

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Judith Butcher Award: Winner announced by SfEP**

Lesley Ward was announced as the winner of the first Judith Butcher Award at the Society for Editors and Proofreaders' (SfEP's) recent AGM.

Nominations were made by the membership, and the shortlist and winner were chosen by a sub-committee.

Named after the SfEP's serving president, the recently established award recognises those who have made a valuable contribution to the Society, whether in a highly visible way or behind the scenes. Judith Butcher will be familiar to many as the author of *Butcher's Copy-editing: The Cambridge handbook for editors, copy-editors and proofreaders* – the classic editorial reference in Britain and beyond. She was elected the SfEP's first honorary president in 1988.

Lesley Ward started as a member of the original committee that created the Society from scratch, and got it up and running remarkably quickly. She served as treasurer for these demanding early years, when there was no remuneration or paid support for committee members. She has often been the first person that newcomers get to know through the Society's training courses, and as such has been a vital part of the SfEP's public face. 'I joined at the first meeting in 1988,' says Lesley, 'and got involved in training as soon as it started. I'd been freelance for five years and feeling the isolation – there was no one to bring me updates on the latest scientific terminology or check my work. Nor did we know what anyone was being paid. It seemed important that we talk to each other – and here we are, 24 years later and still talking.'

**ENDS**

## Notes

- A photograph of the award presentation is available on request. Please contact Tracey Cowell, marketing and PR director, [marketingpr@sfep.org.uk](mailto:marketingpr@sfep.org.uk)
- The SfEP works to promote high editorial standards, uphold the professional status of editorial workers, and encourage the use of services offered by its membership. It has approximately 1,700 members and associates (mostly in the UK) providing editorial services to publishers and a wide range of companies, government agencies and other bodies.
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