



The official newsletter of the Esperanto Association of Britain

UPDATE

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

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Hello from HQ

News from Esperanto House

Spring has well and truly arrived and here at Esperanto House we've been busy beavering away through the winter months preparing a range of events to suit everyone. When was the last time you attended an Esperanto event? If you've never done it, I can highly recommend that you do from personal experience!

In early March I attended the annual beginners'/post-beginners' course *Lernu* at Shallowford House here in Staffordshire. Malcolm Jones guided us through two days of intensive Esperanto study, punctuated with meal and break times where the beginners got to mix with the more experienced Esperanto-speakers who were debating the issues of the day at the *Drono* sessions.



Malcolm Jones leading Kash, Viv & Fuchsia in one of the study sessions

I have to say that I benefitted greatly from the experience, so if you don't think that your oral or listening skills are up to it, think again. One of the beginners said to me that she had really enjoyed the experience - new to EAB and new to Esperanto, via one of our books on eBay, she went away with new-found enthusiasm. One throw-away comment resonated with me:

"Learning Esperanto is like learning a new game; it's good fun, but if there's no-one to play with then there's no point."

How true that is. On page 4 you will see a list of local, national and international events. Please do consider attending one. If mobility, money, or even shyness are an issue then why not join an online forum, start your own local group, or even get a foreign penfriend? The website **meetup.com** is an excellent way of forming a group and *meeting up* with Esperantists near you or Esperantists that may just passing through your area. **lernu.net** too has an abundance of discussion forums - there's something for everyone.

Please call or email us here if you'd like further details of any events listed, or you'd like help in starting up a local group.

Viv O'Dunne

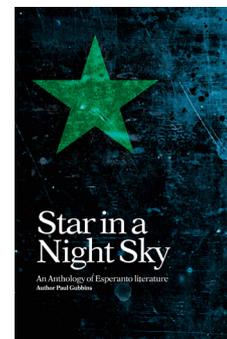
Two-way text

Important for learning

There was some talk at Shallowford House about how handy two-way texts are as learning tools, where one page is in the target language and the page next to it contains the translation, and regret expressed that this staple of language-learning is missing in Esperanto.

Well, it's definitely true that these are useful study aids and that we aren't spoilt for choice in the Esperanto world, but what we've got is excellent.

Star in a Night Sky is edited by Paul Gubbins and contains original Esperanto plays, prose, poetry and more and also presents English translations. You can get more information on the book at **espinfo.org/star** including a link on how to purchase it.



So if you regret the lack of good parallel texts in Esperanto or have recently started learning, bear it in mind. At 392 pages you won't be short of things to read!

Eric Walker has written to us ask whether EAB might send representatives to WOMAD, the World of Music, Arts and Dance, an international arts festival. Clearly we can't magic people up out of nowhere so the answer to Eric's question was that there are no plans to have a presence there.

We'd be pleased to listen to sensible suggestions like Eric's from people about participating in such things, so if you and some like-minded friends can think of events that you would be happy to attend whilst representing Esperanto, get in touch and we'll see what we can do.

Just as I was putting the finishing touches to this issue UEA published a 28-page, full-colour bulletin for the 99th Universala Kongreso. You can download it from **espinfo.org/uk-2014-dua-bulteno** and visit the congress's home page at **espinfo.org/uk-2014**.

If you're a supporter reading this, consider becoming a full member of EAB to get *La Brita Esperantisto* and discounts off our events: **espinfo.org/join-eab**.



Internacia KER-Examena Sesio

Internacia sesio de ekzamenoj en Esperanto laŭ la Komuna Eŭropa Referenckadro (nivelejo B2 kaj C1) estas planita ĉirkaŭmonde por sabato la 17an de majo. Britaj ekzamenlokoj ĝis nun estas Glasgovo, Jorko kaj Londono por la skribaj elementoj - la parolaj ni eble ofertas estontece.

Memoru, ke **EAB subvencio pagos duonon de la kosto por siaj membroj** kaj por la Jebanoj.

Pli da informoj legeblas ĉe **edukado.net/ekzamenoj/ker**. Se vi deziras ekzameniĝi aŭ eĉ mem starigi sesion, kontaktu Ed Robertson ĉe **ed.robertson@esperanto.org.uk**.

