

# BELFAST AWAITS YOU IN 2021

**Belfast, the 19th century world capital of linen, will for a week in July become the 21st century capital of Esperantujo.**

Nowadays Belfast is a dynamic city with many attractions like the Titanic Quarter, the Cathedral and Gaelic Districts, City Hall and the Castle. You can admire all those before enjoying a pleasant walk along the river Lagan, and seeing some of the places where the popular TV-series *Games of Thrones* is filmed.

In the Queen's quarter you will find Queen's University, in its Tudor splendour, where the *Universala Kongreso* will take place. Nearby are the Botanic Gardens and the Ulster Museum. Other attractions include the Parliamentary



buildings of Stormont and surrounding park, Belfast Zoo and the Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park.

## Outside the city

Walk in the footsteps of giants at The Giant's Causeway, a

## From the Prezidanto de la LKK

I think that by tradition a message from the *Prezidanto de la Loka Kongresa Komitato* is usually a tad pompous, and perhaps lacking in information about why you should sign up to the *Universala Kongreso*. You know the sort of thing: '*Kadre de la ...*', '*Sub la aŭspicoj de ...*', and so on. That's not really my style, and since this year has turned everything we know on its head, I might as well deviate from that convention and stick with my own approach.

Here's what I know: usually UEA receives invitations from local organisers to hold its annual congress in their locality, with UEA selecting from the candidates. On some occasions, it's understood in advance where the event should be held; the script writes itself when there's a jubilee, for example. Where else should the 1987 centenary have been held other than in Warsaw, the city

## 106-a Universala Kongreso de Esperanto



**Belfasto, 17 – 24 julio 2021**

UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986. Built by the giant Finn MacCool according to legend, it was voted the greatest natural wonder in the UK in a 2005 Radio Times poll.

If man-made constructions are more appealing than natural wonders, then the Newry canal (Portadown to Newry) will surely appeal. Completed in 1742, it is the earliest summit-level canal in the British Isles. An engineering feat, with 15 locks, it crossed 18 miles of rough country, to connect Lough Neagh to the sea.

## A universal symbol for a Universala Kongreso

The symbol of the 106<sup>th</sup> UK in Belfast shows the stainless steel and cast bronze sculpture *Beacon of Hope* of the sculptor Andy Scott. It is found in Thanksgiving Square in the city centre. The 19.5metre structure was erected in 2007 and holds aloft the 'ring of thanksgiving'. The globe at her feet indicates the universal concept of peace and harmony and has marked on its surface the cities where

the people and industries of Belfast migrated and exported to.

## Sign up online

The UK is scheduled to take place from **17th to 24th July 2021**. You can sign up for the congress, the first ever to be held on the island of Ireland and the first in the United Kingdom since 1989, at [uk2021.mondafest.net](http://uk2021.mondafest.net).



in which the *Unua Libro* was printed and in which Zamenhof lived until his death? The hundredth congress clearly belonged as near to the first as possible; since the *Universala Kongreso* had outgrown Boulogne (which hosted 688 in 1905), heading to Lille (home to 2698 Esperantists that week) was entirely natural.

2021 was an entirely different situation. There was not a group of organisers who issued an invitation; that came from the city of Belfast itself, with an offer of a beautiful venue at little or no cost, assistance with planning excursions, and so on. An enticing offer to be sure, especially given UEA's financial position at the time, it having been reported that expenditure was double income.

And that's how the event ended up in Belfast, whose local Esperantists have agreed to be local organisers. They are: Lorna Flanagan (you'll be meeting her in *La Brita Esperantisto*), Michele Gazzola,

Frank Dobbs, James McMurray, John and Christine Murray and Gordon Flanagan. UEA expects to have a big-name local Esperantist as the president, so Lorna very politely recently asked one to occupy that role, and, um ... well, that's how I ended up writing this.

Here's where I need to be very honest with you and deviate even further from convention: we're willing to be creative and industrious, but this is new ground for us, and we don't actually know what it is we're expected to do versus what UEA handles themselves. We're still quite a distance away from the *Universala Kongreso*, though, and we have a meeting lined up with UEA's *Konstanta Kongresa Sekretario* to fill in those missing details. That will be too late for this issue of *Update*, so I'll share news online as it takes shape, and send out an email to those of you who have opted in to receiving them from EAB.

