

Chair's column

by Nicola Jones, National Chair

When I accepted the National Chair role, we were deep in the depths of lockdown and my predecessor, Rachel Bell, was doing an amazing job keeping us all positive. How lovely then that I am now able to meet you at real life events, including two fantastic branch annual dinners and, of course, some of the regional Student Awards events.

No surprise either, that the return of in-person activity has coincided with a startling increase in membership, which had suffered during the pandemic, a rise of 53% on this time last year. A big thank you to all our branch committees who have worked so hard to make this happen.

Women in Property has been busy lately. We've been partnering, sharing and collaborating, notably at UKREiiF in Leeds, UK Construction Week at ExCel and, currently with Audit, Tax and Consulting firm RSM and the British Property Federation, on a property roadshow. Let's not forget #StepIntoSummer22, which finished last week, with 236 of you – and not just members – walking the virtual distance

between our UK Commonwealth Games cities. A wonderful opportunity to come together... and based on its success, I'm sure we can beat those numbers next year.

All of this is against a backdrop of challenges and uncertainty. We are all painfully aware of the terrible situation in Ukraine and its impact on everything, from the cost of living to the costs for construction. It is impossible to read a magazine or hear the News without talk of recession. What will be the reflections of my National Vice Chair, Chithra Marsh, when she writes this column in 2023?

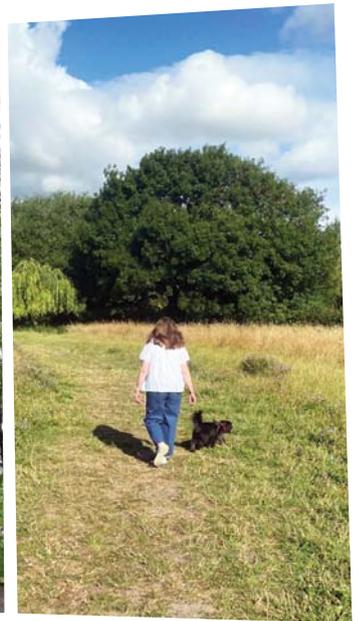
For now, keep the faith, support each other and enjoy some downtime over the summer... trains and planes willing!



Nicola Jones
National Chair of Women in Property

#StepIntoSummer22

Two weeks, 44,239,994 steps and 236 pairs of weary legs later, #StepIntoSummer22 has reached its destination. 60 teams walked a virtual route taking in the UK Commonwealth Games cities, starting in Glasgow, moving onwards to Edinburgh, Birmingham – soon to host the 2022 Games – then on to London and finishing in Cardiff. While the route was virtual, the steps were very real, so a big shout out to all who took part and congratulations to the winning team, Stoford Developments 1. Thanks to Stride Treglown, Sanderson Weatherall and WISE Living for your support. You all did a great job raising awareness and funds for Women in Sport and Smart Works!



Seeking the industry's future stars

For the first time since 2019 we have enjoyed meeting our 113 Student Awards finalists in person at Awards events across the country. Regionally, each 2nd year student (3rd in Scotland) was nominated by her University, submitted a piece of coursework and then went before a judging panel in February and March. In June, we found out who will go through to represent their region in the Final, and at the Best of the Best Awards Dinner, which will be held at Claridge's on 20th September. We are delighted to announce that for the first time, each regional finalist will receive free membership of Women in Property for one year. Our grateful thanks go to our national sponsors, Amazon, Bouygues, Savills and tp bennett. The 2022 national finalists are:



UK Construction Week
BIRMINGHAM

4 - 6 OCTOBER
NEC, BIRMINGHAM

UK Construction Week coming to NEC, 4 – 6 October

Women in Property has a long-standing partnership with UKCW. In May we curated a panel for UKCW at ExCel and, for the NEC event, we will be putting forward speakers. Look out for further details in the coming weeks.

Discovering my voice

Nicola Barclay, Women in Property Scotland Board

After ten years with Homes for Scotland, six and a half of which were spent as Chief Executive, I'm moving on to pursue other interests. Nothing is fixed, as yet, but this is a huge opportunity to set my own agenda, in non-executive roles, as a trustee and pursuing coaching opportunities.

Having led a representative body, and spoken hundreds of times on behalf of the house building industry, I need to take some time out to reflect, and to listen to my inner voice – what do I want to talk about? What am I passionate about? How do I want to make my own difference in the world?

