

BRITA KONGRESO 2022 IN CONWY

In-person Esperanto will be back in 2022 with a special guest heading over to Wales all the way from the USA to entertain and enlighten participants at the 102nd *Brita Kongreso*, which will take place from the Conwy Business Centre, around a mile away from Llandudno Junction, from Friday, April 22 until Sunday, April 24.

Our guest speaker is **Hans Becklin**, an American Esperantist, and a particularly erudite one at that. He serves on the board of the *Esperantic Studies Foundation*, is a committee member of *UEA* and *TEJO*, contributes to the *Plena Ilustrita Vortaro* as part of the team revising it, and teaches at the *Nord-Amerika Somera Kursaro*. He's also been nominated for the *Akademio de Esperanto*, and is a prolific contributor to Esperanto's cultural output via his presentations, reviews, essays, and translations. And all that by the age of 30, folks!



He will be presenting the following topics in flawless Esperanto:

The Young Zamenhof

The Esperanto movement typically pictures its initiator in the final third of his life, when the movement was running its large congresses, saw one of the world's leading publishers distributing its books, and was established enough to both have and to survive a schism. The language, though, was not the product of that man in his middle age but of the boy and teenager, amid personal and professional challenges, antisemitism, and naive idealism. Hans will therefore take you through the early years of Ludoviko Zamenhof up to 1895.

The Bible Translators

Not even Shakespeare was capable of influencing modern English to the degree that the King James Bible has, which was translated by a team under the leadership of Lancelot Andrewes. L.L. Zamenhof dedicated his twilight years to forging a fluent Esperanto version of the Old Testament so that Esperanto, as with English,



could benefit from the normalising effect of having a standard, eminent work. And, in his turn, John Cyprian Rust, a vicar in Cambridgeshire, led a committee translating the New Testament, resulting, alongside Zamenhof's earlier work, in the *Londona Biblio*. Hans will give his answer to the question: "Did they manage to make the same sort of splash in their green puddle as Andrewes did in his comparative ocean?" You'll have to be there to find out!

Translating Christie

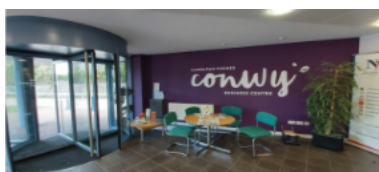
US laws mean that one of the main works of Agatha Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, will be out of copyright in 2022, and Hans is busy at work translating it. He will share with you some of what he's discovered during the process, as well as some of the difficulties, illuminating for all of you the art of translation.

Plus Stela Besenyey-Merger

And Hans won't be our only guest speaker! We were looking forward so much to **Stela's** presentations at our cancelled conference in Leicester that we've asked her to join us in Conwy! Since she grew up with Esperanto as one of her native languages, she knows a thing or two about the parents of native speakers from her own experience, but also from the interviews she's conducted with other people with similar backgrounds. She'll share some of that knowledge with you, explaining a little about the motivations of parents who bring their children up with Esperanto as a native language. And since she's been around Esperanto from birth, she's experienced the whole range of offerings of the Esperanto calendar, playing key roles in organising some of them herself. She'll give you some insight into what makes a successful event in a special workshop!



Besides Hans and Stela as our main guests, there will be contributions on offer from some known British Esperantists too, including Mark Wootton, Maurizio Giacometto and Tim Owen. And we've rented the entire conference



centre, meaning that if a particular session in the main room doesn't appeal to you, there's bound to be something elsewhere which does, including discussion groups, games, and educational sessions.

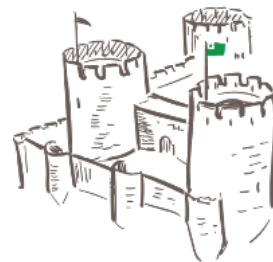
Sign up!

Nearby accommodation comes in the form of a Premier Inn around a mile away from the venue, and Llandudno boasts a vast array of seaside accommodation. It's only four miles or so away and is served by several buses each hour, as well as a handful of trains during the day. Conwy, with its spectacular castle, is only a one-mile stroll away from the conference centre.

As usual, a buffet will be available on the Friday evening, as will refreshments over the weekend, all of which are included in the £60 ticket price. Pre-pandemic the venue offered optional light lunches, and we're hopeful that these will return: we'll contact people who have already signed up to make them aware of the option, if so. The conference will formally close on the Sunday evening but we'll follow it with an optional group meal in Conwy itself for people who won't be heading straight home: it's a short walk across a bridge to Conwy, and there are trains and taxis available for those who have difficulty with mobility.

