

February 2025

ITI SCOTNET NEWSLETTER

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ITI Scottish Network Newsletter Editor



In with the new?

I'm writing this in late(ish) January, but it already feels like 2025 is moving quickly, not least because the weather has shifted from a heavy frost to mild temperatures within the space of around 10 days. That said, I did also hear the all-too-familiar-by-now words "named storm" on the radio this morning, so more change is no doubt coming soon. (*Update from a few days later: it was Éowyn.*)

There's also something about years with 5 or 0 at the end that – to me, at least – feel like we've now reached "the future" and are steadily hurtling through time. No matter how alarming the pace of things moving along might feel, however, ScotNet always feels like a stalwart presence. That was something one of our longest-standing members, Michael Loughridge, certainly contributed to: this issue includes a lovely [tribute](#) to him following his passing late last year. He will be sorely missed.

You can also read about the latest [autumn workshop](#) – another fixture – plus 2024's [METM](#) event and a follow-up on last issue's piece about a [bilingual wedding](#).

Wishing you all the best for 2025 and I hope that you, too, find comfort in ScotNet's consistency.

Siobhan ♦

*Summer lasted forever when I was seven,
but now it only visits.*

~ Sonya Hartnett

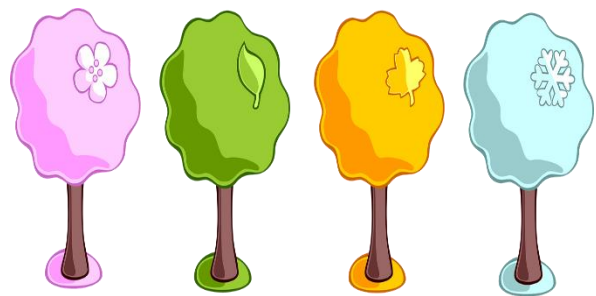


Image: Satyress on Pixabay

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Dates for your diary

ITI ScotNet spring workshop: Saturday, 22 March 2025, The Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL. As announced at the AGM, the first workshop of 2025 will be on working with direct clients and will be presented by popular speaker and ScotNetter Tim Gutteridge. The morning will look at creating a client base, communication and pricing, and will even address whether our approach to translation needs to be amended for direct clients. The workshop will be followed by a lunch at ScotNet favourite Ciao Roma. The call notice has now been issued and registration is open – and this time, you can register using our [Eventbrite link](#), a new feature for ScotNet! Please make sure to register by Friday, 7 March 2025 if you'd like to attend – and, in another slight change, it's worth noting that the venue is different from our last couple of spring and autumn workshops.

ITI ScotNet summer workshop: Saturday, 7 and Sunday, 8 June 2025, Holiday Inn Dumfries, The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4UQ. For this year's summer workshop, ScotNet will be venturing back to the south of Scotland and focusing on the hot topic of sustainability, with some fantastic speakers already lined up. As always, however, the weekend isn't all about work. The programme will include a Friday night foregathering dinner, a ceilidh plus dinner on the Saturday night, and a Sunday morning walk. If you haven't been to a ScotNet summer workshop before or you're a newer member, this annual fixture is a fantastic opportunity to get to know fellow ScotNetters and venture beyond the Central Belt. Save the date and watch this space for more details!

ITI short course on Translation and AI: Friday, 7 February until Friday, 11 April 2025 (weekly sessions), online. If you'd like to explore the role of AI in translation in more depth over a series of modules, this course may be right for you. The ITI is offering the course for a second time in partnership with the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, with the aim of looking beyond the hype and taking an independent, non-commercial view of AI. The course consists of five modules, each comprising two 90-minute weekly sessions. For more information and to sign up, please visit the [ITI website](#) (you will need to be logged into your My ITI area in order to sign up).

ITI workshop – Fresh phrases for translators: Wednesday, 19 March and Wednesday, 26 March 2025, online. Feeling bored of the usual turns of phrase you serve up in your translations and looking for something inspiring to inject into your words? In this two-part workshop, popular speaker Joachim Lépine will take participants through idioms, aphorisms, juxtapositions and more, and consider how they can be used to bring out the full flavour of a text. For more information and to sign up, visit the [ITI website](#).

For more events, remember to visit the online [ITI Calendar](#). Our own page at [itiscotland.org.uk](#) also contains all the latest details about upcoming ScotNet events.

