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**Email us to write for the next ELT Ireland Bulletin!**

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# Welcome to our 9th Bulletin!

by Laura O'Grady (President of ELT Ireland)

The ELT Ireland committee of 2022 was unchanged from the previous year with all members continuing in their roles. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and admiration to our committee, who volunteer their time and energy to ensure that ELT Ireland can be an engaging network for English language teachers. In 2022, ELT Ireland and our members took the reins of their 'New Beginning' and enabled our committee to, once again, step up to the plate and ensure that our scheduled ELT Ireland events proceeded. It is due to their commitment that ELT Ireland is able to host a variety of events throughout the year for our members and non-members alike. Throughout the last year, we've been able to ensure that our members had access to our ELT Ted events (hosted by Linguaviva Centre, SEDA College and Mary Immaculate College), our Manager Meet-up, our Bulletin and our Annual Conference.



The ELT Ireland Committee at the 2022 Conference

Pic by ELT Ireland

Our 9th annual conference is once again taking place in Griffith College this year on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The theme is "Back to a Future" and we are looking forward to welcoming our plenary speakers Mary Grennan, Julia Aliverti and Aoife Hurley. We will also be hosting a large number of speakers from home and abroad along with sponsored talks, talks with our exhibitors and exciting networking opportunities in person!

Membership of ELT Ireland continues to grow gaining members from both within and outside the ELT community. The committee will also be gaining some members for the remainder of 2023 and in the lead up to the 10th Annual Conference in 2024. With in person events returning to pre-Covid engagement, we are placing an extra focus on how we organise our events throughout the year with Levente Szolga, Camila Oliveira and Carolina Farinha coming onboard to lend a hand while Daragh McMunn will take over from Amanda McGeer with the publication of the yearly Bulletin. We would like to extend our thanks to Amanda for the work she has done with the Bulletin over the last couple of years.

As President of ELT Ireland, I would like to thank you all for continued support, commend the committee for working tirelessly throughout the year to bring you so many worthwhile events and, as always, am looking forward to growing our membership in the year ahead.

## Letter from the Editor

by Amanda McGeer (Bulletin Editor)

This edition of the ELT Ireland Bulletin that you have in your hands or open in your browser did not happen overnight. In my second year as editor, I have had the privilege of working alongside eight creative and dedicated ELT professionals from Ireland and beyond in order to create this edition. Ahead of the call for articles, most contributors attended the annual ELT Ireland Article Writing Forum, an online event that looked at previous editions, the style sheet and allowed for small group brainstorming activities which proved to be incredibly useful for first-time writers. Once first draft articles were submitted, the contributors became part of the "Network of Reviewers". This was where they read and provided anonymous feedback on an article by a fellow contributor. While this meant that writers received a review from both myself and a member of the network, writing the reviews also helped them to reflect on their own article in preparation for final draft submission. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the bulletin as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and commend the hard work done by this year's bulletin contributors. If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please email your article idea to [info.eltireland@gmail.com](mailto:info.eltireland@gmail.com) and keep an eye on our social media for everything bulletin related.



Slides from the 2022 Article Writing Forum

Pic by ELT Ireland

# ELT Ireland Membership

by Anna Maroutian (Membership Officer)

Having lived through the extremely uncertain times brought on by the pandemic, we have always appreciated the support from our loyal institutional as well as individual members. Our conference last year brought back a lot of familiar faces and the committee was very generous to have agreed to keep membership costs at a 'covid-rate' to help our valuable members get back on their feet. This year we are happy to report that promising numbers have shown interest in attending this year's events with many institutional member participants kicking off the year with our first management event hosted by Peter Lahiff. Although membership prices have now gone back to their original rate, we are very pleased to see active membership renewals once again. Thank you to all our members for allowing us to continue to serve our community.

# ELT Ireland Newsletter

by Ben Dobbs (Newsletter Editor)

Throughout the past year, ELT Ireland's biweekly email newsletter has continued to keep readers up-to-date with events, news and more. The newsletter has, at the most recent count, just short of 400 subscribers with a regular readership of around 50% of those. We are endeavouring to obtain more updates, news and offers from our readers that they are keen to share with others; happily, this has increased over the past year with information shared on conferences, webinars, publications and more.

# From the audience to an excited committee member

by Camila Oliveira (New Committee Member for 2023)

I was invited to attend an ELTed event last May when I had just returned to teaching after a 3-year gap due to burnout. I found the topics of the talks interesting and decided to join some colleagues on a sunny Saturday morning - especially because we would go out for drinks later! Little did I know how motivated I would leave The Linguaviva Centre that day. Seeing teachers passionately talking about their experiences in the classroom was inspiring and filled me with ideas, not only for my classes but also for my career: in the months following the event, I took a TESOL course and have started a DELTA. Last October, SEDA College, the school I work in, hosted another ELTed and I was invited to present a talk. During the organisation process, everyone was so kind, and on the day of my talk, they were so welcoming that I decided to join ELT as a committee member. No regrets! Being part of the team has been a great opportunity to share ideas, get inspired, network and get energised by all the amazing people who take part in each event. I cannot wait for all the brilliant gatherings that are being organised for this year!



# Why and How Do You Do It?

by Peter Lahiff

ELT Ireland is a members organisation powered by its voluntary committee and as the longest serving committee member I am sometimes asked why or how we do it. It is true that there is often times that work and family commitments make it hard to get near the to do list for ELT Ireland. The longer the emails are unanswered and the more unread messages there are in the committee group chat the harder it is to get back into the swing of it. At those times you really do ask yourself, "how am I going to do this?" Then at other times you are taking time out to persuade people to take part in an event and getting very little response and you ask yourself why. The second of these two questions is the big one, it is important to know why you are doing something. You could complain about the state of things and how there should be more done to improve the image of English Language Teaching and there should be more opportunities to develop as professionals. Being part of the ELT Ireland committee is an opportunity to do something about that, there is no real satisfaction to be had in complaining. Once you know *why* then *how* is about making a deal with your friends and family that some time will be dedicated to this "Hobby" or sometimes an understanding boss in the run up to an event will see the benefit if allowing you a bit of time to dedicate to it. It is important to know your limitations (as with anything you try and do) and not bite off more than you can manage. It has been great to be part of it since 2014 and to those who have not been involved in making something like this happen, I would say, "you're missing out". Drop us a line or corner us at the conference for a chat. Getting involved is easier than you think and more satisfying than you imagine.