a poor outlook for a post-Covid

economy, means that EAB should expect income to fall over coming months, but reassured her colleagues that cash flow would not be a problem.

There followed discussion about whether EAB might be over-exposed to UK equities and should invest more in global equities. Clare will look into the proportions of UK and global equities in EAB's investments.

The trustees decided to sell the charity's investments in BlackRock. Service has not been particularly good in recent years and the returns aren't exceptional, so consideration about divesting is not new. It became apparent recently that the fund will invest in oil and tobacco, and so the time has come to leave, based on trustee preference and discussions in previous AGMs about ethical standards. The current volatility in the market means that it isn't clear when to sell without exposing the charity to unnecessary risk, so they will hold on to the investments until the market calms and will, in the meantime, monitor and compare the performance of EAB's existing funds.

Part of the AGM's routine business is setting the subscription rate and appointing an independent examiner. In the absence of an AGM, the trustees voted to keep subscriptions unchanged and reappointed Dains LLP to examine the accounts. Neither of these decisions was controversial: I'm not aware of any time in the history of EAB, certainly not in my experience, that the AGM has chosen to appoint an examiner against the recommendation of the treasurer, and the membership subscription has remained unchanged from before my time.

OFFICE

Next up was Viv O'Dunne, who joined the meeting for the opening session of each day. She has been working predominantly from home, following government advice to do so where possible. She had rather cleverly diverted the office phone to her mobile, so operations were still running like clockwork, as I'm sure we were all confident they would do.

She started off with some good news: 19 people had signed up for the previous session of *Lernu* and *Lernu Plu*. 16 had turned up, which is only one below capacity, making for a positive update because numbers were disappointingly low for several sessions beforehand.

Prior to the meeting, Viv circulated a fire safety policy, which she had drawn up and which the trustees approved, commending her. She had also provided EAB's classroom tutors with a fire safety course prior to lockdown.

POLICIES

Clare reminded her colleagues that the independent examiner had highlighted that EAB doesn't have a risk register, and that she would like to see one by the following examination, and so an exercise had been

added to the agenda.

Led by Clare, the trustees listed a range of possible external and internal risks, assigning values for their likelihood and severity. Owing to time pressures, it was not possible to record methods of mitigation for all, and the trustees decided to continue the discussion in email.

The trustees then moved on to safeguarding, a hot topic in recent years, and acknowledged their gratitude to Rich Smith for having identified the need for a policy, and for then putting in a considerable amount of work drawing up a draft, which would work as a base for a streamlined, revised version, which Simone will lead on. Simone will also work with Clare, Viv and me to consider which other policies might also be useful to draw up.

PUBLISHING

I had been looking into various print-on-demand publishing services for several months as a way of allowing us to print books which have very limited sales potential. The trustees decided to use Edmund's *Malgranda gefrato* (see *LBE* 988) as a test case, so we'll be looking at bringing that to print at some point this year. That won't be the only EAB book being published; we discussed several other ongoing projects.

We'd also like to look into digital publishing as a way of providing cheap reading material. Our hands are tied with licensed titles such as *La Krubalo* but there's no reason that we couldn't publish out-of-copyright books in that format.

EDUCATION

Simone acknowledged that online delivery of education has become a known concept lately and that EAB doesn't provide such a service. She's going to be signing up to some future online courses and will report back on what she thinks EAB might be able to offer in that area.

CONFERENCES

The trustees noted that only 33 people had signed up for this year's conference prior to its cancellation. I recalled that five years ago there had been discussion within the trustees about how few people had signed up to Brighton shortly before the event, which led to an editorial in *LBE* 978 explaining that the future of the Brita Kongreso was in jeopardy if numbers didn't improve. I don't know to what degree the pre-lockdown uncertainty factored into those numbers but they pretty much match the terrible ones at the same stage in 2015 which prompted those past discussions and editorial.

The trustees discussed the future of the conference, suggesting perhaps running them less often. There's no rush to make a decision, since we already know that there won't be one in 2021. If you have any thoughts on the subject, please feel free to drop me a line. ■