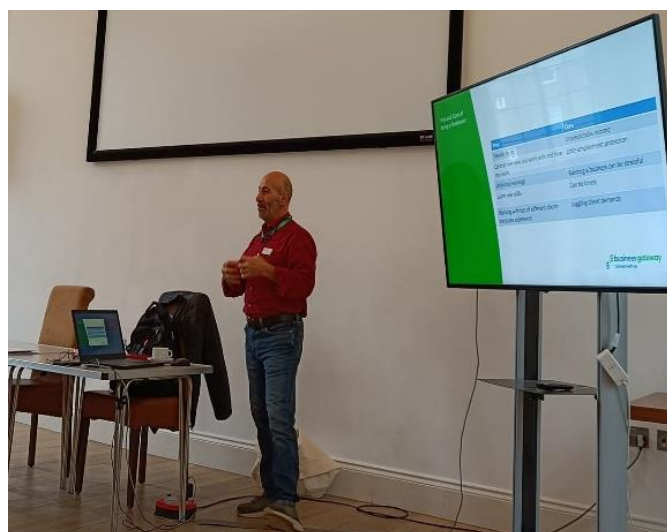
If you would like to advertise your own event here, please get in touch: editor@itiscotland.org.uk

ScotNet autumn workshop 2024: getting confident with taxing affairs

For a lot of translators and interpreters, the ins and outs of running a business aren't part of their passion, just something they have to deal with in order to pursue the profession they love. Not only that, but some aspects of running a business – like tax – can be downright scary for those without a financial background. Fortunately, ScotNet is never shy about tackling scary subjects head-on, and 2024's autumn workshop was all about tax confidence. Pauline Côme-Laing, one of ScotNet's newer members, reports on the event here.

Saturday, 5 October saw ScotNetters old and new gather for the autumn workshop at the Edinburgh Methodist Church. As a newly minted member of ITI ScotNet, I approached this event as any other networking opportunity: with anticipation and a pinch of apprehension. Still, having presented a hybrid summer workshop a few years ago, I knew from experience that ScotNetters are a welcoming bunch, and I was reassured to see a few faces I remembered from that occasion.

This autumn's event, presented by Mario Alonzi from Business Gateway, was all about building up our tax confidence.



Mario Alonzi, our speaker for the workshop

Mario started by going over the different self-employment statuses. A quick show of hands revealed that sole traders were in the majority, with a few limited companies also present. Mario then went over the pros and cons pertaining to each of these two statuses. My understanding is that the tax structure for limited companies can sometimes be more advantageous but is more involved in terms of reporting to HMRC (including having to keep minutes of quarterly meetings, even when it's just you in front of a mirror!) and comes with some administrative fees that sole traders don't have. For the sole traders who might consider moving to a limited company structure, Mario's advice was to do a simulation beforehand to make sure that you would indeed benefit from the move.

The bulk of Mario's presentation focused on HMRC reporting and self-assessment, in particular the Making Tax Digital initiative (MTD for short). This involves using HMRC-compliant software for your accounting, sending quarterly mini tax returns. The obvious con to this is that the use of an HMRC-approved application is likely to entail an extra subscription cost to our businesses. As one attendee put it, it sounds like HMRC

is effectively subsidising the developers of those platforms. Most of the HMRC-approved accounting platforms out there are indeed paid-for subscriptions, but it's worth noting that a few open-source applications do exist. If you have a business bank account or an accountant, it is also a good idea to check with them if they can provide you with a licence.

Despite the potential cost to your business, MTD promises a few advantages. First, it makes it easier to spot and rectify mistakes, and to budget for tax. Second, and depending on your bank and account type, MTD-compliant accounting software can link to your bank account so that your books are constantly up to date. Some applications also integrate an invoicing platform from which you can produce quotes and invoices. Although I dearly love a spreadsheet, I must admit that the potential time gain is quite appealing.

MTD is already compulsory for certain businesses and was supposed to be rolled out to sole traders in 2020, but this was delayed for obvious reasons. The current insight from Mario and from the HMRC website is that MTD will become compulsory for most sole traders from April 2026 or April 2027 depending on your income. If you are not yet using MTD-compliant accounting software, Mario suggests not to wait until the last minute and to plan for a transition period to migrate to your chosen platform.

After a very welcome break to help us digest this information, Mario moved on to talk about VAT registration. Here the advice was that, unless you need to be VAT-registered

(for your reputation, visibility, or because your turnover is greater than the VAT threshold), it is rare that VAT works in your favour. From the experience of some colleagues in the room, it also sounds like HMRC

is fast to react in case of delays or errors in your VAT returns, so being VAT-registered forces you to be very diligent with your accounting.

In the final part of his presentation, Mario tackled the delicate topic of business expenses. Here, his mantras are:

"If you can justify it, it's an expense."