Although this issue of Update is dated April 2014, we've produced and distributed it earlier so that it gets to you in good time prior to the AGM. We knew in advance that we would have to ... but we weren't expecting to get a message from the printer's to say we would have to get it to them a week earlier than foreseen! Fortunately, Viv is a superstar and in spite of having a heavy week with financial deadlines somehow managed to get Update done and dusted for this new deadline. Thank you, Viv!

Ed Robertson wrote a summary of the trustees' recent meeting in London. We covered so much that there's no way we could've fitted it into this issue of Update when we also have to include a page of candidates' statements and resolutions for the AGM, and so the electronic version of Update comes with a bonus fifth page. His report will be printed separately and posted with the paper Update.

Ĝis Sheffield! - Tim Owen

*Don't forget that you can buy second-hand books from our eBay account! Bidding starts at only 99 pence. At the time of writing both the well-renowned books *La danĝera lingvo* and *Esperanto sen mitoj* are at £0.99 each with under 12 hours to go, so it shows what a bargain you can pick up. Our account is at **espinfo.org/ebay**.*



Candidate statements for the Management Committee

There follow the mandatory statements by the candidates for election to the Management Committee to take place by post and at the AGM at the British Esperanto Conference in Sheffield on the 20th of April, 2014

Edmund Grimley Evans

I started learning Esperanto around 1985 and have been a member of the Management Committee of EAB since 1997, usually responsible for publications: books, CDs and DVDs. Recently I have taken a particular interest in electronic publishing and have converted about 20 books into PDF or HTML versions that can be read with a computer or e-book reader such as the Amazon Kindle.

My other activities related to Esperanto include editing and proof-reading for *Monato*, and the occasional translation (*Homaj rajtoj*; *demandoj kaj respondoj*; *La lupino*; *Lingvo kaj menso*; ...). I speak Esperanto almost every day because I speak Esperanto to my daughters, now aged 7 and 9. Having young children is my main excuse for not having as much spare time as I used to.

Professionally, I am a full-time employee of ARM Ltd, a UK-based "chipdesigner" in the FTSE 100, where I work in the software R&D group, primarily on compilers.

The main activities of EAB are education and publicity. If elected, I would like to continue working for EAB to support those activities, and to ensure the continued smooth running of EAB's administration.

Proposed by Terry Page; seconded by Anica Page

Paul Gubbins (candidate for president)

Dum la pasintjara brita kongreso en Ramsgate vi elektis min prezidanto de EAB. Mi dankas pro la honoro kaj ĉi-jaron, ne fortimigite, mi denove prezentas min kiel kandidato.

Ene de la pasinta jaro, kiel novbakita prezidanto, mi multon lernis – ĉefe, ke estas plezuro prezidi komitaton, kies anoj, memstare kompetentaj kaj diligentaj, ne bezonas multe da prezidado. Aliflanke tio ne signifas, ke eblas eviti decidojn, foje rutinajn, foje tiktajn. Ekzemple la decido eliri el Eŭropa Esperanto-Unio (EEU) – se ni elspezas monojn nome de EAB, ni atendas almenaŭ iom da gajno, ĉu materia, ĉu nemateria, kiu ĉi-kaze forestis – estigis ondojn ekster nia lando.

Kiel membro de komitato-A mi reprezentis EAB-on dum la UK en Islando. Dumjare mi ricevas komunikaĵojn pri la planoj kaj projektoj de Universala Esperanto-Asocio.

Krom mia redaktoreco de *La Brita Esperantisto* mi okupiĝadas pri kunorganizado de la tritaga Esperanto-seminario ĉe la Universitato de Liverpolo. Jen efektive mia ĉefa, kaj certe pli temporaba, foje frusta, kontribuado ĉi-jaron al Esperanto-vivo en Britujo. Eksterinsule ... ĉefredaktoreco de *Monato*, Akademio de Esperanto, verkado, ktp.

The candidate statement is in Esperanto because that's what EAB, and my role in it as president, is all about. Happy to serve again!

