

We'll be getting together in Oxford next year for our annual conference! After a successful showing this year in Cambridge, you might well imagine that the other part of Oxbridge is a natural successor.

You'd be correct, of course: it wouldn't take much imagination for a planner to decide on this particular location. But there's a lot more to it than that: the Esperanto community has something to celebrate in that place and in this particular year!

The location of the event is Somerville College, chosen because of its special meaning in the life of a certain alumna, who went on to do Great Things within our worldwide community. The person in question is our own Marjorie Boulton, and we would've attempted to go here irrespective of where the previous conference was held. ▼

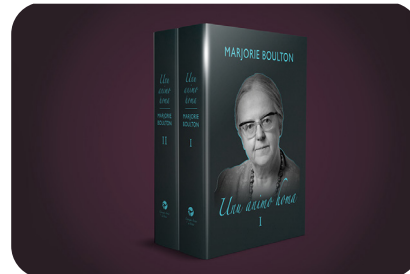
DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Consequently, **the 2024 conference will take place from Friday, 3 May to Sunday, 5 May**. The Monday won't be part of the conference: we recommend that people stopping to explore Oxford or get the bus to the nearby market town of Woodstock, where you'll find Blenheim Palace, a masterpiece of Baroque architecture, and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill. And then on the afternoon of **Tuesday, 7 May** there will be a get-together at Somerville College for reminiscing about Marjorie.

The Friday will be a slight departure from our usual pattern: we usually start at around six, have a light-hearted opening, and then break off for a buffet and some conversation with friends new and old. ▼

DETAILS TO COME

As you'd expect, there will be an invited guest speaker from overseas, the details of which will be announced once plans are confirmed. We'll be making EAB members aware by email with more information, once it's possible to sign up, and we'll add information to britakongreso.org as the event takes shape.



BRITA KONGRESO 2024 ... PLUS A SPECIAL EVENT

Marjorie was born in 1924, making 2024 her jubilee. That's the reason for the location *and* the dates! Her birthday was May 7, which happens to be a Tuesday. In honour of Marjorie, therefore, Somerville College and EAB are holding a small afternoon ceremony on that date in Marjorie's honour.

There won't be a buffet this time but an optional banquet in Somerville's Dining Hall. We'll be opening up a few hours earlier than normal so that those who prefer to eat elsewhere will still be able to participate in chat and catch-ups, as well as other activities, before heading off.



We have plenty of copies of our complete poetry of Marjorie, the two-volume *Unu animo homa*, in stock. At only £20 for over 1200 pages of her work, it's a real bargain. Pick up a set if you haven't already! ■



“Encouraged by the success of Cambridge I started looking for 2024 and have a particular venue in mind, for reasons which will become clear if we’re able to make the numbers add up.”

The front page of *Update* has now revealed what I was referring to last issue. Given that five months have passed since I first contacted the venue progress has been slower than I would’ve hoped, but things are now concretising, and I’ll be visiting Somerville College in November to firm up details about next year’s conference and special get-together in honour of Marjorie Boulton’s centenary. More to come!

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Our *Studa Semajnfino* in Cambridge is about to take place, as *Update* is being printed. Things appear to be going well, with over 30 learners signed up to the event.

As we’ve discovered in the past, a curse of free events is that some people simply don’t turn up. That’s been a major problem at Barlaston, when some events might only have had as few as three people there. The numbers for the inaugural *Studa Semajnfino*, however, are sufficiently large to insulate us. I hope we’ll consider holding a follow-up before too long.

We had once arranged for Katalin Kováts to come over here to offer her considerable expertise to British Esperanto teachers, helping them to hone their skills. The pandemic caused that plan to be cancelled. She’s agreed to revisit the plan, and we’re currently looking to find a mutually convenient date in the first quarter of 2024 to bring about a “teach the teachers” weekend.

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Congratulations are in order for three British (-based) Esperantists. UEA has announced that Renato Corsetti is a new Honorary President; three people, including Anna Lowenstein, are new Honorary Members; and Tyron Surmon is the new President of Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo.



Some more TEJO-related news: its magazine, *Kontakto*, has a new editor. The previous one only produced two of six issues in his first year, and so Karina Oliveira has been appointed to the role. She’s off to a good start, producing very promptly her first one ... the first of 2023. You can subscribe to it for £23 (paper version) or £11 electronic.



