

**Welcome to the post-conference issue of Update! I enjoyed being at Brighton, especially meeting some very nice new people. We even had a visitor from South Korea!**

Clare Hunter had the idea of running a quiz on the opening evening as a way of getting people mixing so that new people weren't isolated. We decided to use the quiz to raise money for UEA's *Fonduso Canuto*, which pays membership fees for people from poor countries. Since the winning team scored very highly, **Canuto has since received 280€ from EAB.**

We were grateful that Julia Hédoux travelled from France to present the *Universala Kongreso* to us. How impressive that when I asked who was attending the event, the arms of most people in the room shot into the air!

Jorge Camacho effortlessly delivered his three presentations, Paul Gubbins gave a masterclass in how to write effective reports for local press, and Jack Warren did very well to get so much in during a very limited time—remind me to give you a longer session next time, Jack!

Ian Carter went down very well with our new people (and I was delighted to see several people who we first met at *Lernu* and *Lernu Plu*), and Tim Morley gave an enticing

presentation on *Somera Esperanto-Studado* in Slovakia as a next step for beginners.

Finally, I'm pleased to pass on that all seven candidates for trusteeship were successfully elected and we have since had a fruitful working weekend.

## EVENTS

You'll see on page 2 that we have several events lined up for the second half of the year. *Lernu* and *Lernu Plu* will be held at Esperanto House in August, and our annual *Somera Festivalo* will take place from Shallowford House.

We've also added two sessions of our *Drondo* event—please note that the two sessions will feature the same topics, so don't apply for them both; we're just running the sessions in different locations so as to ease participation. We'll be back in London as last year, but we'll also be visiting the Circle in Sheffield, site of 2014's conference.

## MEETUP.COM

Having previously suggested using [meetup.com](http://meetup.com) to arrange events in previous issues of Update, I've finally attended one of them myself. We were five people who met up in a

pub in Birmingham, arranged by John Gobourne via the website, and it was very pleasant.



EAB pays for the account on **meetup.com**, so if you'd like to make use of it to set up your own informal get-togethers, please get in touch.

**Tim Owen**

Mi ne vidis *Update* kaj *La Brita Esperantisto* en jaroj—la nova aspekto estas okulfrapa!

Mi tuj plusendis ilin al nia estraro (kaj redaktoro), kiel modelo de bona paro da enlandaj revuoj—por interno kaj ekstero.

**Stefan MacGill**  
**Vicprezidanto de UEA**

# DUOLINGO IN ESPERANTO HAS ARRIVED

## OVER 5,000 LEARNERS ON THE FIRST DAY — APPROACHING 40,000 WITHIN A MONTH

**Esperanto recently became the 22<sup>nd</sup> language available on the online platform Duolingo. The site has over 100 million registered users.**

In its three years of existence Duolingo has become an extremely popular source for people looking to learn languages and is available free of charge and without advertisements.

It was the most downloaded app in the Education category for Google Play in both 2013 and 2014. It's about as mainstream as language-learning can get, and now Esperanto has joined Spanish, French, Italian and a handful of other languages as an

option for learners.

## RAPID PROGRESS

As reported in the previous issue of Update, the number of sign-ups was extremely high whilst the course was under preparation, as many as 18,000 at the time of our AGM on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Five weeks later Duolingo entered its beta stage and 5,000 of those people who requested information during its development became learners on the same day. The numbers sky-rocketed soon after; 10,000 within 48 hours, 17,000 after a week. As I type this one month after it launched, we're at over

38,000, some of whom we've heard from in the EAB office.

The launch soon garnered some positive publicity. Chuck Smith, who led the project, issued a press release which included quotations from me and Tim Morley, and was himself approached for interviews. It was particularly handy for him that he had recently recorded his own interview *in Esperanto* with an American girl, Julie, 35 hours after she'd started (and since finished) the course. *35 hours!*

He soon conducted a second online interview with Marijke, a Dutch girl who started the course six days prior. That was two people who finished the course within days of its launch and who were each able to participate in simple interviews afterwards. I'm racking my brains trying to think of any other language where such a thing would be possible.