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## Well, folks: 2020 has been a truly extraordinary year.

Perhaps paradoxically, given how quiet things have been under many points of view, several British Espies (there's that word again) have reported it as being quite busy. OK, maybe we have not gone in person to so many (or any) national or international conferences or even to our local groups and clubs. However, we have been able to attend online many more that we could have ever done in previous years. The summer was filled up by **Mondafest 2020**, the **Monda Festivalo de Esperanto**, with week after week of courses, conferences, gatherings, festivals, including of course the very first **Virtuala Universala Kongreso** in the first week of August. From my point of view I can certainly say that I have enjoyed taking part in these online events over the summer as well as organising the ones of our local club which, instead of quietening down during the pandemic period have hugely increased in frequency and attendance, becoming weekly affairs which regularly welcome guests from all over Europe and the rest of the world, from Brazil to Australia, from South Korea to Canada. Hardly a day goes by now without any Esperanto being spoken, listened to, read or written. You can probably read much more about all the events of 2020 in the latest edition of LBE. So, what about now and what about the next few weeks and months. Well, read on.

### PIV 2020

The long awaited new print edition of the *Plena Ilustrita Vortaro* is now here and copies have already reached Esperanto House. EAB pre-ordered a good number so head on to the website to get your hands on your copy. The cost is

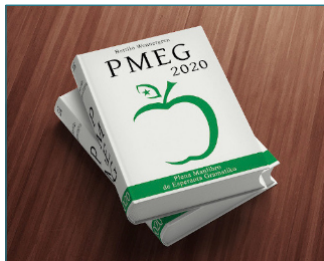


£45. This will supposedly or - according to some sources - definitely be the last ever printed version of a new edition of PIV, so there is that extra reason to want to be the proud owner of one of the pillars of *Esperantujo*.

### PMEG 2020

As if the new PIV were not enough,

another milestone of the last twenty years of Esperanto, the *Plena Manlibro de Esperanta Gramatiko*, or PMEG, has also very recently been published. These things are like red buses. Under its official name of PMEG 2020, the book is a very different piece from its previous incarnation: almost every section has corrections or clarifications. There are many new examples to illustrate difficult grammar concepts. Some chapters have been completely re-written and there is a totally new chapter dedicated to grammar



terms and how they are used in PMEG. PMEG 2020's author, **Bertilo Wennergren**, says that this also might be the last printed edition of PMEG, so get your hands on the most essential grammar overview of the language as soon as you can. Just like for PIV 2020, you will be soon able to order it from EAB at a very competitive price.

### EAB WINS AWARD

In September, during a specially held online presentation of the prize giving for the *Belartaj Konkursoj*, it was announced that the Esperanto translation of *The Gruffalo* was voted *Infanlibro de la Jaro*. Nice to see that the popularity of the book is matched by an official recognition from UEA. If you haven't got your copy of *La Krubalo* yet, it is very easy to remedy by visiting [krubalo.uk](http://krubalo.uk) where you can buy the book for just £5.



### FROM THE BOOKSHOP

Other recently published books would also make a great addition to the library of any Esperanto-speaker or could be a fantastic present for a friend of relative. They include *Spaco sur la balail* (Room on the Broom) and the third edition of the ever popular *Mil unuaj vortoj en Esperanto*. The first one has its own website for ordering [balail.uk](http://balail.uk) The second one is available, with several other books from [esperanto.org.uk/store/](http://esperanto.org.uk/store/)

### LERNU PLU & POST PLU

After the first ever virtual sessions of *Somerlernejo*, *Lernu & Lernu*

*Plu*, there will be time for two more virtual sessions of EAB courses in 2020. *Lernu Plu*, will be held over the weekend of **28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> November** and will be led by **Maurizio Giacometto**. *Post Plu*, will happen over the following weekend, **5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> December** and will be taken by **Tim Owen**. Exact



timings and more details are available on the website at [esperanto.org.uk/courses-and-events/classroom/](http://esperanto.org.uk/courses-and-events/classroom/)