Proposed by Derek Tatton; seconded by Malcolm Jones

Clare Hunter

I am a chartered accountant and have audited hundreds of entities over the last few years, including registered charities, which has equipped me to occupy the role of treasurer for EAB and ensure that the charity's financial affairs are professionally managed and fully comply with the law. I take on responsibility for specialist tasks myself rather than incurring the cost of a paid professional to do them, and sought a new firm to act as independent examiners, more than halving our original cost of the annual inspection that we are required to be subjected to.

My role means that I need to be in daily contact with the office and constantly have correspondence that I must promptly engage in, duties which I have carried out on top of starting 2014 with 16-hour workdays in my professional life.

The treasurer role should ideally be occupied by somebody with far more time than I have but in the absence of other candidacies I stand again in the best interest of EAB.

Proposed by Thomas Preece; seconded by Joyce Bunting

Tim Owen

I stand once again as a candidate for election, one part of a group of trustees who work harmoniously together to help manage the charity's affairs. This has been another busy year, in which I've continued to guide our *Drondo* event and represent us at the International Languages Festival in Sheffield, and also added tasks such as overhauling *Update* and supporting *Viv* in her new role as its editor, and booking the overseas speakers at the Brita Kongreso in Sheffield. I built the conference website and am working (admittedly with lots of interruptions for the sake of prioritising other, more urgent things) on redeveloping our web presence.

I continue in my role as secretary of the charity *NoJEF* and on its behalf have funded four youngsters recently to attend their first international events, speeding up the processes along the way, such that a request can be made in the evening and the money arrive in the recipient's account the next morning. This is a massive departure from the traditional approach but we must be mindful that things move on and it's important to meet modern expectations. The same is true for EAB.

Proposed by Paul Dennett; seconded by Michael Sims

Ed Robertson

I have been actively involved with Esperanto for over 25 years, having once upon a time learned it at school. Esperanto-speakers are part of a worldwide community in touch with one another locally and internationally through formal and informal meetings, social media, personal contact, and taking part in events and gatherings here and throughout the world.

The purpose of Esperanto is to bring together speakers of different languages, and our task is not only to persuade people to learn Esperanto, but also to encourage our members to participate in the rewarding benefits of interaction with people from other language backgrounds, and encourage a cosmopolitan attitude to the world.

Since joining *ManCom* three years ago I am happy to have been part of what I think has been a highly competent and forward-looking team working together to co-ordinate and organise events, courses and publications. The key to improving the potential impact of Esperanto, in my view, is for us to have a modern, relevant and professional image which engages with potential and existing speakers of the language.

Proposed by David Bisset; seconded by Jean Bisset

Michael Seaton

I started learning Esperanto back in 1993 while in my early teens. Since then, I have been involved in the Esperanto movement in Britain by attending congresses, writing articles, becoming the Treasurer of *JEB* and, more recently, a Trustee of both *EAB* and *NoJEF*. Spending five years compiling an inventory listing of the *Butler Library's* books gave me an insight of Esperanto's fascinating history and its linguistic and cultural capabilities.

If re-elected to the Management Committee, I would continue to work for the Association's worthwhile aims of promoting Esperanto as a tool for international communication and language learning. My specialism would be the *Butler Library* and its *Houghton Archive*, working with the Honorary Librarian *Geoffrey King* to maintain the library and complete its catalogue, as well as help visitors find books and other items for their research and answer queries.

My daily work as a research council scientist requires perspective (appreciating both fine detail and the bigger picture), perseverance, patience and professionalism. All of these properties have proved useful for EAB work and can be found among my fellow Trustees, which ultimately makes being one a pleasurable experience.

Proposed by Joyce Bunting; seconded by Bill Walker

Constitution amendment

During the working weekend in June the trustees discussed a number of potential changes to the EAB constitution. As a result of those discussions, enclosed with this edition of Update is a proposal for an amended constitution which we are putting forward to be voted on at this year's AGM in Sheffield. There are four key areas where the trustees feel the current constitution requires updating.

1) The existing constitution states that the committee must consist of at least six and not more than ten members of the association. Over recent years it has become increasingly difficult for us to recruit enough trustees to maintain the minimum number of six, despite repeated appeals in Update. We are therefore proposing that the minimum number of trustees per the constitution be reduced to four. The quorum for meetings of the committee would remain as four, except in cases where there are only four trustees when it would reduce to three.

2) The current constitution makes reference in three places to "postal ballot". There might come a time in the future when the association wants to introduce an online voting system rather than require the use of physical post. The Charity Commission advises that references to postal voting in a constitution exclude the possibility of online voting. We are therefore proposing to replace all constitutional references to "postal ballot" with the phrase "distance-voting".

3) In an attempt to keep costs down over recent years, the trustees have taken to holding one meeting per year via Skype rather than incurring travel expenses to London or Barlaston. However, a "meeting" is defined in law as being valid only when participants can both see and hear each other, unless a charity's constitution gives a different definition. Skype enables us to hear each other, but not to see each other, which means that while it provides a useful way for us to update one another on

progress in different areas, we nevertheless have to ensure that any important decisions are taken and documented at our remaining face-to-face meetings. We are therefore proposing to add a new clause to the constitution which states that a meeting may be held by any suitable means agreed by the committee in which each participant can communicate with all other participants in real time.

4) Finally, it has come to our attention that the Charity Commission's best practice guidance for membership associations recommends the inclusion of a constitutional clause giving associations the ability to terminate the membership of individuals in certain circumstances. According to the Charity Commission, "A governing document [constitution] should set out the minimum procedures relating to the expulsion/suspension of members". As our constitution does not currently contain such a clause, we are recommending the inclusion of a paragraph which will allow EAB to exclude members who are deemed to bring the association into disrepute, following a suitable appeal process.

All these changes are highlighted in bold on the enclosed constitution. We have submitted the proposal to the Charity Commission and have obtained their approval for the amendments, subject to them being accepted by our members. Hopefully the above explanations will make clear the reasoning behind the proposed amendments, but if you have any queries before the AGM, please do not hesitate to contact one of the trustees.

Proposal to AGM

"That the revised version of the Constitution, as circulated to members and approved by the Charity Commission, be adopted with immediate effect".

Proposed by the Management Committee.

Give someone you know a Taste of Esperanto

The popularity of CD-ROMs is dwindling; new laptops often don't have an optical drive installed as more and more information is available to download direct from the internet. As a consequence EAB has surplus stocks available of our promotional CD-ROM *A Taste of Esperanto*.

The disk is introduced by our own webmaster, Bill Walker, and Professor John Wells gives an overview of Esperanto. The disk contents also include a 6-part documentary 'Esperanto Estas' and 7 music tracks, all in different styles.

Would you like (up to) 10 free copies to distribute to friends/work colleagues/family? Please write/phone/email the office with your requirements and we'll send them to you by return post.



New members:

John Tierney from Adforton

W Van der Veen from Cleator

A Shaw from Richmond-upon-Thames

John Scothern from Carlton

Samuel Bull from Brighton

Deceased members:

Frances Worrall from London

Doreen Gastrell from Chesterfield

Completed the *Elementary...!* course:

John Tierney from Adforton

Information from the membership

Andreo Marshall, having read our short article about our eBay account in the previous issue of Update dropped me a line to inform me about a product on eBay that he thought might be of interest to some of you. It's a CD-ROM called "Esperanto & Other Invented Languages", starting at one penny and with postage from the USA set at £3.18. Andreo advises you to avoid getting into a bidding war because as soon as one copy sells the seller relists it.

So, what's on it? Andreo tells me that it starts with "A Complete Grammar of Esperanto" by Ivy Kellerman Reed, which dates from 1910 and weighs in at 344 pages, and progresses to scanned volumes on other planned languages, including Qōsmianĭ, Volapük, Bolak, Ro, Tutonish and Spelin, besides many books about and in Esperanto. All in all there are 52 scanned books on it - a nice surprise considering the auction indicates an already plentiful 40. To find a copy for yourself, simply go to eBay and enter "Esperanto & Other Invented Languages" in the search box.

Arnold Pitt has written to me from Poland to report that he has recently taken part in an international reading "competition", which he found to be a useful way of getting himself to read books in Esperanto which might otherwise have remained gathering dust on the shelves. Arnold suggested it would be worthwhile publicising it in Update, since the affair is being organised in Japan and so our members aren't likely to have heard about it. The competition is repeated every few months and you can get details from espinfo.org/leg-konkurso.

Thanks to you both, please keep these coming! Viv

BEA(Inc.) Ltd.

British Esperanto Association (Incorporated) Limited.

