

Chair report – 2020-2021

It has been a strange year for all of us, and a strange year for the NWTN. There were challenges, but also opportunities and the Network found a way to get even closer to its members despite the restrictions. During my first year as Chair, I have not met a lot of you in person, but I am happy to say that I saw many of you participating in online events, including new members and students.

The Events Report will detail further all our achievements and events of the year, but I will select a few stand-out examples: the Boost Day became our first hybrid event and has been seen as a ground-breaking experience for the NWTN and the ITI. The Bookchat has gathered NWTN readers who had barely talked about their reading before. The quizzes were great fun, and an opportunity to meet colleagues from other ITI groups. The Working Lunch (and its prequel, Bake Off) has been a fantastic way for the Committee to reach out, for people to break their isolation and for new members (and less new) to enjoy some *ad hoc* mentoring and exchange tips, stories and advice.

Our membership has kept growing, and I hope that the fact that more students are attending our online events will convince them to stay in the Network after they graduate. Our business mentoring scheme has provided three mentors for members starting in the profession, but there is more demand, and I encourage all translators and interpreters who have a few years of experience to come forward as mentors. The experience is enriching for mentor and mentee alike, and we all have something useful to share.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee members. We all had our ups and downs this last year, but we were committed to deliver as many events and as much information as possible to our members. We didn't spare our time and effort; we work well as a team and help each other in case of time constraints or when technology becomes overwhelming. Technology has been extremely helpful, bringing us Zoom, Teams for the Committee communications, Trello for event planning, and we also use Mailchimp for emails, as well as WordPress for the website and Hootsuite for social media. This technology has delivered the information and the events the members are increasingly relying upon. Indeed, I occasionally receive emails asking why an event is not on the website, or the link not on the event page, or if the webinar will be recorded. I will take this as a positive: it means that what we provide is expected, and we will try our best to deliver even more next year. It means that the NWTN community is active and buzzing and more than willing to get involved.

Looking forward to meeting you all in person soon!

Laurence Bisot, Chair