



# ITI-LRG Newsletter



Issue 30

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

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## Editorial

Welcome to the autumn issue of the LRG Newsletter. There are still a couple of events left before the end of the year, including a workshop on how to translate terms relating to the financial crisis and the ever-popular AGM and Christmas party. See below for full details.

This issue also includes reviews of events from earlier in the year (the EU Translation Workshop and the pub crawl) and details of how to help on the ITI Stand at the London Language Show in October. You will also find an introduction by new LRG member Claire Simon, in which she gives details of her volunteer translation work with the Rainforest Foundation. *Pro Bono* work is something of a hot topic at the moment, so I'm sure that

you'll be interested to hear about how one member has managed to fit it into her schedule.

Finally, the time has come for me to step down as Editor. The next issue (in November) will be my last one. Julia ten Elsen will also be stepping down as Minutes Secretary at the same time. I strongly urge any member interested in getting more involved in the group to put their name forward either as the new Newsletter Editor or as the new Minutes Secretary. It's fun and rewarding to work on the committee. See page 3 for more details.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter.

*Rosemary Harvey, Editor*

### Email address changes

Remember to let Membership Secretary Daniela Ford know if you change your email address so that we can keep our records up-to-date. This will ensure that you don't miss any important announcements or issues of the Newsletter.

Daniela: [dford@softrans-ltd.com](mailto:dford@softrans-ltd.com)

## Forthcoming LRG Events

**The crisis: new terms arising from the financial crisis and their translation**

**Thursday, 15 November 2012**

**6 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**



terminology. Advance suggestions and questions welcome. Please send them to Peter Linton ([peter@lintononline.co.uk](mailto:peter@lintononline.co.uk)).

*LRG members: free; non-members: £3. Please book your place by going to [www.iti-lrg.org.uk/page/upcoming](http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk/page/upcoming) and clicking on the Eventbrite link.*

This workshop will be led by Alex Brummer, City Editor of the *Daily Mail* and author of *Britain for Sale*. It is an opportunity for beginners and advanced translators and interpreters alike to discuss the translation of financial

## LRG AGM and Christmas party

Thursday, 13 December 2012

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

Nearest tube: Temple or buses to The Strand

I know it's not until December, but it's worth saving the

date. The LRG Christmas Party is always one of the highlights of the year, with a buffet, mulled wine, mince pies and good company.

*Cost: £14 for members; £19 for non-members. A booking form will be included in the November issue of the Newsletter.*

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## Review of LRG Events

### EU Translation Workshop

14 March 2012

*LRG ITI Liaison Officer, Pamela Mayorcas, kindly reports from a very successful event.*



We were immensely privileged to be able to offer this workshop in association with the European Commission's EU Languages Liaison Officer, John Evans, and his colleague, Angeliki Petrits, at Europe House. Europe House is the headquarters building of both the European Commission's Representation in the UK and of the European Parliament Information Office. The building is famous for having formerly served as Conservative Central Office and the square is famous as the home of St John's Church which hosts wonderful concerts.

The afternoon started with a general introduction by John Evans. He talked about his role as EU Languages Liaison Officer in London, his educational and language background - John speaks French, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish - and explained the background to the documents we were due to work on in the two sessions.

The turn-out for this workshop had exceeded our expectations which did cause some crowding and noise problems during the practical exercises. We will limit numbers for a future event (which we hope to hold in spring/summer 2013) so that groups can have more room and sit at tables, and arrange a facilitator for each language group throughout the work sessions. We will also provide some information on working for the EU, both as part of the freelance panel of translators and revisers and in a staff position. We offered a limited number of free places to students from the University of Westminster, London Metropolitan University and Imperial College.

John had sourced publicly-available material from the Internet, political speeches, op-ed pieces on free movement and protected geographical indications, web

pages including one on food safety and a variety of EU texts, all of which gave rise to complex terminological issues.

There were two practical sessions with large groups working from French and German into English, quite large groups for Italian and Polish, and a small Spanish group into English, plus groups working from English into those languages. John was joined by Ann Pattison who acted as facilitator for the German groups and we are very grateful to Ann for supporting LRG at this event. Each group spent 40 minutes working on their translation and then merged with their source language group to discuss problems of terminology and language.

The event finished with a plenary session and feedback from each of the language groups.



