

# **ESPERANTO-ASOCIO DE BRITIO**

**Registered Charity no: 272676**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017**

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2017. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the international language Esperanto in the furtherance of international communication without discrimination, and of the natural right of all people and peoples, their languages and cultures, to be treated equally.

In setting objectives and planning activities, the trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The main activities undertaken by the charity during the year to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit are detailed below:

- Holding free weekend courses for beginner and post-beginner learners of Esperanto at our headquarters, so that students can take their first steps into Esperanto in a quiet and friendly environment where they will be surrounded by Esperanto's cultural heritage and have the opportunity to purchase books.
- Distributing free of charge or at cost price educational materials to beginners at our events.
- Supporting learners who had graduated from our on-site courses by running an affordable single-day course in London aimed at an intermediate level.
- Running a free weekend course at Esperanto House to provide more experienced learners with the opportunity to study Esperanto and its literature.
- Operating a book service so that people have easy access to learning materials and Esperanto literature.
- Providing free courses accessible via email and post with experienced Esperanto teachers, as well as the option to undergo assessment in the form of examinations.
- Investing in the Butler Library in order to preserve Esperanto's cultural heritage and provide a research facility for study.
- Encouraging members to participate in local meet-ups and paying the costs of online accounts to promote these meetings.
- Maintaining a website up to date with information for enquirers and details of events around the country, as well as larger international ones.
- Presenting Esperanto to the general public through attendance at language events.
- Arranging, hosting and subsidising an annual conference, the central gathering-point for Esperanto-speakers in this country.
- Cross-promoting with other providers of education in Esperanto, such as Duolingo and lernu.net.

# ESPERANTO-ASOCIO DE BRITIO

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017 (continued)

### A REVIEW OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### Education

- We held our free Lernu and Lernu Plu weekend educational courses for beginners and post-beginners at Esperanto House in March, July and September 2017. These proved extremely successful, with 36 attendees in total across the three dates. Feedback was extremely positive across the board, both from the students and the teachers.
- Somerlernejo took place at Esperanto House during August. Jack Warren and Hilary Chapman each took a strand to ensure coverage for people at different levels of capability in Esperanto. 11 people attended.
- Learners at our weekend courses were given free educational books (John Wells's dictionary, the vocabulary builder "First Thousand Words in Esperanto") and were offered others at cost price in order to promote learning. They were encouraged to help themselves to beneficial but slow-moving second-hand books without charge and offered others at very good prices.
- Our account on ebay is regularly updated with second-hand books and finds people who otherwise would have no contact with us, getting used books out of storage and to people who want to read them. We now shift a greater volume of books by ebay than our bookshop and conferences do combined.
- Education trustee Ed Robertson continued to be one of the chief contributors to the Esperanto course on Duolingo, which surpassed one million learners within 30 months of launching.
- We sponsored a session of the Esperanto CEFR examinations organised by Renato Corsetti in London in June 2017. Seven candidates were all successful and refunded £50 towards the cost of registering for the exams, an offer made in order to encourage participation.
- Our taster courses and examinations continued to have a steady uptake.
- We provided promotional help and financial support towards a successful one-day event in Conwy.

# ESPERANTO-ASOCIO DE BRITIO

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017 (continued)

### Publicity, advertising and marketing

- EAB had a prominent presence at the International Language Festival which took place at the University of Sheffield in October 2017. Ian Carter gave taster classes in Esperanto during the weekend. The charity provided financial support to the International Students' Union Committee in order for them to run the event. The students wear the charity's logo on their hoodies.
- Tim Morley gave an Esperanto taster session at the Language Show in London, following an invitation from the event's organisers for EAB to participate.
- The charity sponsored the Polyglot Gathering and thus were entitled to distribute Esperanto promotional material to the assembled language enthusiasts. The organisers publicly acknowledged that without the charity's support, it would not have been possible for them to make Esperanto so visible. The event was attended by 458 individuals, including prominent opinion leaders from the world of language learning.
- We have continued to fund the use of an Esperanto account on the site meetup.com, with the intention of facilitating the organisation of regular get-togethers and providing people with opportunities to speak Esperanto with others. We have added accounts for Manchester, London and Reading this year, and have encouraged other local groups to follow this model in Update.
- Work has continued on renovating EAB's web presence, with the intention of building a suite of different applications. Whilst the main suite remains under development, specialist one-off pages have been created and used to promote the charity's courses and events to a modern audience, and have resulted in the sign-ups to our events of new people who were not members of EAB.
- Our Facebook page now has 1,419 (2016: 1,264) fans, while the Twitter feed has 1,461 (2016: 1,240) followers.
- Tim Owen appeared live on BBC News for the centenary of the death of Ludoviko Zamenhof.
- The charity built webpages promoting Esperanto's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the European Day of Languages.

### Publications

- The charity secured the copyrights for John Wells's and Paul Gubbins's Esperanto work.
- The charity republished the Esperanto version of Marjorie Boulton's *Zamenhof, aŭtoro de Esperanto* in this centenary year. The book had been out of print for decades and is now available at a very competitive price on Amazon.

### British Esperanto Conference

- 61 Esperanto-speakers attended the annual conference in Edinburgh in May 2017. This was a joint event held together with the Scottish Esperanto Association.
- The charity made the conference free to attend for overseas visitors in order to encourage a more international environment for people to practice their Esperanto. Similarly, its invited guest-speakers came from abroad.

# ESPERANTO-ASOCIO DE BRITIO

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017 (continued)

### Butler Library

- We have consulted with external librarians, including the director of the Esperantomuseum in Vienna and Esperantist librarians at the Spanish National Library.
- Kat Newbould, Damon Lord and Tim Owen started work recording the storage location of books in the library.