"Claim everything until you are told 'No'."

Mario explained how sole traders can use simplified expenses to claim travel and working from home expenses (energy bills and rent) without having to work out the actual costs. He noted that travel expenses can be claimed not just to go to clients but also to attend CPD events – so there's no excuse not to join the next ScotNet meeting! Besides travel and working from home expenses, you can claim for internet and phone use (estimate the proportion you use your broadband/mobile for work vs. personal use).

Travel expenses can be claimed not just for visiting clients, but also for attending CPD events.



As always, ScotNetters were ready with an arsenal of questions!

Other things to claim as expenses include software subscriptions, memberships of professional bodies, occupational items (office furniture, computer glasses, etc.) and CPD activities. One important question raised by a participant was that of expenses relating to health and wellbeing. Mario's response was that if these expenses were justifiable, that is to say that they were essential to our professional functioning, then they should be allowable. He also suggested checking with your local Business Gateway for wellbeing grants.

The workshop concluded with tips, such as connecting with your local Business Gateway, and some recommendations for further reading (listed below), including Creative Scotland's Illustrated Freelancer's Guide. We then made our way to Ciao Roma for a delicious networking lunch, continuing to discuss and process all the information provided by Mario. I left very happy and energised after having had the chance to meet so many colleagues.

Resources:

Parry, H. and Stoian, M. (2024 for the 4th edition) *The Illustrated Freelancer's Guide*. Creative Scotland. Available [here](#).

Hayden, C. (2013 for the 3rd edition) *Get Clients Now! (TM): A 28-Day Marketing Program for Professionals, Consultants, and Coaches*. AMACOM.

Gerber, M. E. (2009 for the reprint) *The E-Myth Revisited: Why Most Small Businesses Don't Work and What to Do About It*. HarperCollins.



Pauline (whose full profile you can read later in the issue) translates from English into French, specialising in heritage tourism and medical fields.

Contact: pauline@pcltranslation.com



Deliciousness followed at Ciao Roma, a regular ScotNet post-workshop haunt!

A tribute to Michael Loughridge

Late last year, the members of ScotNet were saddened to receive the news that long-standing member Michael Loughridge had passed away. A translator and an academic, he was a well-known and well-loved figure at many events over the years and always made time for ScotNet, even into his later years. Here, Helen Robertson reflects on his life, and her piece is followed by some additional brief tributes from individual ScotNetters.

We recently lost a highly valued member of the ITI Scottish Network in Dr Michael James Loughridge. Having celebrated his golden wedding anniversary on 23 September with his wife, Sylvia, and their family, he became unwell and on his return home was admitted to hospital. He had a faulty heart valve and died on 6 October 2024.



A portrait of Michael

The biographical information below is drawn mainly from the eulogy given by his son, James, and daughter, Anne (Annie).

Michael James Loughridge came from Belfast, where his father was a surgeon. He was the middle one of three children, with an older brother and a younger sister.

He was educated at Harrow School and attended university at Queen's in Belfast and also studied German and French at Jesus College, Cambridge. He studied for his PhD with Germanist and lexicographer Trevor Jones.

Michael came to St Andrews in the late 1960s. He had a great love of food and eating, and was evidently convivial: as a young academic he held curry evenings and was part of the Gannochy Club, which searched for good restaurants. He was not the domesticated type otherwise, scandalising a cleaner who found out that he didn't even possess an ironing board!

Michael met his wife, Sylvia, at St Andrews. He was a lecturer in German and she was an administrator in the Modern Languages department there. Both of them lived in Cupar, and during the 1970s petrol strike they shared a car to work – one thing led to another.

They married on 27 September 1974 at St Andrews University chapel, held the reception at the David Russell hall of residence and then departed to the Vosges for their honeymoon.

Michael had a wide range of interests, including aviation, travel, culture, food, geology, swimming, gardening and hill walking. His love of travel, culture and also of the mountains were instilled in him by his parents, with his interest in geology coming from his father. The interest in flying he also shared with his father may have contributed to his deafness. He climbed nearly all of the Munros, frequently with son James in tow. He grew not only flowers in the garden in Cupar, but also trees and saplings – not to mention vegetables, which he sometimes sold to shops in the town when he had a surplus.

