

# Yorkshire & North East Branch Newsletter

Spring 2024

## Change at the top

We are pleased to announce that **April Marsden**, Associate Director at Bowman Riley Architects (below left) has been appointed as Regional Chair of the Yorkshire & North East Branch and **Jennifer Winyard** (below right), Senior Strategic Land and Planning Manager from Barratt Homes Yorkshire West, is our new National Chair.



April said: "Supporting diversity and inclusion within the industry has been a key driver for me. Having struggled at times with imposter syndrome and trying personal challenges, I find it fantastic to see the improvements that organisations have made over the last 20 years. However, there's still room for improvement, especially in continuing to reach out to bring in more diverse talent, and the real benefit that diversity brings not just to businesses, but also the industry as a whole."

Jennifer, a dual qualified town planner and planning and development surveyor, said: "Encouraging girls to consider a career in property and construction has been a major focus for me, throughout my professional life. My lived experience of this industry highlights the fantastic scope it offers across all sectors. There is still more to do to encourage more people, particularly girls and young women, to make it their future too. I want to help change mindsets and unlock the potential they offer."

In the forthcoming year, April and Jennifer will help grow the work Women in Property has been doing nationwide, addressing workplace issues, including flexible working patterns, mentoring women at all stages in their careers, and supporting women returners and mental well-being.

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## Events

- [CPD Accredited: National Inclusion Training Series - No 2 - Impostor Syndrome](#)  
Virtual, 10 April 2024 12:30pm
- [Rudding Park Golf, Prosecco and Pizza Evening](#)  
Harrogate, 16 April 2024 6:00pm
- [Historic Buildings Roundtable](#)  
Leeds, 17 April 2024 8:30am
- [Lesser-known York](#)  
York, 25 April 2024 4:00pm

[Visit our Event home page](#)

## Got an idea?

We're always keen to ensure you get maximum benefit from being a member of Women in Property.

If you've got an idea for an event or webinar, would like to sponsor an event—or simply have a great idea that you think will add value, then please get in touch with a member of the committee.

[Visit the branch page of the Women in Property website.](#)

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# Reaching out at GUTS

Some of our members were flying the flag for the property sector at the Get Up To Speed (GUTS) event this month, encouraging and inspiring students and teachers alike. Our thanks to Corstorphine & Wright and Eastwood & Partners for sponsoring our attendance and to Greengage Environmental, and Building Rapport for your additional support.



# Inspiring Inclusion



We held a special #iwd2024 Afternoon Tea Networking event in collaboration with YABA, Yorkshire Asian Business Association. The event provided an open forum to share any barriers for women from different cultural backgrounds, into the built environment and raised £100 for refugee and domestic violence charity Women's Whispers. Our speakers, Munebah Shaheen, Architect, Corstorphine

& Wright and Najwa Jawahar, Design Manager, WSP shared their own journeys about #InspireInclusion. (Photo credit Priyanka Veeramachineni).

**Save the Date!** Our Parents & Carers lunches are back on 4th June in Sheffield, Newcastle and Leeds. Please save the date and look out for our child friendly venues announced online soon.

### Outreach - Call for Volunteers!

We have identified the first of a series of primary schools to visit to inspire our NextGen. If you'd like to get involved please contact [Rachel.Barker@localdialogue.com](mailto:Rachel.Barker@localdialogue.com)

1. Grimes Dyke Primary in Swarcliffe, LS14
2. Harehills Primary, Darfield Road, LS8
3. Meadowfield Primary, Halton Moor Avenue, LS9

We're supporting MOBIE Design Challenge workshops in schools by encouraging members to volunteer to take part in local events. For more information and dates please visit <https://www.mobie.org.uk/challenges> or contact [mark.southgate@mobie.org.uk](mailto:mark.southgate@mobie.org.uk).

# Member News



**Pip Hunsworth (pictured)**, Associate Director at Buro Happold is leading the technical team investigating geothermal energy beneath the University of Leeds campus as part of their quest to decarbonise and reach netzero by 2030.

**Kate Ashworth** has joined green energy company Gren as legal counsel. **Monica Green's** PR agency Partners PR has achieved Good Business Charter status. **Sarah Wills**, Associate Director at nineteen47, and her team have relocated their Sheffield office to the iconic Park Hill development.

**Faye Durkin**, Head of Nature (North) for Greengage Environmental, has joined the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) advisory panel, which will set out the strategic vision for nature across the region, identifying areas that are currently of high value and those that require improvement.

# Member spotlight



**Zoe Murphy**  
Director, Knights PLC &  
Vice Chair of Women in Property  
Yorkshire & North East Branch

Zoë joined Women in Property in 2020 sitting on the Yorkshire and North East Committee. She is now Branch Vice Chair.

Zoë is a solicitor in the Real Estate team in the Leeds office at Knights. Knights is unique in the UK legal and professional services sector, providing a full service offering to corporate clients as well as synergistic services to high-net-worth individuals, operating across the UK from its 23 office locations.

Zoë said "I am delighted to be taking on the role of Vice Chair this year. I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and continuing to work with our fabulous committee and wider WiP team.

I feel very privileged to have been part of this supportive and inspiring network from an early stage in my career and I am looking forward to continuing to be part of the committee this year, as well as the events we have in the pipeline. I love organising events (such as the summer party and our most recent wine tasting event) and I really enjoy meeting our members and other property and construction professionals who attend.

'I would encourage anyone in the industry to join and take advantage of this network, everyone is so friendly!'

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