

## South West Newsletter

Focusing on Bristol, Bath and Wiltshire as well as Solent, Plymouth and Devon & Cornwall



### Thank you from the Chairman

I would like to start off by thanking all of our members, our committee, sponsors and supporters for a fantastic year. 2017 was fast-paced and rewarding, which is exactly how I wanted my year as Chairman to be.

It is fantastic to see new members joining Women in Property and attending events as well as becoming engaged with our committee or the roadshow/ Student Awards/ mentoring programmes. This year has seen one of many scandals both within our industry and in wider society, highlighted by the #MeToo campaign. I am delighted that we are taking a proactive role in helping to improve matters for women in construction through our network and through the research we conducted under our 'Building: A Better Workforce' survey which we are looking to update following the April deadline for the gender pay gap reporting. I started my year asking us all to **#standtall** and through these initiatives along with taking ourselves out of our comfort zone we have found a voice and raised our profile even further.

As I hand over to our 2018 Chairman, Carly Willis of Claremont Group, I am proud of all we have achieved over the last year, and look forward to supporting her for the coming year – as well as supporting myself with a bit more time on the golf course! (Keep your eyes peeled for a WiP golf day coming to a course near you soon....)

Rachel Bell, Stride Treglown



### Committee Changes

There are a number of committee members stepping down this year and we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of them for their invaluable input over the last few years. As with all voluntary positions, it can be difficult to fit commitments in amongst other pressures and we know everyone works incredibly hard to support Women in Property as much as they can.

Inevitably along with committee members leaving, it means there will be new members voted on at the AGM, and we welcome their fresh ideas and input. To assist new recruits, we will be buddying them with experienced committee members, and look forward to introducing our new committee to you all at a members-only event in the Spring.

### Events

For full events list see the website

- **Devon & Cornwall AGM**  
Bovey Tracey, 26<sup>th</sup> February
- **'Comfort is Key' Talk**  
Bath, 27<sup>th</sup> February
- **Curry evenings**  
Winchester, 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Bath, 1<sup>st</sup> March
- **International Women's Day**  
Plymouth & Bristol, 8<sup>th</sup> March
- **Solent City Regeneration**  
Southampton, 8<sup>th</sup> March
- **BREXIT Debate Part 2**  
Bristol, 20<sup>th</sup> March
- **Networking Parents lunch**  
Bristol, 27 March

### Got an idea?

If you have an idea for an event you would like Women in Property to host, please contact us to make suggestions. If you are interested in getting involved in the committee or one of the sub-committees, then please email one of the committee members – all contact details are on the website

<http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk/branches/south-west/committee.aspx>

# Membership Benefits

We have a thriving membership base here in the South-West and although many of you are engaged with the events and support we provide, we would love to see more of you participate! So here is a timely reminder of the benefits your Women in Property membership brings you:

- Access to all WiP events at a **reduced members rate**
- Access to **special 'members only' events**. This includes the AGM, certain soft skills workshops & limited-place site visits. We are aware quite a number of our small-scale events sold out very quickly last year so for 2018 we are looking to make these events 'members only' so that our members benefit first and foremost.
- Opportunity to gain **valuable board experience** via joining your branch committee which also raises your & your employer's profile.
- Access to the highly-acclaimed WiP **mentoring** scheme, either as a mentee, mentor, or both. This will include a free training session (which must be completed before entry onto the scheme) and periodic reviews of your matches to ensure suitability.
- Ability to **promote your brand** or company through participation in, hosting of, or sponsorship of WiP events.
- Opportunity to take a seat at a WiP table at **partner events** where you would otherwise need to be a member in order to attend (including BPAA, FBE, RICS).
- Special **reduced-rate prices** for partner events (including CE).
- Access to the **online membership database**.
- Access to the WiP SW **LinkedIn group**, where events and news can be shared in a closed group.
- Opportunity for **professional promotion** within the wider WiP network. Including members being put forward as panelists for industry events, promotion as a speaker, and highlighting members achievements on the WiP blog or through Twitter.

# Roadshow & School Engagement



Over the past year WiP has been involved with a wide variety of events. We have given presentations to primary schools - girls in Year 5/6 at Westfield Primary are pictured above left and centre - on architecture where they had the opportunity to look at real-life project drawings. We have also had stands at secondary school careers days including Stroud High and Marling School. Events like this illustrate to us that we really do need to get out there as much as we can to spread the word about our industry.

We are looking forward to the year ahead, now we have adopted our first school through the acclaimed Constructing Excellence 'Adopt A School' programme. We are partnered with Yate Academy, based in Sunbridge Park in Yate. We are preparing some career case studies to illustrate to the students the breadth of opportunities available in construction. If you are interested in talking to the students about your career please do let us know.

