

'I would say to any new learners out there to go to SES or NASK for an immersive learning experience because your Esperanto will improve enormously in a short space of time and you will make lots of new friends. Don't worry about not being good enough: just do it, as I know that you won't regret it at all. I can't wait for my next event ... A whole new Esperanto world has opened up to me and I'm so grateful for the opportunity. Thank you to EAB for supporting me: it is an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.'

Stephen Picksley wrote those words having enjoyed a week of Esperanto immersion in North Carolina last year, after EAB awarded him a grant to cover the tuition, accommodation and food costs of participating in the educational programme NASK. You could enjoy the same experience. ▼

A warning: NC is very hot in July but the air-conditioning in the venue is amazing! Find out more information about NASK at: nask.esperanto-usa.org.

TRANSLATION COURSE

There are other NASK-related courses we'd be happy to support you with. Hoss Firooznia is holding a 12-week online course on the *The Art of Translating*, starting on 15 March. Every week there will be an essay to read, with discussions on it taking place in text form during the week.

There are also optional Zoom meetings on Wednesday evenings for the night owls amongst you: they start at a little after midnight UK time, although attendance isn't necessary, and the sessions will be promptly uploaded for those who missed them. ▼

CLOSER TO HOME

There won't be a session of *Somera Esperanto-Studado* this year: its organisers, also UEA's new congress team, are busy with preparations for the *Universala Kongreso* in Turin, and are currently meeting with Esperantists and officials in Tanzania to gauge the viability of running the first UK from Africa next year. Naturally, they recommend that if you would've liked to participate in SES, then you could consider heading to Italy instead.

If you've never been to an UK before and would like to attend, then get in touch if a grant towards the costs would be helpful. And if you're on the younger side, then we could help you attend the *Internacia Junulara Kongreso*, which is taking place in Lignano in the north east of Italy from 5 to 12 August. ▼

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES: HOME, OVERSEAS, ONLINE

NEXT STOP: NASK

NASK — the *Nord-Amerika Somera Kursaro de Esperanto* — is taking place from the William Peace University in Raleigh, North Carolina between the 3 and 7 July, with participants arriving and leaving one day either side. There will be three separate courses to choose from:

- A post-beginners' (A2/B1), led by Brian Harmon.
- An intermediate (B2), with Jorge Rafael Nogueras at the helm.
- An advanced, with Duncan Charters leading it.

Everything's immersive: although there's no rule in place, everybody speaks only in Esperanto, with the result that beginners make rapid progress in a short span. Classes take place in the daytime, and there's often something informal in the evenings.

The usual cost of the course is \$90: if you're interested in participating with EAB paying your tuition, drop us a line. You can read up on the course at: nask.esperanto-usa.org/sesioj/2023-tradukokurso.

Jorge Rafael Nogueras is holding a *pretiga kurso* for NASK from 4 April to 4 May, with classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Again, this is timetabled for the convenience of US Esperantists so is only really suitable for people in the UK who don't want to think about bed until at least 2am, but if that's you, you're welcome to ask for a grant to cover your attendance, even if you don't actually intend to fly all the way to North Carolina afterwards: it's good as preparation for congresses, too, if you're planning to head to one.

You'll find details at: nask.esperanto-usa.org/sesioj/2023-pretiga_kurso.

You can get details of both events from esperanto.it/torino2023 and ijk2023.tejo.org.

NASK and SES aren't the only residential Esperanto courses in the world; our colleagues at *Kastelo Greziljono* in France have been running courses for longer than both, and their next — PRINTEMPaS — will be held from 14 to 22 April. There are four levels on offer:

- Beginners' (A1-A2) with Marion Quenut.
- Lower intermediate (B1) with Paweł Fischer-Kotowski
- Higher intermediate (B2) with Szilva Szabolcs.
- Advanced (C1) with Przemek Wierzbowski.

There's a bonus in store, too: they will be holding a session of CEFR exams on April 22, with the four courses being ideal preparation, although certainly not essential for those who wish just to arrive later on to sit the exams. Find out details about PRINTEMPaS at: gresillon.org. If you're interested in a grant towards participation of the course, the exams, or both, get in touch.

