



# The official newsletter of the Esperanto Association of Britain UPDATE

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Update is published four times a year and complements the Esperanto-only magazine *La Brita Esperantisto*

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## Happy new year, happy new Update

*With a new look comes a new editor*

After a decade's service at the helm of Update, Geoffrey Sutton asked to take a thoroughly deserved retirement. Update under Geoffrey was a periodical that "looked the part" and has often been placed in front of the eyes of the public at expositions such as the Language Show as an example of what we do well, and I would like to take this opportunity to relay our gratitude to Geoffrey for his commitment over the years.

recently returned LBE, Paul Gubbins having taken over the editor's seat from the retired William Auld. The question of whether to amalgamate Update with LBE was raised then, although this option wasn't explored, as far as I know.

### **Distinction between Update and LBE**

The changing of editor has put us in a convenient position to revisit the question of how LBE and Update should differ from each other or whether they should be merged into one. The trustees have given this thought and decided to continue publishing *both* but draw distinct lines between them.

Starting with the current issue Update will reoccupy its original role, that of a newsletter. It will be mostly in English, although we'll make sensible exceptions for things such as information from UEA. It will predominantly look forwards, making you aware of forthcoming events and alerting you to things that are in the works, or bring recent news, as well as reports from recent meetings of the trustees. *La Brita Esperantisto*, meanwhile, will remain exclusively an Esperanto publication and will mostly look backwards, reporting on events that have already taken place.

There will inevitably be instances when these restrictions don't hold, but broadly this is what we're aiming for: Update - a newsletter in English keeping you informed about future events and operational issues, coming out four times a year; LBE - a twice-yearly magazine in Esperanto mainly reporting on things that have already happened.

We trust that you will continue to enjoy receiving Update and hope that you join us in wishing Viv well in her new role. She and I are both still learning how to use the software for producing Update, so we hope you'll understand if things aren't perfect this time around.

Ĝis Sheffield!

**Tim Owen**



Geoffrey Sutton at the 50th anniversary of EAB's Somera Festivalo

Stepping into the role of editing Update is Viv O'Dunne, EAB's Director of Operations & Events since signing a new contract with us last year. Viv's role and responsibilities have steadily expanded since she started working with us when we originally opened Esperanto House and she now sits in on meetings of the trustees and is often included in internal correspondence. Adding this management knowledge to her familiarity with the everyday operations makes Viv, we feel, very well placed to edit Update, since she's not reliant on other people to inform her of what's going on.

### **An update on Update!**

At the time of its inception Update was "an occasional newsletter from the Honorary Secretary". It was launched by Eric Walker in December 1998, who produced it for 20 issues until deciding to move on, at which point Geoffrey received the editorship in April 2003. Within two years of its introduction Update grew from a 4-page newsletter to something much lengthier, plugging the gap left when William Auld, editor of our chief periodical *La Brita Esperantisto*, became ill and was unable to publish it. Geoffrey noted in his first issue the similarities between what Update had become in the absence of LBE and the



Viv O'Dunne talking with Graham Blakey

Laŭ decido de la Estraro de UEA, la 99-a Universala Kongreso en Bonaero, Argentino, traktos la temon "Ĉu la nepoj nin benos? Streboj al daŭripova estonteco". Interalie, tiu temo markos la finon de la Monda Jardeko de Edukado por Daŭripova Evoluo (2005-2014), sub aŭspicio de Unesko. Detaloj pri la Universala Kongreso troviĝas ĉe ĝia retpaĝaro [esperanto.org.ar/uk2014](http://esperanto.org.ar/uk2014) aŭ ĉe Viv en la oficejo.

## EAB on eBay

**Esperanto books from under £1**

There are no second-hand books listed in this issue of Update. We usually list a dozen or so in each issue and on average we probably sell two or three per issue, equating to sales of only twelve per year.

It doesn't take a mathematician to calculate that if we gain around 10 boxes of donated books per year and we only sell 12, we're going to be surrounded by books very soon.

In September last year I trialled the online auction site eBay as a place to sell our books. This has been hugely successful. We've been able to make lots of room in the ever-expanding library and we've also been able to promote Esperanto to a new audience.