ScotNetters are familiar with his conviviality, which goes a long way back. James mentioned his love of the annual retreats held by the St Andrews German department at The Burn in Glenesk. We ourselves have met him at summer workshops and other meetings, greatly appreciating not only the translation workshops but also the food, the walks and the dancing. I will never forget the year at Aviemore when he had just had two hip replacements. His doctors had assured him that they would be better than his original hips, and he certainly tested that information to the full on the dance floor! Sylvia was – possibly fortunately – not present on that occasion, but the two were still dancing at the ceilidh on Shetland, where flagging physical fitness appeared to be no obstacle.

His daughter Annie paid tribute to him as a great teacher, a great supporter and an encourager of his family. James also told the story of Michael having a talk with Annie, who was unsure as to what career she wanted to pursue. After a diagnosis of her preferences by her father, she found herself enrolling in a course on tourism and embarking on a career she very much enjoyed. She also made the point that he kept in touch with people – the minister at the funeral summed it up: Michael invested in people.

He had a strong work ethic, and as we know, after he retired from academia he became a freelance translator, working into his 80s.

I remember Michael very well from his days as a lecturer at St Andrews University and mine as a student there. Similarly to his contributions to ScotNet, his teaching and lecturing were authoritative but his manner was unassuming. Despite his vast knowledge and analytical skills he discussed literary analysis and translation on level terms with everyone and was always approachable. You never felt with Michael that you were asking a stupid question. He stimulated other people's independent thinking. I have just re-read the article in the ScotNet newsletter of March 2016, "Lone Voice". Besides including some of his own translations, his piece on Friedrich Hölderlin discussed the poet's life and problems. The quotation: "Ach, Luise, lass ... Das ist ein zu weites Feld" at the end brought me up short. There is no citation, no translation. The reader is left to pursue the matter if interested – and it isn't hard to do on the web: enter the first few words and you will find it. It is a quotation from Theodor Fontane's *Effi Briest*, which addresses complicated themes including

marital relations (Hölderlin was in love with a married woman). The reader can draw any conclusions he or she may wish to. Michael never served up anything cut and dried.



After a long career in translating Dutch, French and German into English in commercial fields, Helen has recently entered a well-earned retirement.

Contact: hertranslations.co.uk

ScotNetters pay tribute

I'm sad to hear that Michael has died. He was a much-loved and respected member of ScotNet. He was incredibly experienced and knowledgeable and absolutely committed to sharing his passion for languages, including visits to schools long after he retired, where he would talk inspiringly about languages and translation. He also had an excellent, often irreverent sense of humour. He'll be sadly missed.

~ Heather Stacey

Michael was an extraordinary person; he will be sorely missed.

~ Norma Tait

Although I didn't know Michael well, he was part of the local twinning association in which I am involved in Cupar, and will be greatly missed.

~ Clare Elder

I last saw Michael in Edzell and was amazed at his sheer determination to join in with every part of the weekend despite his frailty.

~ Alison Hughes

I really enjoyed the interactions and conversations I had with Michael, whom I found to be such a lovely and interesting man. He seemed to have great passion and energy for life and social exchanges, even in his older age, and while physically less able. He will undoubtedly be hugely missed by his family, and amongst all his circles.

~ Corinne Durand

He was extremely kind to me when I joined ScotNet and I enjoyed meeting him and Sylvia at our workshops over the years. It was very endearing to see him attending our events even when he struggled to hear the speakers, and he definitely had a sharp, curious and very knowledgeable mind.

~ Elisa Cristóbal González

He will be greatly missed. I met him in Shetland and at the Edzell workshop, and only knew him a little, but he gave me an amazing impression of his intellectual enthusiasm.

~ Reiko Inder

I remember Michael well from many ScotNet meetings and he was always so kind and friendly - with a lovely smile! He'll be hugely missed.

~ Lucy Byatt

I first met Michael at the workshop in Tobermory. He was writing in a journal, copious notes including names and details of new people he'd met. Beside my name was the one-word entry: "small". Always makes me smile to remember that; he will be missed.

~ Sue Anderson

METM24 – everything everywhere all at once

Every year in October, members of Mediterranean Editors and Translators (MET) come together in a stunning location to learn and connect. In 2022 they met in San Sebastián in Spain, last year they gathered in Mantua in Italy, and this year they descended on Carcassonne in France. ScotNetters Lynda Hepburn and Aleksandra Chlon agree that MET meetings rival – dare we say it – ScotNet’s summer workshops, and here they tell us why.

