November 2026

ITI ScotNet Newsletter

Isabel Stainsby MITI, editor@itiscotland.org.uk
ITI Scottish Network Newsletter Editor

Mists and mellow fruitfulness

🍂 When does autumn start, for you?

For me, it's when the veg box starts to fill up with pumpkins and winter squashes, and my thoughts turn in the direction of warming and calorific ways of using them: soups and stews, and even cakes – with pumpkin spice, of course. Other people go by the date, maybe the first day of September or the autumn equinox; or by nature, when the leaves start to fall or the autumn berries appear. My husband maintains the first day of autumn is the day he sees his breath when he leaves the house in the morning.

Whenever autumn started, there is no point, now, in even trying to pretend that it's still late summer. The first storms of the season have already hit, leaving the pavement in my street swimming with water because leaves have blocked the storm drains, and doubtless the further-flung and more exposed corners of Scotland took much more of a battering. And the clocks have gone back – I'd like to propose an extra hour in bed at least once a month!

While the weather, alas, is beyond my control, I can provide some reading-matter for a long dark evening. Lydia and Lynda report on conferences they've attended, Siobhan has written up the autumn workshop, which I'm now even more sorry to have missed, and Beth ate lots of delicious food on a translation retreat in Mexico (jealous? Me? Whatever makes you think that?). Alicja introduces us to her furry friends, and you can also find out about a linguistic borrowing that I've never been able to track to source, though I have my suspicions. I'm very much hoping this will inspire more of you to write about words!

So pull on something warm and cosy, grab a mug of your favourite hot beverage, and curl up on the sofa to read the newsletter!

Isabel ✦

Inside this issue

Dates for your diary 2
EX:CHANGE 2026: reflections and takeaways 3
ScotNet autumn workshop 2026: simply magma-nificent 6
Literary and culinary delights at a Mexican retreat 9
Voices heard and unheard: METM26 11
Words, words, words 13
PET tool corner 14
Member news 15
ScotNet grants 16
Looking forward to the next issue… 16
Your Committee at a glance 17

Except where stated, all photos are by ScotNet members and reproduced with their permission.

Dates for your diary

ScotNet AGM and Christmas lunch: Saturday, 5 December 2026, National Piping Centre, 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow, G4 0HW. It's time for one of our favourite annual traditions, combining business and pleasure: our Annual General Meeting followed by a festive lunch in the Piper's Tryst restaurant. This is your opportunity to reflect on ScotNet's activities over the past 12 months and find out more about its plans for the future. The call notice is out now and includes the lunch menu so you can start thinking about your preferred festive menu! Please register by Friday, 23 November at the latest so that numbers can be submitted to the venue: the restaurant has a maximum capacity of 40, so get your registrations in soon.

ScotNet spring and summer workshops: The dates have been set for two fixtures in our calendar, so put them in your diary for next year!
Spring workshop: Saturday, 20 March 2027, The Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.
Summer workshop: Friday, 21 May to Sunday, 23 May 2027, Perth – exact venue details to follow.

Glasgow co-working group Christmas party: Friday, 11 December 2026, The Corona Bar, 1039 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 3YF. You may have read about the highly successful Glasgow co-working group, led by Alicja Tokarska, in our last issue. To round off the year, they're holding a Christmas celebration in Glasgow's Southside – if you'd like to join, get in touch with Alicja to confirm your attendance and find out more details.

ITI Board on Tour: Tuesday, 10 November 2026, online. A reminder that the ITI's Board on Tour initiative is making its Scotland stop on 10 November between 6 and 7 p.m. It's a great opportunity to meet an ITI Board member in a relaxed atmosphere, share your thoughts about the ITI's work and ask questions. Please do come along if you're available: for the Google Meet link to the meeting, see the post that Ramon circulated recently via the e-group.