Speaking of CEFR exams ... dates for three online sessions have been announced, with C1 on 3 June, B2 on 10 June, and B1 on 17 June. Get in touch if you'd like us to repay your exam costs once you've passed!

Last but not least, there's our own *Brita Kongreso* from 21 to 23 August. Are you a first-timer? Let's talk!



To discuss grants, contact tim.owen@esperanto.org.uk in Esperanto unless you're specifically applying as a beginner. ■



I hope that this issue of *Update* is easy on the eyes. Since number 100 has been and gone, now seemed a good moment for a refresh, and Rico agreed when I ran the idea by him. Unsurprisingly, given his unconstrained enthusiasm for all things Esperanto, he was quite happy with a knock-up in green which I sent his way. There's always that niggling thought, though, that what looks beautiful on screen doesn't quite translate to paper. This looks very vibrant to me sitting here creating it: I hope you'll find it attractive on paper, too.

PUBLISHING

Edmund Grimley Evans has been busy: we've just published *Spionoj*, his translation of Michael Frayn's *Spies*, which was Whitbread Book of the Year in 2002. We've set the price at £10, and Amazon and other sites are offering it with free shipping.



By the time *Update* reaches you, we'll have announced another new book, the second in our Moomins series. As with the first book, *Kometo en Muminvalo*, *Ĉapelo de sorĉisto* has been translated by Sten Johansson from the original Swedish.

This is another book which we have priced for £10 and which you can find on Amazon on elsewhere. You can see all of our books on Amazon via esperanto.org.uk/amazon, and our collection on Book Depository — which offers free international delivery — at esperanto.org.uk/bookdepository.

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Our translation competition went well: 39 separate people signed up for it, with 4 entering for *Rebecca*, 21 for *Matilda*, and 14 for both! That would've made for a challenging job for the jury at 53 texts. The numbers were a bit more palatable from their perspective once the deadline for submissions arrived: 20 candidates (6 *Rebecca*, 12 *Matilda*, 2 both, 22 texts). As things stand, they've determined a winner for the main competition (*Rebecca*) and are approaching the home straight for the *new talent* strand (*Matilda*).

All being well, we've found a new supply of people willing and able to translate, which will help us get even more books out in the future. We're ambitious numbers-wise but they don't translate themselves, unfortunately, and we've been heavily reliant on Edmund shouldering the burden.

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Conference numbers aren't looking good, I'm afraid. We're currently at 32 with seven weeks to go: that's including the guest speakers. If you're not sure whether to sign up, please do take a moment to visit britakongreso.org to get an idea of what's on offer.

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Esperanto House is located on one of the two sites of the former Wedgwood Memorial College, each site named after a large house occupying it. You'll have seen

on the back cover of *LBE 993* the appalling condition of *Estoril* now: although I've tried to relay it in writing in past issues of *Update*, I don't think I did justice in the same way as that photo did. But what about the house on the other site, *the Limes*?

I was on site recently and walked downhill towards the train crossing, passing the fence panels which separate *the Limes* from the path. I stopped counting at the point I noticed the sixth replaced fence panel. And it was all for naught because further down a couple of those had been kicked in once more, granting people free access to the site, sheltered from view by hedgerows. I'm afraid it's hard to say which building is in the worse state.

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The security camera we've added to Esperanto House following the break-ins have notified Viv's phone several times about suspicious characters approaching the office. This happened again this morning, the day when *Update* was about to be sent for printing: two men dressed all in black were on site at 08:52, eight minutes before Viv was due to start work. Fortunately, she got pinged en route and so called the police rather than entering the site.

Footage shows one of the men keeping watch around the corner whilst the other one takes swings at a nearby door with some kind of implement. Walking past the camera shortly afterwards having failed to smash his way in, he appears to have something small clenched in his fist with a protusion rising from it: our first thoughts are a screwdriver or a knife.

There may well be disruption shortly as we work out what to do given that the site is clearly unsafe for staff and stock alike. ■

Tim Owen

CANDIDATES FOR TRUSTEESHIP

FROM AGM 2023 TO AGM 2024

ANNA LANGLEY



I work as a senior IT service manager at the University of Cambridge. Over the last two years since I became a trustee, the team has

worked hard to focus EAB on fulfilling our charitable purposes. Our work has laid the foundation for a better future for the charity. As a trustee, I will bring my service management skills to make our offerings more visible, accessible, and efficient by making better use of technology. I will work to bring about a return to

regular in-person teaching by conducting the *Lernu* and *Lernu Plu* courses in multiple locations around the country.

