

Northern Scotland Branch Newsletter

December 2010 | Issue 5

Recurring theme in WiP North East Scotland Survey

The networking event held at Howies in September was a great success – at least for the committee. There was a super attendance, and that gave us the chance to find out a lot more about what you want us to do for you. A few people couldn't come but kindly completed the survey afterwards. Champagne was awarded as an incentive to encourage people to participate.

So, who are you and what do you think/want?

- 9 professions were represented – interestingly, no finance people.
- Most of us joined to network, some for CPD/learning and a few on personal recommendations. One person joined for the **drink?**
- Networking events are your most popular choice, with speaker events second. Site visits were lowest on the list. - We had a random selection of recommendations for future visits and speakers. No-one wants to go back to King Street at tea time.
- For events, you would like to see some personal development stuff, some CPD and some visits.
- Most of you want a mixture of lunch time and tea time meetings, and the front runners for a charity for us to support are Cranes and Cornerstone.

Thanks for letting us know. Karen Pugh, Property Director of Enterprise North East Trust won the champagne.

Sheila Ritchie

WiP Student Awards 2010: The Results



The Award Finalists



The Winner (center)



Hilary Ennos and Jacquie Forbes

The competition for the 'Best of the Best' in the 2010 WiP Student Awards was hotly contested with students and champions converging on London from all the WiP regions. Our day started early when Hilary and I set off from Edinburgh Airport on the 8.00am flight to London. One flight and an interesting tube ride later, we were in the offices of Berwin Leighton Paisner at London Bridge, where the final interviews were being held. Hilary and eight other very composed young ladies were assessed by the judging panel and the results kept top secret until revealed at the Awards Dinner later that evening.

Dinner was a sumptuous affair in fabulous Claridge's, with many well-known faces from the property industry in the audience. There was no doubt which region Hilary was representing as she looked very sophisticated in her tartan frock. The winner on the evening was Cara Henderson from the University of Central Lancashire.

However it was acknowledged that the standard of the students was extremely high and I'm sure that Hilary thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

Jacquie Forbes

Winter Events

- **WiP Christmas Dinner**
210 Bistro, 210 South Market Street, Aberdeen, 16 December 2010, 7.30 for 8pm.
- **January Networking Lunch**
Howies, Thursday 27th January
- **WiP at RICS Scotland North East Region Annual Dinner**
The Marcliffe at Pitfodels, North Deeside Road, 11 February 2011, 7.30pm
- **Chairman's Reception**
Venue, date and time tbc

The Best Caption Competition: "and the Winner is ..."

Congratulations to Sheila Ritchie!

Thank you very much to all our members for taking your time in examining this mysterious photo taken during our site visit to Justice Mill Lane development back in June 2010.

Almost unanimously, our jury has selected an entry by **Sheila Ritchie** for its originality and fun (see caption).

Sheila wins a free entry to our next event.



While the rest of the group was distracted, Kris seized the opportunity to lose himself to expressionist dance.

Members' Networking Lunch

7 September 2010



Our September Networking Lunch took place at the stylish and popular Howies Restaurant. It started with the ingenious and very funny Ice Breaker organised by Sheila Ritchie, during which each attendee made three revelations about herself and the rest of us guessed which two of them were true and one false. It turned out, among other amazing facts, that Jacquie Forbes, in particular, is an accomplished deep-sea diver in her spare time, and Isobel Maughan abseiled the Forth Road Bridge in aid of the Prince's Trust! We proceeded to fill in our Members' questionnaires and had a delicious meal while enjoying a relaxed property chat.

Our Networking Lunch has already become a 'must attend' fixture in our social calendar and we look forward to our next meeting.

Aberdeen City Centre Framework

Presentation by Sandy Beattie, Aberdeen City Council,
28 October 2010



Sandy Beattie and Jacquie Forbes



Audience at the Event

The mezzanine gallery at Carden Church, now home to Halliday Fraser Munro Architects and Consultant Planners, was the perfect setting for Sandy's fascinating overview of the potential for reinvigorating the heart of Aberdeen.

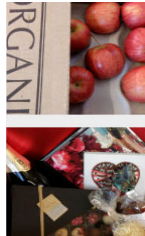
With a backdrop of stained glass and pointed arches Sandy explained his vision for cultural, civic and business quarters within the city, hinting strongly at the wealth of historical features to be revitalized through the redevelopment process. The talk certainly offered food for thought although we suspect not quite as much as Sandy's admission to being an ACDC fan which gave us the opportunity to thank him with a very appropriate gift.

After-hours Shopping Evening

10 November 2010



L. to R.: Fiona Thomson, Natasha Douglas,
Jacquie Forbes and Kelly Anderson



Catherine Thornhill shopping

Our festive season has started in style with a complementary after-hours evening at Hammerton Store at 336 Great Western Road, owned by Susan Watson, the founder of much loved Foyer restaurant and gallery on Crown Street.

We enjoyed some bubbly and nibbles whilst hearing about the history of the business and browsing the exciting selection of food and gifts available in the most relaxed atmosphere and socialising with fellow members and guests.

The Benefit of Networking

The old adage of "it's not *what* you know, but *who* you know", has rung true following the recent job placement of our very own Elena Sargeant, Committee Member of WiP North East Scotland Satellite Branch and publisher of our newsletter. Elena has recently taken up the post of Temporary Design Assistant in the busy Building Consultancy Department of International Property Consultant, Knight Frank LLP.

One might expect that being bilingual in both Russian and English, and having achieved two University Degrees, from Moscow State University and Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University, that employment opportunities would be readily available to a candidate as highly qualified as Elena. However, conversely, when Elena graduated in 2009 with an Honours degree in Surveying, the global recession was at its peak, and there were many employers facing the unenviable prospect of staff redundancies and a corresponding halt on graduate intake programmes.

Despite the economic downturn, Elena, focussed on obtaining work experience, identified the Women in Property Group as a successful networking organisation active in the local business community. Elena not only took the initiative to join the North East branch, but she also became an active member of the local Committee, with subsequent responsibility for publishing the Newsletter.

Elena took the pro-active step of circulating her CV to her numerous WiP contacts, and the rest, as they say, is history....

Katherine Monro



Elena Sargeant

Dear Members,

Please forward your news, stories and photos for inclusion in our next, March, issue of the Newsletter to elenasargeant@hotmail.co.uk.