

# Scotland Newsletter

April 2022 | Issue 8

## Welcome

A very warm welcome to this instalment of the Scotland Newsletter, my first as Chair and as I am writing this I am sitting in the Shoffice and enjoying the warmth of the sun on my back ! That feeling of warmth and wellbeing is one that we all need and hopefully we can enjoy a bit more of that this year.

This is our second year of producing our member newsletters and we continue to use this to keep our members fully informed of our current and future plans. We would love feedback from you as members so please do come back to any member of the Scottish Committee.

It was really lovely to see a large number of you at our Annual Dinner at Oran Mor – I am sure you will agree it was a lovely evening and, for me, it was a great night to see everyone and I hope to see many more of you over the coming year, along with the realisation that I need to retire my high heels!

Alongside inclusivity, my focus for the year will be health, wellbeing and sustainability. I want to encourage all our members to feel that we are looking out for them and that they are at the heart of everything we do. With a focus on designing a sustainable built environment for all, I am really excited for what we have planned for the coming year – stayed tuned folks!

We welcome any thoughts and suggestions on potential events or webinars and we're always on the lookout for speakers, so please don't be shy about letting us know your ideas or putting yourself forward to speak.

Another focus point for us this year is working with schools and higher education to promote more visibility of the wealth of opportunities within the property and construction sector. Our well-established Schools Outreach programme is kicking off this year with a visit to Castlebrae High School in Edinburgh at the beginning of April. Should any of our members be interested in being involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I really hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to seeing you, either virtually or in person at an event soon.

**Mairi Murray**  
Central Scotland Chair (pictured right)

The Central Scotland Branch is kindly supported by

**BakerHicks**

The 2022 Central Scotland Student Awards are sponsored by

**Curtins**

The Highlands & Islands Branch is kindly supported by

**LDN Architects**



Women in Property  
Scotland



womeninproperty



## Promotions & News

**Mairi Murray** promoted to Chair of Women in Property Central Scotland Branch

**Ashley Stewart** promoted to Vice Chair of Women in Property Central Scotland Branch

**Aurora Tallon** promoted to Junior Vice Chair of Women in Property Central Scotland Branch

**Karyn Watt** promoted to Chair of Women in Property Scotland Board

**Bethany Clark** promoted to Junior Vice Chair of Women in Property Highlands & Islands Branch

**Gillian Murray** promoted to Director at AECOM

**Rachel Dunn** has joined gunnercooke llp as a Partner

**Lynn Clark** has joined Space Solutions as Senior Interior Designer

National Student Awards 2022 Sponsored by:



**tp bennett**

## Events

Wow – what a line up we have coming for you, our members, across Scotland this year! The pipeline of events includes networking lunches, CPD webinars, netwalking, wild swimming and the ever popular site visits. Check out some of what we have coming up in the coming soon column.

We continue to love seeing your feedback from events so do tag us when you post - @WiPCentScot, @WiP\_HI and @WiPNorthScot.

Further details on all the upcoming events can be found on the Women in Property website – [click here](#) – or on the [Women in Property app](#) – why not download and book your next event?

## Scotland Board welcomes new Chair

The Women in Property Scotland Board is delighted to have welcomed Karyn Watt, Partner and Head of Construction at Anderson Strathern as the new Board Chair from March 2022. Karyn said: "I am delighted to become the new Chair of Women in Property in Scotland. It is a real honour and a privilege, particularly to step into the shoes of our fantastic outgoing Chair, Ann Allen, who for many of you has been more than Chair- a leader, role model, mentor and, most importantly, a friend. Sincere thanks to you, Ann, for all your hard work and commitment.

For those of you who don't know me yet, I am a partner and construction law specialist at Anderson Strathern based in Edinburgh, and am very passionate about the environment we work in. I am delighted to see all the changes that have come about since my early days of working in the sector (moons ago!) but there is certainly room for plenty more! Being involved in Women in Property allows us all to make tangible changes – our motto is not 'Aspire; Succeed; Inspire' for nothing! I am fortunate to have an amazing, hugely supportive Board, all of whom contribute greatly to the success of the organisation, with Mairi Murray in Central, Leanne Hill in Northern Scotland, and Pinny Muir in Highlands & Islands, leading the local committees. The activities of the committees are core to feeding in to the Board what you, as members, want to see happen. They are always looking for new members and new ideas. Hopefully now that we can meet again in person it will be easier to get involved - and you should. The door is always open.

We have a busy agenda which covers ongoing conversations around inclusion, supporting students with the National Student Awards and the Women in Property Schools Outreach Programme, to name a few.

Events range from purely social (I have not stepped on the scales since the Hotel Chocolat tasting experience!) to CPD-style. It really is a very accessible way to network. It goes without saying if you are at the start of your career, you have just moved to a new job or a new city, or are going through a challenging phase in your life, that friends are so important. Women in Property offers you just that - friendly support when you need it. There are very rewarding mentoring services to get involved in either as a mentee, or if you want to give something back, as a mentor, and the ever popular site visits gives you the opportunity to see behind the scenes on projects that would otherwise remain top secret.

