

Scotland Newsletter

July 2025 | Issue 19

A note from Laura McGuigan, Branch Chair for Central Scotland.

Since stepping into the Chair role in March 2025, it has been a genuine pleasure meeting and getting to know our members and supporters across Central Scotland.

I am incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work shown by our committee of volunteers, who continually deliver insightful events—from CPD sessions and site visits to networking opportunities and webinars.

Together with Danielle Miller (Vice Chair) and Claire Cockburn (Junior Vice Chair), we are excited to lead a vibrant programme of events. Building on the strong themes from previous years—Diversity and Inclusion (2023/24) and Confidence Building (2024/25)—our focus this year is on removing the stigma surrounding mental health for all genders.

I am passionate about supporting others to achieve their goals by sharing knowledge, encouraging authenticity, and fostering innovative ideas. Women in Property plays a vital role in creating an equitable environment that attracts new talent to our thriving industry and helps address the ongoing skills gap. I'm personally committed to challenging the outdated perception that construction and property are male-dominated and 'muddy' industries. My priority for this year is to work together to build a culture of care—one that breaks down the stigma and taboo around mental health.

Our community should be a safe space to openly discuss mental health and resilience. Mental health affects everyone, regardless of gender. It is alarming that suicide remains the leading cause of death among men under 35, with 4 out of 5 suicides in the UK being men. To support this, we have begun partnering with charities throughout the year to provide our members with additional resources, raise awareness of available help, and continue to challenge norms with bold, forward-thinking initiatives.

As part of this commitment, I recently joined the Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH) Insights Group to help shape a suicide prevention training programme tailored specifically to the Scottish construction industry. This important initiative, developed in partnership with CITB, Barratt Homes, and David Wilson Homes North Scotland, aims to tackle the unique mental health challenges faced by our sector. While progress has been made, stigma and barriers persist—and there is more work to do.

We invite you to join us in this journey by participating in our upcoming events and campaigns. Together, we can create a stronger, more supportive industry for everyone.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to recognise and thank the incredible individuals who make up the Women in Property network. My own confidence and professional growth have been deeply shaped by the genuine, supportive connections I've made through this community. It's the safe and empowering space created by our past Chairs, committee members, members, and guests that continues to make this network so special. Together, we are building something truly meaningful—a place where everyone feels heard, valued, and empowered to succeed.



Laura McGuigan,
Central Scotland Chair 25/26

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News & Promotions

Melanie Koyman has joined Portakabin as Business Development Manager

Hannah Lloyd has joined BE-ST as Business Development Manager and has started a new position as Vice-Chair of Board of Women in Property Limited.

Eilidh Robertson was promoted to Director at Lindsays

Holly Slayford was promoted to Senior Solicitor at Burness Paull, and joined the WIP CS committee as Secretary

Jillian Love has joined Kier as Submissions Manager

Claire McBlain has joined City Gate Construction as Bid & Marketing Coordinator

Emily Bates was promoted to Senior Planner at Calton Planning & Development

Lilli Marshall was promoted to Marketing & Business Development Manager at GLM

Pamela Sargent has started a new role as Legal Counsel for EDP Renewables with Pinsent Masons Vario.

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Central Scotland Annual Dinner

A night at the Museum

The Central Scotland branch held their highly anticipated annual dinner event on Friday 3rd March at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, on the eve of International Women's Day.

The evening was a fitting celebration of women in the industry and in particular our members and their organisations.

We are delighted to announce that the evening raised over £16,500 for the branch's 2024/25 charity partner, Children First. This substantial sum of money will allow the charity to continue to protect and support Scotland's children from abuse, trauma and poverty.



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Message from the Scottish Advisory Group



I can't quite believe that we're on the summer edition of the Scottish Newsletter already – hopefully it's not just me that feels this year is flying by! At the time of writing, we have just passed the summer solstice, I've been getting all the steps in for the Women in Property Step Into Summer Challenge and avoiding rain showers along the way. I hope Summer is treating you all well.

