

## Chair's column

by Chithra Marsh, National Chair

A few weeks ago I hosted our June National Steering Group meeting, a focus of which was exploring Women in Property's KPIs, with the aim of seeking 360° input into an emerging five year plan. Discussions have been held at a National level with the National Executive Team regarding the future of Women in Property and developing the strategy for the next five years, something that we can review and adjust year on year.

This has never been done before but will help to guide us all as we get bigger and better. The KPI workshop was just one strand of this, addressing areas including membership, website and app, events, communications and marketing, partnerships, data collection, governance and infrastructure.

The next step will be to run a membership survey, the last of which was held in 2020 so we are keen to find out how your thoughts and feelings about the organisation might have changed.

Following on from that the National team with the Directors and Executive team will develop the plan and circulate to branches once completed, early next year.

Thank you to the Branch Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committees for their invaluable contributions and to all our members for your ongoing support and commitment.



**Chithra Marsh**  
National Chair of Women in Property

## Stepping into Summer

Rachel Bell, Organiser

From 21st June to 7th July 325 people across 84 teams, throughout the UK, stretched their legs over the course of two weeks, logging their activity as they worked together to circumnavigate the globe, a target of 600,023 km so a serious challenge. Now in its third year, #StepintoSummer23 is sponsored by Buro Happold, Fulkers Bailey Russell and Stride Treglown, the aim was to raise awareness for two charities, Women's Aid and Girls out Loud, while encouraging everyone to enjoy getting active. Congratulations to top team Bryer's Babes who headed the leaderboard, walking a staggering 864.9km. Collectively the teams walked or ran 38,643km and raised over £2,000 for our charities!



# The 2023 Regional Student Awards

Once again the Student Awards have not disappointed. 53 universities across the UK nominated 109 students, some of the top built environment students in the country. Jennifer Winyard, National Vice Chair, explains how the Awards process works.

"Sponsored nationally by Amazon, Bouygues UK, Savills and tp bennett, the Awards are now in their 17th year – they were originally introduced as a one-off celebration, to mark the 20th anniversary of Women in Property but were so successful and have continued to grow in popularity, so have become a core pillar of our work. They bring together academia with industry, help hone the students' skills and, for many, lead to work placements and employment. We also offer all nominated students free membership of Women in Property for one year, which gives

them access to our Mentoring programme.

Every Autumn our branch Awards ambassadors – all volunteers – invite universities to nominate their top female 2nd year students (3rd year in Scotland). In the spring they go before a judging panel to present a piece of coursework and are assessed on their interpersonal skills, CV, knowledge of their subject and thoughts on the built environment in general. The winners are announced at regional Awards events in the early summer, so we now know who will be going

forward to the national final on 21st September. This is when the judges seek to find out more about them as individuals, what makes them tick, what are their views of the industry?

That same evening, we hold the Best of the Best Awards Dinner at Claridge's, a fabulous event, when we celebrate the 14 national finalists and discover who has won the top prize. Why not join us at Claridge's – you might find your next recruit among the finalists!"



## Don't just take our word for it

Sponsors, judges, lecturers and students are all as enthusiastic about the Awards as we are. If you're wondering whether to get involved, read on!



**Katia Polidoro, pictured left, Director of tp bennett:** "The Student Awards encourage and support young professionals at a pivotal point in their careers. The role of us as the professional judging panel is crucial, giving practical advice to help navigate their next steps in the built environment community."



**Dan Sames - Lecturer - Built Environment, Oxford Brookes University:** "The students that take part really value the process, particularly the networking and mentoring. Many have secured either internships or final employment on the back of their participation, so the process is definitely having a positive impact."



**National Winner 2022, Tallulah Bannerman studying Architecture, University of Edinburgh:** "I am excited to use this achievement to fulfil a deep-rooted desire to utilise my architecture degree to affect real change whilst tackling diversity in all forms, across the built environment field."

# The 2023 National Finalists

The following students will  
represent their regions in the  
Final on 21st September:

