

Where should I begin...

Translating Out of the Bottle by Graham Webb started from Ms Ann Paal, the well-known Estonian children neurologist and neurosurgeon, Chairman and founder of the Estonian SpB&Hc Union (founded more than 20 years ago, [www.kelluke.ee](http://www.kelluke.ee)).

Some years ago, Mr Webb had presented his book Out of the Bottle to one of Ms Paal's colleague, Kirsti, when Graham spoke at a conference on disability in Helsinki, Finland.

Ms Paal found the book to be a very impressive, encouraging and inspiring example of how a young man, born with hidden Spina Bifida, despite of the difficulties and problems caused by "something invisible", tried hard to find his own way and build up his own career and succeeded doing so becoming a big name not only in the hair industry but also a remarkable person in the social sphere, carrying the values, which the world seems to be short nowadays.

The impression Ms Paal had after finishing reading the life story book of Mr Webb, gave her the idea of translating the book into Estonian. As she has always been interested in how the members of the SpB&Hc Union are doing and encouraging them to be active, she asked a young man, member of the SpB&Hc Union Mr Allan Vibur, who got his BA as an English interpreter and translator from the Tallinn Eurouniversity in 2004, to take this job.

Allan Vibur was born with the HC. In the early age of 3 months he had his first surgery and an intracranial Pudenz valve and his condition was stabile since he was 3 yrs, when the shunt needed to be changed. After the next surgery, something happened to the shunt shortly after the treatment and due to the very high intracranial pressure, he turned blind.

So he had the HC compensated, but not seeing anymore. When Allan was six and had to go to school, there was only one special school for visually impaired and blind in Estonia - in Tartu (SE of Estonia). While Allan's family lived in the capital city of Tallinn, he had to travel 186 km one way to get to school. It was a boarding school, so he was taken home for the weekends to start again on Mondays. It was a long journey indeed. In 1990-ties, when the educational situation and conditions in Estonia improved, he could come to Tallinn to continue his studies and completed his secondary school in 2000. In 2004 he got his BA in the Tallinn Eurouniversity as an English language interpreter and translator.

Out of the Bottle is Allan's first and only book to translate.

So what was the translating process like?

Or better to call it "a pleasant, emotional, entertaining, inspiring and educational journey", not the "translation work process"!

It took really much time not only because of searching the meanings of some words and expressions, typing the text but as well enjoying the content - getting acquainted with Mr Webb.

It was Allan's mother, Aiki Haug, with whom Allan made a productive team for translating.

(She is a musician, graduated from the Tallinn English College and became an opera singer after graduating the Estonian Music Academy.

Her musical career last 32 years in the National Opera Estonia.)

It was her, who read the text - sentence by sentence - to Allan and worked with the different

English-Estonian dictionaries. In some occasions

they contacted on phone their good friends, Doris and William Herron in the UK, Ferryhill, to ask their kind help

about some meanings, which are common in UK.

As Allan is using the screen-reading JAWS program in his computer, he could fix the mistakes in Estonian translation, listening it again and again.

While translating the book, they often stopped the work for to look up Graham Webb's and the Webb Sisters' homepages.

And it seemed the whole Webb family with their friendly attitude and all the music was present in their home.

One interesting fact: in January 2013 they spent the winter vacation in Dubai.

When they arrived in their hotel and

entered their room and switched on the TV, there were the Webb Sisters singing....!

Translating the book *Out of the Bottle* was a very emotional journey with Mr

Webb. Now as the work seems to be completed and the book

due to be issued in Estonian very soon, it seems, that there would not have been the better timing for that as the present time

when the Estonian government is working hard on the new law regulating the employment of the disabled.

"It CAN be done!" says Mr Webb, and these are the words all of us have to repeat

to ourselves some day. Especially those, who are more weak,

more vulnerable part of us, but there is a lot that a man can do. Some of us need just a small support, sometimes

even a couple of words will do.

Graham is also mentioned in a film shown yesterday in Estonia. It talks about a blind young man, Allan, who translated the book into Estonian with the help of his mother.

We all are now very much excited about meeting Mr Webb in Tallinn, where he will be the keynote speaker on the medical

conference held in the beginning of December.

And we look forward to the presentation of Mr Webb's book *Out of the Bottle* Estonian language version, which sounds "Pudelist Välja".