ITI lunchtime language exchange: Thursday, 12 November 2026, online. This free event is designed as a relaxed session for peers to discuss language-related challenges, share experiences and simply get to know fellow professionals. A moderator will be on hand to guide the discussion, but the topics will be shaped by the attendees' preferences – whether they want to talk about a tricky translation or find out about how other people work. For full details and to book your place, visit the event page on 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

EX:CHANGE 2026: reflections and takeaways

The ITI Conference back in July adopted a different format this year, encouraging participants to have more input into the discussions through a semi-unconference format. **Lydia Marquardt** was among the ScotNet members who attended, and she found that the new format and the discussions with peers allowed her to gain a bigger-picture view of our profession and where it is going. Here, she reports back on her experience through reflections on the main subjects that the event addressed.

The ITI conference, rebranded as EX:CHANGE for this new era of collaboration and sharing of ideas across our industry, took place in July this year in Milton Keynes, celebrating not only the ITI's 40th anniversary but also the unwavering passion, inspiring dedication, and proud professionalism of its members.



Milton Keynes (which the River Ouzel, shown here, passes through) is the ITI's home and provided the venue for its anniversary conference

The new conference format focused on three big topics: ethics, business development and entrepreneurship, and client relationships. It was organised into a mix of keynotes, panel discussions, and interactive workshop-style sessions spanning two days. With speakers and panellists ranging from translation industry professionals and academic researchers to business coaches and advisors, the conference offered attendees the opportunity to engage with different perspectives, think about resources beyond our usual environment, and ask important questions about who we are as translators and interpreters today – and who we want to be tomorrow.

In keeping with this more reflective theme, I thought that, rather than providing an account of the different sessions and speakers, it would be more interesting to write about what has stuck with me since attending the conference. It may mean this article is less of a conference write-up and more of an opinion piece, but I hope you will bear with me. Because I believe that what really matters when we attend an event like EX:CHANGE is what we take away from it – for ourselves, our professional practice and our community. To that end, I will share with you some of the ideas that have stayed with me, some of the things that stood out, and some of the things that made me think.

When we come together, we become empowered.

With many of us working as lone freelancers in this increasingly unpredictable field, it's hard to blame anyone for feeling a bit lost,

maybe even downright desperate. It can seem like we're always at the bottom of the food chain, forced to react to changes that are imposed on us rather than forging our own sovereign path. However, being at the conference and talking to so many truly amazing professionals, taking part in conversations about ethical practice and how to hold on to our value (and our values) or how to build relationships of trust with clients and peers, I experienced something strange: hope. Hope and optimism about this profession and the truly wonderful human beings that are part of it, but also confidence in us, as individuals and a professional community, shaping the future of our industry if we come together and decide what we want to stand for. Being at the conference reminded me of the power of relationships, the importance of maintaining and broadening our networks, and the key role that professional organisations can play in developing shared codes of professional practice that can protect and elevate the work we do.



The ScotNet contingent at the conference

We're professional communicators – so let's communicate!

We often talk about how invisible the work we do is and how little the general public understands about the amount of skill and expertise that goes into being a good translator or interpreter. It struck me that, despite being in a room full of people who are experts in language and who have a deep understanding of how to communicate to all kinds of different audiences, we seem to be struggling to get our message across to the people outside of that room. I can't say that I've got a solution for that problem yet, but I'll definitely keep thinking about it and will more than likely come up with a crazy idea or two…and maybe I won't be the only one!

Note to self: stop worrying about AI and focus on your skills and your people.

There, I've mentioned the A-word. It was always going to happen. That's because it is virtually impossible to have a conversation about being a professional translator or interpreter these days for more than 30 seconds without it coming up. The same was true for the conference. Even though AI was not officially billed as a "topic of conversation", it crept in everywhere. And I won't pretend that it doesn't affect my own practice. However, I decide how much space I give to it. Do I want to learn about it? Yes. Understand it? Yes. But worry about it? I've spent a good deal of time doing that already and I can confidently say that it didn't get me anywhere.