This year, we're not proposing an *organised* excursion on the Monday since our recommendation is to visit the seaside town of Llandudno, to which there are frequent buses and trains, meaning you can travel by your own timetable. Those with legs which yearn for some stretching can climb the Great Orme (you may see the Isle of Man if the weather is clear!), and you have the option of a visit to the Great Orme Mine. We'll also recommend some other activities which you may wish to partake in.

We'll be adding more details as the programme takes shape on **britakongreso.org**, where you will also find links to sign up for the conference.



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BOOKS FROM EAB

A HOST OF NEW CHOICES

EAB's publishing effort goes from strength to strength and it will continue for the rest of this year and into 2022.

After the announcements about EAB's own reissue of Marjorie Boulton's *Okuloj* and of *La plej eleganta giganto de la urbo*, several books are due to become available in the next few weeks and months.

Novulo en la urbo. Translated by Tim Owen. Hardcover. You can meet a big, friendly dog looking for a home in this warm and reassuring story by award-winning Marta Altés. This dog may be alone and without a home, but he's excited and ready to embrace a new life in a new town – and EVERYONE in it! This town is a busy, vibrant place but sometimes it's hard being new and feeling different. Who will embrace him back? Find out in this big-hearted celebration of kindness and human connection. **Out in mid-October £5.**



Kanto de ĝojo.

Translated by Jorge Rafael

Nogueras. Hardcover, with jacket. A powerful, moving story with important messages about climate change and humanity's place in nature, full of hope and inspiration. Eloquent and poetic, it was written by the award-winning former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo, who was inspired, as he writes in prose at the end of the book, by a blackbird during the first national

lockdown in the UK. **Out in mid-October £5.**

La cent-etaĝa kosmoŝipo.

Translated by Tim Owen. Hardcover, with a ginormous fold-out illustration of the hundred-



decker rocket. A brilliantly imaginative story set in space by Mike Smith, with an adventure-loving female protagonist, accompanied into space by her pet dog. The book features bright, detail-packed illustrations, & touches on environmentalism. **Out in mid-October £5.**

Not to be outdone, I've also made my debut as a translator on an upcoming children's book... In my case, the title is **Ekster la kuniklejo**, and it tells the story of a small rabbit who finds the big, wide world a scary place, especially when it's filled with strange-looking creatures who don't eat carrots. It all ends happily, as our brave little rabbit finds out that giant, clawed and hairy doesn't have to mean scary. The book will be arriving in early December, just in time for Christmas, so why not buy a copy for all your friends and family, young and old?



Ekster la kuniklejo. Translated by Maurizio Giacometto. Hardcover with jacket. **Out in mid-December £5**

La domo ĉe Pu-Angulo:

You can read an update on this book in the Trustee News overleaf.

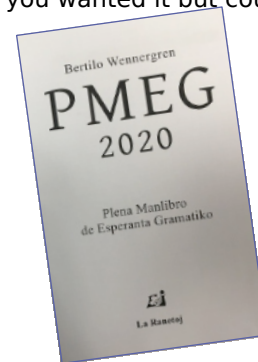


Suffice to say that we are all looking forward to the arrival of the Esperanto version of this classic, the second volume of stories about Winnie-the-Pooh, written by A. A. Milne. Keep an eye out online to be alerted when the book arrives.

Back in stock: **PMEG 2020**

We're pleased to inform you that the most authoritative grammar of Esperanto is back in stock!

PMEG 2020 is an update of the previous version from over a decade before, spanning some 750 pages. We know that many of you wanted it but could not get it



before stocks run out last time round. In case you didn't know, please bear in mind before purchasing that you can also access **PMEG** for free online at

bertilow.com/pmeg, and that the online version will be continually updated.

To read more about and purchase these and other books, please visit **esperanto.org.uk/store**

A LOT GOING ON..

Ho boy ho boy, where did the summer go? When I took a break from organising the weekly *paroligaj renkontiĝoj*, which had been going on pretty much without interruption every week since the beginning of the first lock-down in March 2020, it was for mainly two reasons: the first, I had planned to move house during the summer; the second, I thought I needed a bit of a pause for thought. Well, the first one did

happen. The second one, not so much! If anything, quite the opposite. But I can say that, in between issues of *Update*, I have had a busy, varied and incredibly interesting time, all thanks to Esperanto. I continued to collaborate in *uea.facila.org*, writing and recording the voiceovers for several articles. I also experienced an upsurge in requests for the *paroligaj sesioj* in the programme *Ĝkparolu!* Where I

collaborate as an *onklo*. Probably the most exciting project, and one which allowed me to actively contribute to the learning and the spread of our language, arose when Tim invited me to be one of the voices of his latest book, *Enjoy Esperanto*. The project culminated in an intense, tiring but very enjoyable day in the recording studios in London with some amazing friends (some old, some new) from *Esperantujo* (the first

TRUSTEE NEWS FROM AUGUST

You all know how this is going to start, by now... "the trustees met on Zoom" in August. Still no return to Esperanto House but, on the plus side, everybody is now so used to Zoom that everything passed promptly without a hitch. All of the trustees were present, as were Viv O'Dunne and me.

This meeting was just a catch-up coming relatively soon after the working weekend, so we weren't expecting to make any major decisions or for much time to be eaten up.

FINANCE

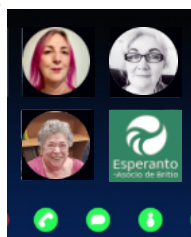
Prior to the meeting, Clare Hunter had distributed a summary of the charity's income and expenditure for the first nine months of the year. The summary featured distinct columns demarcating EAB and NOJEF to better allow for accounting and reporting, following on from NoJEF's gifting its resources to EAB: EAB's trustees had earlier agreed with NoJEF's to do this for at least ten years. The expenditure figures were lower than anticipated not only because the pandemic had prevented the charity from engaging in its regular activities, but also because the *Universala Kongreso* had been cancelled: we were anticipating investing in publicity for the event.

Next came a comparison of previous and current investment portfolios, which demonstrated a large increase in the value of investments. They were predicted in August to total in the region of £3.4m, including donations from NoJEF of £616k. Clare alerted the trustees that the threshold which would trigger a full audit was income exceeding £250k and assets exceeding £3.26m, and that her research had indicated that an audit would be necessary even if the breach were a one-off. (In the business world, these conditions have to be crossed for two years in a row, which means that one-offs like the donations from NoJEF are treated as such. That doesn't apply to charities, though.) She had queried with EAB's independent examiner, Dains LLP, who are able to accommodate an audit for a fee of

£4.5k. Clare, who earns her living in this sector, informed her colleagues that this was an unbelievably good price: her employer would have charged at least £15k for this service, and she had anticipated that £10k would be the asking price from Dains. She will liaise with them in October if the value of assets does breach the threshold at that point in time, the end of EAB's financial year.

OFFICE

Viv O'Dunne reported that there had sadly been more vandalism on the Estoril site where Esperanto House is located, with vandals using a metal bollard to smash through Windows prior to entering the property. Since our request to our landlord that the hedges at the entrance be pulled back to allow visibility when driving onto Station Road haven't been actioned, Viv's reported it as a resident to County Highways, since it was a safety risk to pedestrians. We noted that we had asked for rent invoices on several occasions without receiving one: I've since requested one again, and not received a response. Don't worry about things too much: Viv and I are keeping a log of dates in case anybody should try to declare that we haven't stuck to the terms of the lease on Esperanto House in not paying this year's rent.



Here's an important note to add on that account, by the way, even though it doesn't relate to the content of this particular trustee meeting: as I reported in Update 94, "EAB's new landlord asked whether we would be willing to consider an offer to surrender the lease on Esperanto House, which has 80 years to run. Having to act in the charity's best interests, the trustees asked me to confirm that they would. There hasn't yet been any offer received." Shortly after this meeting took place, a representative contacted me to arrange a meeting with the

landlord to discuss an offer. We were scheduled to meet on September 15th but the meeting was cancelled at 15:20 the day before with no reason given. I haven't heard anything since.

PUBLISHING AND EDUCATION

We have plenty of publishing coming along, which Edmund and I recapped, and some of which Rico has presented in this issue. Frustratingly, our attempts to get *La domo ĉe Pu-Angulo* printed overseas in order to keep the sale price down have met with roadblocks. We've received assurances that the print run will be completed by October 10, at which point the order will be despatched to the UK. This book is hardcover and printed on thick, luxurious paper in full colour, so packs quite some heft! Once it arrives, we'll break the news rapidly online.

Bearing in mind that we're now advertising the *Brita Kongreso*, the question of when to announce a return to in-person teaching was raised. The trustees concluded that it would be imprudent to rush into a classroom-only return, particularly with Esperanto House not being conducive to social distancing, so there won't be any such teaching at Barlaston in 2021. We did discuss the idea that perhaps both in-person and virtual sessions should be offered later down the line to allow people a choice.

