

Branch News

Women in Property regional Branches host a wide range of events throughout the UK, offering ideal networking opportunities to all members. There is a full calendar of events listed on the website so check now to see what's on in your area.

East Midlands

More than 40 property professionals attended the Homes and Communities Agency's "Developing Places" seminar in Nottingham, presented by Margaret Allen, Regional Director. They were joined by students and tutors from universities across the East Midlands who had taken part in the 2009 Women in Property National Student Awards and were there to hear the winner announced.



Midlands

Martin Chambers, Network Rail's Programme Director, gave an excellent and vivid presentation on the future of Birmingham New Street Station Redevelopment. The aim of the Birmingham Gateway project is to update the old 1960's style station into a 21st Century facility.

South East

A small group got a behind-the-scenes, sneak preview of what the new lavish Savoy hotel will look like following its complete refurbishment, courtesy of Chorus, the refurbishment specialists who are responsible for delivering this gigantic, high profile project.



South West

The South West Branch has been very busy with its 'Changing Faces series' watching the £20 million development of Colston Hall in Bristol, the city's most popular music venue. The South West Branch has made two visits to see the progress.

Devon & Cornwall

With commercial buildings accounting for nearly 20% of carbon emissions in the UK, are green leases the way forward? This idea was explored at an event in Truro entitled "Leases – can they be greener?" Gavin Poole and Claire Ottery, commercial property lawyers at Truro law firm Foot Anstey Hancock Caffin, looked at ways leases can be structured to be more environmentally friendly.

South Wales

The regional final of the National Student Awards was held at the Park House Club, Cardiff in the company of Jocelyn Davies AM Deputy Minister for Housing. Of the seven finalists, representing three Welsh universities, Emily Napier studying BSc City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University, was announced as regional winner.



North West

A first for the North West branch who entered a mixed team to compete in the Dragon Boat Challenge at Salford Quays. With a majority female crew, the team became the mixed crew champions and helped raise money for homeless charity CRASH.



Log on to www.wipnet.org

If you haven't yet visited the new Women in Property website, you're missing a trick. Launched earlier this year, the website has a members-only area where you can search the membership database, change your details and renew your membership. You will also find the Toolbox here including picture library, design templates and careers leaflets. On the wider website, there is a search function to help you find forthcoming events, branch news, careers, mentoring and a selection of press coverage.



Piloting student membership

Kingston University is providing sponsorship to four students studying in its Surveying and Planning School from September 2009. This sponsorship will cover a discounted membership fee as well as attendance at certain events. Spearheaded by Sarah Hopkins, the South East National Student Awards regional winner 2007 and Sarah Sayce from Kingston it is envisaged that these students, who will have to put a short business case to the branch, will enter the mentoring programme and attend events such as seminars and site visits. Other universities in the South East including Thames Valley and Solent regions are being invited to participate in this pilot scheme.

Mission Statement

The Association of Women in Property seeks to enhance the profile of women in the still male dominated construction and property sector, both by providing a dynamic forum for women in these professions and by encouraging and developing newcomers.

For further information on the Association contact Fiona Alfred, Executive Director on 0207 603 4746 or email executivedirector@womeninproperty.org.uk

www.wipnet.org

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Chairman's column

by Joanna Embling

I feel honoured to have been invited to be your Chairman at such a pivotal time for the property industry as whole. The welcome that I have received from individual members and from members of the National Steering Group has been greatly appreciated.

Following such an excellent Chairman as Maria Francké is no easy task. However, in the midst of the general gloom and recent political upheaval I am delighted to report that Women in Property is in good health and confidence in the organisation has never been better placed.

Women in Property is blessed with a highly professional, committed executive team in Fiona Alfred, Sue Maguire, Jacqui Butt and Lara Farey. I have also been hugely impressed by the enthusiasm and support of all those who attended the recent National Steering Group meeting and the wide range of events and initiatives being taken forward in all the branches across the UK. I would like to thank all of you who volunteer your time to the Association.

We live in interesting times and I suspect that some of us might wish they were a little less interesting. Women in Property is not cushioned from the market and I am determined that the

Association will continue to support those initiatives which truly set us apart – the support we are able to give to members through the mentoring programme, the student awards and the wide range of professional development and networking events that take place at branch level. I am particularly lucky to have the support of Lynette Lackey as my Vice Chairman. Lynette is an accountant by profession and a former National Treasurer of the Association.

One thing I can predict with confidence is that there will be life after the recession, although it may be not be quite what we expect or exactly as it was before. Property has always been a dynamic industry of highs and lows – that is what makes it endlessly fascinating and exciting for me. Women in Property gives us all access to a personal support network of more than 1,600 extraordinary women who are prepared to share their experiences, friendship and support.



Joanna Embling
Chairman of Women in Property
Partner, Cushman & Wakefield

Everyone's a winner

The Women in Property National Student Awards are now in their third year and, as ever, judges around the country are commenting on the very stiff competition and high standards demonstrated by the entrants. There are eight regional finalists, all of whom now go forward to the 'Best of Best' national final at Claridge's on 22nd September. If you would like information on this very sophisticated event, please visit the events pages at www.wipnet.org. Meanwhile, we wish all the very best to the finalists who are:



2008 winner; Marie Revealey

Central Scotland Helen-Anne Love, BSc Architectural Studies, University of Strathclyde
East Midlands Laura Lister, Architectural Engineering & Design Management, Loughborough University
Midlands Anjna Farmah, BA (Hons) Architecture, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design

North West Katie Myers, BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management, Liverpool John Moores University
South East Elizabeth Waters, Meng Civil Engineering, University of Surrey
South Wales Emily Napier, BSc City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University

South West Suzanne O'Donovan, BA (Hons) Architecture, University of Plymouth
Yorkshire & North East Hannah Wright, (BA) Urban Studies, University of Sheffield

Better skills for better places

The HCA Academy is one of two national sponsors of the National Student Awards and, with its focus on skills, is an ideal partner for this initiative.



