



# ITI-LRG Newsletter



Issue 28

[www.iti-lrg.org.uk](http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk)

February 2012

## Editorial

Hello and a happy New Year to all LRG members.

The LRG Christmas Party has been and gone, so it's time to look forward to a new year of events. The Committee has organised various interesting things, including a workshop on EU translation, held in conjunction with the European Commission. Other events in the pipeline for later in the year include an event on CAT tools, a session on neologisms and potential events focusing on intercultural considerations and the business side of things. And then of course, we will also have the pub crawl, guided walk and Christmas party to look forward to. Full details of forthcoming events are set out below.

This issue of the Newsletter also includes reviews of some of last year's events, including the guided London

walk, our Dining Out event, and of course the AGM and Christmas Party.

Additionally, on page 6, LRG member Lena Watson introduces herself and tells us a bit about her interesting work translating from Yiddish!

Last but not least, it is my pleasure to welcome a new committee member, Anna Szpakowska. Anna kindly put herself forward after the AGM and Christmas Party and will be our new Events Secretary. She will introduce herself in the next Newsletter.

I wish you health and happiness for 2012. Enjoy the Newsletter.

*Rosemary Harvey, Editor*

## LRG membership subscriptions due!

*Membership renewals are due at the beginning of the year.*

With this issue of the Newsletter, you should have received a renewal notice. Please don't forget to renew your membership!

## Forthcoming LRG Events

### Event on CAT tools

This event has been postponed because we wanted to take up the opportunity of holding the EU Translation Workshop in March.



The EU translation workshop is being hosted and co-organised by the European Commission Representation in the UK. It will be led by John Evans of the European Commission.

This is sure to be a popular event so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

*Price: £5 for LRG members; £10 for non members to cover the cost of catering.*

*Please contact Events Secretary Anna Szpakowska at [info@annaszpakowska.com](mailto:info@annaszpakowska.com) for more information or to book your place.*

### EU Translation Workshop

**Wednesday, 14 March 2012**

**1.45pm to 5.30pm**

**Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU**  
**Nearest tube: Westminster, Waterloo, Victoria; bus**  
**507 from Waterloo or Victoria, stop: Millbank**

## General Networking Session

Thursday, 10 May 2012

6.00pm for 6.30pm

Function room at the Devereux Pub, Devereux Court,  
Essex Street, nr Strand, London, WC2R 3JJ

Nearest tube: Temple or buses to The Strand

The function room at the Devereux Pub has been booked so that members can meet up for a networking session.

The evening will give members an opportunity to discuss work-related issues concerning both translation

and interpreting, to share news about work opportunities, pricing and applying to translation companies, and to discuss IT problems and newly-discovered software. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend.

*This event is free for LRG members; £5 for non-members.  
Please register with Anna Szpakowska:  
info@annaszpakowska.com.*

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## Review of LRG Events

### Guided London Walk

13 October 2011

On Thursday 13 October a number of LRG members gathered at Farringdon tube station for this year's guided walk. Our guide, Roger Bone, leads walks through various parts of London and it is difficult not to be impressed by his vast knowledge of London's history and its watering holes.

By way of an introduction to our walk around Clerkenwell, Roger told us that, in stark contrast to the area's current reputation, it has been regarded as an area of radicalism throughout history. We strolled across from our meeting spot to our first pub, The Castle. We learned that the pub got its name when the Prince Regent visited, tempted in by a spot of cockfighting. Since he had no money to bet with he offered his gold watch and bestowed the establishment with the grand title it uses today.

We then moved on to our second destination, The Jerusalem Tavern, stopping here to test Roger's suggestion that it served some of the best ales in London. Meanwhile we learned that the interior, while looking authentically aged, is a complete reconstruction of a drinking establishment that stood on a site just metres away. We also had the chance to chat with our fellow LRG members, many of whom - myself included - were attending their first event.

After confirming that the beer was indeed very tasty we crept down an alleyway, which you would easily miss if you were not being led by an expert guide, towards where the Old Jerusalem Tavern stood at the end of the eighteenth century. It was housed in one of London's city gates, one of the only two now remaining, and the building is now used for the Museum of the Order of St

John. We carried on to the Sekforde Arms, named after local lawyer and founder of almshouses in the area Thomas Sekforde. We again had the promise of fine ales here.