### KER EXAMS

A few people had signed up for the **CEFR** (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) **Exams**, due to be taken place in London in June this year. For obvious reasons, these had to be postponed and there was (indeed for some cities around the world, there still is) a plan to stage them in November. That is not the case for London this year. However, there were will be exciting new possibilities for those of you who are thinking of taking the language exams from 2021 onwards. The first one is that it will soon be possible to take the exam from remote, from the comfort of



your own home and crucially without having to travel to London or any other host city if you can't or if you live too far away. The plans currently foresee that this will be happen in the first half of next year for B2 and C1 levels. The second piece of news is that plans are afoot to offer the highest level, C2, for Esperanto, too. Those of you who wish to go one step ahead and get the C2 qualification could be able to do so from 2021, subject to a minimum number of people worldwide wishing to do so. To gauge interest, the organisers prepared a very short, 4-question questionnaire and they would be very grateful if you could fill it out (whether you intend to take the C2 level exam or not) to help them qualify and quantify the level of interest. [forms.gle/jen3cknLtmrExhXh9](http://forms.gle/jen3cknLtmrExhXh9)

**That's it from me.** 'Back in the saddle' for *Update*. Mind you, the horse is very much a virtual one, not a real one. But then, just about everything else is these days. *Ĝis la venonta!*



**Rico**

# NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEE MEETING IN OCTOBER

The trustees, Viv, and I are all getting used to meeting online now, and so it was a metaphorical full house at kick-off time on October 17 for our first meeting since May, besides an informal catch-up a couple of months ago. 'Touching base' is, I think, the management speak for that, a handy way to keep spirits up, exchange ideas, and update on progress.

The formal meeting has more, well, formalities, kicking off with Clare Hunter, who had distributed a report prior to the meeting, which included financial results for the ten months to the end of August. They demonstrated that income was broadly in line with predictions, which is not a bad result at all considering the impact a pandemic naturally brings to an economy. Expenditure was not quite the same story: with planned spending cancelled on hosting courses at Barlaston and a conference in Leicester, issuing grants to attend Somera Esperanto-Studado, refunding costs for those successfully completing CEFR exams, and so on, the charity, owing to circumstances outside anybody's control, hasn't actually engaged in as much charitable spending as was intended.

Clare updated the trustees that donations totalling £58,300 had been received from the Norwich Jubilee Esperanto Foundation, and that a further gift of over £400,000 would be received within the next months. The EAB trustees agreed with the NoJEF trustees beforehand to account for NoJEF money as a designated fund, and so the trustees agreed to invest all NoJEF donations with EdenTree's Amity Balanced Fund, since NoJEF already holds an investment there and I had previously agreed in principle with EdenTree that it would be possible to transfer NoJEF's account into the name of EAB.

This led to a discussion on what to do with EAB's investments held with Blackrock. It had already been intended for some time to stop investing with Blackrock, and the trustees concluded that these investments should be consolidated with CCLA's Global Equity fund. Since the NoJEF money will go into EdenTree, opting for CCLA pretty much preserves the current split.

Prior to the meeting, Clare had circulated the risk register which she and Simone Davis had drawn up following discussion in May. The trustees expressed their admiration on an excellent piece of work, and happily approved the document. We then moved on to discussing 2021's AGM.

Consensus seems to be that we'll aim to hold it in central England, where the travel links are good and room hire is cheap.

## OFFICE, PUBLICITY, LIBRARY

Viv O'Dunne had also distributed a report prior to the meeting, which provided the backdrop for the following discussion. For understandable reasons, namely that the official advice keeps changing, she had been holding off on registering for a duty deferment account (a post-Brexit necessity for trading internationally). Quite right too: when the advice on what to do and how to do it is consistent, then she can follow it. She had updated the Health & Safety Risk Assessment to reflect the current situation regarding Covid-19. Following some helpful guidance from Simone, Viv noted that there were a couple of policies which it would be sensible to create, so she, Simone, and I will look into that.