This marks the last "Message from the Scottish Advisory Group" and provides an opportunity for me to thank all those who have contributed over the years. Women in Property in Scotland has grown, thanks to the support of members, advocates and allies, to be in a stronger position than it was a few years ago. The Scottish Advisory Group, formally the Scotland Board, provided an additional level of support to the branches, more voices of advocacy and allies to garner the support of senior individuals across the industry, a sounding board for branch chairs and vice chairs to lean on as required. As the branches have grown, committees flourished and strengthened the need for this group has diminished and, in March 2025, members of the group agreed to disband the formal 'Scottish Advisory Group'. I would like to thank all those who have been part of the Board / Group over the years, who have given time and encouragement to ensure Women in Property in

Scotland continues to thrive and is something we can all be enormously proud to be part of.

As Chair of the Scottish Advisory Group I had the enormous privilege of joining the Women in Property Limited Board, a national board leading the governance and oversight of Women in Property across the UK. I am delighted to have been appointed as Vice Chair of this Board and to be supporting Rachel Bell in her role as Chair over the next two years. The board consists of representatives from across the UK with a number of Non-Executive Directors providing additional insight and guidance. Supporting the future of the organisation as we shift and change to suit what the membership requires is a really exciting time.

Thank you to those who have paved the way and supported me to make the most of opportunities like this as they come my way. I haven't disappeared from Scotland though, so please do get in touch if you would like to discuss anything and I look forward to catching up and meeting the growing membership at events in the months ahead.

Hannah Lloyd,
Vice Chair of Women in Property Limited Board

Message from Northern Scotland

I'm delighted to report that the Northern Scotland hub has had a busy start to the year with events, outreach and our student awards.

So far, we have hosted eight events in the first three months, including the annual Summer Drinks and Student Awards reception, as well as our 2025 netwalking series which involves monthly walks across the summer.

Our branch has also reached out to Perth for the first time, which is an exciting milestone. We organised a site visit around the new Perth High School, built to Passivhaus standards, which was well attended. We hope to do more in the Tayside region so stay tuned and spread the word with your Tayside colleagues/offices.

I look forward to meeting some of you at our forthcoming events!



Catherine Dryburgh,
Chair of Northern Scotland Hub

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Inspiring Women in Construction & Engineering Awards (IWCE)

Women in Property Central Scotland have been shortlisted as finalists in the Women's Network of the Year category at the IWCE awards hosted by Construction News, Ground Engineering and New Civil Engineer.

The Women's Network of the Year award recognises groups which champion women and gender diversity, and ensure that the views of women are highlighted and drive change within their organisation or industry.

The Central Scotland branch are delighted to have been shortlisted for this award in recognition of the work they're doing to drive gender equity in the property and construction industry.

Additionally, the Central Scotland Chair, Laura McGuigan, has been nominated and shortlisted for the Rising Star - Contribution to Gender Diversity award.

We look forward to celebrating Laura and the branch at the award ceremony on the 16th September in London.



An Exciting Year Ahead...

We have an incredibly exciting year ahead, with a fantastic line-up of events designed to inspire, support, and connect our members.

Our 'flexible working' panel discussions will continue, and we're thrilled to announce our next session will be a roundtable in Edinburgh—offering an open and engaging format for sharing experiences and ideas.

In August, we'll be hosting an invite-only New Members' Breakfast at the beautiful Material Source in Glasgow—an opportunity to welcome new faces and foster early connections.

September brings a focus on personal brand-building—a tailored event to help members strengthen their presence, expand their network, and grow their confidence in both personal and professional settings.

Looking further ahead, we're excited to confirm that our Annual Charity Dinner will take place on 6th March 2026 at the Hilton Glasgow, 1 William Street. Tickets will be released in September, with priority access given to our long-standing supporters. There are a few surprises in store for this year so set a reminder!