So, another thought that I took away from the conference was that the skills, professional development, ethics and

relationships we talked about in our discussions are also the things that truly separate us from the machine. That is where we continue to add value and where we continue to grow – as individuals and professionals. That is where investing our time and energy is going to achieve something positive, something constructive.

To wrap up this reflection on what I have learned from attending EX:CHANGE 2026, I will leave you with some food for thought: What is our vision for our profession? Where can we effect positive change? Who will help us? What do we need more of? What do we need less of? What does the smallest step forward look like? There are no simple answers to those questions, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be asking them. And I will say one thing a lot more confidently than I might have done six months ago: just because someone in Silicon Valley says that translators and interpreters have no future, that doesn't mean they're right.



Lydia translates from English into German, is a transcriber and subtitler, and also has a research background. She specialises in medical and commercial fields.

Contact: uk.linkedin.com/lydia-marquardt

Follow us and share your pics!

Bluesky: @itiscotnet.bsky.social
Facebook: ITI Scottish Network
LinkedIn: ITI Scottish Network
E-group: itiscotnet.groups.io

Event photos: yogile.com/scotnet2026

A note from your Committee

Due to some technical difficulties with our email host, ScotNet's official email addresses (membership@, treasurer@, convenor@, editor@ and webmaster@) weren't receiving messages between January and July this year. If you emailed us during that period and your message went unanswered, please reach out again. We really want to hear from you!

We weren't aware of the issue until Alicja, our Membership Secretary, voiced her suspicions that something wasn't right. Apparently some aspiring members had been unable to join the network after emailing us through official channels. If this was you, please accept our apologies.

Thankfully, Lisa, our Webmaster, was able to resolve the issue quickly, but not without a lot of back and forth with our webhost to get to the bottom of it. We can now report that all of the above addresses are back up and running again!

We have luckily been able to retrieve the missed messages for our main email address, convenor@, and Ramon, our Convenor, has been in contact with the members of the public who had written to us requesting to join.

So, all this to say, we haven't been ignoring you. Please be assured, we are here and ready to receive your queries, new and old! Thank you, Lisa and Alicja, for your ace detective skills! And thanks to Lisa in particular for dealing with the monstrosities that lurk beneath the surface of all things email and web-related.

ScotNet autumn workshop 2026: simply magma-nificent

Volcanology is an exciting enough topic to be the stuff of many a Hollywood disaster movie – but it's also one that overlaps with sociology, work with indigenous communities and communication. That made it the perfect subject for this year's autumn workshop, which was more than just a morning of fascinating learning: it was also a chance for ScotNet to celebrate its 35th anniversary. How did we choose to celebrate? It'll come as no surprise, as **Siobhan Gorrie** reports here, that it was all centred around a ceilidh!

There are some autumn workshops that I remember being marked by rain and wind rattling the windows of either the Quaker Meeting House or Edinburgh Methodist Church – or worse, suffering from depleted numbers because of storms getting in the way of trains and buses. The gods of translation (or St Jerome, depending on your persuasion) were clearly smiling on us on Saturday 10th October, however, and I enjoyed a sunny walk over to the Quaker Meeting House in central Edinburgh for the autumn workshop, which consisted of not only a morning of CPD, but also a celebration (including obligatory ceilidh) to mark ScotNet's 35th anniversary.

The subject matter of the morning's talk was suitably dramatic for a landmark anniversary: volcanology. Specifically, speaker Dr Eric Breard from Edinburgh University's School of GeoSciences was there to teach us more about not just the science of volcanoes themselves, but how language is handled in cultures and communities where volcanoes are an active presence. Sometimes they are a threat, but sometimes they are a sacred ancestor to be respected: I found it interesting to learn that some Māori customs, for example, view local volcanoes as a living entity with temperaments and accept their eruptions as a consequence of living alongside a powerful natural being.