Since September, we have sold nearly 200 books and generated an income of over £1,000. What's even more important is that we're engaging with people outside the association. Every new customer in the UK gets a membership form, a "Discover Esperanto" booklet, details of the courses that EAB offers, the first lesson of our free correspondence course and a free mini-dictionary.

Please do have a look at the books currently on sale under our account at [espinfo.org/eBay](http://espinfo.org/eBay). All our books have a starting price of 99p or less and we charge postage at cost price. Please do tell us if there's a particular title that you'd like to buy; we can always check whether we have a copy in stock or keep an eye out for it in the near future.

Reading has never been so affordable!



# "I would love to welcome you to the committee"

## Paul Gubbins invites members to consider becoming trustees

At the British congress in Ramsgate I succeeded John Wells as president of the Esperanto Association of Britain. The ensuing months have resulted in a steep but pleasurable learning curve as I discover as an inside activist, rather than an outside observer, how the association functions on a day-to-day basis.

My learning has been greatly assisted by the expertise, professionalism and, I think, the patience of the small but dedicated group of trustees comprising the association's management committee. I pay tribute to them: without them the association would be much less able to achieve its fundamental aim of supporting the international language in this country which, in turn, would render my role as president much more onerous.

Nevertheless they too require support. I therefore appeal to association members to join the management committee to help share the tasks that need to be done. Many hands make light work, and extra hands would assist those now charged with overseeing financial matters, publicity, the library, the website, education, congresses, and making sure that the necessary paperwork required by law (for instance for the annual meeting) reaches members in time.

No specific skills are needed. What is required, as well as a readiness to assist in the operation of the association, is common sense. There is no shortage of that in the Esperanto movement: Esperanto is founded on sense and reason and its wider aims and objectives reflect these. I would like to



think the management committee able to tap into the good sense that abounds in the movement and I hope members will give serious consideration to joining.

Trustees, clearly, bear a financial responsibility in that they act as guarantors that association monies are spent in accordance with the aims of the charity. Risk to trustees is minimised in that the association works in accordance with the guidelines of the Charity Commission and seeks advice from external sources whenever necessary. In this way, provided the association can be seen to act prudently, trustees are shielded from the charge of acting in any way negligently.

The committee meets four times a year: at the annual congress in spring, in Barlaston in summer, via Skype in autumn and in London in the winter. Communication is maintained at other times by email.

If you think you might be willing to become a trustee and help Esperanto in this way, and if you have want further information about

what is involved, please do not hesitate to ring me on 01260 274575 (evenings are generally the best time). Alternatively I can be reached via email on paul@gubbins.org.uk, and the contact details for my fellow trustees are available from Viv or espinfo.org/trustees.

Please give this serious thought. I would love to be able to welcome you to the committee at our annual meeting in Sheffield.

**Paul Gubbins**

**To become a candidate for trusteeship you must return the enclosed nomination form, signed by yourself and your two proposers. Both you and they must be fully paid-up members of the association at the time of signing.**

**Nominations forms will be accepted electronically or in paper format posted to Esperanto House, providing they arrive by the end of the deadline day, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This is also the deadline for resolutions for the AGM, which takes place in Sheffield at this year's conference.**

## From the Trustees' September meeting

The trustees met again by Skype on the 21st of September. All six committee members were present, and Viv was also in attendance as minute-taker. The technology worked very satisfactorily and we agreed to meet again by Skype in October 2014, thus saving the Trustees time and the Association money compared with the alternative of travelling to London.

In his Secretary's Report, Tim Owen updated us on the latest news from Barlaston, JEB and NoJEF, and told us about his meeting with Erin Piatetski from the "Lernu!" team during Somera Festivalo. Lernu! are keen

to collaborate with EAB and EAB will be using their name for our beginners' course at Shallowford House in March. It was also acknowledged that we should book and advertise the "Somera Festivalo" earlier and more effectively in 2014 and so the location was booked immediately following the meeting. We confirmed that EAB members should pay less for attending the British Congress and our events, which is why henceforth you will notice two prices quoted.

Clare Hunter, as Treasurer, reported on our investments and other financial matters. She

## Free copy of Esperanto

To celebrate the arrival of new editor Fabrício Valle, UEA has made a copy of his first edition of Esperanto available for download free of charge.



The magazine comes out eleven times a year and is available in both electronic and paper formats to UEA members. Download your copy at [uea.org/revuo](http://uea.org/revuo).

also led a brief discussion on the proposed amendments to EAB's Constitution, to be voted on at the AGM in Sheffield and about which you will read in the next issue of Update.

Viv O'Dunne then updated us on some matters relating to our office and the surrounding site in Barlaston. She has recently set up an eBay account for selling second-hand Esperanto books with hopes of not only getting books out of the office and into people's homes but also using it as a promotional opportunity.

Ed Robertson reported on Education, including the plans for a KER exam session in Britain, and we then discussed Angela Tellier's report on Research and her two books, which have both since been published: "Esperanto as a starter language for child second-language learners in the primary school" and "Dr John Buchanan - an Esperanto legacy to the University of Liverpool".

I reported on some Publishing activities: the printing of "Buchanan" and the publishing of Claude Piron's books on EAB's web site. I've started appraising some commercial scanning companies, but also hope that we can use volunteers for scanning and converting books.

Michael Seaton took us through his Library report, describing progress in converting the catalogue, setting up Koha (an online catalogue system), sorting through donated books, and installing new shelving.

At the end of the meeting we discussed whether to re-join Eŭropa Esperanto-Unio, following an earlier decision not to pay our membership fee, about which we originally informed our members during the 2012 AGM. We concluded that we would not re-join EEU, a story that has in the meantime attracted the attention of some Esperanto online journalists.

The next meeting of EAB's Management Committee will be in London on February 8. If there's anything you particularly feel we should discuss, please get in touch.

**Edmund Grimley Evans**

# EAB courses in spring and beyond

We're running our first residential courses of the year a little later than usually in 2014. They take place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of March at Shallowford House. We welcomed Erin Piatieski from the Lernu! Team to be our guest tutor at the 2013 Somera Festivalo and to maintain and benefit further from this partnership we have rebranded our traditional beginners' residential weekend. Course-you-Can will now be known as Lernu!, and we'll be working with the team to cross-promote the event to and make it known to their own members who would otherwise not hear of it.

## Lernu!

Malcolm Jones will be our tutor for the inaugural Lernu! course and EAB will be providing a substantial subsidy to students wanting to participate. **This year the Lernu! course is excellent value at only £99 for the entire programme.** Students who have completed EAB's Free Correspondence Course or the "Elementary...!" Esperanto course will be able to reduce this fee further as they are entitled to a £25 subsidy on completion. The course is suitable for complete beginners, people part-way through, or completers of any starter course.

The ever-popular Drondo will be led, as usual, by Ed Robertson and Tim Owen. The

discussions are held entirely in Esperanto for fluent speakers or people aiming for fluency. Amongst the themes for discussion are: Chelsea Manning kaj fajfilo-blovado; hidraŭlika frakasado (la nova maniero havigi el roko tergason kaj nafton); ĉu oni reformigu anglalingvan literumadon?; ĉu en kelkaj



landoj UEA rifuzu starigi Universalan Kongreson?

The fees for the Drondo course are **£140 for EAB members and £150 otherwise.**

If you'd like to secure a place on either course, please send a non-refundable deposit of £50 to the office. Pay by cheque, online or by phone, and then send the balance at least three weeks before the start of the course. All meals, tutor fees, accommodation and refreshments are included in the price. If you aren't able to make it on the Friday evening, don't let that deter you; please feel free to join us on Saturday morning.

Springtime at Shallowford could be your opportunity to spring into Esperanto study again. We hope to see you there!

### Summer Festival 2014

We're delighted to announce that Jack Warren has agreed to organise the 54th Esperanto Summer Festival. The annual residential course will take place at Shallowford House, Staffordshire from Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 2014. The programme and special guest speaker are still under discussion, but please do add this date to your diary.

The cost of the course to members of EAB is £234. This includes all tuition, accommodation, meals and refreshments. For non-members the cost of the course is £260. To reserve a place, please contact Viv or Emma in the office.

*And don't forget that we'll also be in Sheffield for the Congress!*



## Esperanto events: January—March

### The Liverpool Esperanto Circle:

The Liverpool Esperanto Circle will meet at a central Liverpool location on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, the 15<sup>th</sup> of February and the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

For further details of this and other planned events, please see their Facebook page [espinfo.org/liverpoola-rondo](http://espinfo.org/liverpoola-rondo).

