

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Steering Committee

ISSUE 2, 17th December 2013

Dear Colleague,

It is with great pleasure that we enclose our second newsletter and take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year!

It has been a wonderful year for Women in Rail. Since our launch event back in April, the group has grown from strength to strength and has established itself as a strong support network for women within the industry, raising its membership on LinkedIn to over 720 and holding two very successful events, one on self-confidence and one on networking.

Our success is an industry and team effort and we want to say a big **THANK YOU** for your continued support. There remains a lot to do to increase diversity in the sector and position rail as an attractive career choice for young graduates so, at Women in Rail, we are very much looking forward to 2014!

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas...

The Steering Committee of Women in Rail



**Merry Christmas and a
happy New Year!!!**



York workshop - "Furthering the success of women in the rail industry: building your self-confidence"

Helping women fulfil their full potential in a traditionally male dominated sector is one of the founding principles of Women in Rail. The workshop held in York on 9th October focused on understanding why lack of self-confidence is a common issue for most women and identifying the various ways in which the issue can be tackled. **Karen Boswell**, Managing Director of East Coast Main Line, and **Malcolm Brown**, Chief Executive Officer of Angel Trains, both shared their thoughts and tips on how to overcome lack of self-confidence. **Tinu Cornish**, a Chartered and Registered Occupational Psychologist, spoke about the need for women to step out of their comfort zone, push through the fear of the unknown, in order to overcome their deep seated feeling of helplessness and their lack of self-confidence: *"feel the fear and do it anyway!"*.



The feedback from the workshop was tremendous and it will be repeated in London on **Wednesday 12th February, 11.30am to 3pm, at the offices of Berwin Leighton Paisner Solicitors (near Monument tube station)** and then at the offices of Wabtec in Doncaster in the New Year.

London event - "Furthering the success of women in the rail industry: the art of effective networking"

The joint Women in Rail, Young Rail Professionals and Dentons solicitors networking masterclass was held in London 20th November. It featured an entertaining and inspiring presentation by award winning trainer Nick Davies and was followed by a highly entertaining and competitive cocktail making session during which women learned to make cocktails, including inventing their own, whilst at the same time (of course!) practising their new found skills and building their network. The evening was really good fun and, by popular demand, will be repeated in the New Year. Representatives of the National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering (NSARE) won the best cocktail competition so naturally we, the Steering Committee of Women in Rail, have started training for the rematch!

Women in Rail



Mentoring

Lorraine Martins, Clare Burles and the Working Party have been working very hard on the Women in Rail Mentoring Programme. A few mentors and mentees have been paired but **we are short of mentors** so please, if you or someone you know from the rail sector is interested in supporting the programme, please contact Clare or Lorraine at mentingservices@networkrail.co.uk.

This Could Be Me exhibition

Women in Rail has been providing its support to the York National Railway Museum in raising awareness to the "That Could be Me" exhibition prepared by its sister museum, the Science Museum, in London. The exhibition which is due to start at the end of December 2014 and run for three years is aimed at showing young teenagers (boys and girls) the benefits of opting for a career in engineering. Thank you to all those who have come forward, the Museum was very impressed indeed with the number of responses from the UK rail industry.

Women in Northern (WIN) conference - Leeds on 26th November

The theme of the 3rd WIN conference was "Inspiring Women". Around 85 women from Northern as well as external and industry guests joined together to hear from some wonderful speakers including Nina Lockwood (Intuitive Recruitment) and Jane Kenyan (Well Heeled Divas). Caroline Wilson (WIN Chair) commented "*It was a fantastic day where women were left feeling inspired, motivated and ready to take on the world*". Well done Caroline!

The Royal Academy of Engineering

Women in Rail continues to work with the RAE Diversity Leadership Group to find ways to increase diversity in the engineering sector. The DLG, lead by Allan Cook, is doing a tremendous job in bringing interested organisations together and take pro-active steps in promoting diversity.

Meeting with.... Meg Munn MP

Adeline Ginn had a very productive meeting with Meg Munn MP on 19th November. Meg has a Parliamentary background on women's issues and has a strong personal interest in furthering the involvement and welfare of women throughout the word. Meg is a strong supporter of Women in Rail and it was a pleasure meeting her.

Flexible/Agility Working

Women in Rail has been meeting with Stephenson Harwood, Women in Transportation, The Timewise Foundation, ASLEF and TUC to discuss a lunchtime event on the many facets of flexible/agility working in March 2014. Confirmation and further details of the event will follow in due course.

Update from a friend... Mick Jackson

Whose Wildhearts charity uses the profits made from its successful Wildhearts office supply business to fund microfinance across the developing world, helping people - and in particular women - to work their own way out of poverty with dignity. Truly inspirational... <http://www.wildheartsinaction.org>.

What next?

- Behind the scenes, we are working hard to set up Women in Rail as a Community Interest Company (CIC) – a non-profitable organisation – from January 2014 so as to provide full transparency to our members and supporters.
- In the New Year, we will be launching a new initiative to showcase - through pictures and interviews - the wide range of exciting and key roles that women hold in the UK rail industry.
- We are also looking for sponsors to help fund our website so if you would like to have your logo featured on the upcoming site and in our literature, please contact us.
- On Wednesday 12th February, we will repeat our workshop, "**Furthering the success of women in the rail industry: building your self-confidence**" from 11.30 to 3pm at the offices of BLP solicitors in London. Invitations have been sent and if you are interested in attending, do let us know.

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