

Scottish Network of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting

www.itiscotland.org.uk

Minutes of the ITI Scottish Network AGM

held at the National Piping Centre, 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow, G4 0HW

20 November 2021, 11 a.m.

Present:

Committee members: Lynda Hepburn (Convenor), Karin Bosshard (Deputy Convenor), Norma Tait (Treasurer), Catherine Roux (Membership Secretary), Audrey Langlassé (Events Organiser – West), Iwan Davies (Webmaster), Siobhan Gorrie (Newsletter Editor)

Members: Louisa Davies, Manuela Junghans, Alicja Tokarska, Isabel Stainsby, Louise Souter, Marian Dougan, Kay McBurney, Helen Robertson, Carol Latimer, Barbara Bonatti Divers, Ali Walker, Mercedes Pacheco, Aleksandra Chlon, Lydia Marquardt, Ramon Inglada, Marian Cairns, Robert Arnott, Susan Higgins, Reiko Inder, Marie Gallagher

Apologies: Sue Anderson, Katrin Frahm, Simon Oladjins, Elisa Cristóbal-González, Sabine Citron, Heather Stacey, Aida Aguilar, Marianne Dørumsgard, Peter Barber, Angelika Muir-Hartmann, Mike Downey, Elisavet Kostika, Michael Loughridge, Kerstin Devine, Victoria Dalrymple, Marian Greenway, Beth Fowler, Alison Hughes, Marga Burke-Lowe, Anne Withers, Sylvia Davidson, Katia Perry, Renate FitzRoy, Carol Finch, Fiona Paterson, Sally MacPhail, Céline Boisson, Nicki Bone, Juliette Rutherford, Elaine Richards, Anne de Freyman, Debbie Nicol, Corinne Durand, Birgit Wagner

1. Welcome and apologies

Lynda opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and acknowledged that some members had travelled far to attend. She read out the list of apologies, including some late additions.

2. Minutes of 2020 AGM

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were unanimously approved by the members in attendance.
Proposed: Helen Robertson. Seconded: Isabel Stainsby.

3. Convenor and Deputy Convenor's report 2020: Lynda Hepburn and Karin Bosshard

Lynda and Karin shared the duty of giving the report on the previous year's events.

Lynda: Show & Tell, 21 January

- The final Show & Tell event, part of a series of informal presentations, was held on Zoom and proved an enjoyable end to the series.
- As in previous events, four ScotNetters gave a presentation, either on a hobby (Aleksandra Chlon, Reiko Inder) or on a translation-related topic (Susan Higgins, Ramon Inglada).

Karin: Spring workshop (“Translating children’s literature”), 20 March 2021

- Gemma Alonso (an English > Spanish translator) was the first speaker at the event and gave a presentation on translating *Alice in Wonderland* into Spanish. She focused particularly on creative challenges such as translating wordplay and humour.
- The second speaker was Guy Puzey, a Norwegian > English translator and researcher in Scandinavian studies at the University of Edinburgh. He discussed pseudo-profanities and other challenges in translating Norwegian children’s books.
- Both speakers gave plenty of examples drawn from their projects and left the attendees with interesting translation challenges to think about.
- There were 55 registrations for the event (although a lower number actually attended), including quite a few non-ScotNetters.
- The feedback was overall very positive. People found the practical examples useful and stimulating, even if they did not work in the field of literature/children’s literature.

Karin: Summer workshop (“Translating Scotland’s heritage”), 21 August 2021

- The event took on a new hybrid format in three parts: two online, one in person.
- The first online event was a presentation given by University of Strathclyde PhD researcher and French translator Pauline Côme, who talked about her research project on the challenges of providing translations at heritage sites. She spoke in particular about one of her case studies on providing translations for the Kelpies site, and gave practical examples.
- This was followed by a panel discussion with three ScotNet members working in the fields of heritage and tourism (Norma Tait, Reiko Inder and Katrin Frahm).
- The in-person event took the form of local excursions, in which members got together in local groups to visit heritage sites in their area and investigate the translation provision (or lack thereof). The sites included the V&A in Dundee, Abbotsford House in Melrose and the Willow Tearooms in Glasgow. It was a great way to meet one another in person again after such a long time.
- The second online event was a follow-up discussion in which attendees shared findings from their excursions. Volunteers from each group presented their insights and everyone was given the chance to see how different heritage sites handle translation.
- There were 39 registrations for the event. 34 attended the excursions and around 25 attended the follow-up online event.
- The feedback was generally positive. The participants enjoyed the new formats; in particular, the excursions. Some improvements were suggested for the timings and structure.