### Esperanto in Cardiff:

The Esperanto in Cardiff group will meet at the Prince of Wales pub for "rakontoj pri la jarfinaj festoj" on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. The group will meet again on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at the same venue for "instruu al ni ion".

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March the group will meet at Zero Degrees, Cardiff for "trinkado de manga biero", something of a speciality in this restaurant which doubles as a microbrewery.

For full details visit their website [esperantocardiff.wordpress.com](http://esperantocardiff.wordpress.com).

### The South Lancashire Esperanto Group:

SLEG will meet at The Crown pub, Birkdale on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and then again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. For details see [esperanto.99k.org](http://esperanto.99k.org).

### New members

John Ancliffe from Scunthorpe

Raymond Hewitt from Leigh

Rev Thomas MacCarte from Perth

Dr Mark Appleton from Hemel Hempstead

### Deceased members

Kady Potter from Hythe

### Completed the Elementary...! Course

Jean Jamieson from Falkirk

Mark Sterrick from Bathgate

## Use meetup.com to meet other Esperantists

### Birmingham pilot now available to other parts of the country

Since March 2013 we have met five times in The Shakespeare pub in Birmingham to chat in Esperanto. We don't have a formal meeting; there is no programme, no particular topic to discuss, we just chat in Esperanto over a drink.

People come and go during the 2 or 3 hours that we are there and often we get visitors from abroad. So far we have had Italian, Russian, German and French Esperanto-speakers, some resident in this country others just passing through.

We welcome beginners and are encouraging Lernu students to come too. It's been a pleasant surprise just how many local people have attended so far.



Participants in one of the Birmingham get-togethers organised on [meetup.com/Esperanto-UK](http://meetup.com/Esperanto-UK)

Since the successful launch of this pilot here in the West Midlands EAB has agreed to continue paying for our account on [meetup.com](http://meetup.com) and to expand it to anyone in the UK. The account has now been renamed [meetup.com/Esperanto-UK](http://meetup.com/Esperanto-UK) to reflect this.

Please feel welcome to contact me if you want to try arranging a meet-up in your area. All you need is a date, time and place and we can advertise it on the website. You can get in touch with me by email on [john.gobourne@btpopenworld.com](mailto:john.gobourne@btpopenworld.com) or by telephone on 01902 753768.

**John Gobourne**

**The Circle, Sheffield—Easter weekend, 2014**

The 95<sup>th</sup> British Esperanto Congress will take place from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of April and emanates from The Circle, Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW. Jack Warren is the chief organiser and is well known to the Esperanto community in the UK, not least because he runs our annual Somera Festivalo.

Progress on the final programme is well underway and we're pleased to announce that the main speaker this year is Chuck Smith, an American living in Berlin, and he will give three presentations. Chuck founded the Esperanto version of Wikipedia (Wikipedio) in 2001, he's a co-founder of the first Esperanto social network, Amikumu, and is currently working on an Esperanto job-search website.

Accompanying Chuck will be further guest speakers from overseas, including Renato Corsetti (former president of UEA), Anna Löwenstein (author of *La ŝtona urbo and Morto de artisto*), and Judith Meyer (a speaker of eleven languages who is currently organising the 2014 *Polyglot Gathering* in Berlin and who will give a presentation on "Language Learning using free resources").

There are two different types of congress fee, a standard ticket and an upgraded version. The upgraded ticket adds a light lunch on the Saturday and Sunday. EAB members receive a discount as part of their membership, so the standard ticket for EAB

## Three-day languages event in Liverpool

**Make a note in your diaries to explore Esperanto in Liverpool from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of March at the Buchanan Masterclass**

The University of Liverpool will host a three-day event comprising seminars in literature, the language and Esperanto culture. The strands on culture will take place on the second day of the seminars (Thursday) and will be held in Esperanto. Other sessions, for instance literature, will take place in English. EAB's Paul Gubbins will lead the literature strands and will be joined by fellow EAB members Hilary Chapman, Malcolm Jones and Geoffrey Greatrex.

The event is structured so that participants will be able to switch between the culture and literature strands. The event is aimed primarily at Liverpool university students but others are more than welcome to take their first steps in discovering Esperanto language and culture.

The Esperanto seminar will suit those learning via the internet or postal courses

who wish to hear and speak the language with others at their level. You can see a detailed programme of what's on offer in the booklet accompanying this issue of Update.