Proposers: Edmund Grimley Evans, Clare Hunter

CLARE HUNTER



I have been a trustee since 2009 and worked as treasurer since 2011. In my daily life I work as a chartered accountant and currently work as an

audit manager in a local accountancy

firm. This enables me to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in financial reporting and Charity Commission guidance. While legally all trustees are equally responsible for the charity's finances, I believe it is important for the charity to always have one trustee who can take practical responsibility on a day-to-day basis, and believe that the role of treasurer has two parts. Firstly, to ensure that the charity continues to live within its means, with income being spent on charitable activities and excess funds being prudently invested. Secondly, to explain the finances to trustees whose expertise lies in other areas in a way which they can understand, so that they have the financial information which they need to make decisions. If re-elected for 2023/24, I would be happy to continue working as treasurer.

Proposers: Simone Davis, Anna Langley

SIMONE DAVIS



As one of the many thousands of people who initially came to Esperanto via Duolingo, both the language and the community have since

become a central feature of my daily life.

I am active in several Esperanto groups which support *komencantoj* and *progresantoj* as they extend their knowledge of the language.

I have continued making short Esperanto films, winning prizes in the first three international film festivals held by Esperanto-USA and being a judge in the other. I also run my own small Esperanto-themed YouTube channel.

The professional skills I previously developed as an auditor and manager have stood me in good stead during what has been a challenging year for the charity. Despite local and global obstacles and various setbacks, I believe we as trustees have managed to steer the charity for-

ward and act as effective stewards of the organisation's resources.

Working with the director and the other trustees, I have helped continue to improve our processes, manage our charitable responsibilities, successfully extended our range of fabulous print publications, instigated a new translation competition and continually sought ways to improve our support to learners. I would like to continue that work in the forthcoming year.

*Proposers: Anna Langley,
Edmund Grimley Evans*

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

EDMUND GRIMLEY EVANS



I started learning Esperanto around 1985 and have been a member of EAB's Management Committee since 1997. Over the past 25 years I

have often been responsible for EAB's publications. I contributed in some way to all of the books that EAB published in 2022, but particularly to *La aventuroj de Alico en Mirlando* and *Unu animo homa*.

My other Esperanto activities include writing, editing and proof-reading for *Monato*, and translation: my Esperanto translation of Michael Frayn's *Spies* is EAB's first book of 2023, my translation of Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother* is due to appear in book form quite soon, and I have started translating Kafka's *The Trial*. Since 2013 I have been a member of the Akademio de Esperanto. I speak Esperanto every day because I speak Esperanto to my daughters, now aged 16 and 18.

Professionally, I work in a software research group for Arm Ltd, the UK-based 'chip designer'.

EAB published 6 books in 2021, then 12 in 2022. We cannot double that number again in 2023, but amongst our many book projects there are about a dozen that we hope to finish in 2023.

*Proposers: Clare Hunter,
Simone Davis*

ACCOUNTS FOR 2021-22

Enclosed with this issue of *Update* you will find a copy of the latest Trustees' Annual Report for EAB, as well as two key pages from the most recent accounts. The full accounts have recently been filed with the Charity Commission and are available to download from their website.

Those of you who follow these things will remember that we were unable to send out even draft accounts at this point last year, due to delays we were experiencing in getting a necessary audit letter from CAF Bank. Thankfully, last year was a one-off, with the charity only being above the threshold where an audit is required due to the donation of significant funds from the Norwich Jubilee Esperanto Foundation (NoJEF). This year has been more 'normal' in a financial sense and therefore we have only been required to undergo an independent examination, which is quicker, easier and cheaper than a full audit.

EAB's financial year ends on 31 October each year and therefore both the Trustees' Annual Report and the accounts cover the period from 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022. The Trustees' Annual Report is hopefully self-explanatory, setting out the charitable activities which we have undertaken during the year, summarising what we have achieved and giving an indication of our future plans. I will present a short summary of these points during the AGM in Cambridge in April.

