

SECRETARY'S REPORT AGM 17 TH APRIL 2024 – Linda Widdows

The year from April 2023 to March 2024 has been an active and busy year for the Events Team. We welcomed Emlyn and Nia as observers early in the year and after attending a meeting or two they both decided they would like to stay and have been “Acting” or co-opted Team members for several months. Tonight, they have agreed to take things one step further and are awaiting your votes to take on the roles of Treasurer and Website Coordinator. Two roles that are important to the smooth running of Forum.

Before the advent of Covid and Lockdown, Forum’s regular place for Workshops was Hope House in Oswestry. This is no longer available to us and therefore we have had to find a new “home”. The Barnabas Church Centre in Shrewsbury has become our preferred location. It is more central, and the facilities are good, plus it has the advantage of some on-site parking.

Similarly, Palmer’s Café in the centre of Shrewsbury has proved to be a comfortable and accessible place to hold our (almost) quarterly opportunities for members to meet, have a beverage and share experiences, books and courses they have found interesting or helpful, and so much more. These two-hour sessions are now referred to as Kitchen Table CPD, as we gather round a table to enjoy our drinks and Geoffrey gently guides the proceedings with a suggested topic or two, so that everyone has an opportunity to join in, or, if they prefer, just listen to others. We have also opened these meetings to non-members who would like to know more about Forum before joining. If they wish to come again, or to attend a workshop, they are asked to become members. With membership fees being held at £30, four chances to attend Kitchen Table CPD events for free, plus the chance to attend three workshops a year each at a fee of £40, we hope that members think it is really good value for money,

We are always looking for topics that members are interested in and for speakers to approach. All suggestions from members are gratefully received and will be acted upon wherever possible.

Looking to next year, I wish to announce that I shall be stepping down as secretary at the next AGM. If anyone is interested in taking on the role – or even part of it – I would be happy to speak with them so that they might get a “feel” for what is involved.

Linda Widdows