**Central Scotland**  
**Amy Gillanders,**  
Civil Engineering,  
Glasgow

**Central Scotland**  
**Eilidh MacPherson,**  
Urban Planning  
and Property  
Development,  
Herriot Watt

**Midlands**  
**Elsie Gribbon,**  
Interior Architecture  
and Design,  
Birmingham City

**Midlands**  
**Aimée Darley,**  
Civil Engineering,  
Loughborough

**South East**  
**Ellie Pascoe,**  
Architecture,  
Reading

**South East**  
**Alexa Skillett-Moore,**  
Civil Engineering,  
London Southbank

**South East**  
**Bernadette Corangi,**  
Urban Planning and  
Real Estate, UCL

**South West**  
**Zoe Clingan,**  
Engineering Design,  
Bristol

**South Wales**  
**Freya Kirby,**  
Architecture  
Cardiff, Welsh School  
of Architecture

**South West**  
**Emily Buckeridge,**  
Building Surveying,  
UWE

**Northern  
Scotland**  
**Jordan Miller,**  
Civil Engineering,  
Highlands and  
Islands, Inverness

**North West**  
**Bea Allen,**  
Interior Design,  
Manchester  
Metropolitan

**Yorkshire &  
North East**  
**Lucy Gregson,**  
Architecture,  
Huddersfield

**Yorkshire &  
North East**  
**Martha Newall,**  
Residential Development  
Quantity Surveying,  
Sheffield Hallam

# The Awards in pictures



# Branch News



**Central Scotland** Over 100 guests joined the Central Scotland branch at Citation, Glasgow to network and celebrate the achievements of this year's Student Awards winners, while taking the opportunity to present a cheque for £15,000 to The Polar Academy, the charity partner of the annual dinner. The Polar Academy works with invisible children: those impacted by bullying, bereavement or abuse, and turn them into resilient role models through an intensive year-long training programme which culminates in a sledge-hauling trip across Greenland. As The Polar Academy increases their impact working with more schools and pupils, the funds from WiP are vital in enabling them to continue their mission.



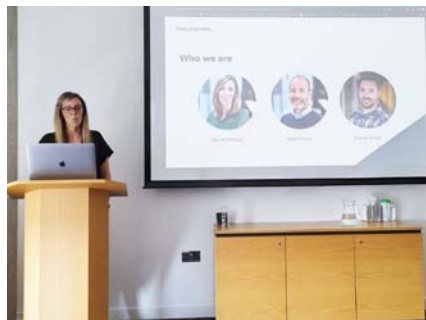
**North West** Members took part in a joint sponsored walk with Women in Social Housing (WISH) and Glenbrook to raise money for the Diane Modahl Sports Foundation. Diane Modahl spoke of her inspiring story and career at the branch's International Women's Day event in March. Her charity raises funds to support young people in Manchester in accessing both sports and educational activities, building their skills for life. A team of 17 completed the 26km Three Shires Walk with Three Points at Shutlingsloe, Cheeks Hill and Shining Tor.

## South East

Committee member Meg Taylor, has recently qualified as a mental health first aid trainer and is bringing her



passion for helping people to South East branch events. Over 30 people signed up for an introduction to meditation session, and she arranged a wonderful Shinrin Yoku (Forest Bathing) event held in Epping Forest. Meg is organising another session in Richmond Park in August, as well as running weekly online meditation sessions. More will be arranged in the autumn if there is demand.



**South Wales** The branch held a very successful breakfast event, 'The SuDS Experience', focusing on sustainable drainage systems. Sponsored and hosted by committee member Michelle James of the Urbanists, the breakfast seminar sold out with 60 attendees and a waiting list. The event involved breakfast networking over pastries and coffee followed by a presentation and Q&A.

**South West** The Bristol Temple Quarter was the subject of a very popular walking tour and a great chance for members to hear directly from the council and project stakeholders on the UK's largest regeneration project. Over the next 25 years it will transform over 130 hectares of brownfield land into a series



of thriving, well-connected mixed-use communities. 10,000 new homes and thousands of new jobs will be created and £1.6bn annual income will be brought to the city economy.



**Yorkshire and North East:** Sponsored by Hollis and MPG, the Leeds Summer Party held at Issho Rooftop Bar & Restaurant was a sell-out success, attracting a wide range of members and non-members for an evening of networking and collaboration.

Members also attended an informative site study at the Envision Gigafactory in Sunderland. The size and scale of this project is staggering, with a total footprint equal to 23 football pitches. The team is working to an aggressive programme, turning over £20m a month, involving off site manufacturing, in order to hit the construction deadline of 20th September 2024.





# Vibe the Wave

**Maddie Difazio-Wright is Vice-Vice Chair of Women in Property in the South West and is also one third of the Atlantic Ocean Rowing Team 'Vibe the Wave.'**

Their aim is to achieve something extraordinary - crossing The Atlantic Ocean isn't something people do every

day and is not for the faint hearted. More people have been to space than have crossed an ocean!

The team want to inspire other women and girls to take a leap of faith and say "yes" to big challenges, encouraging others to believe in themselves, give things a try, take part in sport and adventure. Vibe the Wave are looking to

partner with brands and businesses that share their values and ethos. A big part of this is sustainability - during the crossing they are going to raise awareness of some of the issues around climate change and ocean plastic. [Read more here.](#)

## Working in partnership



We are working to build relationships with other industry bodies, to encourage an exchange of ideas, exploring our differences as well as our synergies. If you have any ideas about initiatives or organisations you'd like us to research, please contact Sue Maguire [publicrelations@womeninproperty.org.uk](mailto:publicrelations@womeninproperty.org.uk).

