

NWTN AGM 2024 – Events Team Report

Another eventful year as Events Team Lead, even if I do say so myself! I'd be lying if I said it's been a breeze, as I've had additional pressures outside of my role which have kept me from running more events. But, as ever, I've been very grateful for the amazing support of the other Events Team members. There is a core few of us who set up and run events, while others spend their valuable volunteering time on other NWTN matters.

I'd really welcome more people stepping forward to help us, not least because this may be my last year as Events Team Lead and I'd like to pass on the baton to someone who is up to speed with how we organise ourselves, so the NWTN can continue to provide our members with plenty of fun events to attend! Please think if there is a way that YOU could become more involved in the running of our events. If you have an event idea, maybe you could help out with its organisation and learn some new skills along the way? Whatever the help you offer, it would give you an insight into what we do! Put simply - if we don't receive any more members coming forward to help, this is going to impact on the number of events we host.

Working Lunch Chats

Laurence has continued to host our 'Working Lunch' chats across the year, with "drop-in sessions" online where members attend during the hour and ask for advice or discuss any topic they wish. We continued to run these as several members who live further away expressed they would miss the regular contact with other members. I always review whether events are worthwhile, as it takes time to market events and post about them across social media and on our website.

Coworking

We've continued to host coworking across different sites throughout our region at The Outset in Warrington, Clockwise Manchester, Clockwise Liverpool and Arrive Blue at Salford Quays (each through the Northern Affinity). Unsurprisingly, our most popular session again this past year was our Epiphany Coworking session where Laurence enticed us with another slice of Galette des Rois and the chance to be King or Queen for the day! It was a nice surprise to see so many join us for our first discounted session through the Northern Affinity where coworking only costs just over £6 for a full day with free parking at MediaCity! This has been made possible as the NWTN has paid a fixed advance payment to the Northern Affinity as a subsidised membership, which allows our members to book ANY coworking sessions they run (including those in Yorkshire) at 50% of the price.

We have our WhatsApp group for members who may want to organise ad hoc sessions among themselves. The group hasn't been very active but if you want to join, check previous Update emails which contain the QR code to join, or just ask me and I can forward it to you.

Book Chats

Janice and Laurence have continued to host their popular Book Chats among those who attend regularly, and these online social sessions are set to continue with a WhatsApp group too. Don't miss out if you're a bookworm – it doesn't matter if you've never previously joined in.

Private guided tour of RHS Garden Bridgewater – 21 May 2023

We enjoyed a private guided tour of the walled gardens, led by an RHS volunteer who explained about all aspects of the garden's efforts in sustainability and their future plans. It was a great chance to learn more about their work in general, and of course, a great way to socialise with each other! To top the day off, the sun got his hat on!

I invite you to catch up on the other events we've hosted via the respective event reports posted on the blog over this past year:

Summer Walk in Arnside

Picnic at RHS Bridgewater

ITI One Day in Manchester – pre-conference meal

Stronger Together

Festive Social

Generative AI Social Saturday

AGM & Annual Dinner

Further events in the pipeline

Spring Walk

Our 'specialist' in walks, Mike, has planned another joint walk with the YTI which will take us south in our region to the Peak District. Booking is required so we know how many people to expect, with limited spaces left.

SEO Translation

This is an area of expertise that has become increasingly more sought after by potential clients who wish to localise their websites. We have Teressa Sousa on standby as a leading speaker in this field and intend to run this as a CPD session in May. We have sent out a link to complete a survey on the content of this training course as we'd like this event to be member led, so if you intend to attend this training event, please don't delay and complete the survey now.

Presentation by Laurence Bisot on Wildlife Translation

This webinar was delivered by Laurence for an ITI Webinar in August 2022 (title: "The Butterfly Effect") and lasted approx. 1½ hours. It was highly insightful as she let us in on all her secrets on how to excel in your chosen specialisms and we hope to run this again exclusively for NWTN members. Watch this space!

We've had other ideas for various CPD topics including: an online translation workshop around the theme of biodiversity; a Website Creation Clinic; French training in literary or technical translation; drawing workshop; various interpreting inspired themes including emerging RSI platforms, video-mediated interpreting in legal settings, and collaboration as the key to success for interpreters. Please let me know if you like these ideas or if you have others, particularly about a theme for next year's Boost Day!

My heartfelt thanks go to the rest of the Events Team for your ongoing support in running our events this past year – you're the best team ever!

Kate Lo

Events Team Lead

April 2024