

Chair's column

by Nicola Jones, National Chair

Sitting down to write this column has been quite a challenge. We have just had a 'mini budget' which was anything but and has done little to relieve the stress, or improve the mental wellbeing of the majority of the population.

The energy crisis is set to continue for some considerable time, Putin is threatening nuclear, and we've said goodbye to our Queen which, whatever your views, was a very moving, historic occasion. All that is enough to floor even the most stoic among us. So let's focus on the good stuff.

Below, we announce the winner of the 2022 National Student Awards. Anyone involved in the process will know just how incredible all 14 of our finalists are, and how confident we can be that they will do the right thing when they embark on their careers. Their generation shares the same values, aspires to the same environmental goals, has the same social ethos, and they want this for our industry,

for society, as I outline in a piece that appeared in Property Week on Friday. <https://bit.ly/3CfGbj>

And you, our members, have been brilliant. You've networked, you've developed your professional skills, you've been networking and wild swimming, and discussed good reads. Meanwhile, your committees have been planning lots more for the Autumn and Winter months ahead. This is what makes Women in Property special; the opportunity to meet others, share experiences and grow your careers but, most important of all, to support each other when the going gets tough. Thank you for supporting Women in Property.



Nicola Jones
National Chair of Women in Property

Tallulah wins National Student Awards



Nicola Jones, National Chair (L) with national sponsors Caterina Polidoro tp bennett, Carole Ditty Bouygues UK, Iain Maxwell Savills and Francesco Nucera Amazon with Tallulah Bannerman, winner of 2022 National Student Awards

Congratulations to Tallulah Bannerman, winner of the 2022 National Student Awards!

Tallulah, who studies Architecture at the University of Edinburgh, won the top prize in the competition which saw 14 built environment students reach the Best of the Best Final. National Chair Nicola Jones, of Gleeds, sat on the judging panel alongside national sponsors Francesco Nucera of Amazon, Carole Ditty of Bouygues, Iain Maxwell of Savills and Caterina Polidoro of tp bennett.

Nicola said, "Tallulah's answers were intelligent, poignant and considered. She told us it is time to place compassion over competition and believes we have a responsibility to use the skills we have acquired on people, not just the built environment, giving people agency over the spaces they live in. Well done Tallulah!"

National Student Awards

Sponsored by:



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The Best of the Best

As the 16th National Student Awards programme drew to a close, the 17th was already underway. The Student Awards is a superb example of logistical planning, thanks to a committed team of member volunteers from across our branches, guided by National Awards Ambassador, Vanessa Lancaster.

The Awards coordinators invite UK-wide Universities to nominate their best female students, and support them as they move through the Awards process. The regional judging days are held in the early spring, followed by branch Awards events and culminating in the national judging morning in September. The national finalists take part in a Mentoring training session and, finally, the fabulous 'Best of the Best' Awards dinner.

And of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our national sponsors Amazon, Bougyues UK, Savills and tp bennett, and our regional sponsors Buro Happold, Curtins, Ecus, HBD, Hydrock, ISG, JMW, The Urbanists and Willmott Dixon. Thank you.

Again we were back in the glittering elegance of Claridge's Ball Room where National Chair, Nicola Jones,

raised a toast to our late Queen, and to His Majesty King Charles III. After being introduced to the 14 finalists, this year for the first time, we saw edited highlights from videos submitted by each of the students. Former National Student Awards winner, Katie McManus of HBD, gave a short speech explaining the impact her win had had on her early career and enthusing the 2022 finalists to maximise every opportunity.

The keynote address was given by Jane Findlay, Immediate Past President of the Landscape Institute who spoke directly to the finalists saying, "You're all about to embark on fantastic and fulfilling careers in a sector that needs your skills and creativity like never before. This is, I think, a watershed moment for the built environment. Against the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and public health, all eyes and all hopes are on the next generation of architects,

contractors, designers, developers, engineers, managers, planners, and more to deliver infrastructure that transforms our lives for the better."

Congratulations to all 14 national finalists but, in particular, the 2022 winner, Tallulah Bannerman.



Task Force update



Our volunteer Task Forces established to look at Membership, Mentoring and the National Student Awards have been working away behind the scenes, under the guidance of National Chair Nicola Jones. Here are the highlights:



Membership

- We have undertaken a thorough review of the membership grades and workshopped several initiatives and changes.
- We are introducing a 'long service' discount, for those of you who have been continual members for a minimum of five years as a thank you for your ongoing support.
- We are planning a new Associate Membership which will enable our male allies and supporters of Women in Property to become members.
- Changes will take place at the start of next year after facilitating infrastructure changes have been made.



supporting the branch co-ordinators in matching mentees with mentors.

- There will be five sessions a year, with 16 places at each – sessions will be advertised to members.
- The first will take place on 26th October.

National Student Awards

- The Awards remain extremely popular and successful Vanessa Lancaster has been appointed as National Student Awards Ambassador, extending the role she has undertaken for the last 16 years.
- Nicola Jones will become the Sponsorship Co-ordinator, working with our national sponsors.
- The Task Force will continue to explore options for expanding the visibility of the students and potential venues for the national Awards Final, from 2024.



Mentoring

- Our new Mentoring Consultant, Cathy Stewart, has been appointed and will be delivering online interactive mentoring training sessions, as well as

Got a vacancy? Advertise it with Women in Property

The Women in Property Careers page is a highly targeted place to promote job opportunities, so whether you're seeking a new team member or are on the hunt for a new role, don't forget to take a look. If you'd like to advertise, please contact Lara Farey, membership@womeninproperty.org.uk and don't forget that members with 2yrs+ membership qualify for a **discount of 25%** on our standard fee of £400+vat.