Most recently National Chair, Chithra Marsh, took part on a panel discussing social mobility in the industry, hosted by Property Week to launch their Inspiring Diversity in Property campaign. Women in Property is an associate partner alongside Black Women in Real Estate, The British Property Federation, Real Estate Balance and The London Property Alliance. Stephanie Denton, Content Editor, revealed the results of a survey exploring EDI in the workplace. The resulting EDI White Paper is available to download [here](#).

Please do check out Property Week's [EDI hub](#) for more information on this and to find out how you can make a pledge to support diversity in the industry, either [individually](#) or as a [business](#).

We are also in discussion with UK Construction Week, regarding curating a panel for the Birmingham NEC show in October, exploring social value and scheme viability. Other groups with which we have regular involvement include Real Estate Balance [Network of Networks](#) and the [All Parliamentary Group on Women and Work](#).

# Satellites in the spotlight

We now have 12 satellite branches across the UK, each focusing on organising events to add geographical reach to our main city-based branches and extending the offer for members. Here is a flavour of what they've been up to:



## Devon and Cornwall

Since re-establishing itself in the Autumn, the Devon and Cornwall satellite branch has seen its membership increase by 19%. In this time, they have held a variety of events including cocktail making, site studies and soft-skills training. A monthly networking breakfast is proving popular, as requested by members, alternating between Plymouth and Exeter. Looking ahead, there is a busy schedule leading up to the festive period including golf lessons, more site studies, terrarium building and rock climbing, as well as a series of professional development training sessions. The focus for the next six months is to organise networking opportunities and events in Cornwall.



## Highlands & Islands

Starting off the year with a wine tasting evening to socialise again after the festive break, Highlands & Islands celebrated International Women's Day in style with a dinner in collaboration with Highland Business Women, some fantastic site visits to Corrieshalloch Gateway to Nature Centre and Inverness Castle and the first in a three part series on Net Zero in the Highlands & Islands. Amongst these events there have been a few firsts for the branch as most events are being delivered as CPD accredited, with a very successful hybrid event as part of the Net Zero series. This is especially important to the Highland and Islands branch as members span a large geographical area, so in the coming year the aim is to make events increasingly more accessible to all members and attendees.



## Lancashire & Cumbria

The satellite has a new Chair and Vice Chair - Jane Fillis and Catherine Cross, respectively. In May the branch hosted a seminar presentation by Chris Vaughan, Managing Director of Approved Inspectors, and Oliver McEntee of Kings Chamber, on the Building Safety Act 2022,

held at The Borough in Lancaster. Thanks to Harrison Drury for sponsoring. In June they headed out from Grasmere for the annual Netwalking in the Lake District, taking a route to Rydal Caves, followed by an opportunity for a wild swim, and back to Grasmere for refreshments and Cumbria-style nibbles in the pub. Thanks to Brodies for sponsoring.



## Swindon



The satellite organised a members only visit to Melksham House, a project offering an insight into a variety of building methods such as integrating modern construction into a heritage building, applying traditional building methods, working closely with ecology, conservation and archology groups and vast examples of repair works.

## Thames Valley



The satellite, chaired by Nicky Brock of Carter Jonas, relaunched in Spring 2023 with a drinks event at Victors at the Westgate in Oxford. Coming up is an Oxford Summer Boat Cruise on the River Thames, on 26th July, as well as a number of CPD events including a tour of the Life and Mind Building currently under construction in Oxford. Don't miss Autumn Drinks and a visit to Bicester Village for some shopping before Christmas. With this varied events calendar, the committee is hoping to further increase membership over the next few months, which has been growing steadily since the relaunch.

## CPD success!

Increasing numbers of our events are CPD accredited. To the end of May we have issued a staggering 1,683 hours!

# Success stories



**Suk Dosanjh**, has joined Blackmore Building Consultancy as Director.



**Louise Emmott** has recently launched Kingsdene, a residential sales, lettings and management agency, a result of Louise leading a management buyout of the JLL residential operation in the North.



**Kelly Fowler** has moved to Brecher, specialising in Real Estate Finance.



**Maria Francké** has been appointed Chair of the Scottish Property Federation.



**Clare Jones** and her company Grasshopper PR won 'Medium Consultancy of the Year' at the PRCA DARE Awards in Cardiff.



**Jenny Kitchen** has launched Building Rapport, underpinning her approach as a BD consultant to help other businesses grow through relationships and performance excellence.



**Rhiannon Peplow-Williams**, South Wales Chair, has been promoted to Senior Associate in her team in Blake Morgan LLP.



**Nicola Rudman**, former North West branch Chair, has been promoted to Associate Director at Fairhursts.



**Becky Ryan** has been promoted to Technical Director at Orion Heritage.



**Kath Sibley** has moved to Harrison Drury Solicitors, in the Construction Team.



**Charlotte Whitehead** and **Rhiannon Peplow-Williams** were part of the winning team who won 'Property Law Firm' of the year at the Cardiff Insider Awards 2023.