



An introduction to the English Speaking Union

The English-Speaking Union is an independent, non-political, educational charity with members throughout Hungary, the U.K., the USA and over forty countries throughout the world. Its purpose is to promote international understanding and human achievement through the widening use of the English language.

Central to the purpose of the English-Speaking Union today is the recognition that the English language offers people of different races and cultures a means of shared communication. English is spoken by over **one billion people** worldwide and has become the international language of business, travel and technology. The ESU supports a range of activities that enhance the effective use of the English language. Many **scholarships** and **exchanges** are sponsored by the ESU, providing the opportunity for study both in the UK and overseas.

WHAT WE DO

Promote English in international public speaking and debate for the support of worldwide communication and dialogue

Encourage the enjoyment and constructive use of English through educational programmes

Provide a forum for international friendship through our support of the worldwide network of ESUs and the provision of secretariat facilities for the International Council at the headquarters at Dartmouth House, London

Initiate and administer international youth exchange and work experience schemes

Focus on key current affairs issues through regular international conferences, seminars and meetings

Provide and create cultural activities

Facilitate and assist the establishment and recognition of ESUs worldwide

Ensure the coordination and coherence of our activities through the skill and dedication of our staff and voluntary helpers

Rely upon the enthusiasm and support of all our members

Work in close and innovative partnership with our corporate members and sponsors

General Meeting

Invitation to all members, former and current and interested non-members

**Date: 30 November 2002 at 10 a.m.
Location: 1016, Budapest, Dezső u. 3**

All members should register with the Programme Director, Steve Jones at the address shown at the bottom of this page.

To vote at the meeting members will have to pay the 1000 Ft subscription which will be valid to the end of 2003. If the fee is paid after this meeting, the subscription rate will be at the new rate agreed by the General Meeting.

We hope to carry a great deal of information in this *Newsletter*, including information on English language events throughout the country. Naturally, not all of the events will be available



Our *Newsletter* will be an important part of this future and we hope that it will serve to remind us of all of the good things which have happened and will provide information and ideas to help us to plan and create a vibrant future.

We need your contributions – a critique of a play in English, an account and photos of an event or competition – which can be e-mailed or sent to us to be included in the *Newsletter*. Steve will be editing this so you need not worry if your English does not rival Shakespeare's.

We look forward to hearing from all of our members and are happy to act as a source and resource for your work in the English language. Good luck and good writing.

Contact us using:

Steve Jones, Programme Director, ESU of Hungary
1111, Budapest, Vak Bottyán u. 3.V.9.
or by e-mail: stevejones@axelero.hu

***Introduction by the new
Programme Director,
Steve Jones***

The ESU is looking to expand its work throughout the whole of Hungary and aims at establishing a network of branches throughout the country which is why I have been appointed to the post of Programme Director. I have been working in Hungary for the past three years as both a teacher and examinations officer in an International School. I will continue to work in both education and with the ESU.



My links with Hungary go back a long way. I first visited Hungary in 1987 with a group of English Morris dancers – the Whitworth Morris Men. Since then I have visited Hungary regularly and am married to a Hungarian. I moved to Budapest three years ago to work at Britannica International School.

In England I lived in St Albans and was a founder member of the St. Albans – Nyiregyháza Friendship Committee, of which I was Chairman from 1993 to 1997. Over this four-year period I was able to develop strong commercial, educational, institutional and cultural links between the two cities.

I am 54, was trained as a teacher and worked in the UK, in teaching, for nearly 30 years. I spent 3 years in Zambia, Central Africa (from 1973 to 1976) where I taught mathematics and physics. At the same time I was employed by Liverpool Museum's Ethnology Department to collect and document aspects of village life in the Barotse Plain (on the Zambezi River). On my return I set up an exhibition on the Fishing from this area in the Ethnology Gallery. The exhibition later travelled to Dublin, Ireland.

In 1985 I was seconded from my teaching post in Oldham to do research into educational technology and was awarded my Master's degree in 1987. Subsequently I was a moderator

for Control technology for the Northern Examinations Association and was appointed to the subject committee.