Report for the year ended 31st October 2014. Signed 8th February 2014 by Edmund Grimley Evans on behalf of the board.

The company is dormant and has not traded during the year. The directors of the company during the year were:

Edmund Grimley Evans, Tim Owen, Clare Hunter. Company Secretary: Joyce Bunting.

Other members of the company were members of the administration committee of Esperanto-Asocio de Britio plus one life member of BEA (Ltd.).

Our friends on the other side of the Channel at **Kastelo Greziljono** have published their timetable of events for 2014 at gresillon.org/agendo.

There's plenty to do including FRINGOJ week, intensive study, CEFR exams and a week to simply stay and explore the surroundings.



We're pleased to announce that, following a (one-year!) break, Paul Gubbins has kindly agreed to return and be the guest lecturer for the advanced group at the 2014 Esperanto Summer Festival.

In recent years we've had a different overseas guest tutor each year. This year we've decided to make the most of our home-grown talent. As always there will be two strands. The intermediate group, ably led by the current Summer Festival director, Jack Warren, and the advanced group, led by Paul Gubbins.

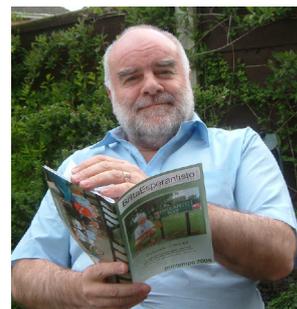
Shallowford is a wonderful place for a summer festival; a country house surrounded by beautiful and tranquil gardens, offering comfortable rooms, delicious food and the chance to think, talk and live in the international language for five days.

Besides intensive study in small groups there will be music, indoor and outdoor games and an excursion to Esperanto House in Barlaston.



Summer Festival director, Jack Warren, who is pulling double-duty as the organiser of this year's conference in Sheffield.

students will have the chance to consolidate their grasp of Esperanto with a range of language exercises. These will be mainly oral and, of course, fun. We shall also look at such topics as getting the most out of a dictionary, international current affairs, what to wear and the lives of some famous - but not British - people.



EAB President Paul Gubbins

In the advanced group we shall look at various texts from the point of view of both grammar and content. The texts will include current affairs, both global and esperanto, taken mainly from periodicals and magazines. We shall also examine aspects of Esperanto-literature, for example using short poems. The aim? To get you talking and, above all, to have fun. If you'd like to join us in August, please contact the office and we will send out a joining form. Alternatively pay your deposit online at espinfo.org/sf-booking.

If you are under 25 and living in Britain remember that NoJEF will help you to attend the course at no cost to yourself. Visit nojef.org to find out how to make a request for a travel grant.

Join us for a relaxing study holiday in the lovely countryside.

In the intermediate group



NoJEF continues to give young people financial support to attend Esperanto events. Three people (including two first-timers) attended JES for the new year in Poland, two other first-timers will be attending the Tutkelta Kongreso in Pitlochry, and following a press release that I distributed to members of Lernu, Tim Owen has just received an application from another first-timer, this time for our Conference in Sheffield. Their post-event reports are viewable on nojef.org.

Events - spring/early summer 2014:

The **London Esperanto Club** meets every Friday evening from 18:00 - 22:00 at the London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, NW1 9XB. On the 28th of March the club will hold its AGM, on the 4th of April there will be a social evening, and on the 11th of April John Wells will hold a language seminar. For full details of their programme for the rest of 2014 and to view a copy of the club bulletin see espinfo.org/londona-klubo.

An Esperanto course for beginners is held every Thursday at 19:00 at the Riverside Terrace Cafe, Southbank Centre, **London**. Contact Magnus Henoch for full details: magnus.henoch@gmail.com

The **Eastern Esperanto Federation** will hold their spring meeting at Church House, St Michael's Lane, Braintree on the 29th of March. The federation will hold their AGM during the day and there will also be an illustrated talk on South Africa by Kimie Markarian. The cost (including lunch) is £5. See espinfo.org/orienta-fed for full details of this and their summer meeting on the 24th of May.

The **Glasgow Esperanto Society** meet on the second Tuesday of every month (except July & August) at the Quaker Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent at 19:30. On the 8th of April Norman Richardson and Duncan Thompson will be giving a talk on Gilbert and Sullivan. See their full programme of events at espinfo.org/glasgovo.

The **Esperanto in Cardiff** group meet on a monthly basis for meals out together, lectures, or sometimes just to get together for a chat. They meet at the Prince of Wales Pub, 81-83 St Mary Street, Cardiff at 18:30. Do visit their website to see the 2014 programme: espinfo.org/kardifo.

The **North-West Esperanto Federation** will meet in Preston on the 26th of April and they will also hold their spring meeting at the Empire Services Club in Preston on the 10th of May. For more details on these and other

future events contact Peeter Aitai: peeter.aitai@googlemail.com.

The **Liverpool Esperanto Circle** will meet on the 17th of May at a central-Liverpool location. 'Like' their page on Facebook to keep up-to-date with news and events from the **Liverpool Esperanto Circle** and the **South Lancashire Esperanto Group**: espinfo.org/liverpoola-rondo.

The **Birmingham Esperanto meetup group** next meet at the Shakespeare Pub, Lower Temple Street, Birmingham on Friday 11th April. Join the group here: meetup.com/Esperanto-UK

The **2014 Brita Kongreso** takes place from the 18th to the 20th April at the Circle, Sheffield. Please book your place before the 9th of April. Information is at britakongreso.org.

The **109th Scottish/1st pan-Celtic Esperanto Congress** will take place from the 6th to the 11th of June in Pitlochry. Visit espinfo.org/skota-kongreso-2014 for more details.

The **10th EEU Congress** takes place from the 6th to the 12th of July in Rijeka, Croatia. See more details and book a place at eeu-kongreso.webnode.com

The **7th SES (Somera Esperanto-Studado)** takes place from the 12th to the 20th of July in Nitra, Slovakia. Students from lernu.net and others, of course, meet up for lessons, excursions, crafts, lectures and evening entertainment. See more ses.ikso.net/2014/sk.

If you have an event you'd like to promote, send details to eab@esperanto.org.uk and we'll add it to the events section of our website, which you can consult for yourself at espinfo.org/events.

Recap of the trustees' meeting in London in February

The trustees held another of our four annual meetings on the 8th of February, this time in person in London. All trustees were present except for Michael Seaton, who was undergoing hospital treatment. All present signed a card to Michael with our good wishes. Viv O'Dunne, our Director of Operations, was also present and took the minutes.

Tim Owen, EAB Secretary, informed us that discounts have now been applied to pricing at EAB events and EAB members will pay less to attend the annual British Esperanto Conference and our residential courses. He passed on the news that Hilary Chapman has agreed to continue in his role as UEA Ĉefdelegito for the next three years (2014 to 2016). Some names of possible recipients were suggested for the 2014 fellowship accolade. It was underlined that no more one fellowship be awarded per annum to avoid deflating the value of the gesture. Tim also reported on the current activities of JEB and planned changes to the JEB website. The Trustees noted that the new-style EAB newsletter had been positively received and agreed that the professionally printed format be used for all future issues. A redesign of La Brita Esperantisto will be in the pipeline. Tim also reported that NoJEF had received several applications for support since the Trustees' last meeting, including two from first-timers.

The development of content for a rebranded EAB website, including a community area, will be started soon. A number of domains have also been purchased, including one which will centre on Zamenhof, planned to be online in time for the centenary of his death in 2017. EAB will also explore alternatives to our current shared hosting package, which lacks the ability to set up sub-accounts for potential third-party users. The committee also discussed the 2014 somera festivalo, where EAB President Dr Paul Gubbins will this year tutor the advanced group. Arrangements for the 2014 AGM were discussed. A three-hour timeslot had been allocated for the annual meeting, to allow members attending to have time and opportunity to engage with the trustees.

The EAB's Treasurer, Clare Hunter, then gave her report. She expressed her continued satisfaction with the work of the new independent examiners. The final statement of accounts had been prepared in time for trustees to read prior to the meeting. She reminded trustees that the responsibility for preparing and submitting the annual accounts was a collective one. The trustees were pleased that only a small deficit had been incurred before taking into account the change in market value of our investment portfolio. Trustees felt there was a need to reiterate the fact that the gain in the value of our investments wasn't a realised sum and was equivalent to one's house being worth more on paper. The accounts were subsequently approved. Clare discussed the value of the book stock held and a detailed discussion will be held at the June meeting to discuss future buying policy. A summary of EAB's investments, prepared by Joyce Bunting, was circulated prior to the meeting

and there had been no significant changes. The committee wished to pass on its thanks to Joyce for her continuing support with this particularly important matter. Clare outlined some recent additions to the list of EAB membership benefits, including various discounts and subsidies, such as covering 50% of CEFR exam costs. Further benefits are being explored.

Director of Operations and Events, Viv O'Dunne then reported to the trustees. On membership there had been no notable fluctuations in membership numbers, and several member-driven initiatives had been reported to the office recently. New shelving had been installed in the Butler Library and restorative work had been done on the star monument outside Esperanto House, which had suffered from cold winters. Viv updated the trustees on the number of bookings for our 2014 residential courses and the annual conference, which were lower than usual, and on promotional efforts to date. This matter is to be discussed in detail at the trustees' summer residential meeting. Progress on congress arrangements was also discussed. Sales of second-hand books via eBay continued to be a success. She reported that she, Paul Gubbins and Tim Owen had been very busy responding to queries from worried people after malicious gossip was spread online that EAB was 'selling its Library'.

Ed Robertson reported on Education and the uncertainty over the date for this year's International CEFR (KER) exam session. (NOTE: Since his report the date has been confirmed as Saturday 17th May, and sessions of the written paper at B1, B2 and C1 levels are planned for Glasgow, York and London on that day, time to be confirmed. It is hoped that an oral examination will be available for interested candidates during the 109th Scottish Congress / 1st Pan-Celtic Congress in Pitlochry between the 6th and 11th of June). Ed also spoke about his intention to initiate the creation of a wholly internet-based course for absolute beginners that complements existing lernu.net provision.

The trustees had met with Angela Tellier, Coordinator for Research and Development, prior to their meeting where Angela had submitted a paper outlining her achievements to date, current projects and future ideas. The committee gave their blessing for her to continue with her planned project and invited her to submit any funding requests.

The trustees discussed the arrangement that they had with Brian Barker as an independent publicity consultant and concluded that the arrangement should be ended. The committee agreed that all the trustees take responsibility for promotion within their existing remits and noted that this already takes place to some degree because of targeted marketing, for example with events associated with the Buchanan Fund. Tim Owen reported that the Sheffield International Language Festival would take place from 22nd and 23rd February and that EAB would sponsor the event as in the past three years. The

committee also suggested that EAB send a representative to the Polyglot Gathering in Berlin later this year.

Clare Hunter had circulated the proposed revision of the constitution prior to the meeting; no further changes had been suggested, and she informed the group that the Charity Commission had approved the revised version. The revised constitution will be put to the membership at the AGM on April 20th. EAB President Dr Paul Gubbins reported that he and Angela Tellier had been working with staff at the University of Liverpool on the Buchanan Masterclass event to be held on March 26th to 28th. It was decided that EAB would assist foreign students with bursaries to attend the event; the sums could then be reclaimed after the event from the funds held at the University. The committee then discussed future British Esperanto conferences in 2015 onwards, acknowledging the difficulties in recent years of finding people willing to give up their time to organise an event.

Edmund Grimley Evans, trustee for Publications, then reported on the two new publications that had been published since the last meeting ('Esperanto as a starter language for child second-language learners in the primary school (second edition)' and 'Dr John Buchanan – an Esperanto legacy to the University of Liverpool'), both of which were authored by Angela Tellier.

Edmund informed the trustees that a request had been received from the Oxford University Press for permission to use a text about Esperanto in a book for learning English. Permission was given with no charges requested. The trustees were updated on the progress of the scanning of all Claude Piron's books. Progress had been made. Both editions of *Malmalice, Ĉu si mortu trafike?*, and *Tien* have been added to the Piron page of the EAB website since the last meeting, but much was still to do. Edmund also informed the trustees that he had started work on a bibliography of the works of John Francis and of Marjorie Boulton.

Under any other business, the trustees discussed the library catalogue and promotional bookmarks, and the next meeting of the management committee (other than a brief meeting after the AGM) will be held at Esperanto House on the weekend of 14th and 15th June.

Ed Robertson & Viv O'Dunne