Thank you to Chuck and his team, including our own Ed Robertson, for all their hard work in bringing this about!

If you want to try the course or recommend it to others, you can either use its official address **[duolingo.com/course/eo/en/Learn-Esperanto-Online](http://duolingo.com/course/eo/en/Learn-Esperanto-Online)** or our shortcut link, which is easier to remember: **[espinfo.org/duolingo-esperanto](http://espinfo.org/duolingo-esperanto)**.



## ESPERANTO HERE AND THERE

**Thanks to Hilary Chapman, we have news of a growth area for Esperanto. The vibrant Esperanto-speakers in Indonesia welcome contacts in other countries.**

Compared to Britain, Esperanto-speakers in Indonesia are remarkably young. You can find their newsletter online with a quick Google search. Contact Iyan Septiyana: [senyan@gmail.com](mailto:senyan@gmail.com).



And it's not just Indonesia where Esperanto is being led by its youngsters. The nearby Phillipines recently saw its nascent youth organisation Filipina Esperanto-Junularo organise its first congress. I love their slogan: "*Via Esperanto-asocio en 7,107 insuloj ekde 2013!*"

Though they're currently very small (the event drew 6 people), I think they'll move on to good things. As they say themselves "Ni ne estas multaj sed ĝi estas bona komenco." And I know from experience that getting young people to attend an event isn't easy, even if you make it costless to them! Let's see where they are a year from now — I'm betting that they'll be able to state next year that they've experienced exponential growth!

**Tertremo detruis kaj vivojn kaj posedaĵojn en Nepalo. Eblas donaci ĉe UEA por helpi al la lokaj Esperantistoj restarigi ties vivon.**

'Nome de la membroj de UEA tra la mondo, la Estraro de UEA esprimas kondolencojn kaj solidarecon al la nepalaj esperantistoj, kies landon fine de aprilo trafis granda tertremo.

UEA kolektos rimedojn por helpi nepalajn esperantistojn, ne tiom en ĉi tiu komenca periodo, sed en la restarigo de personaj kaj movadaj vivoj en pli longa daŭro.

Kiu volas donaci monon tiucele, bonvolu utiligi la donac-paĝon en la retejo de UEA, por fari kontribuon al la Konto Espero. En la sekcio por "notoj, komentoj" ĉe la fino, bonvolu indiki "por Nepalo".

UEA utiligos la kolektitan monon laŭ proponoj de la nepalaj esperantistoj, kolektitaj kaj pritaksitaj de kunordiga teamo. Pri la rezultoj oni informos la donacintojn.'

Ĉi-rilate, loka Esperantisto petas monon por starigi Esperanto-domon en sia vilaĝo.

'La projekto estos fari hejmon, malgrandan modernan domon, kiu estas por la Esperanto-movado. Por la unua fazo mi planas konstrui domon de 4 ĉambroj, kun buĝeto de \$20.000 (USD). La zorgo de ĉi tiu domo estos farita de miaj gepatroj. Du ĉambroj estas uzota de miaj gepatroj kaj la du aliaj ĉambroj estos destinitaj por Esperantistoj kiuj venas viziti nian vilaĝon en Nepalo. Tie la gastoj povas resti senpage kaj ricevi la gastamecon de mia familio kaj aliaj personoj.'

Por kontribui vizitu [youcaring.com/bikram-adhikary-and-family-363442](http://youcaring.com/bikram-adhikary-and-family-363442)

**How nice to see Eric Walker still on his Esperanto travels!**

Eric (the originator of Update, by the way) was a pioneer in Esperanto travel, taking people from our part of the world beyond the Iron Curtain. He's currently revisiting old friends in the company of Hecate Waters. Hecate informs me that they were greeted in Wrocław by Grazyna Mitchener (who served as an EAB trustee alongside Eric), spent some time there in the company of old friends, and met some new ones, in the form of Bogdan and Eva from the local Esperanto group.

They've been pampered in the local spa town of Polanica-Zdrój, which Eric heartily recommends: "Ĉi tiu urbeto estas kuraĉloko. Apude estas alia kun la nomo Duszyni, kie okazos septembre esperanto-feriado. La polaj esperantistoj ege volas, ke britoj estu bonvenaj. Kontaktu Bogdan por detaloj." So, contact us if you're interested and we'll get Bogdan's details from Eric.