By this time night had fallen in Clerkenwell, bringing with it a bitter chill, so we walked briskly on towards Clerkenwell Green to the final couple of pubs on our guided tour. The Three Kings was decidedly too 'young' for us to visit, despite dating from 1791, the same year as the St James Church which sits alongside it. However, we stopped to admire its quirky sign featuring three alternative kings: Henry VIII, Elvis and King Kong! Our last pub, The Crown Tavern, famous for once hosting a meeting between Lenin and Stalin in 1905, displayed an extremely old clock which served as a reminder of the area's importance in clock and watch making in the 18th century. Before leaving Clerkenwell Green, we stopped at the Marx Memorial Library, the building from which the Russian Social Democratic newspaper ISKRA was published and in which Lenin had an office; his office remains completely preserved to this day.

We were able to ask more questions of our guide and enjoyed the opportunity to continue networking at Tas restaurant on Farringdon Road. We all finished our evening not only feeling full from an enjoyable meal, but also brimming with stories about Clerkenwell and with the intention of visiting some of the pubs we didn't have time to see. Many thanks to Roger and to the committee members for organising the event.

*Fran Lawrence*

## LRG Dines Out 10 November 2011

I applied for ITI membership last August and when my paperwork together with my membership card arrived in early October I began looking forward to meeting other members. The programme of events and the sheer number of the groups I could join made me very excited because I realised I would be joining a very special community of people. I could not wait to meet like-minded people who are passionate about languages and about their work and who, I hoped, had similar experiences of building their careers as freelance translators.

And so my first ever encounter with LRG took place at the Clarendon in Notting Hill where the LRG Dining Out event had been organised by Lorna Sandler. When booking my place I got in touch with her, Kari Koonin and Peter Linton, all of whom were really nice and welcoming, and that assuaged the slight anxiety I had about meeting a new group of people for the first time. The dinner was a great success: the company was excellent and so was the food. The conversation flowed easily and in the course of one evening we managed to cover a huge territory, from finding common ground in the languages we spoke, to the ways that led us to become translators, to preferences in literature and ideas on creating personalised web-sites. I had great pleasure chatting in English, Russian and French to my neighbours at the table and sharing experiences on finding work and developing your own translation business.

At the end of the evening we exchanged contacts and in the next few days got connected on LinkedIn. I stayed in touch with almost everyone I met that night and I am enjoying the sense of belonging to a professional community that is mutually supportive, open minded and welcoming.

A big thank you to the organisers and I am looking forward to the next event!

*Lydia Strong*

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## AGM & Christmas Party 8 December 2011

The LRG AGM and Christmas party is always one of the highlights of the year, and this year was no different, with the party after the AGM being a resounding success. The following report on the AGM is adapted

from the minutes kindly provided by LRG Minutes Secretary, Julia ten Elsen.

Peter Linton acted as chairman. The minutes of the last AGM, held on 9 December 2010, were approved.

### Accounts & recommendations for 2012 subscriptions

There is a total of £670 in the current account, £3,119 in the reserve account, and £65 in cash. This is a reduction of £1,302 from the previous year, mainly due to website development, speakers' fees and a policy of subsidising events. LRG's membership fees come to £1,340 per year. Given the healthy accounts, membership subscriptions for 2012 will remain at £10 per person.

### Review of 2011

Chairman, Peter Linton, provided a brief overview of last year's main activities, which included:

- ◆ A talk by Yves Champollion (creator of Wordfast) about cloud computing and Wordfast
- ◆ A talk by a life coach about finding the right balance between work, family and friends
- ◆ General networking events, which provided a chance to meet colleagues over a drink. A quick straw poll showed that such events are popular
- ◆ A talk by John Hutchins, an expert on Machine Translation (MT has made some progress, but much slower than expected)
- ◆ Computer update – talks by two computer experts on hardware and software
- ◆ Pub crawl – a visit to 3 pubs in Southwark near London's South Bank
- ◆ Guided pub walk in Clerkenwell with Roger Bone
- ◆ Dining out event at a restaurant in Notting Hill
- ◆ Last event of the year – AGM and Christmas Party.