I recently spoke to Women in Property members at an 'In Conversation With...' event and enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on my life and career to date. My overriding passion and core

value is to support others, whether that be in my capacity as Chair of the charity, Habitat for Humanity, or when I'm coaching some of the Women in Property members as I work towards my Transformational Coaching diploma.

I talked about my feminist awakening and the realisation that the system, our designed places and work cultures, were predominantly designed by others, for others, and we face constant struggles whether we adapt to them, bend to them or fight against them.

Women and girls have been socialised to follow the rules, so it's no surprise that 15% of women don't apply for jobs unless they're 100% qualified (but only 8% of men think that way). Let's stop telling women



they have imposter syndrome. Let's fix the places where women work so they are recognised and celebrated for bringing different styles of thinking and leadership to the table. Let's create work cultures where all are welcome and can thrive.

Women in Property is as relevant today as it has always been, and I hope I will continue to play a small part in supporting it and its members as I discover my own voice again.



20 years in 300 words

Architect and former National Chair, Cathy Stewart reflects on building a successful career, during 20 years as a member of Women in Property.

THEN: 2002

Women architects **13%**
Women in Construction **9%**

NOW: 2022

Women architects **30%**
Women in Construction **14%**

"The number of women's groups has grown but Women in Property's value remains in welcoming members from all disciplines from across the industry. Women in Property was instrumental in helping me in the early years, in understanding what I needed to reach my goal," said Cathy.

"In 1988 I registered with the ARB. I worked on large prestigious buildings and was appointed board director, the first female in the company in 2005. I went on to win the CBI/LloydsTSB First Woman

Award, was recognised by HM the Queen as one of the Top 200 Influential Women in Industry and Business, and was awarded Women in the City – Woman of Achievement, all within ten years. Then in 2014 I was made redundant but this was the catalyst to re-evaluate my career and, in 2017, I achieved an MSc in Coaching and Behavioural Change, continuing as an architect and workplace coach, right up to date. I had joined Women in Property in 2002 and the South East Branch Committee in 2003-2018, rejoining it this year. In

2004 I became Branch Chair, national mentoring coordinator in 2005 and National Chair in 2006, followed by National Student Awards Champion from 2005-2016, as well as being an active mentor for 18 years.

"Meeting professionals from different disciplines gave me a broader spectrum of the industry. Mentoring experiences led me to become a qualified coach enabling me to help others on their road to success. Now I am pleased to say I have a portfolio career in architecture and coaching, with great work life balance (finally)!"

Branch News



South East branch spent an afternoon with British Land at Canada Water, its 53 acre new district for central London, situated just two stops from London

Bridge. Over the next ten years the team will deliver around 3,000 new homes, 2.5m sq ft of workspace, and 1m sq ft of retail and leisure space in what will be the UK's most sustainable new town centre. We began 25 floors up looking at the magnificent view of British Land's 53 acre holding and how it fits into the rest of London's landscape. The tour included The Printworks, Paper Garde ETEDI (university) campus before we returned to the Hub to view the model and listened to a short presentation from Emma Cariaga and Edward Cree. Thank you to British Land for such a marvellous afternoon!



South West The Development Spotlight series will feature developments across the breadth of the region, providing a platform for

those directly involved in the projects to present key updates and feedback on lessons learnt. The well-attended first event in the series took place over breakfast on 25th May, at JLL's offices. The speakers were Claire Pearce, who presented Gravity Smart Campus; Esther Croft, who presented Reef Forum Gloucester; and Lou Overton and Rachel Porter of the University of Gloucestershire, who presented their City Campus



Midlands branch has had a focus on the Commonwealth Games, with exclusive site tours that highlight Birmingham's host city status for the Games, which start on 28 July. The first venue was **Alexander Stadium** prior to handover, which was facilitated by McLoughlin & Harvey. Alexander Stadium will host the opening and closing ceremonies as well as be home to all the track and field events. Then in June it was off to **Smithfield, Digbeth**, facilitated by the Organising Committee for the Commonwealth. Formerly the site of Birmingham's Wholesale Markets, Smithfield will be the home of the beach volleyball and basketball 3x3 competitions during the Commonwealth Games as well as the Smithfield Festival Site. Finally, in July, to **Birmingham City Council House**, which was facilitated by Acivico. One of Birmingham's most historic landmarks, the Council House has recently undergone an extensive £32.5m renovation since its closure in 2020 to modernise and futureproof the building. This has also been essential to ensuring the building can be safely used and enjoyed by visitors ahead of the exciting events due to take place for the Commonwealth Games this summer.