Women and Work APPG



For a number of years Women in Property has attended the **Women and Work All Party Parliamentary Group**, the only representative organisation from the property and construction sector. We have attended the forum both at the Houses of Parliament, and virtually and responded to calls for evidence. For more information follow the link above.



Branch News



Women in Property Scotland were given a tour of the new Port of Leith Distillery, with the Distillery's Andy Colman and Asya Ballantine of Threesixty Architecture Ltd, who provided an insight into the complexities of building a distillery on a very tight site, and gave an overview of the whisky distilling process.



The **Midlands** branch took a full coach of property professionals down to Ascot in June, a fabulous day, kindly sponsored by Taylor

Herrick Recruitment. The regular Dishoom breakfast continues to be a big draw, this time on 8th September when 70 attendees enjoyed some early morning networking, courtesy of Delta Light.



The **North West** branch took the networking outside in the sun for the first working parents and carers picnic at Lyme Park in Disley. It was great to be able to hold an event which allowed working mums to attend with their young children, while keeping involved in industry topics and chatting through the challenges and the rewards that being a working mum brings. After some great feedback, look out for the next event at Longford Park in Chorlton on 28th October.



The **South East** branch held two professional development seminars, the first on Big box logistics, with Ciaran Gunne-Jones of

Lichfields exploring the latest research on trends in this sector and the second, a Residential Market Update hosted by Savills. Thanks to both Savills and Ciaran for bringing their expertise to these events.



The **South Wales** branch held its Summer Sunset Fundraiser and raised an amazing £1,300 for charity, Llamau, with generous match funding from Lloyds Banking Group, taking the total to £2,600. Thank you! Grateful thanks to sponsors Currie & Brown, Englobe UK, Galliford Try, HLM Architects and Hydrock.



The **South West** branch teamed up with RIBA Bristol and Bath for a 'Back to School' Quiz, kindly sponsored by Keepmoat Homes and Landstack. This sell out event saw attendees grouped into teams on the night, maximising networking opportunities over a tough series of questions set by quizmaster Ric Hampton, Division Director at Hydrock. A fantastic night that looks likely to become a regular fixture in the South West calendar.



The **Yorkshire & North East** branch enjoyed its Summer Drinks event at Issho, Victoria Gate in Leeds, kindly sponsored by Mills & Reeve LLP. It was a beautiful summers' evening on the terrace, perfect for catching up with property and construction professionals, as well as meeting some new faces.

One to watch!

Women in Property will be hosting a National Conference and Dinner in Bristol on 20 April 2023, under the title 'Women Leading The Future'. Keep your eyes peeled for further information in the coming weeks.

Better bookings



Good news for Women in Property's event bookings system. Members and non-members can now book and pay for events directly from the website event listing, rather than following a link embedded in the event flyer. This functionality makes booking onto events simpler for non-members and allows members the choice to book via the either the WIP App or the website. Links directly to the appropriate website page can also be circulated via social media. Additional information, such as dietary requirements, can be submitted at the time of booking, saving time and the need to reply to multiple emails and, as payment is processed then too, attendees can have confidence that their booking has been accepted.

London Build

Women in Property has partnered with London Build, which returns to Olympia London's Grand Hall on November 16th and 17th. Hear from 500+ speakers across eight conference stages including Future of Construction, BIM & Digital, Fire Safety, Sustainability, Diversity & Inclusion, delivering 200+ hours of CPD training and education. Secure your free ticket here. www.londonbuildexpo.com/welcome



Success stories

Congratulations to Women in Property members who are moving on and moving up!



Nicola Barclay, former CEO of Homes for Scotland, has launched Athena Leadership Coaching and Consulting, where she is Managing Director.



Alice Brook, Chair of the South West branch, has been promoted to Associate Director, Structures at Buro Happold.



Madeleine Clarke, National Student Awards 2021 finalist and Urban Designer with Pegasus Group has been nominated as a 2022 Role Model for UK Construction Week.



Claire Cockburn has been promoted to Senior Architect with Smith Scott Mullan Associates.



North West committee member, **Rachael Cunliffe**, has launched her own business development consultancy, ENGAGE 5.



Rachel Holmes has moved to Colliers as Business Development Manager, Project Management.



Hannah Mannion has moved to Ashfords as Associate Solicitor in Planning.



Eleanor Ogilvie has joined Kellen Homes as Head of Land and Partnerships.



Toni Riddiford of Stride Treglown has been shortlisted for the Emerging Property Person of the Year Award by Insider South West magazine.



Mandy St John Davey has been awarded Welsh Woman of Influence at the Welsh Women's Awards 2022.

In memory of Rachael Carter

Writing about a friend and colleague is always hard especially when they leave us too soon. As an organisation we are proud to have known Rachael Carter and to have benefitted from her enthusiasm, commitment across the South West and Wales branches through her membership and time on the South West committee. Rachael in her past role at Wates and most recently with Willmott Dixon always brought energy to events and loved to inspire those looking to join the industry. We will miss her.



Partnerships and Panels

It's a busy time again for Women in Property.

Nicola Jones spoke on a panel at UK Construction Week, looking at what's being done to bring people of all ages into the industry. She'll be at London Build in November, on a panel addressing the UK skills shortage, while National Vice Chair, **Chithra Marsh** of Buttress Architects, is speaking on empowering the next generation of architects. Chithra also joined a planning panel with Liverpool City Council, in her capacity as North West D&I representative for RIBA. **Toni Riddiford** of Stride Treglown will be discussing the future of work, also at London Build, and will be speaking at the Workspace Design Show, in February.