Lynda: Autumn workshop (“Polish that profile”), 30 October 2021

- This event was a hands-on writing workshop facilitated by Kate Sotejeff-Wilson MITI, who translates from Polish, German and Finnish into English and specialises in research publications. It was held online by necessity as Kate is based in Finland.
- After a short introduction, participants worked on their own online profiles (for platforms such as LinkedIn) in small groups, discussed writing tips and gave each other feedback.
- 33 registered for the event and around 28 attended on the day.
- Participants expressed their appreciation for the hands-on format and being “forced” to sit down and work on their profiles. The group discussions and feedback from colleagues was also viewed positively. Some participants expressed a wish for a clearer, more structured introduction and more writing tips from the speaker/facilitator.

In closing, Lynda said that she felt it was a real achievement for the committee to have organised three workshops over what was another turbulent year, especially given how difficult it was to decide whether to hold events online or in person. She thanked all those involved in organising the events.

4. Treasurer’s report

Norma opened the report by explaining the situation with the accounts scrutineer that ScotNet has used in recent years. There were some difficulties due to personal circumstances and lack of communication, so there is now a new scrutineer in place (Eric Wishart). He intends to review the last few years of the accounts and Norma will then communicate his findings to the membership. There are still some issues to be ironed out.

Overall, both income and expenditure are down due to us not running face to face events this year. However, the account balance has a very healthy surplus as not much has been spent, and even despite the fact that subscription income is slightly down. Income for the year includes deposits for the Shetland summer workshop and the repayment of a £400 loan.

The current expenditure figures do not include the Zoom annual fee due to the time of year at which it needs to be paid. Also, the speaker's fee for the Autumn workshop is still to be paid.

£1635 was donated to the hardship fund, established in 2020 as a response to the COVID period. Of this, a sum of £876 was given as grants to pay for ITI membership fees and one member was given a £400 loan. Norma explained the future plans for the hardship fund: as some people may still be struggling, the fund will be retained and then reviewed in May. If it is no longer needed for its original purpose, it can be added to the money available for Shetland. Full details will be made available on the members section of the website in the new year.

There was some discussion about the monetary considerations for Shetland. Kay asked the approximate costs of holding the workshop, but Norma said that the final figures were not yet available. However, she and Lynda explained that the outlay would not be significant as the venue isn't expected to be costly to hire and only one of the speakers is taking a full fee. There will be no travel and accommodation costs to cover as the speakers are based on Shetland. A large number of grants of around £70 can be issued and it is hoped that these will incentivise people who have been hesitating about attending (because of travel costs, for instance).

The real balance minus outstanding expenditure is £9114.82. Norma said that she hoped to have a fuller version of the scrutinised accounts available to the members by early 2022.

5. Membership Secretary's report: Catherine Roux

There are 129 ScotNet members, down slightly from 134 last year. The membership period runs from 1 November to 31 October. Of these members, there are:

- 71 MITIs
- 8 FITIs
- 30 AITIs
- 4 Graduate Affiliates
- 11 Career Affiliates
- 3 Students
- 3 Supporters
- 6 Friends
- 1 Corporate member (The Translation People)

All categories joining in year to Nov 2021 = 10

Resigned/Lapsed in year to Nov 2021 = 14

There are 124 members of the e-group as not everybody chooses to receive communication in this way.

Barbara asked whether it is possible to be part of ScotNet without being part of the ITI. Catherine said that these members would be categorised as Friends and would then have to move to join the ITI at some level after two years of Friend status. Each January, Catherine contacts ScotNetters at the end of their two-year period: she reported that most do choose to join the ITI.

Norma made the point that there are some fears in regional groups about non-ITI members making up the majority of the group's membership, but that there is no risk of this happening in ScotNet.