Eric's subject in fact dovetailed neatly with Dr Teresa Armijos Burneo's talk at the spring workshop, which looked at the role of language in disaster risk reduction and management in indigenous communities. Eric also focused on the concept of risk – and, indeed, the word "risk" itself – and how it can be communicated in different cultures and languages, especially low-resource ones. As any into-English translator knows and has possibly encountered in translations, the words "risk", "danger" and "caution", for example, all carry different connotations and may have specific meanings. One specific communication tool shown during the talk was an educational hazard poster that Eric and his fellow researchers have been working on: this illustrates volcanic activity in a way that is aimed at scientists, hazard practitioners and the public, and the long-term aim is to have it translated into many languages.



Dr Eric Breard showing areas with volcanic activity

The talk also contained a healthy dose of science: the image we all have of volcanoes is lava spewing out of a crater on a peak, but we were taught the difference between lava and magma, for example (magma is underground; lava has emerged) and what happens when lava comes into contact with the air. Eric had some fascinating photos and videos to accompany the explanations – and pointed out that one consequence of the social media age is that people often venture closer than ever to volcanoes to grab a good snapshot or video (a dangerous activity, even if it does result in some impressive shots). Our main activity of the morning also focused on specialist terminology used in volcanology: working in groups, we had to tackle a list of terms in English and translate them into the language of our choosing. Simon, Wendy and I enjoyed the challenge of translating terms like "co-pyroclastic density current plume", "pumice raft" and "fumaroles" into German and hearing how other groups had done: considering almost all of us were volcanology novices, we had a lot to talk about!



Hard at work on translating volcanology terms

Since this was a special anniversary workshop, the educational morning was capped off with a short history lesson: Lynda, Norma and Miranda, all ScotNetters since early on, treated us to a few reflections about ScotNet and how it has evolved over the years. The group started out with just a few like-minded souls forming a committee and then steadily grew, with the summer workshops in further-flung settings like Skye and Mull becoming a standout feature of our activities. Lynda mentioned the extraordinary weather everyone enjoyed during the trip to Skye – something that we all know is also a trademark of ScotNet events by now!



Lynda sharing treasured ScotNet memories

There was plenty more we could have talked about well into the afternoon, in fact, but before we knew it, family and friends were joining us at the venue and it was time to begin the celebratory lunch and ceilidh – we pushed aside the workshop tables, and the ideal space for mingling and dancing opened up. The ceilidh band Da Hooley is a ScotNet favourite and joined us again to take us through some familiar steps like The Dashing White Sergeant, but also a couple more difficult numbers including an Eightsome Reel that I'm sure they only taught us

because they knew we were ScotNetters and could therefore handle a challenge. It was a perfect way to round off the event, and the fact that family and friends of ScotNet are always keen to join us for our extracurriculars says a lot about how friendly and welcoming our network is. ITI CEO Sara Robertson also made the journey north to join us for some ceilidhing.



Take your partners – it's ceilidh time!

A huge thank you to those on the committee who took the time to organise the talk, the venue and the entertainment for this big ScotNet birthday. Everything combined to produce an event consisting of the things that ScotNetters love best: learning, socialising and throwing each other around in Strip the Willow.



Siobhan is an in-house translator from German into English, specialising in technical fields such as automation, instrumentation and domestic appliances.

Contact: lktranslations.co.uk



There might have been a Macarena too…



A brief break from dancing



A fine set of ScotNetters

Visit our Yogile account for even more pics – and check out Elisa's post from 11 October on the e-group for more information on how to use Yogile.

Literary and culinary delights at a Mexican retreat

Great literature and great food go hand in hand (just think of Proust and his madeleines) – so what would a literary translation retreat to Mexico be without the opportunity to sample the country's cuisine at every turn? As Beth Fowler discusses in this write-up of a special trip to Oaxaca, translators can't run on an empty stomach – but the translation retreat she attended in the summer gave her plenty of food for thought, too.

How many ways are there to serve a corn tortilla? Tacos, enchiladas, quesadillas – we've all heard of those, but what about tlayudas, garnachas, chilaquiles? My mission, on my trip to Mexico in June, was to sample… Oh, wait, sorry, I'm getting sidetracked. No, my reason for crossing the Atlantic was to attend a translation retreat (and the amazing food was just a bonus).



