

NWTN Coworking Coordinator

AGM report

9 June 2020

I joined the newly created NWTN Events Team in June 2019 and I am pleased to report that coworking has been well received by our members. Laurence Bisot, my co-coordinator, had been doing a great job of arranging coworking sessions once a month at Ziberblat's Edge Street, Manchester, on a Friday afternoon to coincide with a local group of freelancers called Freelance Folk. After contacting the NWTN to ask whether there would be plans to hold coworking sessions at other times and dates (given it was hard for me to attend at 2pm on a Friday afternoon), I was invited to arrange alternative sessions with the NWTN kindly publicising them via their social media channels.

Since then, Laurence and I have welcomed many members to the coworking sessions which have seen varied attendance, some with 'regular' attendees, others who have come to meet us and work alongside us after having never attended an NWTN event before. This has proved to be useful in reaching out to our members and in encouraging them to attend other events as a result.

Our coworking sessions over the past year have mainly been held at Ziferblat's Edge Street in the Northern Quarter, Manchester on a fortnightly basis. I have negotiated that NWTN members may benefit from a reduced rate of 6p/min when attending our official coworking sessions (as opposed to 8p/min), with a capped day rate costing only £14.40 (instead of £19.20). This has been a great bonus to offer our members, in addition to other membership benefits.

As well as Ziberblat's, I looked into other spaces within Manchester and we have tried a few out including Colony Piccadilly who offer day passes at a rate of £18 + VAT when bought as a bundle, and Work.Life Brown Street, who offer a 'Flex' package capped at £17.50 + VAT per day, with later opening hours. Both spaces offer complimentary hot and cold drinks, and host different business events for members. Work.Life also offer members half-price meeting rooms from £20 per hour, of which the Events Team have been able to take advantage, as well as some great extra-curricular activities and networking opportunities. I also discovered that Bruntwood offered 'Free Workspace Wednesdays' once a month at varied locations around the North West and was able to host coworking events in Warrington, as well as Manchester, free-of-charge to attendees. This attracted the attention of members in Liverpool, and Patricia Brakus stepped forward to host coworking sessions in Liverpool at the Bruntwood location there.

Unfortunately, with the appearance of COVID-19, our coworking events have had to cease for the moment. I have enjoyed hosting virtual coworking/Bake Off sessions once a week as a spot of light relief for members missing coworking sessions, and they have helped myself and others to stay connected.

I am looking forward to resuming coworking sessions face-to-face when circumstances allow and am hopeful that more members may attend, after having met members of the Events Team in the virtual world.

Kate Lo
June 2020