

# DUNFERMLINE WELCOMES YOU IN MAY

The 117<sup>th</sup> Scottish Esperanto Congress will take place in Dunfermline between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, with an optional excursion on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

That's the 117<sup>th</sup> consecutive Scottish Esperanto Congress, the highest congress number in the world, neither pandemics nor world wars preventing Scottish Esperantists from celebrating the language together. After holding virtual congresses in 2020 and 2021, the Scottish Esperanto Association invites members of EAB to join them and their guest, Agneau Belanyek, at

the City Hotel, 18-20 Bridge Street, KY12 8DA.

Part of the programme involves a trip to St Andrews for lunch, and an optional visit to 'Scotland's Secret Bunker' RAF Troon, a nuclear command centre hidden 100 feet underground, where you can discover the twilight world of the Government Cold War. There will also be an optional trip to South Queensferry on the Monday for a boat

ride to Inchcolm Island.

The congress venue, as you'll have guessed from its name, offers accommodation, and a buffet on the Friday, lunch on the Sunday, and hot drinks with biscuits are included with the ticket price. As well as the excursions, there's an optional group meal on the Saturday evening. If you can't make the whole thing, fret not: it's possible to buy daily tickets.

You can find more details plus an electronic and a printable sign-up form at [skotlando.org/kongreso-2022](http://skotlando.org/kongreso-2022). ■



## ESPERANTO JOINS THE WORDLE CRAZE

Millions of people around the world have a new part to their daily routine. Even if you haven't succumbed to the habit yourself, if you use social media, you must have noticed a proliferation of statuses featuring green, yellow and grey squares arranged in blocks.

These are visual recaps of how people are performing at Wordle, a new game in which players have six attempts to guess a five-letter word. Colours show which letters in an attempt are in the correct location (green), which are also in the target word but placed differently (yellow), and which don't feature at all (grey).

Players then use those hints to refine their guesses until - usually - getting it right. The beauty of the game is that the word of the day is the same for everybody: for the few minutes you're playing, you're in the same boat as the millions of other players all around the world. And it's only possible to play once a day, so as much fun as the game is, you don't have to worry about getting carried away when

plenty of other tasks and people are vying for your attention.

Once you've completed the challenge, you get a congratulations message with an option to share your performance, which will copy the famous Tetris pattern to your clipboard, along with a message acknowledging how many attempts you took on this particular puzzle. That simplicity is what's caused the takeover of your Twitter and Facebook feeds since the game went viral in January, and the game is so popular that the New York Times has just purchased it for a seven-figure sum.

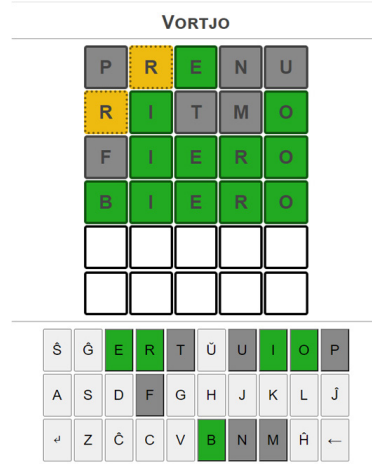
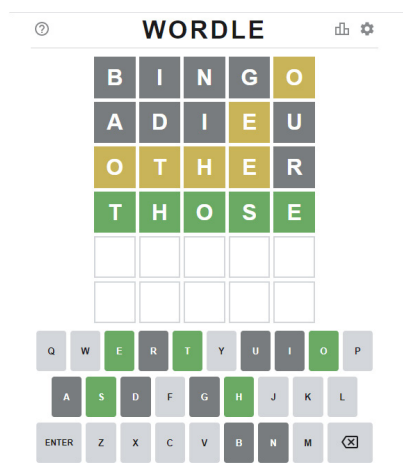
Within days of the craze blowing up, versions in other languages started appearing, and the Kataluna Esperanto-Asocio launched a perfect clone of the original game, replicating both its look and its functionality, nipping EAB to the finishing post, for whom Mike Seaton, Thomas Preece and Tim Owen had been beavering away. Esperantist social-media accounts were suddenly awash with even more flashes of green, yellow and grey, as WORDLEO followed in the

footsteps of the English version!