Between meetings, the trustees became aware that a three-year postgraduate course in interlinguistics was about to start in Poznań. Unfortunately, we found out about this days before the deadline so didn't have an opportunity to write about it in *Update*. Having already awarded Harry Barron a grant to cover his tuition fees on an ad-hoc basis, the trustees decided to welcome applications from others: Rico and I both did, and the trustees approved those requests in the meeting.

And that was chiefly it, with everything wrapped up quickly and efficiently, until the next time.

Tim Owen

time we could actually meet in person in more than an year and a half, of course). Just as humbling was the opportunity to translate one of the new books that EAB is publishing, *Ekster la kuniklejo*. More about the book somewhere else on these pages and on the website (buy it for Christmas!). The later part of the summer was taken over by NASK (I had always wanted to take part in this *Esperanto-kursaro* in North

America but never manage to do so before this year. Covid and the fact that NASK 2021 was again an on-line affair, allowed me to do the next best thing: take part from afar) and then came the opportunity to enrol on the latest (and sadly, possibly last) round of the *Interlingvistikaj Studoj* at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland to learn much more about Esperanto, its history, and literature, its culture,

communication, phonology and more. Oh well, I'll just have to find a nice, quiet, dark corner for the next three years...

That's it from me. I won't say anything about 2022.. We all know what happened to the wishes we made for 2021 at the end of last year!

Ĉion bonan al vi. Ĝis la venonta.



Rico

Por ĉiu eldono de Update **JACK WARREN** preparas por vi anagramojn bazitajn 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.

Anagramoj: enamiĝo kaj edziĝo

Informo: Vidu la anagramojn kaj pere de la indika priskribo, trovu la solvojn. Kelkfoje facilaj, kelkfoje defiaj, ĉiam interesaj kaj lernindaj!

Respondoj al la antaŭa enigmo

Ŝipoj kaj boatoj

1. Koraklo
2. Pramŝipo
3. Krozosipo
4. Remboato
5. Galiono
6. Cisternŝipo
7. Trolbarko
8. Savboato
9. Korveto
10. Motorboato
11. Kutro
12. Sampano

1.	JODLA KEN Prilumado por la vespermanĝo.	
2.	VER DUONE Du homoj renkontiĝas.	
3.	IMOLA MENTO Ferio nur por du.	
4.	FEZ DIGESTO Nupto.	
5.	SLOVA Danco (eble la lasta.)	
6.	BUS RUINOS Bela natura fono.	
7.	EN LA VENTO Taŭga sanktulo.	
8.	DAN RESEO Muziko sub fenestro.	
9.	MANA FIĈIKO Li subtenas la novelzon.	
10.	PLORISTANO Eble tri aŭ kvar, donace.	

KURSOJ, RENKONTIĜOJ, EVENTOJ ..

Courses in the UK. The way people meet up socially, has changed a lot during the last year and a half. You might be waiting for the full or even partial re-start of the physical meet-ups of your Esperanto-group. I know I am! In the meantime, don't forget that there are still lots of ways to meet up to learn, practise or improve your Esperanto. Here's a sample of some of the UK-based meetings and courses you can join in from the comfort of your home:

The **Londona Esperanto-Klubo** (LEK) offers a variety of online Esperanto classes from beginners (A1) to advanced (C1) levels, as well as specific grammar sessions, reading and writing courses. London's little cousin, the **Reading Esperanto group** has been running conversations and *paroligaj sesioj* in collaboration with LEK for over a year and a half now. Sessions run on Zoom. More information at mallonge.net/hy

The **Notinghamo Esperanto-Klubo** (NEK) meets regularly and offers both general hangouts and beginners sessions on Skype. More information is available at notinghamo.wordpress.com/eventoj/

International events

Junulara Esperanto-Semajno (JES)

After the successful on-line event of 2020, JES is again planned as a real-life event for 21-22. **Dates:** 28th Dec - 4th Jan 2022. **Place:** Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. **More at:** jes.pej.pl/eo/

Baltiaj Esperanto-Tagoj (BET-56)

After a two-year interruption, BET is back. It will happen in July next year in Lithuania. **Dates:** 9th - 17th July 2022. **Place:** Klaipėda,

Lithuania. **More information at:** eventaservo.org/e/BET-56

Luminesk 2021/22

The traditional year-end event of *Germana Esperanto-Asocio* has always been very popular with international guests. This year the event will be the seventh. **Dates:** 28th Dec - 3rd Jan 22. **Place:** Münster, Germany. **More at:** www.luminesk.de

...and don't forget:



Brita Esperanto-kongreso

22nd - 24th April 2022

Llandudno Junction, Conwy

See you there!