Workshops

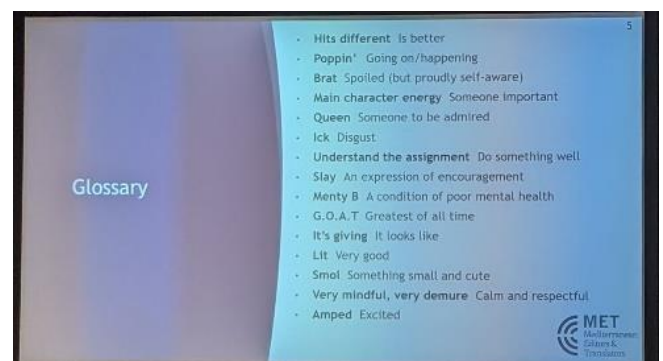
The conference always starts with a couple of days of hands-on workshops. Aleksandra attended a wine workshop that left her thirsty for more (knowledge, not just wine!) as well as two grammar sessions – one about parallelism to enhance text flow (led by Mary Ellen Kerans) and the other about dangling participles and adverbial disjuncts (led by Irwin Temkin). Both sessions were brimming with wonderfully pedantic linguistic details, but also full of humour (“Jesus was a wonderful teacher...but I think he had editors!”). At MET workshops, you always feel like you’re learning from the best.

Lynda also attended a number of grammar mini-sessions, being one of the generation who seems to have missed out on all but the most basic grammar teaching at school. [“Subject-verb agreement: overcoming the stumbling blocks”](#) with Thomas O’Boyle and [“Dominoes: ordering sentences in a reader-friendly way”](#) with Maria Sherwood-Smith were both enlightening and provoked quite some discussion, and were just the right mix to keep the audience not only awake but also highly engaged.

Talks

The keynotes were inspiring. The famous David Bellos told us about translation rights, while Julia Molinari spoke about academic

writing as an act of love. Her spirit and fire were contagious as she raged against the publish-or-perish culture in academia and the infuriating aspects of education (“We teach them templates...we don’t teach them to think”). Julia advocated using a strong, personal, emotional voice.



How do you do, fellow kids: a crash course

The presentations were varied and captivating. Lloyd Bingham gave us a crash course in how the cool kids speak these days in an attempt to convince us to “translate and edit like it’s 2024” (and making many of us wish we could go back in time to the good old days when a goat was just a goat, slaying was Buffy’s domain, and punctuation was given the respect it deserves). Other talks discussed career development and expanding one’s horizons, explored relations between authors and editors, touched on topics as diverse as plagiarism, knitting and team projects, and dived into matters like copyright and neural machine translation. There’s always something for everyone.

Speakers

Lynda gave a presentation on translating botany, which attracted a satisfyingly large audience, not just of gardeners but also translators of forestry and other plant-related subject areas. Having established some fundamentals – the intricacies of naming and describing your plant – she ensured everyone was on the ball by giving the audience a quick quiz in which they had to choose leaf descriptions using an online poll. The talk was rounded off by considering some source text dilemmas, tips to master botanical writing style, and ways to deal with cultural references so as not to baffle the reader – much of which is, of course, relevant to far more than botany.



Lynda presenting her extensive botanical knowledge

Aleksandra has been a snippet slammer since MET’s online conference in 2020, when the event ended with a quick-fire translation slam involving short phrases in French to be translated into English. Since then, METMs

have featured interactive translation sessions during which participants translate short snippets in groups. Aleksandra led the French and English session together with French translator Nelia Fahloun, and it seems to have been a great success (she says humbly). We imagine we speak for most translators when we say that translating together for fun is one of our favourite pastimes. Participants seemed to enjoy brainstorming together and they came up with fascinatingly different solutions. One of the snippets was a slogan from an alcohol awareness campaign in Belgium: “Au volant, aucune excuse ne tient la route”. Some brilliant translations included “None for the road”, “Excuses will get you nowhere”, “Steer clear of excuses” and “On the road, excuses don’t fly”. Other snippets were a ruthless description of recent British leaders (“resembling a reverse ascent of man”) and a pop-inspired airline advert (“Girls just wanna have sun”).

Off-METM activities

Girls wanna have fun, and so do translators and editors. What makes METMs particularly special is everything that happens before, after and in between the sessions.

We had kicked off the trip with a guided tour and listened to our guide, Caroline, talk about the big fat lie of Dame Carcas (Carcas sonne!), the multi-layered city walls, the fascinating delusions (our words, not hers) of the Cathars, the suppression of Occitan, and Napoleon’s desire to destroy the town – until he was convinced to come and visit and fell in love with it, too.

