



You may be surprised that it is already time for another AGM, that another year has passed and we are gathering again at the Alliance française to review the last 12 months and talk about the Network. There is a sense of DéjàVu 😊 as some of us will gather again at Browns Brasserie for a convivial meal afterwards (you were all invited!).

I can't believe next June will be four years since I took the Chair role. We had to go through Covid and inflation, and now we are facing the AI revolution... it has been tough for our professions and it does not look as if it's going to get any easier. The current economic uncertainty is directly impacting our business, our clients and our work. This is why our Network is so important for individual translators and interpreters. Beyond some very useful training, we provide opportunities to meet and exchange views and advice, we support each other and get some relief from isolation and tough times.

Kate Lo, our Events Lead, will detail the events we organized this past year in her own report, but I would like to give you a quick recap: 8 Working Lunches, 10 coworking days (7 with Northern Affinity), 3 Social Saturdays, 2 Book Chats, 1 walk, 1 picnic, 1 Annual Dinner and 1 full training day. Some of our members also attended the ITI One Day in Manchester in September. This combination of online and face-to-face social and training events is our strength, and we have tried to focus more on our community and the local nature of our network by creating more opportunities to meet in person.

The main event of the year was Stronger Together which gathered 25 translators and interpreters to work on 4 key concepts: collaboration, revision, accountability and mentoring. The feedback has been positive, and I am planning a follow-up event for next autumn, based on the feedback results and for all members, whether or not they took part in 2023. I encourage you to read the excellent [write-up by Laurence Auffret](#) and the results of the attendees' survey on our [Event Resources](#) page.

I would like to see new faces at our events, and I would encourage more people to attend them. For new attendees, the first step is often the hardest, but they soon realize how friendly and helpful everyone is! The membership numbers have remained more or less the same, but we still welcome, now and then, a local linguist who has not yet joined. This is why it is important to communicate about what we do to not only to our own members, but also to the wider community of interpreters and translators.

Communication is an important part of our committee work, and every single event needs to be advertised on the website and by email, but also across our social media platforms. After losing Kat Slater, our versatile Communication Lead, and our Instagram curators Dot Roberts and Chloe Stout, we were very lucky to recruit Marta Cisa, who did wonders on our social media in the last seven months. Unfortunately, she won't be able to keep the role after this AGM, so we desperately needed someone to take over. Our call was heard: Angelines Guerrero has volunteered to help with communications and she will start with the social media. But we still need more help! Kate and I have enjoyed working with all our planning and creative tools to publish attractive posts on the website and to send you all these informative emails (and reminders!), but we also organize events, which takes a lot of our time. We need more members to come forward and help the Network continue and develop its activities.

Chair report – AGM 5th April 2024



During the year, we have been able to add some benefits for the members, such as the Northern Affinity discount for coworking days (50%). We have also subsidized events further to significantly reduce the cost of tickets.

I will repeat what I said in last year's report: we cannot organize fabulous CPD and social events all the time, we do not have the time and enough committee members for that, but your Network tries its best to be a facilitator. As Stronger Together showed, there are many ways to support each other in our freelance life and in our work, and it is up to you to make the most of all that is available: coworking sessions are ideal to meet colleagues and make like-minded friends, and to grab tips and advice; the [directory](#) is great, but not limited to attracting potential clients: you can use it to contact other linguists to meet, exchange on subject or language matters, pass on work or look for collaboration; when you use the [forums](#) to share tips, questions and ideas, we can inform the members and send them links to your contributions; and our Zoom account is available for you to use when you meet your revision club, mentor/mentee or accountability buddy.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Committee members, past, present and future, for giving their time and effort to enable the Network to continue its mission. May they continue for many years to come, and inspire new volunteers!

Thank you all for your renewed trust and support.

Laurence Bisot