Upcoming Events

Golf Lesson & Lunch at Paul Lawrie Golf Centre - 3rd July
Aberdeen

Northern Scotland Summer Networking and Wellbeing - 16th July
Aberdeen

Networking - 25th July
Glasgow & Edinburgh

IStructE Top Golf Tournament - 7th August
Glasgow

Site Visit to ONE Seedpod - August
Aberdeen

Golf Lesson - August
Dundee

Netwalk at Aberdeen Beach - 20th August
Aberdeen

Networking Breakfast - 28th August
Edinburgh

Networking Lunch - 28th August
Glasgow

Netwalk along the Deeside Way - 17th September
Aberdeen

Mentoring Introduction Session - 18th September
Edinburgh

Mindset Coaching Session - 25th September
Edinburgh

Best of the Best: National Student Awards Dinner - 18th September
London

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Event Round Up - Central Scotland



Top Golf Networking Event

We were thrilled to welcome more than 25 brilliant women from across the industry for golf, laughter, and meaningful networking. From first-time players to seasoned golfers, the mix of experience created such an encouraging and fun atmosphere across the bays.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with all attendees eager for more events like this.

This response has shown us there's a real appetite for women to get more involved in golf at relaxed, inclusive networking events with a sporty twist!



BE-ST Site Visit

In April we were invited along for an exclusive talk and tour of Scotland's National Retrofit Centre at Built Environment - Smarter Transformation.

We heard from representatives from BE-ST, John Gilbert Architects and Clark Contracts who all explained their role in the project and what it's like to undertake an ambitious non domestic deep retrofit.

We gained insights into applying the fabric first approach and discovered how they're transitioning from gas to an innovative zero direct emissions heating system.



Passivhaus Currie Community High School Site Visit

WiP members were offered an exclusive site visit to the Scottish Futures Trust LEIP funded Currie Community High School project.

Members joined Architype for a design presentation before being guided round the new build high school by contractor, Kier Group.

Attendees were informed of the journey and strong collaboration tools used to drive efficiency and meet the project's objectives.

This visit demonstrated the high quality and energy efficiency currently being achieved in Passivhaus education buildings.



Woodside Making Places Lunch and Walking Tour

In May, we made the most of sunshine in Glasgow during the Woodside Making Places Lunch and Walking Tour.

The tour kicked off at Civic House, followed by inspiring talks from Collective Architecture who shared insights into their

pioneering high-rise architectural retrofit. Then, we were walked through RaeburnFarquharBowen's £4.5 million landscape and green infrastructure improvements delivered around the base of the towers and surrounding streets.

There were a few comments that it all felt very European(!) - wandering past lush planting and blooming raingardens, children playing, residents chatting outside their tower blocks on new seating, busy allotments, and bike stores filled to the brim!

A fantastic reminder that the commitment of design teams can be truly transformational for communities.



Networks - Glasgow & Edinburgh

Our monthly networks have been taking place in both Glasgow and Edinburgh, offering the chance to catch up with WiP members over lunchtime.

Look out for upcoming walks throughout July, August and into Autumn.

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Reframing 'Success' as a Working Mother - Panel Event

The Central Scotland branch hosted a discussion panel event on Reframing "Success" as a Working Mother.

It was a truly special evening, filled with honesty, inspiration, laughter, and real connection.

We heard from four incredible panelists - Tara Stott, Sheena Raeburn, Sarah Jane Storrie, and Gemma Sommerville - who each very kindly agreed to share their stories with openness, clarity, and humour. Lisa McRavey guided the conversation with ease and warmth, and it wasn't long before the discussion expanded far beyond the panel, with a super engaged audience contributing their own thoughts, questions, and experiences.

The insights shared were not only inspiring, but also a comforting reminder that we're not alone!

It was an evening that really felt like therapy with friends - a safe space for honesty, laughter, and shared experience.

A special thank you to our event sponsors, AtkinsRéalis and Il Salotto (Sara Seravalli), for making the evening possible and creating such a warm, welcoming atmosphere - complete with a delicious grazing table and some lovely fizz!

To everyone who came along, shared their thoughts, and engaged so openly - thank you. The feedback has been overwhelming!

We're looking forward to the next event in this series which will be a forum-style event hosted in Edinburgh, building upon the momentum of this first event and the wider findings of Women in Property's national *Building Balance* survey.



Key Takeaways:

- **Success isn't one-size-fits-all, it's about finding what works for you.**
- **The most pressure often comes from within - let's try to be kinder to ourselves!**
- **Set boundaries, be present, and make space for your passions - it's ok to give yourself permission to have time to yourself too!**
- **Motherhood is a journey of seasons - your support network matters.**



Glasgow & Edinburgh Networking Lunch at Rosa's Thai

In May we hosted a members and non-members lunch where attendees enjoyed delicious Thai food, made new connections and shared stories of what being a member of Women in Property means to them.