And then came another, in the form of Vortjo, which offers a different, less-polished interface but is not as tricky as WORDLEO, which has asked participants to find words such as *falĉo* and *ĥmero*: not a bad way to spend a few minutes for the lexicographers among us (or, at any rate, those who know how to check online dictionaries using wildcards) but an unrewarding proposition for most mortals.

Vortjo, on the other hand, has a much smaller list from which to generate the missing words, the programmers favouring simpler, more common entries that Esperanto-speakers of all levels stand a chance at getting. Another difference is that WORDLEO uses entries from Reta Vortaro; deviations, such as adding plural markers or verb endings, aren't recognised and so can't be used in guesses. Vortjo, on the other hand, is much more flexible in this respect,

Give them both a try at [esperanto.cat/wordleo](http://esperanto.cat/wordleo) and [vortjo.net](http://vortjo.net)! ■



Well, Christmas has been and gone, leaving me with an extra four pounds according to the scales. Since most months seem to go like that, I'll mark that as quite the pleasant surprise.

I suspect that intro might be enough to get you thinking that the editor in this issue is somebody other than Rico, a man who is admirably trim. It's coursework and exam time for those of us pursuing the postgraduate programme in interlinguistics at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, so I, a man admirably Tim if not trim, offered to put this issue together for him.

## EXCLUSIVE CONCERT FROM UEA TO YOU

Did you know that you're a member of UEA, even if you aren't? The chances are that you don't!

UEA has individual and associate members. The first are those people like me who pay a membership fee, or are life or honorary members. We're the ones who do know we're members. (Or should do, at least!) There were 143 of us in the UK last year, up from the previous year's 117.

The majority of you are the other kind of member: you become an associate member when you join a *landa asocio* such as EAB but don't sign up for UEA yourself. Fernando Maia Jr., UEA's energetic vice-president and *Esperantisto de la Jaro 2020*, has asked us to extend a membership perk to you too: a viewing of a concert performed exclusively for UEA members by the prize-winning Canadian composer Yves Desrosiers, who started learning Esperanto in December 2020. In March 2021 he launched his seventh album, *Nokta ŝoforo*, every title on which is in Esperanto, as well as the lyrics on the final song.

The one-hour concert *Nokta ŝoforo Vive* is available at [vimeo.com/646976300](https://vimeo.com/646976300). You'll need a password to access it, which we've been asked not to print in order to preserve the exclusivity, but drop me or Viv a line and we'll let you know what it is.

## UEA ROLES

Unlike EAB's, where membership lasts for one year from the day you paid it, UEA's member subscriptions run for a calendar year, which means that now's the best time to become a member if you intend to.

The cheapest category costs £40; that gets you electronic copies of *Esperanto* throughout the year and a 10% discount you can use twice in UEA's bookshop, [katalogo.uea.org](https://katalogo.uea.org). The next category, for £67, gets you all 11 issues of *Esperanto* in paper format and the 10% discount every time you order from their bookshop. Both categories get you a discount on the ticket price for the *Universala Kongreso*. There are currently 57 people from the UK who are signed up as members of UEA as we enter February, so here's your friendly reminder if you're usually a member but haven't got around to it yet: [uea.org/alighoj](https://uea.org/alighoj).

There are roles within UEA which its members can apply for, and two are looking for people based in the UK to fill. The first is *ĉefdelegito*, which had been

held by Bill Chapman for over thirty years. I've been temporarily covering since his sad passing, hoping that somebody who felt a calling would reply to my request in *Update 94* to contact me. As Martin Schäffer, my counterpart in UEA, told me when I explained that he could use my name until a volunteer came forward: 'Nun ne multon endas fari rilate al la delegita reto, sed plej bone la ĉefdelegito helpu al peranto konstante serĉi novajn membrojn, teni la lokan kontakton, instigi personojn membriĝi ...'

The second role is sitting on UEA's committee as a *Komitatano A*. Renato Corsetti, after a lifetime of service to TEJO and UEA, quite rightly deserves a retirement after turning 80, and so is willing to step aside for a new replacement. One perk of the role is that UEA covers 50% of a *kotizo* for the *Universala Kongreso* for its committee members; we in EAB will cover the other half.

