



The Meeting Centres UK Newsletter

December 2022 Edition



Meeting Centre training

Following the success of our online training so far, we're pleased to say that there will be three further courses running in 2023 in April, July and November.

If you're a Meeting Centre member of staff or volunteer have a look at our website for more details on how you can attend for free.

Welcome to the December 2022 newsletter!

It's been another bumper year for Meeting Centres with lots of activity going on across England, Scotland and Wales. It's amazing to think that there are now around 50 Meeting Centres up and running across the UK, with further exciting developments in the pipeline.

While Meeting Centres are now back to operating 'in person', the regular online Community of Learning and Practice catch-ups have been invaluable in terms of sharing knowledge and experience between people at different stages of setting up a Meeting Centre. The amount of engagement has been amazing, so thank you for your continued support and interest in Meeting Centres.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Dr Shirley Evans

**Interim Director of the
Association for Dementia
Studies**



Monthly Webinars

Our monthly webinars continued through 2022, but after careful consideration it has been decided that they will not run in 2023.

As with all of our previous webinars, you can find blogs and recordings for each of the 2022 webinars on the Meeting Centre blog site, so if you missed any you can still catch up.

Meeting Centres at UKDC

In early November the UK Dementia Congress took place in Birmingham and Meeting Centres had a strong presence. The Meeting Centre symposium was standing room only, and brought together a mix of established, new and emerging Meeting Centres to share experiences and spread the word.



It was also a great opportunity for some of us to meet in person for the first time, after previously having only seen each other over Zoom!

Dementia Matters in Powys 'Jubilee Games'

In August, Dementia Matters in Powys (DMiP), who run the Powys Meeting Centres, held their second annual summer gathering. This year the theme was "Jubilee Games" in honour The Queen's jubilee – which has, of course, taken on extra poignancy following Her Late Majesty's death less than a month later.

Back in August, though, spirits were high, with food, quiz and fete-style games, a fairground-style organ, a dance flash mob and a moving sing-along, all in the glorious sunshine at Llandewi village hall.

It was a chance for people from all of Powys's Meeting Centres to come together, along with supporters of Dementia Matters in Powys. ADS's Dr Shirley Evans and Thomas Morton (below) joined members of Dementia Matters Here(fordshire) to form one team, who again bagged 1st place for a visiting team in the games for the second year running.



Thomas's sketch of Her Majesty also won first place in the portrait competition!



Scottish developments

There are now 11 Meeting Centres open across Scotland, with more on the way soon due to a seed corn fund specifically for Meeting Centres, funded by Age Scotland's About Dementia Project. This will support the development of another five Meeting Centres.

Moves are also underway to formalise Meeting Centres at a national level in Scotland with the formation of a new Scottish Meeting Centres Network charity.

Meeting Centres at Alzheimer Scotland

ADS research assistant Jennifer Bray travelled up to Edinburgh in September to present a symposium at the Alzheimer Scotland conference. Jen spoke about the background to Meeting Centres and the 'Adjusting to Change' model, before handing over to Graham Galloway (below) from Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre, who showed the impact that their Meeting Centre in Angus – which was the first in Scotland – is having. The session was concluded by Ron Coleman and Karen Taylor from Deepness Dementia radio & media who shared their plans for Meeting Centres on the Western Isles of Scotland.



For further information and/or to contact us for support, please visit:

Web: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/uk-meeting-centres-support-programme.html> and <https://www.worc.ac.uk/discover/meetingdem-jpnd.html>

Email: meetingcentres@worc.ac.uk

Twitter: @MeetingCentres

Mailing list: https://ext-webapp-01.worc.ac.uk/meeting_centres_mailing_list/subscribe

Blog: <https://meetingcentres.wordpress.com/> and useful resources <https://meetingcentres.wordpress.com/useful-resources/>