Since 2020 will insist on being 2020, there wasn't much to report on our various areas of activity. *The Language Show* in London has been cancelled, an event in which we had planned to invest heavily, and with no reason to be at Barlaston, we haven't done any cataloguing in the Library. We now have a full set of bound Updates up to the end of Geoffrey Sutton's run as editor, though: the bookbinding firm, with which I had left the volumes prior to lockdown, has since reopened.

## EDUCATION & PUBLISHING

Our SES bursary didn't get spent this year, since SES became a virtual event, with one exception: Leonid Vatenmakher used his SES grant to go to Grésillon instead on an 11-day educational course, about which you can read in *La Brita Esperantisto*. The trustees decided not to create a specific Grésillon bursary but will include those courses on a list of recommended events which could be of educational benefit for which people could apply for travel grants.

Simone had conducted plenty of research between meetings on online Esperanto courses. Hands-up: we've been pretty weak on that front, and our old friend 2020 has been the mother of invention, showing that running classes online isn't actually difficult to accomplish and should be part of our educational offering. We'll be doing more of those, and Simone and I will look into other opportunities for improving EAB's delivery. One thing which was common feedback from the course

organisers with whom Simone spoke was that attendance was always far smaller on free courses compared to how many had signed up. Viv and I have long noticed a similar pattern in our classroom courses. It does seem to be a problem that when something is free, it's easy sometimes to sign up without having a sense of commitment, and so we discussed in the meeting the idea of charging a nominal fee which would be returned to participants afterwards.

You'll notice from this issue of *Update* that a couple of large reference works are on their way to the bookshop. I'm pleased to be able to note that the trustees agreed with the idea that we should price these very low, not aiming to make a profit from them. Speaking of the bookshop: Bill Walker, who ran EAB's site from 2005 to 2018, has been very busy updating the online catalogue so that you'll find even more on there than previously.

Edmund Grimley Evans summarised how things stand regarding publishing. We have a translation of a well-known children's book which is set to come out shortly, plus a few other projects in the works. We've been actively trying to pursue the rights to translate some others; you'd imagine that paying somebody for permission to do some work is easy to arrange but I've sent several messages over the summer which have gone unanswered. Still, there's plenty in the pipeline for between now and Belfast.

## WRITING COMPETITION

*Akademio Literatura de Esperanto* (ALE) has launched an *Interkultura Novelo-konkurso* (INK) and invites you to write a story about how the Coronavirus pandemic has changed the world. The theme of the competition is: "Kovid19: How it changed us".

The story can be set in the past (the early months of the pandemic), the present (when dealing with Kovid19 is an everyday occurrence) or the future (how will the world be in months, years or decades to come?).

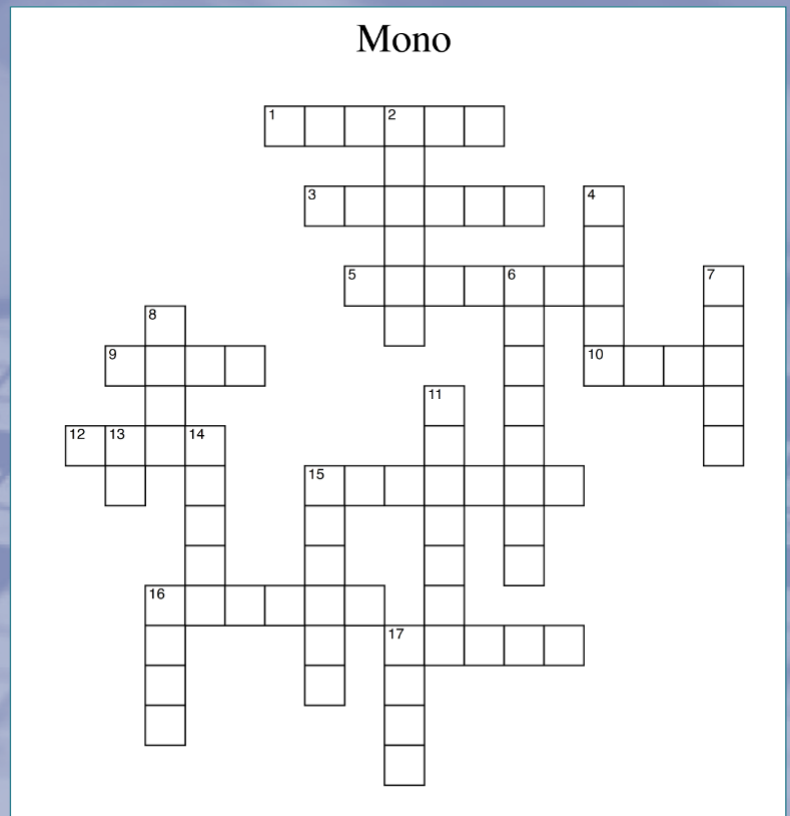
Submissions must not contain more than 12,000 characters (approx. 6 pages) and need to arrive by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The language must be Esperanto but translated works are accepted.