At the end of the session, participants were given a much-appreciated copy of the European Parliament Inter-institutional style guide and samples of EU and DGT literature. The guide is available from the European Publications Office (EPO), in hard copy and can also be consulted online:

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/interinstitutional-style-guide-2011-pbOA3110655/>

<http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-000100.htm>

The catering, provided by our regular caterer, Ian Moore of Plum Duff, was - as always - first-class and much appreciated by those present.

We had 50 feedback forms which was quite a high return rate; all comments, both positive and negative help us to improve on our CPD offer in the future. The majority of participants had learnt about the event from the ITI Bulletin, the ITI website or LRG Newsletter or other sources but, interestingly not the LRG website or LinkedIn. Thanks to Peter Linton for analysing the forms.



People commented favourably on both the booking procedure and venue information. All thanks to Anna Szpakowska, new LRG Committee member, who looked after the bookings. The majority of those responding said they had come to learn but several participants were also interested in networking and work opportunities. The texts, for content and range, and group work all rated highly although some people felt that the texts needed to be more difficult or technical. Participants would have liked to hear more about job opportunities with the EU, both for freelancers and for staff translators. We hope to build this element into a repeat event in 2013.

We are immensely grateful to John Evans for facilitating access to Europe House, for sourcing the texts and running the programme.

*Pamela Mayorcas*

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## LRG Pub Crawl 5 July 2012

*Thank you to Pauline Uyterwijk for reporting back from a lively pub crawl. I'm sorry that I missed it!*

This year's pub crawl brought a good crowd of LRG members to some lovely, lively pubs in the Notting Hill / Kensington area. We visited the Uxbridge Arms near Notting Hill tube station, the atmospheric Windsor Castle - where a mysteriously low door in the separation between the former public bar and the saloon bar kept some of us intrigued - and ended up in the Churchill Arms on Kensington Church Street.

Apart from interesting ales and a nice Thai meal for those who stayed on for dinner, the company was great and the conversation good. A wide range of serious and not-so-serious subjects were dealt with by the pub crawlers, from exchanging experiences about setting up as freelance translators, discussing the finer points of the difficulties of learning Russian, French and Spanish, lamenting the ever fascinating British weather, telling punctuation jokes based on the restaurant menu and discussing poetry, to name but a few examples.

Finally, a big thank you to the organisers Julia ten Elsen and Kari Koonin is due. The pub crawl is an excellent opportunity for LRG members to get to know each other in person in an informal environment, without the limitations of the virtual networks we make so much use of. However important they have become in the life of translators, you can't beat seeing each other face to face!

*Pauline Uyterwijk*

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## LRG News

### Committee vacancies

The following LRG committee members will be stepping down at the end of the year.

- The **Editor of the LRG Newsletter**
- The **Minutes Secretary**

If you are interested in taking over either of these fun,

voluntary roles, please get in touch with:

- Peter Linton ([peter@lintononline.co.uk](mailto:peter@lintononline.co.uk));
- Pamela Mayorcas ([translation@mayorcas.eu](mailto:translation@mayorcas.eu)); or
- Rosemary Harvey  
([translations@rosemaryharvey.co.uk](mailto:translations@rosemaryharvey.co.uk)).

Producing the Newsletter is a rewarding role, and being Minutes Secretary means that you will be involved in all aspects of LRG business. Both are an excellent way to get

to know more people within LRG and ITI, to raise your profile and earn valuable CPD points.

You will be given full details of what is involved (and help with your first issue if you take over the Newsletter Editor role).

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## **ITI Stand and Free LRG Seminar at the London Language Show**

**Olympia Exhibition Centre, Kensington, London  
Friday 19 - Sunday 21 October 2012**

As last year, ITI has been offered the opportunity to exhibit at this major event for everyone involved and interested in languages, translation and interpreting. The ITI stand was very well attended in 2011, and we hope to have an equally busy three days this year. Many visitors were established translators and interpreters.

ITI members will have free access to the Show.

The ITI London Regional Group is once again organising the volunteer rota for the stand. If you would like to help on the Friday, Saturday or Sunday, please contact: Peter Linton, ITI-LRG Chairman, on: [Peter@Lintononline.co.uk](mailto:Peter@Lintononline.co.uk).  
Travel and subsistence will be reimbursed.

In addition to the stand, the London Regional Group is hosting a seminar on Sunday 21 October, 12.45 to 13.30, entitled 'A day in the life.....'. The session will be chaired by Kari Koonin with panellists Elizabeth Dickson, Philippe Galinier and Lina Molokotos-Liederman, who will outline what daily life is like for translators and interpreters, and offer some guidance on how to get into the profession, how to develop the necessary skills and how to develop one's market.

LRG will also be hosting an Open Networking Event, on Friday, 19 October, between 4 and 5pm, at which translators and interpreters, both ITI members and non-affiliated linguists, can meet, socialise and discuss professional matters.

*Please look out for more information on  
<http://www.languageshowconnect.co.uk/>,  
<http://www.iti.org.uk/ice/> or <http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk/>*

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## **New online database**

We have upgraded our website with an online database listing all LRG members. This replaces the former printed directory of members which was expensive to produce and rapidly got out of date.

The new online version is designed to be searched by customers and translation companies looking for translators or interpreters. They can select a shortlist by language combinations. This shortlist is in random, not in alphabetical order, to give everyone a fair chance.

What's more, you can now update your own information online. To do that, you can contact us for a username and password which will enable you to amend your existing details. You can also add much more information about your specialisms, services you provide, your experience and your qualifications. There is also a short user guide to show you what to do. You can of course check your own details by using the Quick Search facility in the online system. Select your language combination and then click Translator or Interpreter. Bear in mind however that you will only see qualified translators or interpreters (MITI etc). If you first sign in with your username and password you will see all LRG members.

### **E-mail address changes**

If you change your e-mail address, you need to change it in the online database - otherwise customers will not be able to contact you by e-mail, and you will never know they have failed. With your username and password you can amend your e-mail address as described above.

You also need to notify our Membership Secretary Daniela Ford, so that we can keep our admin records up-to-date. This will ensure that you don't miss any important announcements or issues of the Newsletter.  
Daniela: [dford@softrans-ltd.com](mailto:dford@softrans-ltd.com)

# ITI News and Events

News of forthcoming ITI events and CPD opportunities:

## **ITI Translation Workshop: polishing our translation skills**

**Saturday, 20 October 2012**

**Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh  
9.30am – 5.15pm**

ITI will this year be co-hosting its translation workshop with the ITI Scottish Network at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.

This well-attended annual workshop is an excellent learning opportunity for translators of all experience levels. There will be a short plenary session before attendees are split into language groups. There will also be a programme of social activities. Handouts, lunch and refreshments provided.

*Please see [www.iti.org.uk](http://www.iti.org.uk) for further information and booking form.*

## **Webinar: becoming an MITI**

**Wednesday, 14 November 2012**

This one hour webinar presented by ITI Admissions Officer Elizabeth Dickson will include an introductory presentation followed by a Q&A session with a panel familiar with the MITI examination, interview and admissions process.

*See [www.ecpdwebinars.co.uk](http://www.ecpdwebinars.co.uk) for more details and to register.*

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## **ITI Annual General Meeting**

**11am, Saturday, 17 November 2012**

**Hughes Parry Hall, Cartwright Gardens, London**

Full details will be announced nearer the time. See the ITI website and the Bulletin.

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# Meeting our members: Claire Simon

*Claire Simon recently joined LRG. She translates into French. She kindly agreed to tell us about her interesting role volunteering for the Rainforest Foundation.*

I hold a Master's degree in technical translation (English and German into French) from the Université Paris Diderot in France, which I earned in 1996. My final dissertation related to solar cells and the biological purification of water. As part of my degree, I worked part-time as an apprentice translator at AFNOR, the French standardisation association. This experience helped me realise that although I loved languages and all things technical, I needed a slightly more social occupation. After graduating, I therefore started an unexpected career in tourism and event management. While working in this field, I lived and worked in France and Portugal, and I have lived in the UK for the last five years.

Another passion of mine has always been volunteering; I have volunteered for various causes and organisations since I was a student, mainly related to homelessness, the environment and humanitarian causes. I have sometimes used my translation skills as a volunteer, but my organisational and people skills have been even more useful.