Beth and her fellow retreatants in Mexico

Organised by literary translator Ellen Jones, the retreat involved a group of seven Spanish-to-English translators at various stages of their careers who gathered in the quiet village of San Andrés Huayapam, just outside the city of Oaxaca, for a whole week of translation fun.

Every morning, from our accommodation at the Huayápam Yù'ú Eco-Lodge, which was rustic (i.e. full of "interesting" insect life!) but tranquil and comfortable, we walked a few blocks to a nearby café, where we congregated in a leafy courtyard with a delicious Mexican breakfast to bolster us for our daily translation workshops.



Street art in Oaxaca

Ellen had devised a variety of exercises to get us thinking about things like conveying voice and register in our work, as well as looking at

the bigger picture of the translation industry. Our tasks included back-translations of famous texts, re-writing children's classics in a new voice (the Very Hungry Caterpillar as a gangster, anyone?), translating into Spanish, and – a particular highlight – a workshop with literary translation superstar Annie McDermott, who came to talk to us about translating slang. This led to us working on a particularly potty-mouthed passage that, needless to say, caused great hilarity.



A group activity that the participants enjoyed in their free time

These were interspersed with more serious sessions on contracts and pitching to publishers, and we each had the chance to bring our own texts to the table for discussion. The other translators were wonderful – generous and kind with their feedback and suggestions, and also just great company, which made for a week that was very relaxed, but simultaneously stimulating and energising. Ellen also managed to squeeze in a one-to-one session with each of us, where we were able to pick her very experienced brains (in my case, I was looking for advice on a novel pitch I've been working on), and organised a lunch with some local authors and translators.

The rest of the time was ours to spend as we chose – and we certainly packed a lot in, from ancient Zapotec ruins to Oaxacan street art, from mezcal tasting to learning how to make the pre-Hispanic drink tejate, from petrified waterfalls to giant trees and botanical gardens, to weavers and candlemakers and lots in between.

It was a week that allowed me to fall back in love with translation

Oaxaca is the kind of place that gets under your skin – the people, the colours, the food, the constant buzz – and I would love to go back, not least because there are still several local delicacies I didn't have time to try. But, forgetting my stomach for a moment, I think my week in Oaxaca allowed me to fall back in love with translation – not the industry, and certainly not the pay, but the sense of camaraderie; the generosity and creativity that start to flow whenever a group of international word nerds gets together.



Beth is a literary translator from Spanish and Portuguese to English, and also specialises in art, tourism and market research.

Contact: finetunetranslation.com

Voices heard and unheard: METM26

The annual Mediterranean Editors and Translators Meeting is one that many translators and interpreters return to year after year, so good is the quality of content it provides – and it is certainly helped by being held in an appealing Mediterranean venue each year. **Lynda Hepburn** is one of a few ScotNetters who regularly takes the time to attend, and here she shines a light on just some of the features that make it such a worthwhile event.

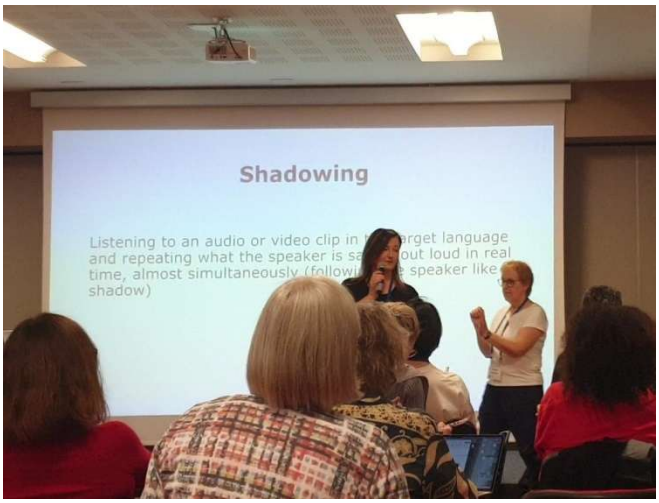
The title above was the theme of this year's Mediterranean Editors and Translators Meeting, held in Perugia from 15 to 18 October. As always, there were a few ScotNetters there, happy to make the rather long journey due to the quality and attractiveness of this annual event.