At every conference, themed lunches and dinners are organised in intimate groups. Lynda attended a themed meal on Thursday posted as “A dog’s dinner”. While some of the chat was indeed about our wonderful pooches, the meal was definitely not for the dog, and several of us enjoyed the local speciality, cassoulet, in a vegan version. While the closing gala dinner – this year in the conference centre and billed as “great food, excellent company, questionable dancing” – is not to be missed. The themed meals are an ideal opportunity to meet and talk to a small group, expanding your network and adding to the friendly faces you see at the talks.

Other activities included an Occitan class, chair yoga and an editing slam. Aleksandra also got to fulfil a life goal...to play the Carcassonne boardgame in Carcassonne!

Both Aleksandra and Lynda were involved in the now well-established pop-up choir, led by Ruth Simpson. Given the busy schedule, this choir performs after only two one-hour rehearsals: seems impossible? Ruth pulls it off with energy and a lot of praise for our efforts. Both years that Lynda has sung in this choir, the choice has been one pop song and one local folk song, usually requiring us to learn either a dialect of the country’s language, or a whole new language – Occitan this time round. ScotNetters will probably remember Timothy Barton, who joined our workshops for a year back in about 2019 – as well as many other skills, he is a master of Occitan and hence was our teacher.



Singing translators – METM edition

The conference culminated in a gala dinner on the last evening, which was also when the choir performed. The singing didn’t end there, however – we danced and sang until almost two in the morning, with the DJ playing our favourite tunes from the ’80s and ’90s.

The last hurrah before everyone goes home is always a Sunday-morning walk. Aleksandra had an early train to catch and had to leave, but Lynda joined a large group who met down by the River Aude, just beside the Pont Vieux – one of the few surviving medieval bridges in France – and strolled upriver for an hour before returning down the other bank. Another great chance for networking while enjoying a lovely sunny morning.

The event offers a wealth of useful information, superb organisation and a friendly atmosphere, with delegate numbers capped at 150

So, what is it, apart from everything we’ve described above, that attracts Aleksandra and Lynda back to MET meetings? Of course, it’s a mix of things, including the professional benefit of varied and interesting

talks, hands-on workshops and useful networking. But there are other ingredients – and not just all the delicious local food! For one, the organisation is superb: for a team of volunteers, their efficiency and attention to detail is second to none. Both before and during the event, there is a wealth of useful information provided in a clear and concise form.

Then there is the friendly atmosphere: everywhere you go, someone will welcome you, make you feel at home and ensure you are part of the crowd – whether it's your first METM or your tenth. The MET policy of limiting numbers to 150 delegates helps here, so there's no faceless mass where you never encounter the same person twice. Did we say it was like ScotNet? On a larger scale, definitely! And, just as the ScotNet summer workshop attracts us back year after year, METM has the same pull for us.



Beautiful Carcassonne provided this year's setting

By the end of the event our brains were fried but our minds were satiated, our social batteries were drained but our hearts were

full, and our voices were croaky from all the singing. Next year we're meeting in Barcelona for METM's 20th birthday...will it be overrun by ScotNetters? See you there.



Aleksandra translates from French, Polish & Russian into English and specialises in the medical and marketing fields.

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Lynda works from German into English, specialising in areas including the environment, technical subjects, science and philosophy.

Contact: lynda@summittranslations.co.uk

Celebrating love in two languages – part II

Last issue you may have read Marion Greenway Allen's account of her brother's half-Scottish, half-Peruvian wedding and the interpreting work that went into making the Peruvian side feel included in the day. In this issue, we're fortunate enough to hear from the interpreter herself, Aida Ferrer, and the kind of preparation she needed to do in order to communicate some very Scottish references! Over to you, Aida.

Last February, I had the enormous pleasure of interpreting at a Scottish wedding. It was held in Loch Lomond, one of my favourites places in Scotland. You may have already read the piece from our colleague, Marion, who highlighted the importance of language communication during this special occasion. Now, I'd like to share my experience as the interpreter in action!

Marion was looking for a Spanish interpreter for her nephew's wedding when I contacted her. I said that I was a professional working in Spanish and English, and that I was eager to interpret for this special celebration. I still remember how excited I was when Marion confirmed she wanted me to be the linguist, translating the ceremony and the speeches into Spanish. Despite being a proud Mallorcan, my heart is half-Scottish, so I was over the moon when I heard the good news!

As soon as I received Marion's confirmation, I started the usual preparations involved in any assignment. I spent weeks reading about Scottish wedding protocols and religious passages, and sought out whatever information could be useful. I also got in touch with another colleague who had interpreted at a wedding before, who kindly shared their experience with me.