Thank you, Eric — it's a joy to read that you're still getting so much from your decision decades ago to learn Esperanto!



## EDUCATIONAL COURSES

### SOMERA FESTIVALO

**Our five-day residential course takes place at Shallowford House, Staffordshire from August 24<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Tutors:** Jack Warren & Paul Gubbins  
**Cost:** £295.20

A week of fun, study and immersion in Esperanto, which has run for over half a century.

If you haven't been before, you'll love Shallowford House. There are comfortable rooms and delicious food, served by friendly staff in a beautiful country house. Outside are extensive gardens which include a croquet lawn. Just down the road is the home of Izaak Walton, the angler. Further afield are the rolling countryside and windswept moorland of Staffordshire, an area of England as individual as the Dolomites or the Loire Valley.

Our intermediate and advanced courses allow anyone who already knows some Esperanto to take part. Classes are small and one-to-one help is readily available.

You may prefer to plan your own holiday at Shallowford. You also have the option of attending evening events, which include lectures and an entertainment evening, all in Esperanto, of course. There are regular tea and coffee breaks so you won't go thirsty for long; and downstairs

there's a bar with real ale and the chance to practise the language you've learnt during the day.

To book your place or get more information either contact the office or visit [espinfo.org/sf](http://espinfo.org/sf).

### LERNU / LERNU PLU

**Our beginners' and post-beginners' courses from Esperanto House will take place on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Tutors:** Malcolm Jones & Tim Owen  
**Cost:** £17 (including VAT)

This is our second session from Esperanto House this year, following a successful trial earlier this year. You'll be surrounded by Esperanto heritage in a convivial atmosphere and have the opportunity to use the bookshop.

This is deliberately set up to be a very cheap course to attend. You'll pay £17 for the event, which will cover a light buffet lunch on both days plus all daytime refreshments. In the evening we'll eat at a local pub, with students paying for their own food and drink.

The tuition itself is provided free by EAB. However, the cost doesn't include accommodation, which students will be responsible for themselves. We recommend the Trentham Travelodge, about 2.5 miles away.

EAB can organise a taxi to pick up

students in the mornings and drop them off in the evenings. The cost for four trips usually breaks down to £5-8 per person.

To book your place or get more information either contact the office or visit [espinfo.org/lernu](http://espinfo.org/lernu).

### DRONDO

**Okazos du disaj sesioj de nia paroliga kurso—unu en Sheffield kaj la dua en Londono.**

La celo estas paroligi homojn, eĉ se tiuj ne estas tre spertaj. Se vi povus frazumi en Esperanto, ni helpas al vi pli profunde paroli kaj kuraĝigos vin provi pli.

**Gvidanto:** Tim Owen

**Datoj:** 10a de oktobro, (Sheffield) | 24a de oktobro (Londono)

**Kie:** The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW (Sheffield) | Central YMCA Club, 112 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3NQ (London)

**Horoj:** 11a ĝis la 17a

**Kosto:** £12 (Sheffield, inkluzivas trinkaĵojn) | £10 (Londono, sen trinkaĵoj)

Ni diskutos la sekvajn temojn: La Eŭropa Unio - Ĉu ni restos? (kaj eble ion pri homaj rajtoj) | Ĉu vi volus centjariĝi? | La nacia balotado en 2015 - Ĉu reformiga? | Esperantistoj kiujn mi tre admiras.

Por mendi lokon aŭ kontaktu la oficejon, aŭ vizitu [espinfo.org/drondo-sheffield](http://espinfo.org/drondo-sheffield) aŭ [espinfo.org/drondo-londono](http://espinfo.org/drondo-londono).

# NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES' WORKING WEEKEND

**The freshly elected trustees convened recently at Esperanto House for their working weekend. Paul Dennett and Ian Carter were very welcome new additions.**

Since Paul and Ian were both new, Clare Hunter provided an induction presentation to start the meeting. I've a feeling that this was handy for the rest of us too, underlining what our legal responsibilities are and presenting to us details about the charity's finances.