Although now retired from the translation business, I remain very interested in words, language and writing in general, and this conference had plenty of interest to choose from. Below are some of my impressions: in no way a full report of the conference, but just a flavour of what METM26 had to offer.

My conference started on the Thursday evening, when I was fortunate to arrive just in time for a translation slam from Italian. A perfect knowledge of Italian was not required and the session was both instructive and amusing – partly due to the rather quirky source text describing a local park. This was followed by what are known as "Off-METM" dinners: small-group meals bringing together people with interests in common – in this instance, people who enjoy crafts of all kinds. The dinner was delicious and the chat ranged far beyond our latest knitting projects!

On Friday morning I attended a 3.5-hour workshop on "Creative voice strengtheners: fiction craft techniques to make your nonfiction writing more engaging" given by Andrew Hodges, who I believe is now resident in Glasgow (a future ScotNet workshop?). This was by its nature a hands-on session where we each started by writing some piece of fiction following a couple of prompts and then later improved this writing using the techniques he described.

Friday afternoon saw the opening of the conference proper with three parallel sessions on very varied topics, followed by a keynote speech on "Algorithms of interpretation: redefining translation in a machine age", given by Lawrence Venuti.



Performing shadowing duties for Zdenka Ivkovčić

On the Saturday I had two tasks to perform: the first was to chair one of the sessions and the second was to take notes for a write-up (a METM "chronicle") of one of the presentations. This involvement reflects both my interest in being a real part of the event and also MET's amazing success in putting

on a conference of this size and calibre with volunteers only: not one single person is paid. There are of course a myriad other jobs to do before, during and after the event, but every year a veritable battalion of volunteers comes forward to make this conference happen. My job as session chair was a little different from the usual. In addition to time-keeping, fielding questions and so on, the speaker – Zdenka Ivkovčić – had a special request. Her presentation on "Language learning strategies and exercises: learning from interpreters" included a demonstration of the benefit of immediately repeating phrases in the foreign language by having me stand behind her and mimic all her movements. The audience was at first confused, then light dawned and our performance caused much hilarity – but got the message across.



The MET choir: an "Off-METM" activity

The second keynote speech was given by Sarah Ogilvie, who gave a fascinating account of the unsung heroes of the Oxford English Dictionary, despite having to present via Zoom due to flu. Her research has uncovered a multitude of people who contributed to the original dictionary and also those who are still sending in contributions, though nowadays electronically and not on tiny slips of paper as in the past. So captivating was her talk that I can't wait to buy her book and read more.

Saturday afternoon saw my second task – chronicling the fascinating talk by Fiona Grace Peterson on "Freelancing with a chronic health condition: challenges and strategies". The topic was familiar to me, but was especially interesting due the results of her survey of translators and the results she obtained. More information for those interested will be published in the METM chronicles.

Our final evening, once the AGM and news of next year's venue (Tarragona, Spain) were dealt with, was occupied by the closing dinner where the MET choir again performed. This fun, Off-METM happening was again directed by Ruth Simpson, who somehow manages to get a motley group of sopranos, altos and very few men to give enthusiastic performances of two songs: this year "Azzurro" (in Italian) and "Feeling Good".

So what do I take home from METM26? New skills, new connections, a great feeling of community, some Italian sun, culture and cuisine, and the firm intention to attend again next year.