Gill Taylor
Chief Executive; HCA Academy

Describing itself as the skills arm of the Homes and Communities Agency – the Government's national housing and regeneration body – the Academy supports people to deliver better places by providing access to practical training and resources.

The Academy's strategic priorities are:

- Providing the HCA's central learning and knowledge hub – its website will be the HCA's public learning and knowledge hub, harnessing best practice and expertise developed within the HCA and the wider sector.
- Targeted capacity building – the HCA Academy will provide direct, tailored support to places identified as priorities by the HCA's Regional Directors, improving skills, knowledge and capacity.
- Leading the skills agenda for the HCA and the wider sector – the HCA Academy will lead the national Skills Action Plan on behalf of Communities and Local Government.



Gill Taylor, Chief Executive of the HCA Academy said:

"We are delighted to be supporting the National Student Awards that successfully raise awareness of the remarkable, skilled young women making their way into the sector. I would like to wish all this year's finalists every success in their future careers."

Success stories

With such an emphasis on bad news in the economy, it is all too easy to forget the positives. Women in Property members have been busy focusing on their careers, whether through new positions, promotions or proactively working with other professional associations.

Success stories include...

Liz Russell, South East branch Chairman has moved to Nabarro to be business development manager of the real estate team, having previously been with building consultants Malcolm Hollis.



Making success out of redundancy, **Katherine Reed** has joined Legal and Democratic Services at Southwark Council and **Clare Danahay** has moved to office solutions business, Ben Johnson, in York as Director of Workplace Consultancy. **Maria Orlovic** starts with consultancy firm ARCADIS in Leeds, with a relocation to London for the first six months and **Fiona Forrest**, winner of the first National Student Awards in 2007, started a new job with Grampian Assessors where she is busy working on the 2010 Revaluation. **Lizzie Flowith** has left GVA Grimley to join her family property business and **Julie Steere** has joined Thanet Council from Cushman & Wakefield.

Rachael Hobbs, Midlands branch Chairman, has joined the RICS Birmingham Local Association committee. **Alex-Jayne Lowe**, Midlands Branch Membership Secretary, was appointed to the NHBC Council at its General Meeting in June.

In South Wales, **Jane Boyes** of Boyes Rees Architects, has been honoured by Construction Skills for her contribution to the industry. Jane was awarded the Welsh Woman in Construction and the Built Environment Award.



Branch Chairmen Who's Who

Fifteen branch and satellite Chairmen are spearheading Women in Property across the UK. Full contact details can be found on the new Women in Property website, www.wipnet.org. The organisation has six satellites, each of which is affiliated to a branch. The satellites have no financial independence, operating through their related branch until such time as the satellite is felt by the National Steering Group to be in a position to 'go it alone'.

The six satellite Chairmen are:-

Liverpool
Claire Ireland
EC Harris

Newcastle
Sonja MacGregor
CLS



▲ **Midlands South**
Wendy Hodrien
EMW Picton Howell



▲ **Devon and Cornwall**
Kate Hamilton
Stephens Scown



▲ **Thames Valley**
Lesley Pollock
Henmans



▲ **Solent**
Louise James
Coffin Mew

Towards 2012

When National Student Award sponsor Byrne Group met students Dolly Manwani and Christine Saeverud, they were so impressed they offered them both a job working on the construction of the Olympic Village. Now, 12 months later, they report back on their experience.

Who are you?

Christine Saeverud, studying BSc Hons Building Engineering at University of Westminster. **Dolly Manwani**, studying BSc Project Management for Construction at University College London.

How did you come to be working on the Olympic Village?

Christine: After entering the 2008 National Student Awards, I was fortunate enough to be offered a year's placement with Byrne Bros but never expected to be working on such a high profile site!
Dolly: I was also offered a placement as a result of the Awards. Michelle Tilley, director of Byrne Group, told me to be ready 'to get my hands dirty' and I knew I would be guaranteed a surprising, physically challenging and mentally stimulating year!

What is your role...and what's been your biggest eye-opener?

Christine: I spent the first six months at the Olympic Village site ordering reinforcement and coordinating information between designer, detailer and subcontractor. I have also been doing surveys, setting out etc. The biggest eye-opener for me was the scale of the Olympic site and also the number of people involved in the project. The opportunities for women in construction are many, and my year out has reinforced my belief of the industry as suitable for all.
Dolly: I started as an assistant engineer, then learnt how to use the engineering equipment. I worked in the Health and Safety department so I could understand the importance from a practical point of view and, since January, I have been the reinforcement engineer. The biggest eye-opener has been understanding that every role is heavily dependent on the skills of all the others.

What are you most proud of?

Christine and Dolly: We are both very proud that we were able to take on roles which came with a huge amount of responsibility and that we were able to carry out this job to everyone's satisfaction.



Dolly Manwani on the Olympic site