Photo: Oliver presenting the accounts to the meeting

## Membership

Membership Secretary, Daniela Ford reported that we currently have 144 members. She showed a map of London boroughs and the distribution of active LRG members by postcode. As expected, members are spread all over London but with preponderance in West London. There are also quite a few members outside our traditional boundary, the M25, as far afield as the Netherlands and Brazil. (See page 5 for further details)

## Plans for 2012

ITI Liaison Officer, Pamela Mayorcas outlined the LRG's forthcoming events and suggestions for 2012. The first event, on pricing and negotiation, will be on 13 February at Europe House. Suggestions for the rest of the year include:

- ♦ A session on translation tools
- ♦ EU translation workshop
- ♦ Neologisms across the language barrier - for example what is an 'A-list celebrity' in your language?
- ♦ Setting up your own website. A mix of pros and cons of using a web designer vs. using a DIY website builder
- ♦ Pub crawl, guided walk, dining out, AGM and 2012 Christmas Party

This is what we have in mind, but as always, we welcome ideas and suggestions from our members.

## Elections

Peter asked Shelley Nix whether she would be willing to run the elections; she kindly agreed. The following committee members were all re-elected.

- ♦ Chairman: Peter Linton
- ♦ Membership Secretary: Daniela Ford
- ♦ Treasurer: Oliver Walter
- ♦ Newsletter Editor: Rosemary Harvey
- ♦ Interpreters' Representative: Lorna Sandler
- ♦ Website Manager and Online: Peter Linton
- ♦ ITI Liaison: Pamela Mayorcas
- ♦ Publicity Officer: Kari Koonin
- ♦ Minutes Secretary: Julia ten Elsen
- ♦ Events Secretary: Vacant

The Events Secretary role is to be the contact for LRG events, i.e. taking bookings and collecting cheques. The Events Secretary does not have to take care of every event as others will help with the organisation.

## Any other business

A number of initiatives have recently been taken by the committee:

**Website:** Following a number of enhancements, the new Quick Search facility will undergo testing before being launched live in the New Year.

**Charitable donation:** Given our healthy accounts, the committee is thinking about making a donation to charity, although this remains to be decided. Your suggestions and/or opinions are welcome.

**Constitution:** The LRG currently does not have a constitution. The committee has been discussing and refining a constitution which will shortly appear on our website.

**Rising Stars:** (inspired by NWTM). The aim is to reward translation/interpreting students preparing a thesis (£80 + LRG membership). The criterion for granting the award is to submit a covering letter plus a 500-word submission stating the applicant's recent academic achievements, their view of translation/ interpreting today and how they see it evolving over the next 20 years.

**ITI Conference presentation:** Charlotte Monnier, who received an LRG subsidy to attend the ITI Conference in Birmingham earlier this year, gave a short presentation. She described her overall impression of the event, which was favourable, and described in more detail some of the events that she had attended. She found the whole event interesting and informative, and well worth attending.

The AGM was declared closed.

Following the AGM, Anna Szpakowska kindly offered to join the committee as Events Secretary. Her offer was accepted.

*Rosemary Harvey, using minutes provided by Julia ten Elsen*



Photo: the "everything" accounts spreadsheet

## LRG financial report for 2011

This report is for the period 1 December 2010 to 30 November 2011. Nearest whole pounds listed, not pence.

Row	Description	Balances	
1	Opening assets	£5156 (2002+3118+35)	
2	Closing assets	£3854 (670+3119+65)	
3	Difference	£1302 reduction	
4		Received	Paid
5	Subscriptions received	£1340	
6	Fees from members and visitors for events	£215	
7	Expenses for events (inc. speakers' fees)		£1548
8	Misc committee expenses		£50
9	Printing and mailing		£267
10	Bank interest	£1	
11	Website development & conference subsidy		£1000
12	Sums (rows 5 - 11)	£1556	£2865

In rows 1 and 2 of the table, the 3 numbers in parentheses are for the current account, reserve account, and cash respectively. The LRG's total assets are now over £1000 less than they were a year ago. This was deliberate policy since the starting assets were equivalent to the expected expenses for at least 2 years, and just 1 year's expenses in reserve are quite enough.

The events referred to in rows 6 & 7 were: the AGM and party (9 Dec 2010); the talk by Yves Champollion at Imperial College (19 Jan 2011); Polish practice (27 Jan); the life-coach evening (15 Feb); general networking (23 Mar); the talk by John Hutchins at Imperial College (11 May); the computer update evening (9 Jun); the pub crawl (7 Jul); the guided pub walk (13 Oct); and the dining out evening (10 Nov). Some of these were free for LRG members.