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

Contact: lynda@summittranslations.co.uk

Words, words, words

Welcome to a new feature for the newsletter – a space to talk about language, from favourite words to quirks of particular languages. In this first outing, **Isabel Stainsby**, our Newsletter Editor, talks about her encounters with *Heia* and *hajat.* Want to tell us about your favourite words, or perhaps unusual phrases you've encountered in your source language or while you've been learning a new language? Get in touch!

Bedtime!

Many years ago I was an au pair in Hamburg for six months, and some years later, when I was a student, I spent two summers working on the children's programme at a holiday centre in Germany. Both were great experiences and both, inevitably, involved a certain amount of babysitting. It's all so long ago now that I'm not sure when exactly I first picked up the phrases *Heia machen* and *in die Heia gehen* for use in getting children to go to bed (not always successfully).

I can tell you, however, when I first learned the Czech verb *hajat*: that was during my student year abroad in Olomouc, Moravia, in mid-December, when instead of a language lesson, the Czech-as-a-foreign-language students learned to sing some Czech Christmas carols instead. The imperative form *hajej* appears in a carol that is actually far more famous in the English-speaking world – anyone who was at primary school in the UK has probably sung what is known as the Rocking Carol (better translations exist but are rarely if ever used).

The two expressions sound very similar: for non-Germanophones, *Heia* is pronounced in more or less the same way as the *hiya* greeting that English speakers give each other, and *hajat* is the same as that but with a *t* added on the end. They are so similar-sounding, in fact, that they must be related, but tracking either to source is not easy. Most Czech dictionaries don't give an etymology at all, but those that do dismiss *hajat* as a children's word; one even states that tracing the etymology isn't possible for this reason. My German Wahrig and Duden Redewendungen (idioms) dictionaries don't list an etymology for *Heia* either. Online I have found suggestions that it's a corruption of *Heu* (hay), and comes from the practice of sleeping in haystacks, or on straw mattresses (compare the English expression *to hit the hay*, which is not specifically used for children).



Time for bed – or Zeit, in die Heia zu gehen?

Another theory, which seems rather far-fetched to me, is that it comes from *Heiermann*, a five-Deutschmark coin, which was, once upon a time, the cost of female company for the night in Hamburg. I've even

found a suggestion that it comes from a rare verb in classical Greek!

For obvious historical reasons, German has been far more influential on Czech than Czech has on German, so *hajat* very likely comes from *Heia*. However, given the number of German-speaking families who had Czech nursemaids in pre-1918 Austria, it strikes me as just possible that the influence might be the other way round. Unlikely, of course, but either way, I'll probably never know for sure.

And now I'm curious: what are the words for getting children to bed in your language? Please email them to me directly, or maybe send them to the ScotNet email list, as I'm sure other people will be interested too! My gran used to talk about "going up the wooden hill to Blanket Square" – can anyone improve on that?



Isabel translates from Czech, Slovak, French and German into English, covering medical, legal and marketing texts, as well as literary translation.

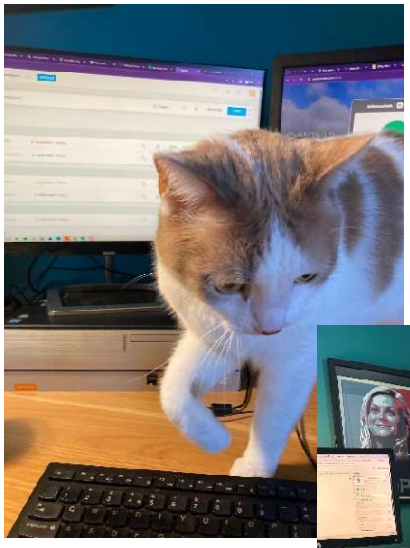
Contact: isabeltranslates.co.uk

PET tool corner

Meet Nandor and Laszlo. Although they weren't even four when we adopted them in October 2023, they'd already had two previous owners. The good news is they seem to love their forever home.

