

NWTN Events Team Report – June 2019 to July 2020

After several active and successful years in post as NWTN Events organisers, Angela and Melanie decided to stand down last year. I volunteered to take on this role but it was pointed out that there was a lot of work for just one person and it might be better to set up an “Events Team” (ET). Happily, various other people came forward, and I was joined by Kate Lo, Laurence Bisot, Janice Crossfield and Katell Sevellec, and later in the year by Kat Slater. For the first 3 months we held meetings once a fortnight as we settled in, and then moved to monthly meetings from September onwards. These were held at various locations in Manchester (and once at Warrington) to coincide with the coworking days, and everyone appreciated the value of “real”, face-to-face meetings.

So, it’s been another busy year... we arranged a full programme of events (see below) but sadly, in March Covid-19 raised its ugly head and wreaked havoc, not just with NWTN events but with life on earth generally. The annual Boost Day at Manchester Conference Centre, for which 4 speakers had been booked to talk on MTPE, had to be postponed, as did our Creative Workshop in April. However, it was particularly sad that we also had to postpone our NWTN 35th anniversary gala event at Sam’s Chop House, where we hoping to see around 60 people. However these events WILL happen – it’s just a question of when!

In response to the Covid situation, from late March onwards, we (or rather Kate, who has taken the lead with the online chats and the quizzes) arranged various online events via Zoom:

- Since late March onwards, Kate has hosted a weekly ‘Bakeoff’ online chat on Wednesday afternoon, in place of coworking. Baking has provided entertainment and some good cakes but non-bakers are also welcome at this purely social event.
- Kate has also organised and hosted 4 online NWTN pub quizzes in the past 2 months (well done!), and an inter-regional quiz v. ITI Yorkshire group (YTI) is being planned.
- At the beginning of June, Janice and Laurence hosted an online book chat, which was well-attended and is expected to continue as a monthly event.

Looking ahead, in response to a request from one interpreter member, we are planning an online Note-taking Workshop, which will be delivered mid-July onwards (organiser Katell, date TBC).

We have also challenged YTI to an online pub quiz.

Online events offer the advantage of not requiring anyone to travel and have been attended by members from as far afield as Portugal, Spain and Germany. Some of these events will continue after lockdown comes to an end.

The Events Team welcomes ideas from members for events, and we’ll be inviting comments on this subject under Item 11 of the AGM Agenda.

I'd like to thank all of my ET colleagues, and especially Kate, who has agreed to take on the role of Events Team manager for the coming year, alongside organising coworking. I'm staying on as a member of the team, and so are Laurence, Janice, Katell and Kat.

I think it's worth pointing out that NWTN is a particularly active group in terms of numbers of events organised. In addition to coworking, our original programme would have seen 10 events organised (8 for members + 2 talks to students). I'm pleased that we are so active, and as long as there are enough volunteers to organise all these events and the demand is there from members to attend them, we will carry on delivering them.

Mike Hanson, NWTN Events Team Manager

4 June 2020

Summary of NWTN events since our last AGM in May 2019

(events without highlighting went ahead, events highlighted in yellow were postponed/cancelled due to Covid-19, events highlighted in blue were held on line, name of organiser shown in red)

June 2019 – Tourism translation event, including a guided tour of Manchester's German connections (organised and hosted by my predecessor Angela Sigee)

July 2019 – Summer walk at Hollingworth Lake, near Rochdale (Mike)

September 2019 – 'French Connections' food & drink translation event, including a guided tour of Manchester's French connections and a restaurant meal the previous night (Laurence)

October 2019 – Talk to Manchester Uni students (Angela Sigee + NWTN panel)

November 2019 – Business event, presentation and panel session with Nick Rosenthal (Mike)

January 2020 – MS Word Wizardry workshop led by Kay McBurney (Kate)

March 2020 – Talk to UCLAN (Preston) students (Heidi + Janice)

March 2020 – Boost Day on Machine Translation & Post-Editing (MTPE) (Mike)

POSTPONED – PROVISIONAL NEW DATE SAT. 26 SEPTEMBER

April 2020 – Creative Writing workshop with Ros Mendy and Alison Layland (Katell)

POSTPONED – NEW DATE TO BE CONFIRMED WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT

May 2020 – 35th Anniversary event (Kate & Laurence) POSTPONED – NEW DATE TO BE CONFIRMED WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT

June 2020 – ITI event in Bristol featuring NWTN presentation on collaboration with the world of academia (Janice & Katell) CANCELLED BY ITI

July 2020 – Joint summer walk in Peak District with ITI West Midlands Group (Mike) POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Late March onwards – weekly ‘Bakeoff’ online get-togethers to replace coworking (Kate) – 11 sessions so far

April onwards – online pub quizzes (Kate). 4 held so far, inter-regional quiz v. ITI Yorkshire group (YTI) planned

May – NWTN was the featured regional group at the ITI Virtual Coffee morning (Kate, Janice, Laurence, Mike)

June onwards –online book chats (Janice & Laurence). 1 so far, went well and is expected to continue after lockdown comes to an end

IN TOTAL:

5 face-to-face events were delivered over the year, and a further 5 were planned but had to be either postponed or cancelled

+ 17 online events delivered since lockdown started

+ 14 Events team meetings held over the 2019/20 year (of which 3 on line)