Moving to St. Albans in 1990, I began my long association with Hungary, which I have developed ever since. I have a great interest in Hungarian culture and have

The Newsletter

- *Information for new members with contact details*
- *Reports on past events*
- *Information on events in the future in Budapest and the regions*
- *Members' letters*

The E-letter will contain the text of the above but will be more frequent. All information in the E-letter will also be found in the monthly Newsletter.

a good working knowledge of the Hungarian language.

***Specific Tasks for the
immediate future ...***

The most important task, which I hope to complete by the end of the year, is to set up a network of branches throughout Hungary, which can contribute to the overall development of the ESU. We are looking to active members of the Union to develop their own local programmes but with support from Budapest.

We would like to see well organised regional centres, based on the present active members but networking into the surrounding areas. In this way, with co-ordination from Budapest we can develop a better informed and stronger organisation with more to offer to its members.

As well as a wide variety of different local events we will be creating several National Events. These National Events will be introduced at a regional level at first, with finals in Budapest or one of the major towns. If there is an International event, such as the Public Speaking Competition, the leading participants will be sent to take part in the International Finals.

We are seeking a much larger number of entries into these competitions by co-operating with Teachers' Organisations and are hoping for local participation and

support from local government and business. Already, support has been offered by several Embassies and the British Council.

Your ideas are important ...

We could disseminate everything from here in Budapest but the members should feel that they have ownership and that their ideas and proposals are valuable and will be supported. We need your contributions, both of ideas and of material for this *Newsletter*, which will go out monthly. If you have something you wish to say you will be able to e-mail it or send it by post to us here and we can publish the best of what we receive.

What this *Newsletter* contains, will be very much up to you. I'm not trying to create a "Budapest Sun", however, information and reports on events, with photographs, would be a welcome addition. This will help to give other members ideas and to share our experiences. It will also act as a record of the work of the ESU, making it easier to explain what we do.

Sponsorship ...

It is vital that an organisation such as ours has the funds to carry out its programme. It is essential that the ESU should develop a much higher profile, which will enable us to offer a lot more to yourselves, our members. I hope that this *Newsletter* will have a wide distribution and that this will attract the kind of sponsors we need to move the ESU forward. Please get your friends and colleagues to read it and join us.

Competitions and more ...

We intend to run national competitions as has been done in the past but are looking for new ideas in this area.

We feel it is important to include areas outside Budapest to a much greater degree and we hope you will organise regional competitions to precede final events in Budapest or possibly in the regions also.

Monthly meetings ...

We believe it is essential that there are regular local monthly meetings, possibly each with a different theme, speakers and format. We would particularly like these to reflect

the whole of the English speaking world. We are considering a number of ideas here in Budapest including national themes with food, lectures and information on some of the English speaking areas of the world.

Outside Budapest it would be possible to do the same taking advantage of local circumstances. Much of this would make excellent material for European Union project work, particularly using the internet.

I would love to see vibrant, active branches in every part of the country and will be setting up groups. These will be centred on larger towns, however, the venues of meetings should move from place to place. I would welcome an invitation to set up a group in your area if there is not one already. We would like speakers from Budapest to visit meetings in your area too and to ensure that these larger events are not only available in the capital.

I hope you feel a little inspired by all of this and bombard me with your ideas. I hope to meet many of you as I travel around the country. Put your ideas together and let me have them.

Contact us using:

Steve Jones, Programme Director, ESU of Hungary
1111, Budapest, Vak Bottyán u. 3.V.9.
or by e-mail: stevejones@axelero.hu

Membership

We will be creating an entirely new membership list, which will be maintained by regionally. These regions will be based on larger towns or centres where there is a large enough membership. We would like every member to complete a membership form, which is available either on paper (on page 4 of this *Newsletter*) or by e-mail. Information will be held on computer but will only be made available to a third party if it relates directly to ESU business. The membership year will start from January 2002 so all present members should register also. Members who pay their 1000 Ft subscription before the General meeting on the 30th November will not pay any increased rate for 2003 decided at the meeting.

Please address your enquiries to myself, Steve Jones and I will try to respond either personally or through the *Newsletter*.

FAMILY NAME	Dr. Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. <i>Please delete as appropriate</i>				
FIRST NAME(S)					
Address Letters to:	<i>This is your name as it should appear on the envelope</i>				
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Notes: e.g. Interests
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I agree to the above information being stored on a computer and used for English Speaking Union of Hungary business only.

Name: Signature:

Place: Date: