

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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21-year-old society remembers its founder

The Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP) will be celebrating its 21st birthday at its annual conference in September. The founder, Norma Whitcombe, announced her intention to form a new organisation on 10 July 1988, at the Society of Indexers conference in Cheltenham. Eleven participants expressed an interest and, over the next few months, the twinkle in Norma's eye was nurtured and became a society which today is valuable to its members, editorial professionals.

Norma Whitcombe recalled how members were recruited: 'We contacted all our clients, who put us in touch with their freelancers. Before long, we had over 100 letters expressing interest and more than 60 people attended the inaugural meeting in November 1988.'

The original principles of the SfEP were to maintain editorial standards, to offer mutual support for members and to provide professional training for both new and experienced proofreaders and editors. These aims were met quickly in the first few months and they remain the backbone of the Society.

Lesley Ward, the Society's first treasurer, says of Norma: 'Her tireless efforts ensured that the Society moved rapidly to establish its position in the industry.'

Today, the Society provides an annual networking and training conference, one-day courses and email discussion groups for general, legal and medical editing issues. It regularly gives informed comment on issues faced by its members.

ENDS

224 words

Notes for editors

1. The SfEP held its inaugural meeting on 26 November 1988. During its first year, the Society started a regular newsletter, ran four one-day training courses and established eight local groups. Information on current SfEP courses can be found at www.sfep.org.uk/courses.
2. The SfEP has organised an annual conference since 1990, which is open to members and non-members alike. Information on this year's conference can be found at www.sfep.org.uk/conference.
3. SfEP membership comprises freelance and in-house editors, proofreaders and other editorial workers, plus publishers and other businesses and organisations. The SfEP works to promote editorial standards, uphold the professional status of editorial workers and encourage the use of services offered by its membership. More information can be found at www.sfep.org.uk.
4. SfEP media releases are available at www.sfep.org.uk/news.

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