

NLTSG – Officers Bios

Alfred Vella MBCS – Chairman

Dr Alfred Dominic Vella BSc, BA, MSc, PhD CMath, CEng, FIMA, MBCS

Born in Birmingham to Maltese parents who emigrated a couple of years before I was born, I am the second son out of four children two boys then two girls. Degrees in: Chemistry/Maths BSc(London), Pure Mathematics PhD(OU), Computing MSc(Hertfordshire), Technology BA(Open).

Taught for the following universities: Open, Oxford Brookes, Staffordshire, Cranfield, Luton, Buckingham, Hertfordshire, Liverpool, London, Singapore Institute of Management and Hong Kong University: Supervised 100s of undergraduate, a couple of hundred MSc and around 20 PhDs. Examined PhDs for Luton, Cranfield, Dundee, Cardiff, Imperial and the LSE. Been an external examiner for the Open University and Wolverhampton University.

Masoud Aref MBCS – Treasurer

I have been active in the IT sector for the past 18 years: (90-97), ITCraft Ltd (97-03), London Borough of Camden (03-Present). I became interested in natural language translation technologies while developing multi-lingual websites at ITCraft Ltd. I would like to contribute to further development of machine translation tools with particular reference to the needs of minority languages communities to access and disseminate information.

Jon Riding MBCS CITP – Secretary

His initial encounters with computers began in the 1970s working as a system software engineer with the Ministry of Defence but since 1989 Jon has been principal researcher at the Bible Society where he leads a team developing systems to assist bible translators worldwide. He holds degrees in Music, Classics and Computer Science which include an MPhil from Oxford Brookes (where he is a Visiting Researcher) for work in automatic word-formation analysis. Particular interests include language independent systems, mapping semantics within and across parallel corpora, word-formation in languages with complex morphologies and tools for editors and translators working with non-mainstream vernacular languages in the developing world.

Elina Lagoudaki MBCS – Membership Secretary

Elina holds a BSc in Translation from the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting of Ionian University, Greece, and an MA in Development Administration from Westminster Business School, UK. At present, she is completing a PhD research in user needs identification for Translation Memory systems at Imperial College London. Her research interests include translator-support software, translation resources, extraction of bilingual corpora from the Web, usability issues in translation software and interaction of translation software with the Internet. Elina is currently working as a translator and language consultant and has lengthy experience in managing multilingual translation and localisation projects.

Chris Bates MBCS – Webmaster

I have been interested in computers and languages since an early age and my first degree was in Modern Languages and Linguistics at Kent University; following this I took an Open University degree course in IT and Computing.

For the last 10 years I have worked in IT development and support in the Civil Service, Accenture and I now work as a software tester in a financial services company.

I live in Oxford where I am studying part-time for an MSc in Software Engineering. My interests outside of computing are film, photography and architecture and I enjoy swimming and cycling.