

## M25 SpeedMeet

**December 2024**



### Questions

- **Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?**

I am **Chris Foreman, Associate Director of Library Services at University of the Arts, London**. I have a particular remit around Library Collections; Special Collections; Digital; Discovery and Archives and I work all across UAL's 8 sites at Stratford; Wimbledon; Kings Cross; High Holborn; Shepherd's Bush; Elephant and Castle; Chelsea and Camberwell!

- **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

Aside from the kick-ass Librarianship, working across so many colleges and campuses, every challenge and day is different. I love seeing the ever-abundant creativity of an Institution like UAL – where the scenery is forever changing and student work is continuously celebrated and displayed.

- **What motivates you in your work?**

Supporting our Library users; supporting colleagues on their professional journey and celebrating their successes. Transforming spaces and helping to tell stories that are otherwise overlooked or uncelebrated.

- **How can/has the M25 Consortium supported you in your career?**

Personally, I think “lift off” for my career was doing the CPD25 programme in about 2008/9. The programme really helped me make a leap from being a Systems Librarian at the time into more mainstream roles and gave me the tools and confidence to take on broader responsibilities and push into operational and strategic management roles. I have continued to

dip-in to M25 events ever since and, of course, every time I do – I hear from amazing people doing incredible things who are always happy to share their experiences.

I also love visiting other Libraries and have a particularly fond memories of visiting Wormwood Scrubs Prison Library and the Museum of Freemasonry with M25.

**What would it surprise people to know about you?**

Well, Librarians are a pretty talented bunch – they are often talented musicians, artists, academics etc. - so I'm not sure I have too much in my locker to surprise them but I can play the piano and, as I played football through my 20's – I can still do lots of tricks and keepie-uppies with a football.

- **Complete the sentence: If I wasn't working in a library I would be..... because .....**

working in some form rehabilitation or Occupational Therapy because I am obsessed with design and in re-thinking individual problems and challenges. I am a nearly lifelong amputee (hang on, I could have put that in the "surprises" section...) and volunteer with the Limbless Association. Through that, I meet a lot of amazing people who are trying to achieve dreams or ambitions while overcoming a life-changing event and – through their successes and achievements (and in realising that there are actually very few immovable constraints) you truly do start to believe that anything is possible. That, like Librarianship, would be super-rewarding.