If you've been an UEA member for at least two years and are interested in filling either of those roles, please contact me for a chat.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

UEA's not the only thing you could be signing up for on an annual basis. I reached the conclusion when researching the sources which provided the material for the end-of-unit activities in *Enjoy Esperanto* that *Kontakto*, TEJO's magazine, was the most readable Esperanto magazine, and so I've become a subscriber: I couldn't really say no when I saw that the subscription cost was £11 for the year. (If you prefer yours the traditional way, it's only £23.) I'm sure that new editor Paweł Fischer-Kotowski will follow well in the footsteps of Rogener Pavinski, who has stepped down after ten years in the role: [uea.org/alighoj/abonilo](https://uea.org/alighoj/abonilo).

I've also renewed my subscription to *La Ondo de Esperanto*, which features some particularly outstanding scholarship at times. It appears as an electronic almanac three times a year, weighing in at around 120 pages, and the annual cost is 15€. Visit [esperanto-ondo.ru/Lo-old.htm](https://esperanto-ondo.ru/Lo-old.htm) to see some free extracts from previous issues; a subscription link is found at [sezonoj.ru](https://sezonoj.ru), the editorial team's blog, which is updated daily.

*Monato* has a new editor for its politics section, Massimo Ripani. I think it's probably still the second-most popular Esperanto-related magazine behind UEA's own one. It's made a couple of mis-steps in recent years, publishing under the heading *Opinio* silly conspiracy theories submitted from a couple of correspondents but the new politics editor assures me that there'll be no more of this under his watch. An annual subscription is £54 for surface mail, £57 for airmail, or £32.40 for electronic. You can read older articles at [monato.be/indekso.php](https://monato.be/indekso.php), which has a subscription link at the side.

*Vinilkosmo*, an independent label which produces, publishes and distributes uniquely Esperanto musical artists offers a streaming service, with subscription starting from 10€ per year. That's enough if all you want to do is stream; the higher

rates grant you MP3 albums and CDs, too. Follow the links to the *Abonklubo* on [vinilkosmo-mp3.com](https://vinilkosmo-mp3.com) to sign up!

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Did you know that there's a Chair in Interlinguistics and Esperanto at the University of Amsterdam? It's held by Professor Federico Gobbo, who has been teaching the courses *Introduction to Interlinguistics* and *Introduction to Esperanto* since 2014. The post is financed by contributions, predominantly from Esperanto Nederland and Dutch Esperantists. It's now time to demonstrate that the Chair is financially viable for another five-year mandate. Perhaps you'd like to contribute to it? You can send a donation to UEA's bank account: NL72INGB 0000 3789 64 (BIC/SWIFT: INGBNL2A). Don't forget to add a comment mentioning that it's for the 'Amsterdam Katedro!' You can read more about the Chair at: [uva.nl/en/profile/g/o/f.gobbo/f.gobbo.html](https://uva.nl/en/profile/g/o/f.gobbo/f.gobbo.html).

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Omicron-related shipping delays mean that the four children's books which Rico announced in the previous issue have only just made their way to Barlaston, and have been joined by another only two weeks behind schedule. *Pingvena pako* tells the story of a polar bear who spots a penguin coupon in the newspaper, and wastes no time in ordering his very own pet. He's thrilled with his new friend, but Penguin doesn't seem quite as pleased. As time goes on, Penguin becomes more and more despondent, and Polar Bear knows he has to do something to fix it. And that something involves a very long journey. As with our other similar books, we're selling this beautiful hardcover, translated by Clare Hunter, for £5.

Our new masterpiece *La aventuroj de Alico en Mirlando* was due to arrive at the end of January, which I suppose means it'll be with us before we say goodbye to February. We'll have that and our other new releases, including the wonderful *La domo ĉe Pu-Angulo*, available for purchase in Conwy. For those of you who can't wait, you can buy them from [esperanto.org.uk/store](https://esperanto.org.uk/store), where you will also find many, many more titles, after Bill Walker undertook the herculean task of adding every item from the old catalogue to the site.