With a focus on mental health at the Glasgow lunch, they were joined by Nicola Campbell, from The Lighthouse Charity who informed the group of all the help that they can offer for construction

and property professionals and their families when they might need it.

Central Scotland Chair, Laura McGuigan's theme for the year is mental health.

She said "Having these conversations in a safe environment helps break down the stigma surrounding mental health and if we manage to help even one member, we have made a difference. We are excited to partner with The Lighthouse Charity over the coming months to offer our Women in Property community training and advice."



WiP and Cundall: Sustainable Spaces - Enhancing Wellbeing through Circular Design

WiP had the privilege of being invited into Cundall's new office to hear about how they've created a sustainable workspace through embracing circular design.

From reclaiming to restoring elements from existing buildings, to maximising local sourcing, to weaving inclusivity and wellbeing principles through each element of the process, leaving no detail unconsidered by the team.

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Central Scotland & Northern Ireland

Student

Awards



Women in Property Central Scotland hosted our annual Student Awards and Summer Drinks event at Kong in Glasgow, hosted by Curtins, to celebrate the achievements of 12 talented students who took part in this year's programme from across Central Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The competition was exceptionally high and every student inspired our panel of industry judges.

Thank you to our regional student award sponsors: Avison Young, BakerHicks and Tilbury Douglas, as well as our national student award sponsors: Amazon and Savills.

Congratulations to our regional winners who will go on to compete in the national awards later this year:



Sasha Worth, studying MA (Hons) Architecture at University of Edinburgh



Flora Quinell, studying BSc (Hons) Architectural Studies at University of Strathclyde



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Event Round Up - Northern Scotland

Walking Tour of Aberdeen City Centre Projects

Following the successful business breakfast in May, Claire McArthur led a sell-out walking tour around Aberdeen's city centre, showcasing both completed and ongoing regeneration projects from the City Centre Masterplan. The tour included highlights such as the Music Hall, Art Gallery, Union Terrace Gardens, and the ongoing pedestrianisation works on Union Street and the Flint Market. This was our busiest tour to date, reflecting the high level of interest and engagement in the city's regeneration efforts.

Annual Meeting & Members Breakfast

We started off the year with a members-only breakfast at hidden gem Sweet Mumma's Kitchen in Aberdeen. With an informal update on the year ahead, it was excellent to catch up with everyone without any agenda.

Wallace Whittle Event - Demystifying ESG

Wallace Whittle hosted Northern Scotland members on 9th June for an event focused on demystifying ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) with their Director of ESG & Sustainability, Nick Hayes, and Monika Munzinger.

Over drinks and nibbles in Wallace Whittle's stunning Aberdeen offices at Marischal Square, the session covered a wide range of trending topics and sparked some fascinating conversations.

Business Breakfast - Aberdeen City Centre Regeneration

The WiP Business Breakfast on the Aberdeen City Centre Regeneration Project served as a timely reminder of the significant investments being made in our city. We were thrilled to host this event at the recently refurbished CMS Scotland Aberdeen office, with a delicious breakfast spread.

A special thanks to our speakers, Claire McArthur, Tara Stott, and Jen Lawie, for sharing their insights and offering a glimpse into the future of Aberdeen. This event was a fantastic opportunity to connect with industry professionals and learn more about the transformative projects shaping Aberdeen's future.

Perth High School Site Visit

In April, both members and non-members had the opportunity to visit the new Perth High School construction site. This state-of-the-art learning facility is designed with a strong focus on sustainability and student well-being.

The school spans 15,700m² across three levels and includes expansive social areas and versatile, multi-use classrooms to support modern educational needs. Built to stringent Passivhaus standards, the school is highly energy-efficient and low-carbon, boasting exceptional indoor air quality that enhances health and boosts concentration.

During the visit, the group attended an insightful presentation by Passivhaus Manager Peter Mcconnachie. He detailed the unique aspects of Passivhaus, the challenges of applying these

standards to a large school project, and the numerous benefits it offers. Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Giraffe Trading, a social enterprise in Perth that supports individuals with additional needs to develop skills and gaining experience.