When I moved to the UK, I was impressed by the importance of charities and volunteering, and how together they form a third sector, in addition to the public and private sectors. I was especially impressed by how structured volunteering is - I even took a course in volunteering organisation and found it fascinating - and how it has developed into a way to earn experience and skills while job hunting or investing in a career change. I enjoyed volunteering in the UK even more than I had done in other countries in the past, and even benefitted greatly from it, as it allowed me to get a job in the competitive field of charity work.

All of the above experiences came into their own last year as I embarked on a new journey of finally embracing my original degree and turning to professional translation as a freelancer. By now, I was mum to a young child and found freelancing extremely appealing in my new situation, besides the fact that I was missing the use of my original training and wanted to go back to technical translation.

But where to start? I used my tourism and marketing experience as a launchpad but the technical level required for most translations in that field – and my common language combination (by now I was mostly translating English and Portuguese into French) – was not giving me a competitive edge. I decided to build a more technical speciality and chose humanitarian/environmental issues. Volunteering as a translator came spontaneously to mind as a way to gain experience and references, and to yet again contribute to a cause close to my heart with my specific skills.

I therefore contacted the Rainforest Foundation UK. They confirmed that there was a need for translation from English into French as they often work with French-speaking African countries to help forest communities secure land rights. Since then, I have translated briefs, manuals, leaflets and other documents.

I later narrowed down my translation specialisation to renewable energy, particularly solar and wind energy. Again, with the same strategy in mind, I contacted GVEP International, which supports small businesses in developing countries to invest in clean and renewable energy. They too were very welcoming and I started translating some technical factsheets for them.

So far, the translation needs of both charities have not been overwhelming at all. I am passionate about the work I do for them and about the thought of contributing to a great cause, and they are very grateful for any help I can provide. While translating, I develop more technical knowledge in my new specialisation and can use the charities as references for paid translation projects. It truly is a mutually beneficial experience – besides the usual gratification of volunteering and giving your free time for the benefit of others.

Business has started to pick up recently, meaning that I will hopefully be able to pursue my freelance career, but I have decided that if it does not take off, I will definitely continue with volunteer translation.

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## Noticeboard

### **34<sup>th</sup> Translating and the Computer Conference and Exhibition** **29-30 November 2012**

**1 Bird Cage Walk, London**

A meeting point for translators, researchers and students in the translation and localisation field.

*For more details see [www.aslib.co.uk/conferences/tc\\_2012](http://www.aslib.co.uk/conferences/tc_2012)*

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### **International Translation Day 2012** **Friday, 5 October 2012** **9am – 5pm**

**Kings Place, N1 9AG**

Launched in 2010, International Translation Day (ITD) has become a unique annual event within the translation community. The ITD symposium is a collaborative venture, established and organised by several dedicated

partners: the British Centre for Literary Translation; the British Council; English PEN; Free Word; Literature Across Frontiers; the London Book Fair; the Translators Association; Wales Literature Exchange; and Words Without Borders.

From effective promotional strategies to translating across art forms, this year's International Translation Day brings industry professionals and artists together to explore new ideas and initiatives. It is an opportunity for translators, students, publishers, booksellers, librarians, bloggers and reviewers to gather and debate significant issues and developments within the sector, to discuss challenges, and to celebrate success. It is also an opportunity to reflect on and consolidate progress.

*Full day entry £30; £20 concessions, including light lunch and refreshments.*

*For further information, please see <http://www.freewordonline.com/events/detail/international-translation-day-2012>*

# LRG events programme for autumn 2012

<p><b>Thursday, 15 November 2012</b> 6 for 6.30pm</p>	<p><b>The crisis: new terms arising from the financial crisis and their translation</b> Devereux pub, 20 Devereux Court, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JJ Workshop led by Alex Brummer, City Editor of the <i>Daily Mail</i>, on the translation of financial terms. <i>Cost: LRG members: free; non-members: £3.</i> <i>Booking: <a href="http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk/page/upcoming">www.iti-lrg.org.uk/page/upcoming</a>, click on the Eventbrite link</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday, 13 December 2012</b></p>	<p><b>LRG AGM and Christmas party</b> Devereux pub, 20 Devereux Court, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JJ The LRG AGM followed by the Christmas party. Put the date in your diary now. <i>Cost: £14 for LRG members; £19 for non-members.</i> <i>Booking: a booking form will follow in the November issue.</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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