

Northern Scotland Newsletter

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Media Partner

Your WiP Committee

Since its relaunch as a satellite branch in summer 2009 Women in Property Northern Scotland has gone from strength to strength. Northern Scotland continues to grow year-on-year, providing the committee opportunities to offer an ever-more diverse and exciting programme of events, which in turn offers our members new networking opportunities with the huge variety of property professionals on board.

Our National Committee provides us with guidance and support when required, whilst the WiP Northern Scotland Committee takes charge of scheduling the year ahead and ensuring our members continue to reap the benefits of the organisation.

If you are an enthusiastic property professional and would be interested in joining the committee, please get in touch with us – we'd love to hear from you!

[http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk/branches/northern-scotland-\(satellite\)/committee.aspx](http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk/branches/northern-scotland-(satellite)/committee.aspx)

The Future of St Nicholas House

Following the completion of the Marischal College redevelopment earlier this year, and WiP's site visit, Aberdeen City Council is in the process of relocating to its new headquarters but what should now happen to its former offices, the 1960s high rise building known as St Nicholas House? We ask three WiP members for their opinions:



"...refurbish to a high standard..."

Karen Kerr – Architect with Aberdeen City Council

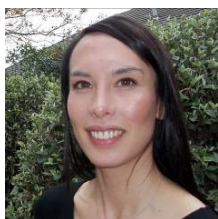
Having worked in St.Nicholas House for nearly 2 years now, I have enjoyed the panoramic views, proximity to the civic centre and simplicity in design and stature. However, the tired nature of the exterior and the internal environment does not hold equal favour. It offers a developer the rich opportunity to refurbish to a high standard and to offer Aberdeen City an icon to be proud of, a building to benefit commercially, link parts of the city together cohesively, create a revitalised hub and maintain a civic area with meeting points on the ground or in the sky!



"...open up Provost Skene's house..."

Natasha Douglas –Planning Consultant with Ryden LLP

St Nicholas House is like marmite, you either love it or you hate it and I'm one of those people who love it! The low-rise element of St Nicholas House should be demolished, as it conceals Provost Skene's House, doing so would open up the area and create a civic space, providing views to Marischal Collage. The high-rise element should be retained, re-clad, refurbished and redeveloped for use as either high quality office accommodation or a hotel with restaurants on the ground floor. Let's not forget that St Nicholas House provides an example of 1960's architecture which should be retained!



"...provide a civic space..."

Moira Gordon – Surveyor with FG Burnett

St Nicholas House should be demolished and the site redeveloped to provide a civic space with mixed commercial uses. The redevelopment of Marischal College has been a much needed step in the right direction for Aberdeen City Centre however, we need to keep up the momentum. Therefore, I think that it is important that timescale of any development is minimised to prevent the site becoming an eyesore opposite what is one of Aberdeen's iconic buildings.

Autumn Events

- **Networking Lunch**
6 September 2011, 12:30–2:00pm
Simpson's Brasserie
- **Queen Mother Library Site Visit**
29 September 2011, 5:30pm
University of Aberdeen's King's College Campus, Aberdeen
- **Bribery & Equality Acts**
26 October 2011, 12:30-2:00pm
Mackinnons Solicitors
14 Carden Place, Aberdeen
- **Christmas Party**
14 December 2011, 7/7:30pm
Bauhaus Hotel & Kitchen Langstane Place, Aberdeen

Member Achievements

Promotion for Rebecca

WiP member **Rebecca Young** has recently been promoted to Senior Solicitor.



Formerly of DWS LLP, the firm was acquired by Brodies LLP earlier this year as part of its expansion into the Aberdeen market.

Congratulations!

WiP would like to congratulate members **Shona Singer**, Business Development Executive at Space Solutions and **Moira Gordon**, Surveyor at FG Burnett who both recently got married!