VK4

The pandemic caused two world congresses to be cancelled but led to the creation of another one. UEA is now about to hold the fourth iteration of its *Virtuala Kongreso*, which, as the name suggests, people participate in from the comfort of home. Last year’s drew 1482 people from 98 different countries!

This year’s event runs from 23-26 November, and has the theme: “Enmigrado - kunfluo de homaj valoroj”, the same as in Torino earlier this year. It offers talks, discussions, workshops, and a cultural programme. It’s free to UEA members, and 50€: handily, you can select when signing up to join UEA, in which case you’d pay £40 and be registered for the event in one click.



You can read more details about it and sign up at vk.esperanto.net/2023.

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The Akademio de Esperanto has finished two long-standing projects recently. The first was a statement about usage of the letter ŭ in Esperanto; the second was the tenth *Oficiala Aldono* to the *Akademia Vortaro*. (That means that 420 new words became officialised. It comes 16 years after the ninth OA and 49 years after the eighth!)

WE BID FAREWELL

Martin McClelland has reported to us the death, in July at 67, of Kevin Eardley Bourne. Kevin was a very active member of the *Esperanta Diservo Londona*, and contributed to the hymn book *Adoru*, combining his hobbies of Christianity, music and languages.

Kevin, from Redhill, died in a hospice following a three-year illness, and is survived by his widow, Jane, and two children and four grandchildren.

We’re similarly sad to pass on the news that Arnold Pitt, pictured below, died in September, aged 85. He met his first wife, Marjorie, at a summer convention of the Baha’i faith. Marjorie was a keen linguist, which drew the two of them to Esperanto, and they travelled fairly extensively behind the Iron Curtain with the language, following their marriage in 1966.

After Marjorie’s death in 2010, Arnold met a Polish widow named Kamila through Esperanto, marrying her in 2012. Thereafter the couple split their time between Leominster and, more often, Zielona Góra.



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In the last issue I mentioned that I couldn’t think of an alternative to Amazon as a place to buy our books for those who prefer to avoid it. I’ve since discovered that Foyles (foyles.co.uk) is offering all of our recent books at the recommended prices which we set. WHSmith (whsmith.co.uk) has some of them, too.

Tim Owen

NEW IN STORE

We've added three new titles to the offering of our online shop.

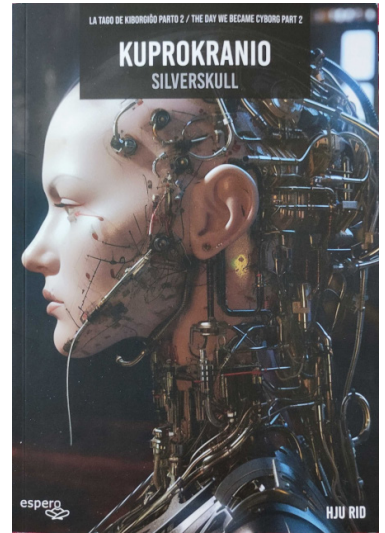
Esperanto's pre-eminent grammarian, Bertilo Wennergren, has written *Detala Gramatiko de Esperanto*, which we're selling for £15. You could be forgiven for some confusion: wasn't his *Plena Manlibro de Gramatiko 2020* published just a few years back? Indeed. They're different in name, size, and presentation. *PMEG 2020* is a huge, very thorough book, and eschews traditional grammatical terminology. His *Detala Gramatiko*, despite the

title, doesn't go into as much depth, exploring every nook and cranny of the language, as the larger title. It's lightweight, and written with traditional grammatical labels: *PMEG 2020*'s "rolvortetoj" are the more recognisable "prepositions" here, and so on.

The Great Grammarian of an earlier generation — and the first Great Essayist — also features with a classic collection of esperantological essays. *Lingvo kaj vivo*, by Gaston Waringhien, was originally produced for the centenary of Zamenhof's birth, as the first title in the *Movado* series of the publisher Stafeto; we have the revised edition from 1989, which formed part of the *Jubilea Kolekto*. It's £9 from us.