Speaking of Conwy: I've spoken with members of the Esperanto community in Ireland, Scotland and Brittany about expanding the *Brita Kongreso* into a *Tutkelta Kongreso*, as we did in 2018 in Aberystwyth. All have given their blessing so I've sent some emails out asking for some celtic-related contributions to the programme. If we get enough to justify the change, then that's what we'll be doing. If you're going to be in Conwy and have something related to one of the celtic nations or its traditions to offer, by all means get in touch!

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Rico will be back next time. See you in Conwy! ■

Tim Owen

## EAB's new landlord has put the two sites comprising Wedgwood Memorial College back on the market.

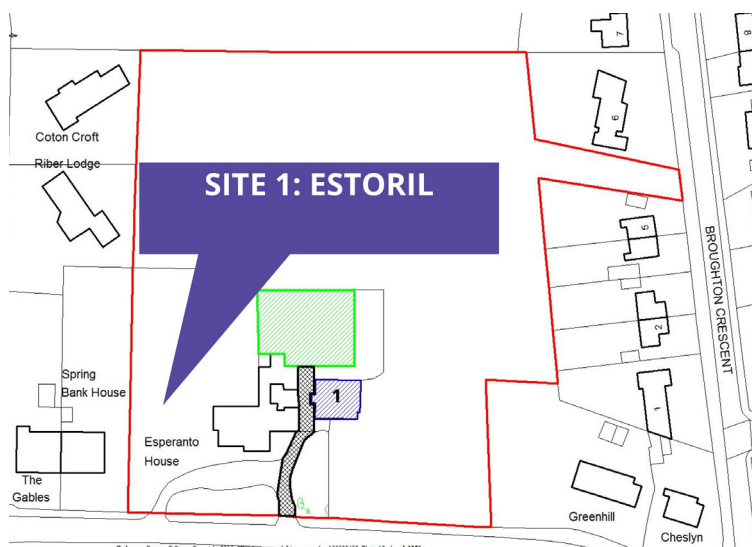
I informed you in *Update 93* that we had 'just received formal notification that Wedgwood Memorial College, on a site of which Esperanto House is located, is under new ownership'. In *Update 94*, I added that 'a property agent representing the new landlord had contacted me [...] to request that we meet at Esperanto House', and that at that meeting 'EAB's new landlord asked whether we would be willing to consider an offer to surrender the lease on Esperanto House'. As I reported in *Update 95* 'a representative contacted me to arrange a meeting with the landlord to discuss an offer. We were scheduled to meet on September 15<sup>th</sup> but the meeting was cancelled at 15:20 the day before with no reason given.'

We haven't heard anything from our landlord or their representatives since then. However, we became aware privately that the landlord had put the two sites, *Estoril* and *The Limes*, back onto the market, explaining that '[t]he housing target in the Plan for Stafford Borough is 10,000 dwellings over the period 2011–2031,' and that '[u]nder the Plan for Stafford Borough, there is presumption in favour of residential development, although other uses may be considered'.

From what we've heard, again privately, so unverified, the developer paid £750,000 for both sites and is looking for

around £2 million from the sale – a lot less than the £7 million pounds the local authority expected to raise when it decided to close the college!

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EAB?



Esperanto House (blue) is excluded from sale, as are parking facilities (green) and access to the site (black), both of which are guaranteed by the lease.

It's clearly not ideal that our only official dealings with the landlord have come via property agents and that we haven't been given even a courtesy update of this development, or that our requests for a rent invoice have still gone ignored. (Non-payment of rent would amount to a breach of contract but don't worry: Viv and I keep a log of the requests we've regularly sent. We had to do this with the previous landlord, too, who went eight years without sending us a utilities invoice!)

Nonetheless, there doesn't appear to be any cause for concern regarding EAB's leasehold. The brochure for the sites excludes Esperanto House: 'The vendors are seeking a design solution that retains building 1 (on page 4), the car park and access thereto as verged blue, green and crosshatched in black on site 1 which is to be excluded from the sale.' ■

## AGM: EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT

We normally give formal details about the AGM in the April issue of *Update*, which we time to give the requisite 21 days' notice. The April *Update* is then sent out early, and includes various AGM paperwork, such as the annual report and balance sheet.

In *Update 95*, we reported that a combination of high income for the year, courtesy of NoJEF transferring its assets to EAB, and favourable movements in the stock market might trigger a full audit. This has come to pass.