*If you would like to feature in the next issue of 'Spotlight on Member', have some news to share or would like to write an article for the newsletter, please contact **Vicky Burns** on vburns@archialgroup.com.*

Summer Networking BBQ

15th July 2011 at the Grammar FP Club



Thanks to every one who did a 'sun dance' prior to the Women in Property BBQ on the 8th June, because it worked! The sun shone bright creating the basis for a fabulous evening! Big thanks go to Sheila Ritchie who did a superb job in charge of the BBQ!

For more event reviews & photos visit: [www.womeninproperty.org.uk/branches/northern-scotland-\(satellite\)/event-reviews.aspx](http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk/branches/northern-scotland-(satellite)/event-reviews.aspx)

The Mither Kirk Project

1st June 2011 at the Kirk of St Nicholas, Aberdeen



WIP enjoyed a grisly tour of Aberdeen's oldest church the Mither Kirk. With one half of the church in pristine condition, we were amazed by the derelict eastern half, currently an archaeological dig, and impressed by the efforts being made to restore it to its former glory and bring it into community use.

For more on events visit: [www.womeninproperty.org.uk/branches/northern-scotland-\(satellite\)/event-reviews.aspx](http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk/branches/northern-scotland-(satellite)/event-reviews.aspx)

Spotlight on Emma Wakeford

*This month we speak to WiP Northern Scotland member **Emma Wakeford**, a **Solicitor with Stronachs LLP** who, after coming along as a guest to a few WiP events, is now benefitting from the many opportunities WIP membership can offer.*



How did you first become aware of WiP?

Some of my more senior colleagues had previously been members of WiP and had told me of the good work that they did. One of my colleagues and I attended a few events as guests and then decided to become members to take full advantage of the group.

What made you join?

I thought it would be a good opportunity to meet with ladies from different parts of the property sector in a relaxed and informative environment. The interesting and varied activities/seminars on offer in the last couple of years were also quite inspiring. I was particularly disappointed to miss the chocolate tasting event but look forward to going to more events this year.

How long have you worked at Stronachs LLP?

I've worked at Stronachs LLP since 2005. I joined the Commercial Property Department in the final seat of my traineeship and have been there ever since. I think I am genuinely lucky to work with such great people, both within my Department and firm-wide!

What has been your biggest career achievement to date?

Getting a car parking space...! No, probably some of the work that I have carried out for the Big Lottery Fund securing the grant funding awarded to local communities throughout Scotland has been the most rewarding and challenging - it's also quite fun when projects you have worked on make the news!

What can you be found doing in your spare time?

My most unusual pastime is visiting Pittodrie on a regular basis! So if anyone needs a corporate seat filled I am your (wo)man! Apart from that I enjoy the occasional glass of wine, gardening and photography.

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Member Achievements

WIP member and Commercial Property Solicitor with Ledingham Chalmers LLP, **Lianne McPherson** was part of an 11 strong team from



the firm to successfully complete the annual Wolf Trek event, an epic 24 hour, 45 mile walk through the night from Forres to the Cairngorm Mountain.

Organised by Forres-based charity WildHearts, the Wolf Trek has raised thousands of pounds to assist people in the developing world to work their own way out of poverty sustainably by providing them with small loans and business training.

A Welcome to new Members

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome 7 new members: **Anna-Marie Eardley** of Waterloo Quay Properties, **Catherine Bury**, **Hazel Moir** and **Lianne McPherson** all of Ledingham Chalmers, **Moira Gordon** of FG Burnett, **Tina Pringle** of the Robert Gordon University and **Shona Singer** of Space Solutions. We look forward to seeing you all at an event soon.

The membership directory on the Women in Property website is a great publicity tool for yourself and your business and an easy way to reach other members so remember to keep it updated!

Contact Lara Farey, Women in Property's National Membership Administrator at membership@womeninproperty.org.uk.

Caption Competition

Congratulations to Cheryl Collins of Enterprise North East Trust Ltd who wins free entry to our next event as a guest of WIP.



Cheryl thought Karen had been caught perfecting the Time Warp

"...Let's do the time warp again.... you put your hands on your hips..."

To become a member or for more information please contact Natasha Douglas: natasha.douglas@ryden.co.uk