I really look forward to meeting as many of you as I can over the next months - hold onto your hats – it's going to be an exciting ride!"

**Karyn Watt**  
Scotland Board Chair (pictured right)



## Coming Soon

**WASPS Creative Academy Site Visit, Inverness** 14<sup>th</sup> April

**CPD – CSIC Passivhaus Practical** 14<sup>th</sup> April

**Robotarium Site Visit, Edinburgh** 26<sup>th</sup> April

**Netwalking Series, Edinburgh & Glasgow** 27<sup>th</sup> April (ongoing dates TBC)

**Webinar – Sustainable Developments with FORE** 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Networking Lunch – Edinburgh** 12<sup>th</sup> May

**Webinar – Family Law** 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Networking Lunch – Glasgow** 26<sup>th</sup> May

**Central Scotland Student Awards & Summer Drinks, Edinburgh** – 9<sup>th</sup> June

**Webinar – Non Executive Director – why its brilliant being one** 17<sup>th</sup> June

**Golf Lesson – Aberdeen** (date TBC)

**Development in the Highlands & Islands Part 5 – Findrassie, Elgin** (date TBC)

**Energy Transition Event** – hosted by Northern Scotland (date TBC)

**Northern Scotland Student Awards Event** (date TBC)

**Central Scotland Annual Dinner 2023**  
Tickets on sale : 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
Dinner : Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

**Central Scotland Winter Drinks, Glasgow** 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Mentoring – Dates for your Diary**  
Training Session Wednesday 4 May 12.30  
Mentoring Club 11 May 1pm  
Boardroom Club 26 June 1pm

To find out more and book [click here](#).

National Student Awards 2022 Sponsored by:



[www.womeninproperty.org.uk](http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk)

# Women in Property welcomes new National Chair – Nicola Jones

Women in Property has announced Gleeds Senior Project Manager Nicola Jones, pictured right, as our new National Chair for 2022/23.

Nicola, a former South Wales branch Chair based in Cardiff, has supported Gleeds on projects over the last decade within the Healthcare sector. These include refurbishment to areas of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary Grade II listed building, the All Wales Cystic Fibrosis Unit, Nevill Hall Hospital Satellite Radiotherapy Unit, relocation of Rookwood Hospital, and Noah's Ark Children's Hospice in Wales. During the pandemic, Nicola also helped deliver Covid wards dealing with High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID) at the University Hospital of Wales.

Nicola said, "Over the past few years, the conversation has evolved and is now more about inclusion instead of just gender. I want to explore the meaning of prejudice, the preconceived ideas that still make it difficult for many people to break through the barriers, whether it's gender, race, disability or social mobility.

"I am very fortunate that, in my sector, I have always experienced respect and support, but there is still a long way to go to break down the little prejudices that creep into every working day. I have a mission to encourage this in the industry, irrespective of 'background.'"

Nicola will be supported in her role by incoming National Vice Chair, Chithra Marsh, Associate Director at Buttress Architects in Manchester. A former Women in Property North West branch Chair, Chithra represents the region on Women in Property's Inclusion Committee.

## Student Awards Judging

March has marked the return of inperson judging for the Women in Property Student Awards programme across Scotland with two inspiring days held in Central Scotland (Edinburgh & Glasgow) and an equally inspiring day in Aberdeen for the Northern Scotland awards.

Mairi Murray, Central Scotland Chair and Student Awards judge, said : "I am always so motivated when I have the privilege of being involved with the Student Awards. It is always such a humbling experience meeting all these incredible students, who along with their busy lives and university courses have still found the time to prepare to meet us all and tell us their journey. Judging in both Edinburgh and Glasgow meant I met a huge range of students from across the Central Belt with a huge variety of degree subjects including civil engineering, architecture, interior design and quantity surveying. I would like to extend my thanks to Curtins for their ongoing support of the Central Scotland Student Awards alongside the national sponsors – Amazon, Bouygues UK, Savills and tp bennett as well as to all the judges involved in both the Edinburgh & Glasgow days"

Leanne Hill, Northern Scotland Chair and Student Awards judge, said : "Once again the judges were blown away by eight incredible student nominees from a range of universities. The challenge, every year, is who to choose as a winner as they are all so deserving. I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow judges for taking the time out to support this Women in Property initiative and we are looking forward to announcing the winner at our Awards ceremony – more details to follow."

## Networking Lunch for Breast Cancer Now

The Northern Scotland branch held an intimate networking lunch in support of the wonderful charity Breast Cancer Now in the lovely private dining room at The Dutch Mill Hotel on Queen's Road. We are so grateful to Debbie Mair from the charity for joining us to tell us about all the wonderful work being carried out by Breast Cancer Now in the north of Scotland and beyond and for being such good company – thank you Debbie! It was really special to be able to support such a wonderful cause whilst catching up with old acquaintances and making new ones while enjoying a delicious lunch.