Since an audit is much more detailed than an independent examination and features additional aspects beyond our control (auditors waiting for banks to return documentation, for example), there's a risk that the accounts will be signed off later than usual and therefore *Update* won't be sent out as early as required, so I'll announce now that **the 2022 AGM will be held in Conwy Business Centre on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12:00**, and have included the AGM agenda with this issue. ■

# TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2022

## EAB members will soon elect the charity's trustees for the following year. Could trusteeship be a role where you see yourself having something to offer?

Charities need to have people who are responsible in law for running them, ensuring that the charity is engaged in appropriate activity. These are called trustees and EAB's are elected annually, typically at the AGM.

The trustees keep in touch primarily by email, and meet in person up to five times a year, usually at Esperanto House but latterly, of course, via Zoom. There have to be at least four and there are currently five, a mixture of people who have been involved in Esperanto for decades and some fresh faces coming via the Duolingo route. Rather novelly for EAB and Esperanto generally, the current board comprises four women and only one man!

Trusteeship puts you in a unique position to influence the direction and work of the charity. If you have a vision for EAB, trusteeship is the best way to realise it. It isn't a paid role although you will be reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses incurred such as travel costs to attend meetings.

You can carry out the role whatever your level of Esperanto fluency since meetings are held in English. It doesn't particularly matter if you're new to Esperanto: what counts is having realisable ideas and being willing to work closely and effectively with the other trustees and EAB's staff in the best interest of the charity.

Trustees come from a range of backgrounds. There isn't a particular model to follow, though some people may find themselves feeling at home in the role a bit more than many others, such as people who have previous experience of being a charity trustee. If that's you, then we'd love to hear from you, as we would from, say, people who run their own business or work in management or with budgets. If any of these things apply to you, then you could well thrive in the role, to the benefit of EAB.

If you think you might be interested and can work well with the incumbent team, please do feel free to speak with Viv, Tim, or one of the current trustees to get an idea of what is involved. There won't be any commitment assumed if you make an enquiry.

## HOW TO SEND IN YOUR NOMINATION

To make your nomination known, please email Viv ([eab@esperanto.org.uk](mailto:eab@esperanto.org.uk)) and make her aware that you wish to stand for election as a trustee.

You will need to be backed by two members, so please provide the names of the people seconding your candidacy. (Ideally copy them into your message so that Viv knows that they're aware; she will otherwise contact them herself to confirm that they wish to back you.) Please ensure that emails reach Viv by **12:00 on Friday, February 25**; nominations received afterwards unfortunately will not be accepted. If you submit a nomination to Viv but don't receive confirmation of receipt within a reasonable timeframe, please do not automatically assume your email arrived: check with her to be sure before the deadline.

Candidates will have the opportunity to present themselves in up to 200 words in the following issue of *Update*, so don't worry if you're new and don't know many people. All of us were new once! ■

# CHORISTERS AND CASTLES IN CONWY

Here's an update on what you can expect in Conwy, as we meet in person for the first time in three years at the 102<sup>nd</sup> Brita Kongreso de Esperanto!

Joining Hans Becklin, our invited guest speaker from the USA, will be a second main speaker, Stela Besenyei-Merger. A native speaker of Esperanto who was going to be our guest at the cancelled 2020 conference in Leicester, Stela will be presenting her new project, *Bobelarto: kiel retaj bobeloj de arto vigligas la literaturan mondon de Esperantujo*. She'll also be using her formidable interviewing experience to lead a podium discussion with some of us who have been involved in producing EAB's books in the past year as she asks: *Kio novas?* And in two sessions in a side room, she'll be hosting a *Legosalono de EAB*, bringing her monthly *Bobelarta legosalono* for its first truly live outing, giving you the chance to absorb yourselves in new literature together.

## MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

We couldn't be happier about confirming that *Côr Meibion Maelgwn*, the male voice choir of which Bill Chapman was a member for many years, will be in attendance

to perform in tribute to their departed comrade, as the two loves of Bill's life outside of his family come together.

There's room for you to present your own musical and entertainment skills too! You'll be able to play your instruments in one of the smaller rooms with Jack Warren, but if enough people are



↑ *Côr Meibion Maelgwn* will be putting on a concert in tribute of our mutual friend..

interested in performing, we can look to adding a longer slot to the main programme. Interested? Drop Jack a line at [p.warren1947@gmail.com](mailto:p.warren1947@gmail.com) to make him aware!