### Closure of Wedgwood Memorial College

Wedgwood Memorial College, on whose Estoril site the charity has its headquarters, has remained closed throughout the year. The charity has sole use of the Butler Library and three Esperanto bedrooms as well as the Esperanto office in accordance with the terms of its lease, and will continue to enjoy this for the duration of the lease, irrespective of the future of the college.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity continues to be reliant on income and returns from its investments. Additional income is generated from membership subscriptions, book sales, legacies and donations. The unfavourable economic climate has continued to impact the level of the charity's investment income.

### Investment policy and performance

The trustees continue to monitor the performance of the charity's investments on a regular basis.

The charity's constitution states that the trustees have the power to make investments as they see fit. Their duty is to seek adequate income and capital growth. Capital is invested in deposit accounts and unit trusts specifically designed for the charity sector, which are for the greater part socially responsible. The split between asset classes is shown in the notes to the financial statements.

The charity's investments have performed well during the year, mostly outperforming their relevant benchmarks. The Charities Property Fund produced a total yield of 6.60% and has now outperformed the MSCI All Balanced Funds Property Index for 10 consecutive years to June 2017. The COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund produced a gross dividend yield of 3.88% compared to an average of dividend yield of 2.42% from the MSCI World Index over the same period. The COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund has performed in line with expectations, having a gross dividend yield of 3.55% compared to an average yield of 3.72% from MSCI UK IMI index over the same period.

The trustees will continue to monitor the impact of Brexit on the charity's investments over the coming months.

### Membership

Life members = 16 (2016: 17), full members = 295 (2016: 293), family members = 25 (2016: 18), supporters = 21 (2016: 24). Total = 357 (2016: 352).

# ESPERANTO-ASOCIO DE BRITIO

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017 (continued)

### Reserves

Total funds of the charity amounted to £2,215,173 at 31 October 2017. This comprises endowment funds of £77,648, designated funds of £881,102 and unrestricted funds of £1,256,423.

The trustees have agreed a reserves policy which requires reserves to be maintained at a level that, when prudently invested, will generate sufficient income for the charity to continue operating. £20k is currently held on deposit with Scottish Widows and can be accessed with seven days' notice in the event of unforeseen expenditure arising.

### Risk management

The trustees have examined the major internal and external risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to minimise these risks.

### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Organise a joint British and Celtic Esperanto Conference in Aberystwyth in April 2018.
- Launch an overhauled website and continue to further develop our web presence.
- Continue to run free weekend educational courses, including some at Esperanto House and others elsewhere in the country.
- Introduce a new range of free educational courses for intermediate learners and investigate subsidising a visit to Somera Esperanto-Studado in Slovakia for beginners.
- Maintain a regular presence on ebay and update our bookshop offering.
- Publish the *Complete Poetry of Marjorie Boulton*.
- Publish books on paper and electronically.
- Direct more time resources to the library and explore the feasibility of having a team of volunteers to update the catalogue.
- Continue to obtain formal permission for the charity to sublicense the republishing of works by British Esperanto authors who are willing to give such permission to the charity, thus ensuring that it will be possible to republish those works in future.
- Continue to send out relevant information to the public regarding our activities.
- Explore possibilities with the trustees of the Norwich Jubilee Esperanto Foundation (313190) for the two charities to achieve their mutual aims and objectives via closer collaboration.
- Remind the members that the charity cannot function without trustees and make general request for others to think about becoming trustees.

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

EAB is a registered charity, number 272676, and was founded on 13 March 1976. The charity is an unincorporated organisation, governed by a constitution which was last amended on 20 April 2014. Members of the Management Committee (trustees) are elected individually by the Annual General Meeting, to serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. The trustees are incorporated as a body.

The first full committee meeting after the election is a residential planning weekend which incorporates an induction for new trustees.

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid during the year. Details of trustee expenses are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

# ESPERANTO-ASOCIO DE BRITIO

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017 (continued)

### Trustees

The Management Committee are the trustees of the charity. Those who served from 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2017 were:

Ian Carter (President)  
Edmund Grimley Evans (Vice president)  
Clare Hunter (Treasurer)  
Damon Lord (appointed 21 May 2017)  
Ed Robertson  
Geoffrey Greatrex (appointed 21 May 2017, resigned 9 November 2017)  
Geoffrey Sutton (appointed 21 May 2017, resigned 19 November 2017)  
Kat Newbould (appointed 21 May 2017)  
Sally Philips (appointed 21 May 2017)  
Tim Owen (resigned 15 December 2016)

### Staff and volunteers

Staff and key volunteers who assisted the charity during the year were as follows:

**Honorary President:** John Wells | **Director of Operations and Events:** Viv O'Dunne | **Director of Education and Development:** Tim Owen | **Honorary Librarian:** Geoffrey King | **Webmaster:** Bill Walker

### Principal office

Esperanto House, Station Road, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, ST12 9DE.

### Working names

The charity also uses the working names Esperanto Association of Britain, EAB and Esperanto UK.

### Independent examiner

A P Morris of Dains LLP, St John's Court, Wiltell Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9DS.

### Solicitors

Tinsdills, Hays House, 25 Albion Street, Hanley, Staffordshire, ST1 1QF.

### Bankers

Santander, 62 Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 8PE.  
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.  
Barclays, PO Box 738, London, W6 9HY.

## ESPERANTO-ASOCIO DE BRITIO

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017 (continued)

#### TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 3 March 2018 and signed on their behalf by:



Ian Carter  
Trustee



Kathryn Newbould  
Trustee