EXPLAINING THE ACCOUNTS

I know that the accounts pages can be a little less self-explanatory for those who are not familiar with the format, and

therefore I wanted to take the opportunity to explain some of the numbers in a bit more detail ahead of the AGM.

You will find in the inserts a page called 'Statement of Financial Activities' (SOFA). This is the format in which the Charity Commission requires us to present the charity's income and expenditure for the year. Total income for the year ended 31 October 2022 was £145,577, of which by far the largest component (£113,285) was income generated by the charity's investments. Less significant sources of income include grants, donations and legacies (£5,272), membership subscriptions and gift aid (£7,101) and book sales (£19,204). The SOFA shows that total income has fallen from £670,312 in the year ended 31 October 2021. While this looks like a big drop, it's nothing to be concerned about; last year's figure included £556,476 which was a donation from NoJEF. If we deduct this exceptional one-off donation from last year's total, we can see that normal recurring income in 2021 was £113,836. 'Normal' income was therefore £31,741 higher in 2022 than 2021, which is predominantly due to the impact of that NoJEF money transferred to EAB last year. All the NoJEF money has been invested in an income-generating fund managed by the investment managers EdenTree, which produced income of £29,851 in 2022. You can read in more detail about the grant-making activities which we spent some of this income on in the Trustees' Annual Report.

So overall income has increased, which is good news. We cannot, however, be complacent. Everyone who follows the news will know that the past year has been

a difficult one for the economy, both globally and in the UK. The communications which I receive from investment managers suggest that investment income received in 2023 is likely to be lower than in 2022, as the companies which ultimately make up our underlying investments struggle to maintain dividends at previous levels. This means that the trustees need to give careful consideration to the expenditure which the charity is committed to and identify areas in which we might be able to make savings.

SUPPORT COSTS

Total expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2022 was £116,376 compared to £98,275 for the year ended 31 October 2021. You will see some headings for charitable expenditure on the face of the SOFA and this is your annual reminder not to take those figures too literally. Charity accounting rules mean that these figures do not represent the actual money we spent directly in these areas, but rather the actual money we spent directly in these areas PLUS an apportionment of staff costs and office running costs based on the time spent working on these activities by Tim and Viv during the year. I will present the actual direct costs in the AGM, but you can see them in advance by downloading the full accounts from the Charity Commission website and scrolling to note 5. There you will find, for example, that our actual direct expenditure on books which we've physically sold during the year was £14,987. (Unsold books which we've produced don't count in this figure, since they're assets which could generate

income later, and so are classed under 'stock'.) To that the accountants have added £46,400 of support costs to come to the total of £61,387 which is displayed on the SOFA. The narrative underneath note 7 explains that 54% of staff hours was spent on books and publications during the year and therefore 54% of both our staffing and our overhead costs have been apportioned to that category.

HIGH OVERHEADS

And really it is increases in those overhead costs which have resulted in total expenditure being higher in 2022 than in 2021. As reported in previous issues of *Update*, 2022 has been a very difficult and expensive year as far as Esperanto House is concerned. The total expenditure includes over £10,000 spent on maintenance of the property. We started the year with an unplanned replacement of the gas boiler after finding out that our previous boiler was on the verge of giving up the ghost. Over the summer we had the distressing experience of two break-ins, causing several thousand pounds worth of loss and damage. We have been unable to recoup from insurers the costs associated with boarding up all the smashed glass doors and replacing the glass panes. We are also unable to reclaim from insurers the cost of installing CCTV on the premises in an attempt to deter future incidents. Those of you who have been members for a while will remember that the charity's lease includes a clause requiring us to decorate Esperanto House inside and out every fifth year with two coats of good quality paint, regardless of whether we perceive such redecoration is required. 2022 was one of those so-called 'decorating years' in the lease, and so in the autumn we had to spend over £5,000 on that alone.