We then followed our conventional agenda, trustees reporting on their areas of responsibility. This can sometimes be a little dry but it's important that everybody be informed about things that are going on and how people are proceeding with project work. It also provides a stimulus for open discussion, and the arrival of our two new colleagues meant that new ideas were brought to the table.

## BUTLER LIBRARY

The chief area of discussion was the library, it being the centrepiece of our heritage. You might recall from the AGM that one of our members, Brian Bishop, had drawn up a resolution asking us to look into ways of assuring the preservation of the library and its contents. We also feel that it's incumbent on EAB to take responsibility in this area, and so we went into quite detailed talks about what the steps to do so might involve.

The unanimous conclusion at which we arrived was that for such a massive undertaking as this (the library comprises some 18,000 items), it would be necessary to buy in some professional advice. So that's what we'll be doing, investing in the library even if this should entail deficit-spending, as well it might.

I was delighted, by the way, at the end of a tiring first day to receive confirmation from Paul Dennett that he was happy to be parachuted into the currently daunting role of trustee responsible for the library. And so that's his place, and he's been in communication with Brian Bishop and Geoffrey King since. Geoffrey has been our honorary librarian for the last 30 years and is looking for a successor.

There were more library-related updates too, not least the arrival of the Yorkshire Federation's book collection. Undoubtedly most of these will be duplicates of existing stock, as has been the case in several other large donations which we've received over the past couple of years. So keep an eye on eBay during the next year; there could well be a copy of something you've been looking for!

## EDUCATION

We held a post mortem on why we were unable to successfully run an exam session in Brighton, given that EAB itself was paying the bill so that participation would be costless, and we had advertised it across all of our media. I don't know that we reached a concrete conclusion, but some of the points we suggested were that lots of people who might have

taken an exam had already done so, others might not have seen the attraction (do you really need confirmation that you can speak Esperanto to level B2 when you've been using the language for 50 years?) or wouldn't sit an exam when there was something else to do. And, of course, there's the factor that though EAB might have covered the cost of the exam, travelling to Brighton and staying in accommodation wasn't free. Well, except for those younger people whom I approached personally about paying their costs to attend the entire conference via a NoJEF travel grants. Still no interest, nor in the conference itself.

So we explored ideas, led by the fresh blood among us, to work around these difficulties. One of our projects for the future is to work out ways for people to take exams with us but with the minimum of intrusion to them too.

More positively, I fed back from our first session of *Lernu* and *Lernu Plu*, which we held at Esperanto House earlier this year. The people who attended all indicated they would come back if we ran the courses more often as part of a series, and so the trustees agreed that we would set out the office to double as a classroom just as we have the library, involving ceiling-mounted projectors and retractable screens. That's now set up and so we'll be running the second installment of this series in August, with more to come.

Angela Tellier, our co-ordinator for research and development, Skyped into the meeting and presented a solid overview of her activity. Immediately following the meeting she started work on a project *In Living Memory*, in which she interviews some of our long-time and eminent members about aspects of the Esperanto world during their lives. I'm eager to read the finished version!

## STAFFING

During her session, Clare Hunter reminded us that she would be unable to continue in her role because of exacting work hours. (I live with Clare and can attest. During the conference week she worked until midnight on the Wednesday and Thursday, worked on the train on her way to Brighton (whilst supposedly on holiday) and then worked in our hotel room until late, so missed out on the conference anyway.) We know that finding a replacement will be next to impossible; Joyce Bunting was looking for a replacement as long ago as 1995 but repeatedly had to do "one more year" until Clare took over in 2011. It's not as simple as swapping one person with another, unfortunately; Clare's a professional and saves the charity thousands because she does work herself which we'd normally have to pay a firm to do, and doesn't need to buy in expensive advice. And the role needs a special kind of diligence anyway.

During the AGM a couple of members, acknowledging how heavy my own workload is, raised the question of paying somebody to carry out much of it. That

would be the preferred way to run things — trustees aren't supposed to be free workers, especially to this degree. We think a solution might well be to buy in somebody's services to take on not only much of what I currently do, but also lots of the every-day tasks that fall to Clare, leaving her with the expert ones. We need to look further into our options here (how many days a week? what skills are needed besides fluency in Esperanto?) but do think it's sensible to investigate this option.