Anyone interested in attending should book their place at [espinfo.org/book-masterclass](http://espinfo.org/book-masterclass). The cost of the three-day event is £40, or £20 for students. It's possible to attend on Thursday only for £20 too.

Contact the office to receive further information or see the relevant page at [espinfo.org/masterclass-liverpool](http://espinfo.org/masterclass-liverpool).

The event is supported by the John Buchanan bequest. Angela Tellier's book "Dr John Buchanan – an Esperanto legacy to the University of Liverpool" is available from the EAB bookshop. Visit [espinfo.org/buchanan-libro](http://espinfo.org/buchanan-libro) for more details about it.

members is £39 (compared to £49 for non-members) and the upgraded ticket £50 (versus £60 for non-members). Overseas visitors and people under 25 pay £25 for the standard ticket and £36 for the upgrade.

In addition to the main congress are a communal meal at Platillos tapas restaurant (a five-minute walk from the venue) and a day trip on the Monday to Brodsworth Hall. Both of these are optional extras which cost £20.50 and £20 respectively.

The website [britakongreso.org](http://britakongreso.org) provides more detail on the speakers, details local hotels, and links to the websites of Platillos and Brodsworth Hall, and you can sign up for the event and optional extras at [britakongreso.org/sign-up](http://britakongreso.org/sign-up). If you have any questions or can't sign up online, contact the office and we'll do what we can to help you.

## Magazine subscriptions for 2014

Annual subscriptions are available for a range of Esperanto publications. All of them are available in paper format and will be posted. *Monato* and *La Ondo* are also available in electronic formats, which have the advantage of costing less money and arriving earlier.

If you would like to subscribe to any of them, please feel free to contact Viv and ask for help.

<b>Monato</b> (Airmail £50, surface mail £46, email £26.40)	Magazine presenting international current affairs; its reports of events are written in the countries where they occur. 32p per issue, 11 issues per year.
<b>La Ondo de Esperanto</b> (Airmail £40, surface mail £36, email £11)	Magazine presenting items of general and socio-cultural interest, with a focus on Russia and its Esperanto movement but also taking an international perspective. 20p per issue, 11 issues per year.
<b>Kontakto</b> (£21)	The magazine "in Esperanto but not about Esperanto" published by TEJO with topics of interest for young Esperantists; 6 issues per year. (Under-30s get this free as part of their membership of UEA if they're in the categories UEA-MJ or UEA-MA.)
<b>La Gazeto</b> (£25.50)	An international cultural magazine, concerning every fundamental aspect of civilisations and cultures that are relevant to the Esperanto world-view. 32p per issue, 6 issues per year.
<b>La Jaro</b> (£8)	A pocket diary for the year, incorporating a mini-encyclopaedia listing details (statistics, national holidays, capital city, dialling code etc) of every country. 1 issue per year.
<b>Juna Amiko</b> (£14)	A magazine for young Esperantists who already know the basics of Esperanto; easily-understood material presented in a simple and clear style. 32-36p per issue, 4 issues per year.
<b>La KancerKliniko</b> (£23)	Magazine presenting an 'alternative', satirical and irreverent view of Esperanto culture and community. 28p per issue, 4 issues per year.

## UEA 2014

The UK provided UEA with 124 members in 2013, making it the eighth-best represented of the 123 countries which had UEA members.

It's time now to sign up again for 2014. We give you below the most common membership categories. Please note that there is a new one (MG, Membro kun Gvidlibro) which is much cheaper than the others but which provides only the *electronic* version of *Revuo*, not the paper one.

You can sign up to UEA on UEA's website or by getting in touch with Viv.

UEA-MG (£9): Handbook "Gvidlibro tra la Esperanto-movado", the online version of the *revuo Esperanto* (11 issues per year), and membership of UEA.

UEA-MJ (£22): Jarlibro, the online version of the *revuo Esperanto* (11 issues per year), and membership of UEA. If you're under 30 years old, *Kontakto* (6 issues per year) too.

UEA-MA (£54): Jarlibro, the paper version of the *revuo Esperanto* (11 issues per year), and membership of UEA. Members under 30 years old will receive the TEJO magazine *Kontakto* (6 issues per year) too.

UEA-SZ (£108): Membership of Societo Zamenhof, providing financial support to UEA.