Four years on from the first volume *La Tago de Kiborgiĝo/The Day We Became Cyborg*, Hugh Reid has written the follow-up, *Kuprokranio/Silverskull*. As the double titles suggest, the book is a parallel text, with Esperanto and English on facing pages. Great news for new learners!

Like its predecessor, it's a collection of thought-provoking sci-fi stories about the development of technology and its encroachment into humanity. We sell the book for £15, and will have an interview with Hugh about it in the next issue of *La Brita Esperantisto*. ■



GERDA REAPERIS!

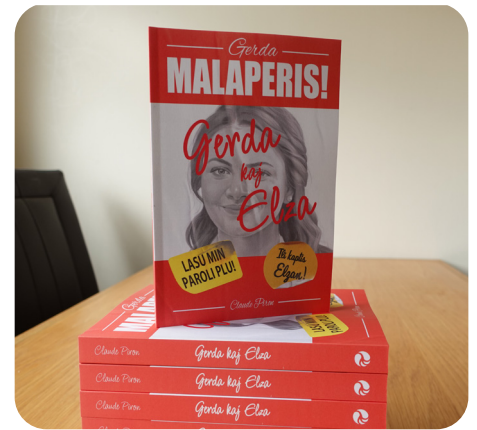
Since 1983 Claude Piron's *Gerda malaperis!* has been the story usually recommended for new learners as a first Esperanto text. We use it in EAB as the set text for our "Elementary,..!" course for beginners.

Getting hands on a physical copy for a reasonable price has been a challenge in recent years, though, and there was a spell where we couldn't provide it to learners. Not any more: we've done our own version, in the style of *La Brita Esperantisto*. Bill Walker and Edmund Grimley Evans were essential to its completion, and the pagesetting and visual side came from the fingertips of Tim Owen. It looks and feels great!

TRILOGY

Since the pool of people interested in *Gerda malaperis!* is going to be global, we decided that we would publish it as a standard paperback but with a twist: we've added Piron's follow-up stories *Lasu min paroli plu!* and *Ili kaptis Elzan!*, making it three books in one ... for £10!

Launching *Gerda kaj Elza*, as this threesome is titled, seems to have been good judgement on our part: it's been on sale for 18 days and has already sold 70 copies! For Esperanto, that's great: it swamps any of the other books we've published over the past few years. ■



1. En universitata restoracio

Tom Saluton, Linda.
Linda Saluton, Tom.
Tom Diru al mi: kiu estas tiu?
Linda Kiu?
Tom Tiu alta, blonda, juna virino ...
Linda Kiu?
Tom Tiu, kiu sidas en la angulo.
Linda Ho, tiu!
Tom Jes, tiu.

Linda Mi ne scias. Mi ne scias, kiu li estas. Nova studento, verŝajne.
Tom Li estas tute sola.
Linda Ne. Rigardu: bela knabino iras al li.
Tom Ne bela. Juna, eble, sed ne bela. Nur vi estas bela, Linda.
Linda Tom, kara! Kio okazas al vi? Eble vi laboras tro multe, kaj ...
Tom Neŝis speciala okazas al mi. Kaj mi ne laboras tro multe. Fakte mi laboras malmulte nun. La vera demando estas: kio okazas al vi, Linda? Nur vi estas vere bela.

Linda Nu, nu ...
Tom Estas fakte. Nur vi estas bela, Linda. Mi estas sincera. Venu kun mi!
Linda Sed ...
Tom Venu. Al la granda spegulo. Rigardu. Jen estas Linda, la plej bela virino en la mondo, la plej bela virino en la tuta mondo.
Linda Kaj jen estas Tom, la plej malsierozia knabo en la tuta universitato. ■

2. Kio okazas?

Linda Tom!
Tom Kio okazas al vi? Vi estas pala! Bela, ...
Linda Tom! Ne rigardu!
Linda Kio okazas?
Tom Strange! Okazas io stranga, io tre strange.
Linda studento ... Ne, ne, mi petas vin, ne ...
Linda Diable! Diru al mi: kio estas tiu mistero!
Linda Lia mano agas strange. Rigardu, s ...
Linda diskrete. Turnu vin iomete, eble, se ...
Linda vidu, ke vi rigardas al li.