The website development cost was mainly a one-off and the website will cost several hundred pounds less in the coming year.

Since (a) I expect the coming year's total payments to be roughly £2000, and (b) the LRG's current assets could cover more than that, even with no subscriptions, I proposed to leave the membership subscription unchanged - the same £10 that it has been for several years.

*Oliver Walter, Treasurer*

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## LRG News

### New LRG members

***We welcome the following new members who have joined the LRG since January:***

Giuseppina Belviso, Elise Le Mer, Laura Naqvi, Helena Simmonds, Cornelia Waldmann, Juliet Hammond-Smith, Lucas Vogt, Zoe Stagg, Erika Mayer and Agata Sadza

We currently have 144 members, 90 of whom actually live in London. Nineteen other UK postcodes are also represented, including many around London - Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey, Northamptonshire, West Sussex and Berkshire. We also have six members living abroad in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Brazil.

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### Postcode Lottery

At the LRG AGM in December, Membership Secretary, Daniela Ford, presented some interesting data about where our members are based. Here are the details for those of you who missed it.

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### E-Group News

LRG announcements are now sent out on the LRG Yahoo e-group. All LRG members are entitled to join and should have received an invitation to do so. If you do not join the e-group, or if you unsubscribe from it, you will

miss out on important information about events. If you have not received an invitation to join the e-group, please contact Peter Linton: [peter@lintononline.co.uk](mailto:peter@lintononline.co.uk).

**To get the LRG e-group to behave as you would like it**

- Login to Yahoo Groups: <http://groups.yahoo.com/>
- Go to the page for the iti-lrg group. This will be listed in the column on the left headed "My Groups".

**Your email preferences**

- On the Home page of the iti-lrg group there is a line near the top starting with your login name, your email address, and then "Group Member - Edit Membership". Click on "Edit Membership" to go to the "Edit Membership" page.
- There you will find 3 sections called "Step 1. Your Contact Information", "Step 2. Message Delivery" and "Step 3. Message Preference"
- In the "Step 2" area, click one of the 4 "radio buttons" to set your preference for this: "Individual Email", "Daily digest", "Special Notices" or "Web only" (there is an explanation next to each one). Then click the

blue "Save Changes" button at the bottom and you will be shown the message "Your membership has been updated", with a link to go back to the iti-lrg group's home page. If you feel that you are receiving too many emails, the daily digest is a good option.

**Looking at the group's messages**

On the iti-lrg group's home page you can see the most recent messages. If you click "(View All)" next to the "Most Recent Messages" heading, you will see a list of all the group's messages (there were 1,227 messages up to the end of 2011) but divided into pages of 30 messages. There are links "Newest", "Newer", "Older", "Oldest" to see other messages in the list and near the bottom of the group's home page, there is a grid of years and months to help you quickly see messages from a particular month.

*Thank you to Oliver Walter for preparing this information.*

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## ITI News and Events

News of forthcoming ITI events and CPD opportunities:

### Parallel events on governance

**Saturday, 28 April 2012**

**London**

ITI Council will be holding two parallel meetings on governance in London. The meetings will cover ITI proposals for revised Bylaws and best practices in running a professional membership organisation for

translators and interpreters. The day will be rounded off by a Gala Dinner to celebrate the success of the institute's members. It will include an awards ceremony.

*Please see the ITI website, [www.Iti.org.uk](http://www.Iti.org.uk), or the Bulletin for further details.*

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## Meeting our members: Lena Watson

*Lena Watson is a Yiddish translator and scholar. Here she introduces herself and talks about her interesting career.*



I am Russian, born and bred in Moscow. I've always been into languages, my first love being English, which I started learning as a young child. Over the years I have tackled many others, such as Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic, Welsh, Swedish, Irish Gaelic and Icelandic. Yet my second most long-standing affair after English is with Yiddish. I came to it quite by chance (or you might say, it was a finger of God that directed me) after I left school at the age of 16. I happened to become a student of a short-lived Touro College in Moscow, which was the first educational institution in the former USSR after perestroika (it was early 1990s) to have trained teachers of Yiddish. The small department offered a Yiddish crash-course with further instruction in Jewish subjects in the

language. The programme was intended as a three year course, but the funding petered out too soon, and our remaining 1.5 years were squeezed into three months – in Jerusalem! When I enrolled on the programme, I had no knowledge of Yiddish whatsoever; in fact I had virtually no idea of what I was going to study! Yet it grew on me very quickly, so much so that I went on to do my undergraduate degree in the Jewish University of Moscow, and my Masters (MSt in Jewish Studies) in the 17th century Yarmton Manor, the University of Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. So you might say that reading Yiddish at Touro College set me on the path of Yiddish and Jewish Studies, which I haven't veered off since.