Jack will be performing double duty, making sure that learners have some activities which they can engage in together

away from the main room. Harry Barron also has a few different contributions to make, including presentations about legends in Welsh folklore and the language itself.

## FOOD AND LODGING

We've secured a reservation for an optional group meal on the Sunday night at the Quay Hotel & Spa in the nearby village of Deganwy, where Bill Chapman lived. It may be possible to eat a light lunch at the conference venue: prior to the pandemic, it certainly offered them. It won't be clear whether this will be brought back until the various restrictions are eased off.

The nearest hotel to the venue is a Premier Inn around 1.5 miles away. Its prices have shot through the roof recently, so you might like an alternative: there's a seaside Travelodge in Colwyn Bay, which is opposite a train stop from where a train leaves every hour for the short journey to Llandudno Junction, just outside the venue. Prices there are currently about half those of the Premier Inn.

Drop by [britakongreso.org](http://britakongreso.org) to find more details as the conference planning develops, and to book your place. ■

# GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL COURSES OVERSEAS

EAB has two sessions of its intermediate course *Lernu Plu* coming up. We're not the only providers of education, though, and we're offering some grants to help you pursue Esperanto overseas with other experienced providers.

The *Nord-Amerika Somera Kursaro* (NASK) is an intensive immersion programme in Esperanto, which has been held for over 50 years. It will be returning to in-person teaching at William Peace University, Raleigh, North Carolina between July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>, with accommodation provided from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>. There are three course levels on offer: Basic (A2/B1) with Karina Oliveira (Brazil/Korea); Intermediate (B2) with Hans Becklin, our guest speaker in Conwy; and Advanced (C1) with, um, the author of *Enjoy Esperanto*.

Nearer to home, our friends at *Kulturdomo de Esperanto* in Baugé-en-Anjou, France, otherwise known as *Kastelo Greziljono*, are holding their intensive week-long PRINTEMPaS programme in late April. They offer *Starting out together!* (A1-A2) with Marion Quenut; *On the threshold of language* (B1) with Christophe Chazarein; *Droplets become rivers* (B2) with SZILVA Szabolcs; and *The Bialystok Method* (C1) with Przemysław Wierzbowski. It's also possible to sit a KER exam there once the course is over.

## COURSE COSTS ...

Calculating the costs for NASK is straightforward since accommodation and meals are included. It works out at \$499 if sharing a room, \$679 otherwise, with prices increasing by \$50 after February.

PRINTEMPaS comes out costing a similar amount, although the quoted figure depends on how many nights you intend to stay for and how many meals you'd like per day. You can complete the various fields on their aliĝilo to check for your needs and see what the cost will be.



↑ The *Kulturdomo de Esperanto*, otherwise known as *Kastelo Greziljono*.

## ... AND EAB'S HELP WITH THEM

Following on from the Norwich Jubilee Esperanto Foundation merging within us, EAB is in a position to offer educational grants to Esperanto-speakers resident in the UK. That means most of you!

For NASK and PRINTEMPaS, the grants would cover the tuition costs, on-site accommodation, and meals: you'll still need to get yourself to and from the venues, even with this considerable contribution from EAB.

If you're interested, please research the two events (NASK: [esperantico.org/en/nask-2022-1](http://esperantico.org/en/nask-2022-1); PRINTEMPaS: [gresillon.org/spip.php?rubrique20&lang=en](http://gresillon.org/spip.php?rubrique20&lang=en)), and then send me an email ([tim.owen@esperanto.org.uk](mailto:tim.owen@esperanto.org.uk)), letting me know a bit about your Esperanto experience and which class you're applying for, and we'll discuss things from there. Please note that if you're applying for any course above A2, you'll need to make sure you write to me *in Esperanto*.

And you are, of course, all welcome to access our own *Lernu Plu* sessions free of charge. The next two, held on Zoom, are with Maurizio Giacometto (February 19/20) and Tim Morley (May 7/8). Get more details and sign up at: [esperanto.org/uk/lernu](http://esperanto.org/uk/lernu). ■