And then we had the utility bills! We have no control over the utilities costs we are charged as — despite our pleas for separate supplies to be set up — we are still connected to the electricity, gas and water supplies for Estoril and recharged costs by the landlord. We've been actively chasing these invoices for some time and when they finally arrived last summer they were quite an unpleasant shock. The 2022 accounts include £1,400 of water bills, £2,100 of gas bills and £5,400 of electricity bills, on top of the normal invoices we'd expect to receive for rent and premises insurance. The electricity invoices were the biggest shock for me personally and initially I failed to believe the figures could be correct. How was EAB using so much electricity with just lighting and a few appliances in the office? How did we know that there weren't still electrical appliances plugged in inside the derelict Estoril building, racking up charges that were being passed on to

us? Eventually, when I saw the detail behind the figures I was forced to admit that the usage likely was all ours. The amounts of kWh used are actually quite plausible. Unfortunately, I discovered, the rates which can be charged for commercial energy use are not capped (unlikely domestic prices, which are), and the cost per kWh for EAB is therefore significantly above the price which you or I would pay in our own homes. As an example, in January 2022 the price per kWh which EAB was being charged for its electricity was 325% higher than the price which I was being charged at home. And that's the price before the recent huge increases kicked in! Unfortunately, I suspect that the bills on Esperanto House are only going to get worse.

UNREALISED LOSSES

You'll see that the SOFA has a line called 'Net movement in funds', which shows a negative figure of £338,491; essentially a loss for the year of that amount. This is due to the impact of unrealised losses on the charity's investments. If we deduct the actual expenditure of £116,376 from the actual income of £145,577 we see that in real terms the charity had a surplus of £29,201, i.e. that we received £29,201 more of income than we spent, even after all the costs I've just described. Accounting regulations do not allow us to report this figure in the SOFA; instead, we are required to present a figure which includes movement in the market value of our investments. Unfortunately, 2022 was not a good year for the stock market and overall the value of our investments decreased by £367,692. This is disappointing, but probably not a surprise for anyone; those of you who have your own pension funds or other money invested have probably seen something similar. At the start of the year investment values were adversely impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The situation was worsened by the absolute chaos in UK politics as the year progressed, as we got through four chancellors in as many months plus a prime minister who was outlasted by a lettuce. The UK situation particularly impacted our EdenTree investments, which deliberately have greater holdings in UK-based companies because they typically pay bigger dividends. Our investments with CCLA are more global and were therefore more shielded from the home-grown chaos.

It's important to understand that the investment losses are 'unrealised'. The accounts present a snapshot of the position of the investments on 31 October 2022. Since then, there has been some upwards movements in the market with the result that the investments have regained some of the money lost. Of course, values can go down again as well as up. But we don't

actually 'lose' any money in real terms unless we choose to sell an investment. The charity currently has enough money held in cash to meet all the expenditure which the trustees can foresee, even with a worst case scenario of energy bills continuing to rise, and therefore we have no intention of crystallising those losses by selling any investments in the immediate future.

BALANCE SHEET

The second page of the accounts is the Balance Sheet, which shows the value of our assets and liabilities at 31 October 2022. You'll notice here that the investment value of £3,171,505 has decreased by the same value of £367,692 which is shown as an investment loss in the SOFA. Our other assets include stock and cash, both of which have increased since last year. When you read about all our publishing successes in the relevant section of the Trustees' Annual Report, the reason for the increase in the stock figure should be clear!

The charity's liabilities are fairly comparable to last year. These include amounts we hold for other associations, which are detailed further in note 13 to the full accounts. There are also a number of accruals for amounts due to our landlords for some of the utilities bills described above. Overall the downwards trends in investments mean that the charity's net assets (the total amount it is worth) is lower than it was last year, being £3.4m at 31 October 2022 compared to £3.7m at 31 October 2021.

CASHLESS CONFERENCE

Hopefully the above explanations make sense and help give some context to the numbers in the accounts. For those who are coming to Cambridge, I will give a summary presentation in the AGM which will hopefully make it clearer still.

We intend to run a book stall during the conference as usual, but please note that it is highly probable that the book stall will be CASHLESS/CARD ONLY this year. We sold a significant amount of books at last year's event in Conwy, a minority — about £200 — of which were cash sales. That £200 was kept in a petty cash box locked inside a desk at Esperanto House... and ultimately stolen when the building was broken into over the summer. We don't have an easy solution for banking cash takings at this point in time and it is clearly not safe to leave money at Esperanto House in future, so we will not be making cash sales for the foreseeable future. There will be plenty of purchasing opportunities in Cambridge, so don't forget your payment card! ■

Clare Hunter