North West branch hosted its second site tour of Manchester's prestigious Grade 1 listed Town Hall. Once kitted in their PPE, the group enjoyed

a good discussion around women's roles in property and construction and how more can be done to encourage new talent to join the industry, including mentoring women through their careers. The site itself was a vibrant hub of activity with the present project cost standing at £330M.



The **Central Scotland** branch had a brilliant site visit at the National Robotarium at Heriot Watt University,

Edinburgh. Michael Laird Architects is working with Heriot-Watt University and Robertson Construction to create the UK's leading innovation hub for the practical application of robotics and artificial intelligence – the National Robotarium. The visit was facilitated and expertly led by Merve Gokahmetoglu Fard of Michael Laird Architects and Richard Cairns of Robertson Group. Merve gave a detailed summary of how the project was taken from drawing, to real life and shared some of the achievements and challenges faced along the way.



Yorkshire and North East held a a hybrid business breakfast, 'The end of Pride?' to promote allyship

and knowledge sharing at the end of June, Pride month. We first heard a fantastic presentation, entitled 'What not to say?' exploring the origins of words, followed by a panel discussion. Pride is about communities coming together in celebration, protest, unity and solidarity and what we achieved with this event is the equivalent across the diverse groups in property. This came about through the Building Equality Sheffield Committee, who wanted to do an event not only to celebrate Pride but to highlight that Pride month is every month, hence the title. It is about acceptance, equality, celebrating the work of LGBTQ+ people, education in LGBTQ+ history and raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

Success stories

Congratulations, as always, to our members around the country who continue to achieve great things!



Laura Banks has joined PMP as Director.



Claire Beaumont, co-head of the Commercial Property Team at Gorvins Solicitors, has been promoted to Equity Partner.



Rachael Cunliffe has been promoted to Business Development Director at LOFT.



Merve Fard of Michael Laird Architects has been promoted to Associate.



Jenny Hayes has established a new Manchester-based architecture practice, Lechler Hayes Architects, with Toby Lechler.



Lynn Hill of Lynn Hill Garden Design was part of the team behind the new Blue Peter Garden 'Discover Soil' at Chelsea Flower Show, which was awarded a Silver-gilt medal.



Samantha Jevons has been promoted to Associate at Bowman Riley Architects.



April Marsden has been promoted to Senior Associate with Bowman Riley.

Putting a face to a name - meet the National Exec

You might have seen the names many times on emails and flyers but do you know what the National Exec does, to support the organisation? They all work virtually but together, reporting into the National Chair and Vice Chair.



Lara Farey is the go-to person for membership queries and administration, as well as managing the website content and member mailings, Lara also works on the development of the App with Sara.



Vanessa Lancaster is organiser-extraordinaire of the National Student Awards, liaising with all our branch volunteers, Universities and students as well as coordinating not just the Final at Claridge's but some adhoc events for branches too.



Sue Maguire is responsible for the PR commentary from our National Chair and others, in the trade press. She schedules social media posts, keeps an eye on design and branding and liaises with external organisations for speaker opportunities and partnerships.



Sara Prince runs the treasury and events team for Women in Property, handling the accounts for national and branches. She has overview of WiP processes, and also works on the development of the App with Lara.



Alice Pye is part of the events team working with event organisers to achieve excellent events, aiming for minimum fuss and maximum ease.



Emily Mercer has been promoted to Director of Archaeology and Heritage at Lanpro, Manchester, a co-directorship with colleague Mitch Pollington.



Gillian Murray has been promoted to Director at AECOM, leading the building surveying Technical Due Diligence and Dilapidations service lines.



Joanne Neville has been promoted to Regional Head of Planning (Yorkshire and Central) at Harworth Group plc.



Helen Randerson has been promoted to Land Director for Gleeson Homes in West Yorkshire.



Sophie Smith has been promoted to Senior Land Manager at Spitfire Homes.



Aurora Tallon has joined the Glasgow Community Food Network board of directors and with it the Food and Environment Group on the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership.



Jade Wellesley-Miller has moved from Faithful and Gould to Rider Levett and was promoted to Senior Project Manager in the process.