After the birth of my daughter I decided to put my Yiddish to good use and started up as a freelance translator. I soon realised that the standard literary Yiddish I had learnt at college wasn't as much in demand as the dialectal Yiddish, known as Hasidic, or, to use the Yiddish word, 'heykish', spoken in the large ultra-Orthodox communities of New York and elsewhere. Standard Yiddish is looked down upon by Orthodox Jews who see it as a secular and not even a particularly Jewish language, since many Yiddish enthusiasts, 'yiddishists', like myself, are not in fact Jewish. The Orthodox Jews shun all things secular and stick to their 'heykish' Yiddish, which may be a purist's nightmare, but is very much a living and breathing language, reborn with the birth of every child whose mother tongue it is. I had to get up close and personal with 'heykish' Yiddish and although I am classified and see myself as a yiddishist, I don't balk any more at its lack of grammatical consistency and a liberal usage (purists would say, overusage) of English words!

One other major, and my favourite, aspect of my freelance work is translating hand-written Yiddish letters and other historical documents from private family archives. With an interest in tracing their ancestors resurging, people discover in their attics yellowed old letters and photographs that no one in the family can read. Yiddish hand-writing is generally difficult to read and sometimes, coupled with faded ink, damaged paper and an extinct dialect, it's more of a decoding than reading! Being a native Russian comes in very handy, by the way, as many of those letters were written in the Russian Empire and Yiddish has always borrowed local words and organically integrated them into itself.

I'm very proud and honoured to be working with such a rare and unusual language.

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## Noticeboard

### Speak up, speak out

#### Interpreters gather to discuss a way forward

On Saturday, 21 January 2012, NUPIT, the Translators' and Interpreters' branch of Unite, the public service union, called a meeting at Unite House in Holborn, to discuss a possible way forward for public service interpreters, partly in response to the decision by the Ministry of Justice to outsource public service translation and interpreting services under the terms of a Framework Agreement.

The meeting was expertly chaired by Andy Murray and there were presentations from representatives of APCI, ITI, PIA, SOMI and SPSI. Some surprise was expressed that neither CIOL nor NRPSI were officially represented on the panel although they had sent observers. There were also two very interesting presentations by Andrew Slaughter, MP, who represents Hammersmith and Fulham and who is perhaps one of the few people in the

House of Commons to understand the vital and important role played by public service interpreters and translators, and by Jennifer Edwards, a barrister who similarly has had experience in the courts of the vital role played by trained and experienced professionals.

After the presentations, participants were invited to take part in small working groups to discuss: the key aims of the campaign; target audiences; the central message to be conveyed; the resources needed to deliver the campaign; and the role of the members and officers of participants' respective organisations.

The ideas and proposals from these working groups were presented in plenary session. The 11 aims identified might need to be reduced to a more manageable set of proposals perhaps by a subsequent meeting of the six organisations represented and that could be presented to the government and Ministry of Justice, the criminal justice system, MPs and the press.

# LRG events programme for spring 2012

<p><b>Wednesday, 14 March 2012</b> 1.45pm to 5.30pm</p>	<p><b>EU Translation Workshop</b> Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU Event hosted and co-organised by the European Commission Representation in the UK. <i>Price: £5 for LRG members; £10 for non members to cover the cost of catering. Please contact Events Secretary Anna Szpakowska at info@annaszpakowska.com for more information or to book your place.</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday, 10 May 2012</b> 6.00pm for 6.30pm</p>	<p><b>General Networking Session</b> Devereux pub, 20 Devereux Court, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JJ Networking meeting, enabling members to discuss work-related issues, share news about work opportunities and discuss IT problems. <i>Cost: free for LRG members; £5 for non-members. Please register with Events Secretary Anna Szpakowska at info@annaszpakowska.com.</i></p>

See [www.iti-lrg.org.uk](http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk) for the latest updates on forthcoming events.

## LRG Committee Contacts

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