## CONFERENCE 2016

During the AGM we entertained some discussion about the future of our conferences, given that days of local federations taking turns to organise them are long over. It was clear from the discussion that people on balance wanted them to continue, although we didn't receive any concrete proposals. (Sorry, but a suggestion to "hold it in x" isn't a proposal to *run* the event. Picking a town isn't the challenge.)

The trustees discussed this at our working weekend and decided that we should continue to hold the event, and so Viv and I will team up again to hold 2016's.

I was hoping to be able to reveal the details in this issue of Update: The date is set, the town is set, the graphics are prepared. Unfortunately, our preferred venue is currently far, far too expensive to hire (think what the kotizo has been for the last few conferences and then double it - that's the impact of the hire cost) but we think there's room for negotiation, so we've not given up on it yet. (We have a second venue lined up as well if this preferred option fails, don't worry!)

So, even though we can't give the full details at press time, please take away that there will be a conference in 2016. People who follow our online media will find out the details a few minutes after we've confirmed the venue. For the rest of you, we'll publish them in the next Update. (Some of you might even be able to work out the town from the logo below.)

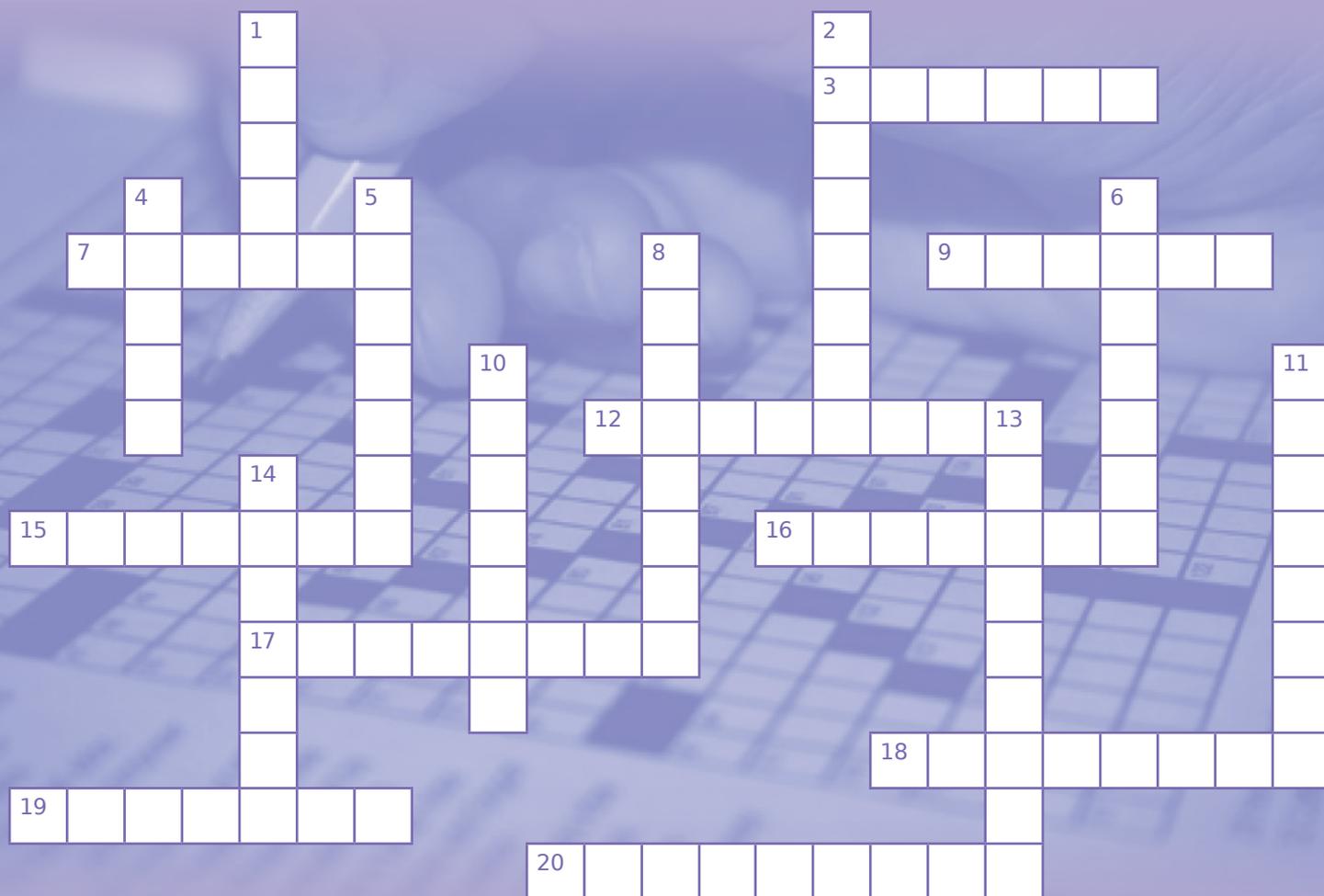


## AND A WARM WELCOME TO ...

Edward Paul Gubbins Mason, who very kindly decided to stay where he was for a couple of weeks longer than he was supposed to so that his grandfather (guess who!) was able to be in attendance to chair the AGM and this meeting. Congratulations to Paul on the promotion and welcome, young man, to the world!