Kay added that retirees are in principle able to remain friends of ScotNet indefinitely. Their membership is at the committee's discretion, but essentially this provides a way for active members to continue their membership even after they are no longer working in the profession.

6. Social media and website report: Siobhan Gorrie and Iwan Davies

Siobhan gave the social media report on behalf of Elisa, who was unable to attend.

- The purpose of the social media channels is to showcase and advertise ScotNet to a wider audience. Elisa shares events, news and ScotNetters' achievements on each of the channels, with the occasional help of other committee members.
- Elisa encouraged those on social media to share ScotNet posts wherever they can, as this acts as a marketing tool for ScotNet and ensures that the posts get as many views as

possible. She also asked for members to let her know if there is anything that they would like to see more or less of on ScotNet's social media profiles.

- 2021 has been less busy on social media than 2020, but the accounts have some new followers who are very active, particularly on Twitter. Elisa expressed her thanks for this.
- The Twitter account has 987 followers, up from 915 last year. Of these, 57 are ScotNet members. The account follows 278 other accounts.
- The Facebook page is followed by 114 people, up from 103 last year. Its followers include 27 ScotNetters, some of whom are also on Twitter. Most posts reach between 30 and 70 people, but this number increases when ScotNetters share them on their personal profiles.

Iwan reported on the website:

- He explained that the website continues to be a resource for translators and interpreters in Scotland.
- Over the past 18 months, he has tried to keep updating the website with newsletter pieces and event reports.
- He expressed his intention to step down from the committee at the meeting but was pleased that a replacement has already been found. He expressed his thanks to everyone for their support during his time as Webmaster.

7. News from central ITI

Lynda made the point that this update was not strictly necessary now that the ITI corresponds with individual members about news and events. However, there were some items worth highlighting:

- **ITI Awards:** There was some discussion on which ScotNet events/initiatives might be worth putting forward for an award. Lynda suggested the Shetland workshop because of its unique location (pointing out the importance of ITI reaching the whole country) and its topical subject matter.

Alicja shared her experience of the ITI Awards, having won one following a talk on inclusive language that she gave to the Polish Network. She said that the ITI particularly liked the fact that the talk gave a voice to a relative newcomer to the profession and addressed important issues of the day, such as non-binary language.

Iwan suggested putting forward the Show & Tell events as it gave a platform to people who might not otherwise have been keen to give a presentation, and provided a jumping-off point for them to give presentations in the future. It also represents an excellent example of a direct response to COVID.

There was also a suggestion of putting forward the summer workshop, which was a "blended" event of online and small groups in person in response to the unpredictable Covid situation.

Barbara put forward a project that directly followed the summer workshop on heritage translation, in which multiple ScotNet members had joined forces to act as multilingual

service providers: this provided an example of translators taking the lead in a project and getting the rates they wanted.

Audrey suggested Corinne Durand's yoga event as something unusual and unique.

Marian suggested the hardship fund since, as far as she was aware, ScotNet was the first network to introduce an initiative like this.

Kay asked whether it would be possible to enter several of ScotNet's activities as a package that represents an overall response to COVID on ScotNet's behalf: for example, the Show & Tell events plus the hardship fund.

There was general support for ScotNet entering something and this led to a discussion about the potential for ScotNet to advertise itself more widely: when it hosted the ITI Coffee Morning, for instance, some people said that they had found it difficult to find out much about the network. Carol expressed appreciation for everything the committee has done during the recent difficult period, and Louise said that she found ScotNet's social media to be much more active than other regional groups, and that ScotNet had a friendly reputation among those outside the network. Marian suggested having more articles from the newsletter submitted to the ITI Bulletin for republication. Barbara asked whether her previous role (liaising with those responsible for advertising regional events at ITI) was still active, and Karin confirmed that she has been doing this.

Lynda will contact the ITI with ideas about potential subjects for awards, possibly with the input of those with experience (such as Alicja and Mike). Quotes from members and social media posts are seen as positive additions to applications.

- **ITI Conference:** Although ScotNet generally tries to avoid clashes with ITI events, the circumstances of the Shetland event have made it impossible to postpone further and its date is followed almost immediately by the ITI Conference on 31 May and 1 June. This is unfortunate but it is the final chance for Shetland to be resurrected.