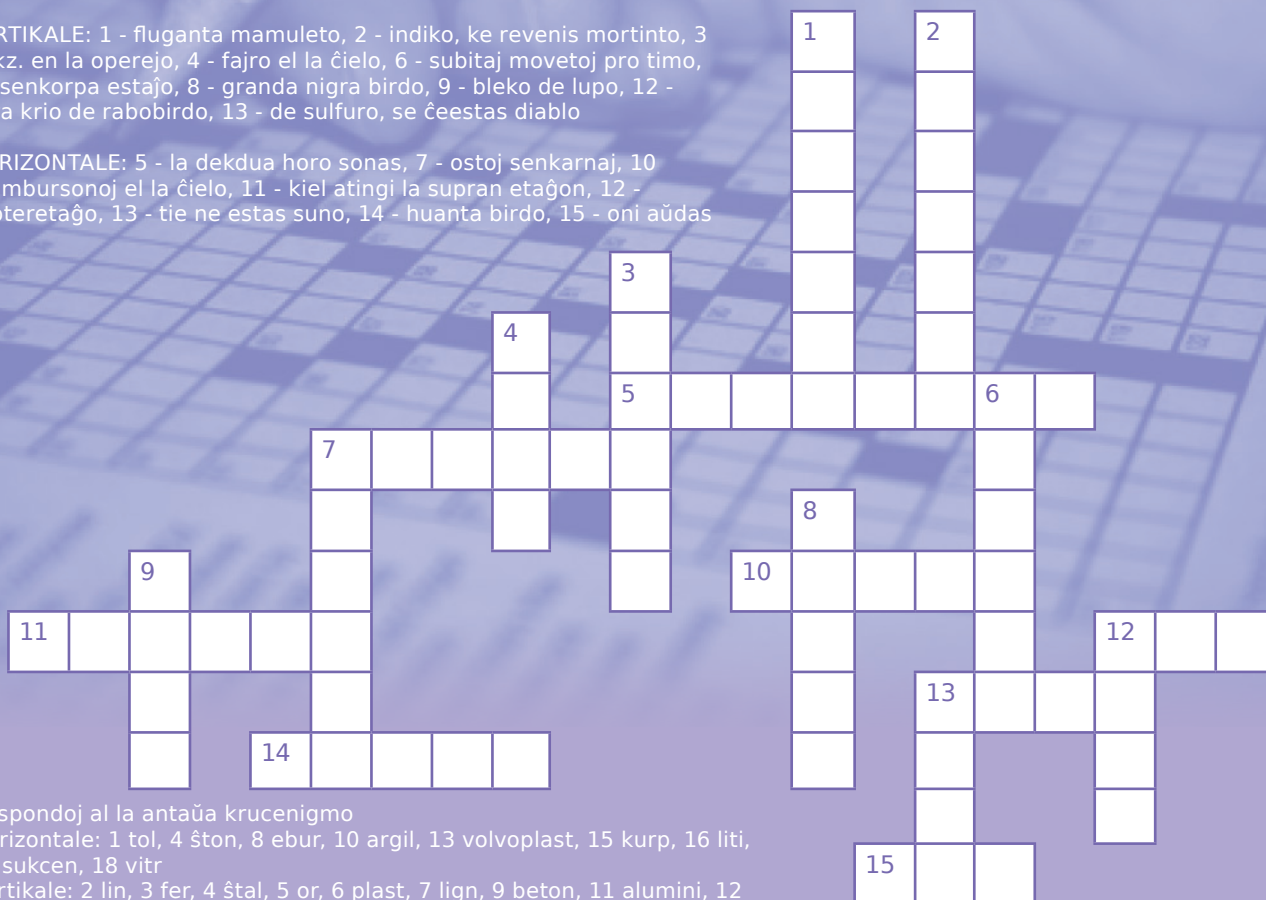
Por ĉiu eldono de Update **Jack Warren** preparas krucenigmon bazitan sur iu aparta temo. Jack celas, ke vi amuziĝu kaj eble lernu kelkajn novajn vortojn aŭ eĉ rememoru pri kelkaj iam forgesitaj. Vi povos kontroli viajn respondojn en la venonta eldono de Update.

Krucenigmo: Hantata domo

Grava informo: Ĉiu vorto estas substantivo kaj konsistas nur el la radiko, sen la o-finaĵo. Do se la respondo al la helpilo estas *esperanto*, aperos en la enigmo la vortformo *esperant*.

VERTIKALE: 1 - fluganta mamuleto, 2 - indiko, ke revenis mortinto, 3 - ekz. en la operejo, 4 - fajro el la ĉielo, 6 - subitaj movetoj pro timo, 7 - senkorpa estaĵo, 8 - granda nigra birdo, 9 - bleko de lupo, 12 - akra krio de rabobirdo, 13 - de sulfuro, se ĉeestas diablo

HORIZONTALE: 5 - la dekdua horo sonas, 7 - ostoj senkarnaj, 10 - tambursonoj el la ĉielo, 11 - kiel atingi la supran etaĝon, 12 - subteretaĝo, 13 - tie ne estas suno, 14 - huanta birdo, 15 - oni aŭdas ĝin



Respondoj al la antaŭa krucenigmo

Horizontale: 1 tol, 4 ŝton, 8 ebur, 10 argil, 13 volvoplast, 15 kurb, 16 liti, 17 sukcen, 18 vitr

Vertikale: 2 lin, 3 fer, 4 ŝtal, 5 or, 6 plast, 7 lign, 9 beton, 11 alumini, 12 kaŭĉuk, 14 drap, 15 kret

MONDAFEST' 2020

The Monda Festivalo de Esperanto is a response to the challenges of our time, a common message of courage and hope to all people, with the theme "UN 75-jara: Dialogo kaj interkompreniĝo en ŝanĝiĝanta mondo". It is running from June 20

to September 20, and is organised by UEA, E@I and Vinilkosmo, with financial support from the Esperantic Studies Foundation.

Part of the programme is the Virtuala Kongreso

VIRTUALA KONGRESO DE ESPERANTO

de Esperanto, which takes place from August 1 to 8. The Mondafest' and VK

are, following the cancellation of the 105th Universala Kongreso, an attempt to bring about something positive, something new, an invitation to the whole Esperanto community, including those people who have never participated in an UK before.

A range of activities is offered and the organisers are happy to receive proposals from people. You can find out more about the activities by visiting eventaservo.org, or the events' specific pages mondafest.net and vk.mondafest.net.

Some parts of the programme are free, whilst others require a nominal free.

There's good news if you're a member of UEA; the Virtuala Kongreso is free for you. (And if

you aren't a member of UEA, you could always join! uea.org/alighoj/alighilo)

The United Nations is asking citizens of the world (that's your cue!) to give their opinions on what the organisation's post-pandemic priorities should be.



The site and survey are available in Esperanto, so share your viewpoints using the international language at un75.online.

 **Esperanto**
Association of Britain

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