Linda Vi pravus. Io stranga okazas. Dum s ...
Linda nun rigardas al la granda spegulo ...
Linda iom, tre tre malrapide, proksimigas ...
Linda Estas io en lia mano ...
Linda Mi ne vidas. Li estas tro malprok ...
Linda forta knabo nun staras inter ili kaj ...
Linda Sed mi vidas. Mi vidas bone. Mi v ...
Linda tute bone. Eĵ!

Linda Kio okazas?
Tom Ŝi rigardas al li nun, kaj lia mano ...
Linda Kaj kio plu? Diru al mi!
Linda Nun li parolas al ŝi. Li montras a ...
Linda Eble li volas, ke ŝi rigardu al a ...
Linda rigardu al li.
Linda Prave, tute prave. Jen ŝi rigardas s ...
Linda kaj parolas. Dum ŝi ne rigardas a ...

You can read Gerda malaperis! in book form, complete with Claude Piron's follow-up stories Lasu min paroli plu! and Ili kaptis Elzan! EAB has published all three in a single volume titled Gerda kaj Elza.

UNIVERSALA KONGRESO 2024

The 109th *Universala Kongreso de Esperanto* has been announced ... the largest event in the Esperanto calendar will be making its first appearance in Africa, taking place from 3–10 August in Arusha, Tanzania.

ABOUT TANZANIA

The host of the next *Universala Kongreso* is an East African country known for its vast wilderness areas. They include the plains of Serengeti National Park, a safari mecca populated by the “big five” game (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino). Over 60 million people call Tanzania their home. The official languages are Swahili and English. Off its eastern coast lie the tropical islands of Zanzibar, with Arabic influences, and Mafia, with a marine park home to whale sharks and coral reefs.

GETTING THERE

Arusha is only 50 km away from an international airport, and there are plenty of options for getting from there to the centre of the city, where the congress will be held at the Arusha International Conference Centre. There are plenty of hotels nearby.

Alternatively, it's possible to fly to the largest airport in Tanzania in Dar es Salaam, and then travel internally.

TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

You can't speak about Arusha without also bringing up Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, which stands nearly 6 km tall. It's only 80 km away from Arusha, which means it's not only visible from the city, but ideally located for an excursion, which the organisers are planning.

SIGNING UP

The congress fee is 190€ for members of UEA, 240€ otherwise if you sign up before 2024. (The price increases twice after that depending on the time period.)

You can book your place using the form at uk.esperanto.net/2024. Later on there will be the possibility to book accommodation and excursions via the same page. ■

There is also a Eŭropa Kongreso de Esperanto taking place in 2024, organised by the national Esperanto associations of France and Germany. It will be held in Strasbourg from 8–12 May. Details: eventaservo.org/e/EK2024



PRE-ORDER FOR ZAMENHOF DAY

Although Zamenhof was against the proposal that his birthday should be celebrated by Esperantists, it came to pass that many of them do make a thing of “Zamenhof-Tago”. Others introduced the idea that people should buy an Esperanto book on that day, December 15, as a more useful way of acknowledging him.

We're able to do a little bit of both this year because EAB is launching *Doktoro Esperanto kaj la lingvo de espero*, a charming story about a young dreamer who has an idea, and decades later sees it realised as hundreds of people convene in France to make use of the language he created.

The story is by Mara Rockliff, a US Esperantist and professional writer of children's books, whose work is embellished by the full-colour artwork of Zosia Dzierżawska. The original version, *Doctor Esperanto and the Language of Hope*, was published in 2019. There are a couple of additional prose pieces created for this Esperanto version at the end of the book.

This is a hardcover children's book printed on very thick paper, and which comes with a dust jacket: definitely a high-quality piece of work!

The book is available for pre-order at esperanto.org.uk for £15, with our plan being to despatch the book so that it arrives at homes in the UK on or just before December 15. We still have a few copies of the English version available for purchase, too. ■



 **Esperanto**
Association of Britain

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Esperanto Association
of Britain,
483 Green Lanes,
London,
N13 4BS

+44 (0)7546 590651

esperanto.org.uk

eab@esperanto.org.uk

 [@esperanto_uk](https://twitter.com/esperanto_uk)

 [esperanto.uk](https://www.facebook.com/esperanto.uk)