Marian said that she will be attempting to attend both the Shetland event and some of the conference, and explained more about developments at ITI level. There is now a working committee focusing on equality, diversity and inclusion: although the ITI is not actively discriminatory, it still has a largely white European profile and the ITI therefore feels that this is a question to address.

Lydia, who will be one of the speakers at the ITI Conference, asked whether it would still be possible for her talk to be promoted via the ScotNet social media channels despite the semi-clash with Shetland. Lynda said that this would still be fine as there will be members who intend to go to the conference rather than Shetland.

8. Election of office bearers

After a period of relatively few changes in the committee, three members decided to step down this year. The committee also made the decision to add an Assistant Treasurer post, with a view to this person learning the ropes of the Treasurer's job and then taking up that role after the next AGM.

Lynda outlined the four posts and put forward the names of those standing for them (unopposed in every case). She read short profiles from three of those standing (Ramon Inglada, Victoria Dalrymple and Mike Downey – only Ramon Inglada was present at the meeting).

1. **Deputy Convenor.** Outgoing: Karin Bosshard; standing for election: Ramon Inglada.
2. **Assistant Treasurer.** New post; standing for election: Victoria Dalrymple.
3. **Webmaster.** Outgoing: Iwan Davies; standing for election: Mike Downey.
4. **Events Organiser – East.** Outgoing: Angelika Muir-Hartmann; standing for election: Norma Tait.

As all the candidates stood unopposed, there was no need to choose members for election. The new members were elected en bloc.

Proposed: Barbara Bonatti Divers. Seconded: Alicja Tokarska.

All other committee members were willing to stand for re-election and were also re-elected en bloc by a show of hands.

Lynda also stated that she and Norma would be stepping down from their posts at the next AGM. This will mean that a new Deputy Convenor will be needed from that point. Lynda urged the membership to give this some consideration. She expressed her thanks to the outgoing members of the committee for all their work and dedication over the years, and those present were given gift cards as a token of thanks.

9. Event planning for 2022

There were two main events for discussion in this item:

1. Spring workshop

- The proposed subject matter for the event is time management. Susan presented some ideas for content based on her own experience of time management courses and her attendance at the "Getting Things Done" talk at the last ITI Conference. She gave examples including Trello boards and suggested that members share what they have tried.
- Lydia let the group know that she would be presenting at the 2022 ITI Conference on a very similar subject: work-life balance. She expressed her willingness to get involved in the workshop: despite an exclusivity clause with the conference, there are still ideas that she can use.
- The workshop is likely to be split into two sessions of 1.25 hours, so two presenters would be ideal.
- After some discussion, the date of 19 March 2022 was chosen.

2. Summer workshop: Saturday 28 May 2022, Lerwick, Shetland

- Alongside ScotNetter Birgit Wagner, the speakers at the event will be Tom Wills (speaking on renewables) and Sue White (speaking on peatland conservation).

- The social programme will include an informal meal on the Friday evening, a ceilidh and dinner on the Saturday evening, and a Sunday outing to the southern part of Shetland's mainland to visit sites of environmental and cultural interest.
- The organisers made the decision to push the pre-registration deadline back to 17 December. Currently, 23 people have registered for the event and, since most of them will be bringing family members or friends, around 43 in total will be participating in the social events. Although the numbers for the social side are good, some more registrations are needed for the workshop itself: 30 would be ideal.
- Lynda urged those who had not yet decided to make a decision soon so that they would then be able to make bookings, as accommodation in Shetland is already filling up and recent experience suggests that there may be few options remaining. She also stressed that no one should be put off on grounds of cost, because sufficient funds are available to keep the workshop price down and to subsidise travel.
- Although Shetland requires a lot of travelling for most members, grants amounting to around £70 each will be available from the ScotNet travel fund so the cost is unlikely to be more than attending any other summer workshop at a venue outside the Central Belt. The workshop is intended to be accessible to all despite its more distant location.

10. Any other business

Norma said that subscription fees are now due and that she will be sending out reminders. She also asked that anyone who has not yet completed the GDPR form return it to her as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 12:45.