When I received all the documentation, to my horror I realised that the best man's speech would be the most challenging one, since it included statistics and poems in the Scots language! At first, I panicked a wee bit because I wasn't sure of how to convey the messages into Spanish. What's more, I couldn't find any official translation for those specific poems of Rabbin Burns. After hours and hours of researching, I realised that the best way to deliver the poems would be to trust in my professional abilities and come up with my own translation.

As a bit of fun for my dear readers, I have shared the originals alongside my translations. Apologies in advance for my poor sense of humour. The intention was for the poems to rhyme and (attempt) to be funny for the target audience!



Aida translates and interprets between English, Spanish, Catalan and German, focusing on renewable energies, sustainability and sports.

Contact: aidathegreeninterpreter.com

Aida's wedding poetry

I hope you enjoy my piece and my poems – the audience did, thankfully! If you're planning to get married in a multicultural environment, you may want to consider bringing an interpreter with you to make the day even more cheerful and magical.

William Topaz McGonagall

The chicken is a noble beast,
The cow is much forlorn,
Standing in the pouring rain,
With a leg in every corner.

La gallina es mansa
La vaca es más tranquila
Bajo una lluvia intensa
Tienen una pata en cada esquina.

Star Trek

I hunt in darkness.
The stars my guide.
The memory of you sings in my blood.
I seize the gift.
Carry it to your bower.
And lay at your feet the hearts of my enemies.

Salgo a cazar cuando no es de día
Las estrellas son mi guía
La intensidad de tu recuerdo sigue viva
Voy en busca de un tesoro
Para llevarlo ante tu armonía
Y bajo tus pies extendiendo la cabeza de los que
son mi agonía.

Robert Burns

Wisdom and Science – honor'd Powers!
Pardon the truth a sinner tells;
I owe my dearest, raptured hours
To folly with her cap and bells.
Love's records, written on a heart like mine,
Not Time's last effort can efface a line.

Sabiduría y Ciencia – ¡Poderes honrados!
Perdonad la verdad que dice un pecador;
Debo mis horas más queridas y arrebatadas
a la locura que siento ante la más amada.
El amor está escrito en un corazón como el
mío,
ni el último aliento por escribir una línea puede
caer en el olvido.



Member news

Here's where we welcome new members to the network. Also, please remember to notify the Membership Secretary (membership@itiscotland.org.uk) of any changes to your ITI membership category since you joined the network. In particular, let the MemSec know when you upgrade to MITI, as your details can then be made available to the general public online.

New members:

→ **Isabelle Baron–McGeehan:** After a varied career, I have come full circle and returned to translation. I qualified in translation and interpreting (English to French) in France many moons ago and came to Scotland to translate a Scottish folktale for my MA (where I met a fascinating storyteller from the Scottish travelling community – but that's another story!). My career then took me to various sectors. I started in a translation agency in England before moving to Paris to work for PepsiCo. I then returned to Scotland and worked in education for over 20 years. This included a post at Stirling University as a Teaching Fellow delivering pedagogy seminars to student teachers. I then moved to Heriot–Watt University to lead workshops and webinars on a new education initiative. In this role, I wrote and edited training material for Scottish government education publications. This is when I decided to return to translation, as I realised how much I had missed working with the written word. Although already qualified, I challenged myself to sit (and pass!) the DipTrans exam. Following that, I worked as an in–house translator and then began freelancing. You won't be surprised to know that I specialise in e–learning as well as HR training and development (alongside areas relating to NGOs, non–profits, social sciences and the environment). In my free time, I enjoy traditionally Scottish pursuits (music and

singing), walking in Scotland and much more. I look forward to meeting you soon in person or online.

→ **Pauline Côme–Laing:** Originally from Le Mans in France, I moved to Scotland back in 2014 as a fresh graduate in English. After three years spent working for a French business trading in Scotland and facing cross–cultural communication issues on an almost daily basis, I enrolled for an MSc programme in Business Translation and Interpreting at the University of Strathclyde. I graduated in 2018 and worked for a year as an in–house linguist between English and French before returning to Strathclyde in 2019 to pursue a PhD on translation in the Scottish heritage sector. I continued to work as a part–time freelance translator throughout my doctoral programme and, after completing my thesis last winter, I decided to leave academia and to commit to freelancing full–time. My research has naturally led me to specialise in heritage, leisure and tourism, and food and drink, but I am also developing a new specialism in medical translation (specifically clinical trials, medical devices, and lab equipment/consumables). In my spare time I enjoy reading and walking, and I recently discovered the joys of open water swimming.

Other news:

→ Congratulations to **Marian Dougan** on attaining FITI status – a fantastic achievement and a testament to how much she has contributed to the profession.