## Satellite Branches

An update on what is happening in our satellite branches:

Tanya Loosemore of RGB Recruitment is taking over as Chairman of **Devon & Cornwall** branch from Emma Preston of Womble Bond Dickinson at the Devon & Cornwall AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Both Emma and Tanya are enthusiastic and inspiring figures within Women in Property, as has been evidenced recently by both of them reaching the semi-finals of the Devon & Cornwall Venus Awards 2018! The winner will be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> April in a ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Plymouth. Congratulations to both of them for making it this far and best of luck for the next stage.

We are currently planning a new series of events in both **Gloucestershire** and **Taunton**, so if you live or work in those areas do watch this space.

In **Wiltshire**, Elaine Connor of PSG is stepping back from the committee and Natasha Fox from Method is taking her place. There is a wide variety of events planned including a re-run of the sold out wine tasting to look forward to!

Charlotte Handy of Wates is going to become Chairman of the **Solent** branch, and kicks the year off with a Winchester curry evening - see Events section for details. Future building tours are also planned so keep an eye out for the 'coming soon' flyers.

Our growing **Bath** sub-committee is led by Dawn Abercromby of Integral Engineering. They have been enjoying a wide variety of events recently, including seminars, networking and tours of exciting new developments in the City including the Apex City of Bath Hotel, the refurbishment of the former Herman Miller building and updates on the Bath Abbey Footprint programme.

National Student Awards  
Sponsors 2018





# Mentoring



2017 was a strong year for mentoring in the South West with a well attended combined UWE Business School tour and mentoring training event in Bristol. We had some really positive and constructive feedback from our current mentees and mentors when we caught up with them in January, and a lot of interest for 2018. It's been great to also hear success stories from long distance mentoring relationships where the majority of contact has been by email, phone or skype. We have also been trialing speed mentoring events with great success, and we plan to hold further events in 2018. Previous participants have commented: *"It is the opportunity to meet someone in the industry with similar interests and career goals; someone to turn to for advice. It is something to add to one's CV...numerous benefits!"*

The next date for mentoring in the South-West is still to be confirmed, although we are aiming to hold events in both Bristol and Taunton/Exeter. Members should also note they can attend any training event throughout the country. For information, the next session is in Leeds on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 4:30pm.

The mentoring sub-committee for 2018 has been run by Gemma Pouncy and Christine Skaar. Gemma is stepping down from the committee this year, and we would like to say thank you very much for all her hard work. Christine is looking for others to assist, so if you are able to help please do contact her [Christine.skaar@kvistdesign.co.uk](mailto:Christine.skaar@kvistdesign.co.uk)

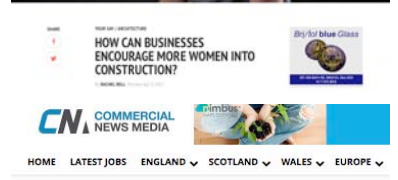
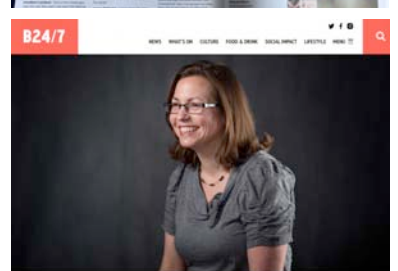
# Chairman's Highlights

2017 was a year of some pretty impressive numbers: 103 events – yes, over 100 events in one year - all supported by a record number of members, 227 at the last count! And its not just quantity, the quality is there in droves too. We have been invited to participate in numerous round-table discussions about the construction industry in the South-West, provide a keynote talk at the Constructing Excellence South-West summit, and have had great media coverage of the 'Building: A Better Workforce' report that we researched in association with Gapsquare and Rosemont Partnership. Celebrating our regional SW winner Caitlin Mitchell becoming the National winner in the National Student Awards was another special moment for us all.

But it has not all been serious, we've had great fun too – learning to drive a digger was a personal highlight along with a sneak preview of the Concorde at Aerospace Bristol museum, fulfilling my passion of all things aviation! I have also been delighted to nurture some professional relationships, especially out on the golf course with our WiP golf sessions – something I am looking forward to progressing in this coming year. My tenure as Chairman has definitely been a whirlwind, and I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved. I hope everyone agrees that we have all worked together to ensure that we can call 2017 the year that we certainly did **#standtall**.

To join Women in Property, contact the membership secretary:  
Louise Gill, [louise.gill@curtins.com](mailto:louise.gill@curtins.com)

# Press Coverage





# 2017: 1 Year, 103 Events, 227 members



National Student Awards  
Sponsors 2018