We named them after two vampires from a mockumentary show called "What We Do in the Shadows", and they both fit the names incredibly well. Nandor, the black one, thinks he rules the place, but he's just a silly giant who (constantly) needs a hug. Laszlo is shy at first, but once he's decided he likes you, he won't leave your side. They both keep me on my toes during the working day – quite literally, as Nandor keeps stealing my chair. Clearly, he just wants to make sure I'm using my sit-stand desk to its full advantage!

Getting my boys has really improved my mental health and they are hands down my favourite CAT tool (sorry, Trados!).





Member news

Here's where we share news for and about members. 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.

→ **ScotNet AGM**: Ahead of the AGM in early December (see "Dates for your diary" on page 2 for more information), Ramon, our Convenor, has sent out this important announcement:

"At the AGM, I will be stepping down from my role as ScotNet Convenor. Following ScotNet tradition, our current Deputy Convenor, Lydia Marquardt, is willing to stand for election as the new Convenor. I will also be standing for election to remain as Deputy Convenor for one year, to help ensure a smooth transition. These appointments will be put to a members' vote at the AGM, and if anybody else is interested in standing for either of these roles, they are welcome to put their name forward. If we are both successfully elected, this will also mean that we will need a new Deputy Convenor in a year's time. We would therefore be keen to hear from members who might be interested in taking on the role in due course. If this is something you might consider, please let Lydia and me know."

Additionally, if you are interested in getting involved in the ScotNet Committee in any capacity, Ramon, Lydia and the other members would be delighted to hear from you. The Committee is a supportive environment and a great way to get more involved in ScotNet (and is eligible for adding to your CPD record!).

→ **Crossing the Wine-dark Sea with Emily Wilson (and pub night!)**: The Edinburgh contingent's popular monthly pub nights have resumed again now that we're back into autumn, and the next one is taking place on Thursday, 26 November at the usual haunt – the Jolly Judge on James' Court at the Lawnmarket. Anyone in the area is very welcome to join for a chat and a drink in a cosy pub atmosphere.

This time, on the same evening ahead of the pub night, some of the group will be attending a talk by translator and classical studies professor Emily Wilson, who is coming to Edinburgh to discuss her book "Crossing the Wine-dark Sea" – a reflection on translating works from antiquity such as Homer's Odyssey and Iliad, exploring politics, gender, humour and the choices that translators have to make. The group will then head over to the Jolly Judge. If you'd like to join in, you can purchase tickets through the Topping website (or just head to the pub for a chat afterwards!).



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 have seen from our diary dates and other news, there's plenty to look forward to in the world of translation and interpreting CPD – and we'd love to hear from you if you've got any of it on your agenda. By the time our next issue comes out, we'll have crossed the threshold into 2027 and will be taking a look back at the remainder of 2026, including our AGM. Maybe you have a new language-related project (or, dare we say it, resolution) lined up for the new year, or you've read a book or attended an event that piqued your interest recently? As always, don't hesitate to get in touch with Isabel if there's anything you'd like to write about. ◆

This issue was brought to you by:
Editor: Isabel Stainsby
Proofreading and layout: Siobhan Gorrie

Your Committee at a glance



Convenor
Ramon Inglada
convenor@itiscotland.org.uk

Deputy Convenor
Lydia Marquardt
deputyconvenor@itiscotland.org.uk





Treasurer
Victoria Dalrymple
treasurer@itiscotland.org.uk

Deputy Treasurer
Norma Tait
treasurer@itiscotland.org.uk





Membership Secretary
Alicja Tokarska
membership@itiscotland.org.uk

Deputy Membership Secretary
Vacant



Events Coordinator (East)
Norma Tait
norma@tclweb.co.uk

Events Coordinator (West)
Ania Noakes
ania@anmatranslations.com





Newsletter Editor
Isabel Stainsby
editor@itiscotland.org.uk

Deputy Editor
Siobhan Gorrie
siobhangorrie@gmail.com





Webmaster
Lisa Barrett
webmaster@itiscotland.org.uk

Digital Coordinator
Elisa Cristóbal González
elisacristobal25@gmail.com