The winners will be announced during the 107<sup>th</sup> *Universala Kongreso* in Montreal in 2022. [www.akademio-literatura.org/ink](http://www.akademio-literatura.org/ink)

Por ĉiu eldono de Update **JACK WARREN** preparas por vi 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: Mono

**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'.



Respondoj al la antaŭa krucenigmo (Hantata domo):

Vertikale:

- 1.** Vespert, **2.** Malvarm,  
**3.** Fantom, **4.** Fulm,  
**6.** Ektrem, **7.** Spirit,  
**8.** Korak, **9.** Hurl  
**12.** Kriĉ **13.** Odor

Horizontale:

- 5.** Noktomez, **7.** Skelet,  
**10.** Tondr,  
**11.** Ŝtupar,  
**12.** Kel, **13.** Ombr,  
**14.** Strig,  
**15.** Bru,

**HORIZONTALA:** **1.** Hejmfarita kaj kontraŭleĝa **3.** Homo, kiu amas sian monon **5.** En via poŝo, precipe el metalo **9.** Pakistana mono, aŭ Barata **10.** El Rusio **12.** Estas cent en ĉiu Eŭro **15.** Tie haveblas kontanto surstrate **16.** Elspezu nun, pagu poste **17.** Paperfolio kun certa valoro

**VERTIKALE:** **2.** Malemo elspezi **4.** Ronda, metala **6.** Sekura loko en hotelo **7.** Montipo de aparta lando **8.** El Ĉinio **11.** Pagenda pro perado **13.** El Japanio **14.** El Kanado, Aŭstralio aŭ Usono **15.** Investanto **16.** Kiom vi ricevos hodiaŭ **17.** Proponas financajn servojn

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If you haven't opted in to receive emails from EAB but wish to do so, you can opt in at [espinfo.org/gdpr](http://espinfo.org/gdpr). You will still receive

membership-related emails irrespective.

There's something you can certainly help with, by the way: we'll need people who can offer a bit of time during the event to help in various roles. If you'd like to offer a helping hand, please do take the time to drop me a line at [tim.owen@esperanto.org.uk](mailto:tim.owen@esperanto.org.uk).

The event runs from July 17 to July 24, 2021 from Queen's University, Belfast. It's possible to sign up via UEA at [uea.org/kongreso/alighilo](http://uea.org/kongreso/alighilo). The fee for UEA members is 190€, increasing to 240€ after December 31. The prices are 50€ more for non-members, so it's not a bad idea to become a UEA member if you aren't one already ([uea.org/alighoj/alighilo](http://uea.org/alighoj/alighilo)) at £40 for 2021.

There you go: unconventional, I know, but this is 2020. As for why you should consider signing up ... well the usual presidential invitations don't actually do that anyway. Still, I hope that the presence on our doorstep of the world's largest Esperanto event, with all the opportunities it brings to use Esperanto in a truly international environment whilst you're still in familiar surroundings, is already enough to appeal to many of you. That idea worked instantly for me!

**Tim Owen**



Update is published four times a year and complements the Esperanto-only magazine *La Brita Esperantisto*

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