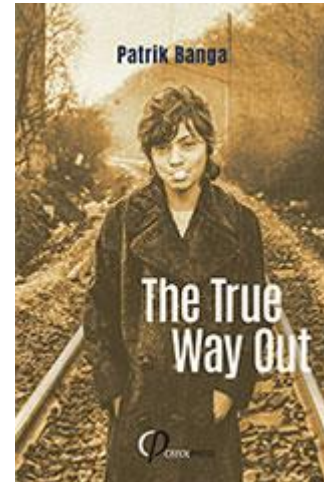
→ Following the **AGM** in December, ScotNet’s committee now looks slightly different! **Alicja Tokarska** was previously understudying the Membership Secretary position as deputy to **Sue Anderson**, and was officially installed in the role at the December meeting. **Lisa Barrett** has also now taken over the role of Webmaster. Your very own newsletter team is also in a period of transition: **Kathleen McNish** and **Kay McBurney** (Deputy Editor and Layouter respectively) are stepping down from their roles, while **Siobhan Gorrie** is staying on temporarily as Editor while a new team is assembled...watch this space! A huge thank you goes out to every single person who has contributed to the committee – ScotNet simply couldn’t run without you.

→ Are you based in Glasgow, or do you work there frequently? If so, you might be interested in **Alicja Tokarska**’s monthly co-working group at [Civic House](#). If you’d like to be added to the WhatsApp group and receive reminders about future meetups, contact Alicja at alicja@polkadottranslations.com.

→ **Jo Durning**, who is not only a ScotNetter but also Chair of the ITI’s Professional Development Committee, is looking for your views on what professionalism means. She has put together a feedback form so that ITI members can contribute their ideas on what it means to be a professional linguist, and the Professional Development Committee will use this information to shape its ideas and remit. You can access the form [here](#).

Shelfies

→ “The True Way Out” by Czech author Patrik Banga has been translated by our very own **Isabel Stainsby** and is now available to buy [here](#). You can also watch Isabel reading an excerpt from the book on [YouTube](#)!



Social media

Bluesky: [@itiscotnet.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/itiscotnet.bsky.social)

Facebook: [ITI Scottish Network](#)

E-group: itiscotnet.groups.io

Event photos:

www.yogile.com/scotnet2024

You can also stop by the ScotNet [website](#) for all the latest information and details of events.

ScotNet grants

The ITI Scottish Network offers 2 levels of grants to members as a contribution towards the costs of attending ITI events:

- 1) Grants of up to £30 are available for attending Scottish Network meetings.
- 2) ScotNetters may also apply for grants of up to £70 for attending national ITI events.

How to apply for a grant

Contact our Treasurer (currently Victoria Dalrymple) at treasurer@itiscotland.org.uk *before* registering for the meeting. Subject to availability and meeting the eligibility criteria, she will approve the grant and notify you. In due course, forward her a copy of the receipt for the event or transport expenses and provide her with your bank details. She will then pay the respective amount into your account.

General conditions: Maximum of one grant per person per subscription year. You must be a member of ITI, so Friends of the Network are not eligible. Also members living in the Central Belt are not eligible to receive

grants for network meetings in Edinburgh or Glasgow. All recipients must be willing to contribute a report on the event they attended to the ITI ScotNet Newsletter.

The level of grants is reviewed every year at ScotNet's AGM. Under the current budget, 10 grants of £30 and 10 of £70 are available each year. From time to time, the Committee may also decide to offer additional grants to enable ScotNetters to attend particular events such as the ITI Conference.

ScotNet support fund

Grants to help pay ITI membership fees and interest-free loans to cover living expenses also continue to be available to ScotNetters, following the discussion at the 2022 AGM and decision to make a hardship fund a permanent part of ScotNet's operations. Anyone who is a member of both ITI and ScotNet is eligible to apply, so please contact Victoria at treasurer@itiscotland.org.uk if you could use a financial helping hand. (And once again many thanks to members who have so generously donated to this fund.)

Looking forward to the next issue...

As you'll know if you attended the 2024 AGM (or read the "News" section of this issue), it's not just the content of future newsletter issues that's going to be new – the personnel behind them are undergoing some changes. We've already – and very gratefully – had a couple of expressions of interest in getting involved, but if you think you have skills to contribute too, please feel free to drop me a line at siobhangorrie@gmail.com. As always, we're constantly on the lookout for contributions to future issues – so if you've been to an event, read a book or taken up a new specialism lately, for example, we'd love to hear from you! ◆

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Your Committee at a glance



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