Por ĉiu eldono de Update **Jack Warren** preparas 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: ARKITEKTURO



### HORIZONTALE

3 - duonronda ekstremo de preĝejo, 7 - vertikala subtenilo, 9 - partigas fenestron horizontale, 12 - kanaletto kun vizaĝaĉo, 15 - tie apartamentloĝanto sidas subsune, 16 - spaco super pordo, 17 - elstara parto de fortikaĵo, 18 - videblas sub preĝejo, 19 - zigzaga ornamaĵo, 20 - spaco en muro de fortikaĵo

### VERTIKALE

1 - kovraĵo sur plafono aŭ brikmuro, 2 - tegmento kun duparta deklivo, 4 - arkoforma plafono, 5 - kronas ekz. muron aŭ arkon, 6 - eniro sub tegmento, 8 - orta kolono elstaranta antaŭ muro, 10 - supra ejo ene aŭ ekstere, 11 - ĉeranda mureto, ekz. sur ponto, 13 - ŝirmas fruktarbojn dumvintre, 14 - subtenas trabon

Respondoj al la antaŭa krucenigmo

Horizontale: 2 ĉapelo, 4 fulardo, 6 rimenkalsoneto, 9 mantelo, 10 ĉapo, 12 antaŭtuko, 13 ĝinzo, 14 veŝto, 16 jako, 18 naĝkostumo, 20 pulovero

Vertikale: 1 kompleto, 3 pantalonoj, 5 pelerino, 7 gantoj, 8 zono, 12 ŝtrumpoj, 17 kasko, 15 korseto, 19 jupo

### NEW MEMBERS

Mr A Hywel-Jones - Twickenham  
Louise Thompson - Birmingham  
Samantha Poynter - Newport  
Nina Shrewsbury - Chichester  
Jon McLeod - Kirkham

### DECEASED MEMBERS

Stefan Dung - Chesterfield  
Bernice Scott - Sible Hedingham  
William McDougal - Hornchurch

### COMPLETED THE FREE POSTAL COURSE

Karen Doku - London  
Russell Jenkins - Nottingham  
Ian Stephenson - London  
Mark Ockenden  
Graham Axtell - East Sussex  
Simon Whiteley - North Yorkshire

### KATE HALL

**Trista novaĵo atingis nin de Heleno Fantom, kiu estas de longe amikino de Kate.**

Kate ekde iom da tempo estas mal-sana je kancero kaj havas nur kelkajn restantajn monatojn da vivo.

Kvankam ŝi ne aŭdas telefone, Kate bone legas, do iu dezirante kontakti ŝin faru bonvole skribe al:

Dr K Hall,  
Room 4, Brian Lewis House,  
80 St Clements, Oxford, OX4 1AW