National Student Awards 2022 Sponsored by:



tp bennett

[www.womeninproperty.org.uk](http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk)



# Central Scotland AGM & Chocolate Tasting

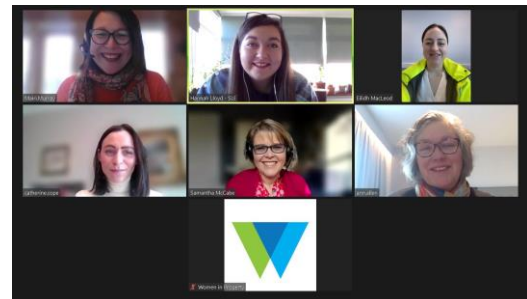
The Central Scotland branch held its AGM on 24th February when the new committee members were sworn in and Laura Banks formerly handed over the role of Chair to Mairi Murray. The branch is delighted to have Ashley Stewart as the new Vice Chair and Aurora Tallon as new Junior Vice Chair. Alongside them, the branch welcomed new committee members Jillian Love from G&T has joined as Social Media Co-ordinator, Laura Brown from Kier and June Obrien from Morris and Spottiswood as our Sponsorship Team.

The AGM was followed by a wonderful evening of chocolate tasting with Hotel Chocolat – highly recommend by all who attended!

# IWD – A Celebration of Strong Women

Wow - what a celebration of #IWD2022 we had, hearing from our inspiring panel members as they shared career journeys, challenges, areas of personal growth and how they are working to address diversity, inclusion and future challenges within the industry. We have loved the brilliant feedback from event attendees and particularly enjoyed the role models shared in the chat box - from Grandads to colleagues, celebrities to husbands!

Thank you to our panel - Ann Allen, Samantha McCabe, Hannah Lloyd and Catherine Cope - for your honesty and openness in sharing your personal stories. Thank you Eilidh MacLeod MRICS for hosting the webinar, to Kier Construction for your sponsorship of the event and to Alice Pye for your technical support.



# Site Visit – Victorian Market, Inverness

Women in Property Highlands & Islands was delighted to host a site visit to the Victorian Market, Inverness. The transformational project has created a destination in the heart of Inverness delivering a celebration of local food and drink offerings with space to gather (and what a space to do it in).

Thank you so much Rory Kellett of Threesixty Architecture, Jo Murray of the Victorian Market and WGC for the fantastic tour. Hopefully we will have an event there in the not too distant future!



# Central Scotland Annual Dinner

Our first annual dinner in two years took place at the stunning Oran Mor in Glasgow on Friday 4th March 2022. Over 200 attendees swapped face masks for glittering masquerade masks at our themed ball in support of nominated charity, The Beatson.

The evening began with a touching speech by outgoing Chair Laura Banks who shared the impact that her father, as her first mentor, had on her development. Laura shared her support of the Women in Property mentoring programme and her drive towards growing the schools outreach programme as an ongoing committee member. Rachel Dunn joined the stage to provide an insight on her year as Chair during 2020-2021, thanking the committee for their support during a challenging time when all in-person events were suspended. Lockdown didn't stop Rachel from fulfilling her Women in Property role or personal milestones including getting married, baby and career move – congratulations Rachel! We would like to thank both Laura and Rachel for keeping our members connected and supported during a time of uncertainty for many.

Our new Chair Mairi Murray set out her aims for Women in Property Central Scotland which will focus on health, wellbeing and sustainability. We are delighted to have Mairi at the helm and look forward to delivering the varied programme of events planned for the year ahead.

Speaker Emma J. Bell, author of '9 Secrets to Thriving' shared inspirational stories and practical insights into ways we can all choose to thrive in the face of everyday challenges. We would like to say a massive thank you to Emma for her words, time and for donating her speaker fee to Beatson – an incredibly generous gesture.



National Student Awards 2022 Sponsored by:



[www.womeninproperty.org.uk](http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk)



Beatson Cancer Charity was selected as this year's beneficiary as a charity close to outgoing Chair Laura Banks' heart. Guests were introduced to the amazing work that Beatson do by Charlene Low, before Elaine Sneddon brought both tears and laughter to the room with stories of her cancer journey. We would like to thank Charlene, Elaine and the amazing volunteers for joining us on the night and are delighted to announce that we raised a fabulous £9,000 for this brilliant local charity.

We are also incredibly grateful to our committee organisers, sponsors, members and attendees – without whom this event could not go ahead:

A special thanks go to our sponsors:

- Morrison Construction (Platinum)
- Will Rudd (Silver)
- JLL (Bronze)

Finally, a thank you to the fantastic team at Oran Mor and Ricky's team at Nighflight AV who kept the evening running smoothly. Alongside Sarah Guilar of Blue Sky Photography for capturing the evening so wonderfully – see all the photos [here](#)! As one of the first in-person, post-pandemic events of this scale there was a real buzz in the room, lasting from the drinks reception to the after dinner party. We had so much fun that plans for the 2023 dinner in Edinburgh are already underway – save the date : 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023! Tickets on sale Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - see you there!



National Student Awards 2022 Sponsored by:

amazon



tp bennett

[www.womeninproperty.org.uk](http://www.womeninproperty.org.uk)