The visit continued with a site tour. Participants witnessed the innovative building methods in action. The progress and ingenuity on display were truly inspiring.

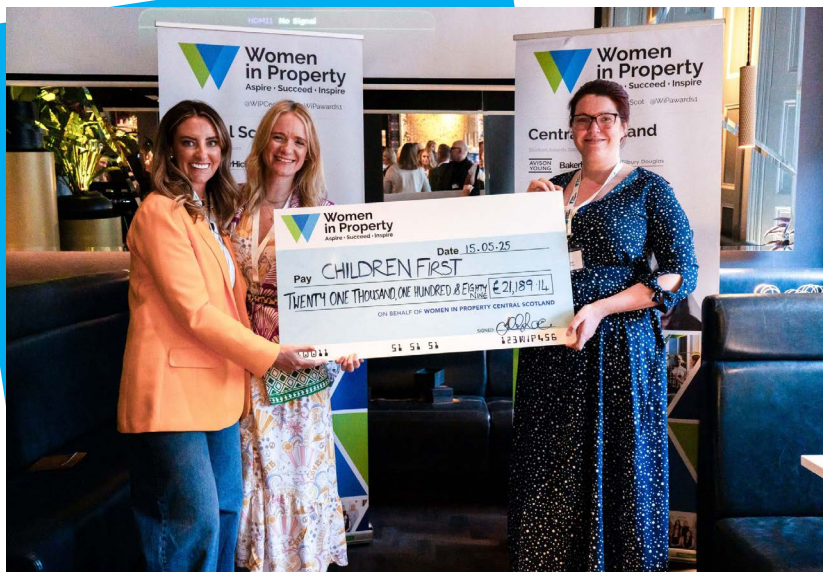
A heartfelt thank you to Robertson for sponsoring this event and allowing us to witness this remarkable project firsthand. We also extend our gratitude to the site team for their warm welcome and for sharing their expertise.

This event was a fantastic opportunity to connect with industry professionals and showcased the significant impact Passivhaus standards can have on large public buildings.

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Children First - Fundraising Update



We are delighted to announce that the total raised for our 2025 Annual Dinner Charity Partner, Children First, has reached **£21,189.14!**

Jillian Love and Laura McGuigan presented Lauren Hill from Children First with a cheque at our recent summer drinks and student awards event at Kong, Glasgow.

'This is incredibly generous of all of the Annual Dinner attendees. It means so much to everyone at the charity.'
– Lauren Hill, Corporate Fundraising and Partnerships Manager at Children First

Schools Outreach

Jill Love and Kim-Marie Bryce from the Central Scotland Committee delivered an introductory session to S2 students at Falkirk High School.

The pupils, a group of 23 and a mix of boys and girls were all engaged and enthusiastic about the programme.

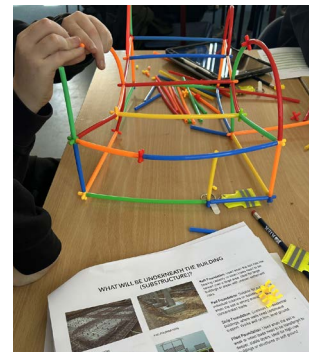
The session began by sharing some background on the construction industry, including our daily roles and the different career paths that can lead into the sector. The pupils were then introduced to the overall programme.

This year's project is linked into the regeneration of Falkirk Town Centre. The students will be challenged to design an Arts Centre for the Callender Square site. During the session, we gave them a high-level overview of the site and the project brief.

Related to their project, the pupils were set a summer challenge: to visit an arts centre, library, or theatre space over the holidays and begin gathering inspiration, using sketchbook, photos or notes.

Before the end of term students will come up with a team name and logo. When we return after summer, we'll begin the first session, where they'll be introduced to 'the client'. From there, we'll run monthly sessions featuring different consultants from a design team, guiding the students through to their final presentations in June.

If you are interested in volunteering your expertise at one of the sessions, please email Kim-Marie Bryce, k.bryce@mlaarchitects.co.uk



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