

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Steering Committee

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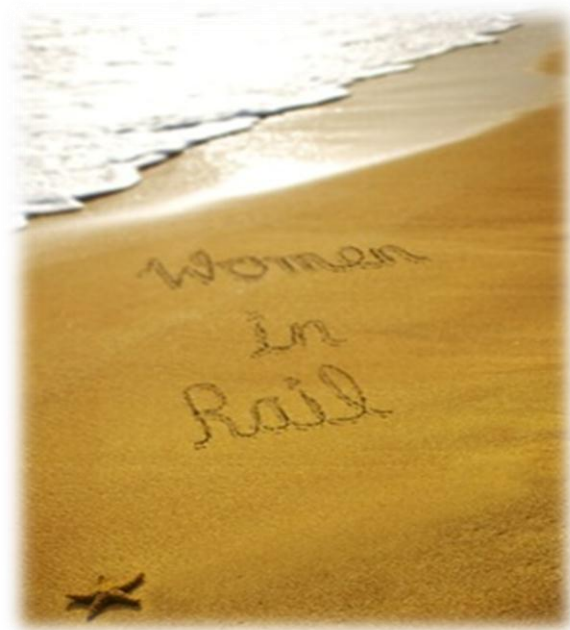
Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to enclose our fourth newsletter and hope you had a lovely summer so far.

It remains an exciting time here at Women in Rail as our LinkedIn site now proudly boasts over 1,100 members. We have enjoyed many successful events and highlights this quarter, including a great workshop in Derby which Baroness Kramer attended and lending our support to the Cabinet Office's sponsored "This Life" campaign which aims to bring more girls into technology and engineering.

Women in Rail continues to grow from strength to strength and we have many new exciting initiatives planned for the autumn which we can't wait to tell you about!

The Steering Committee of Women in Rail



Women in Rail Event, Derby – 'Women in Engineering: What's holding you back?'



As part of the Derby 175 celebrations, Women in Rail hosted an event at the East Midlands Train Academy in Derby: 'Women in engineering: What's Holding You Back?'. The event aimed to raise awareness of the issues faced by women working in the engineering sector and more specifically explore the challenges they face when considering a career in our industry. The event was attended by more than 50 men and women from across the rail and engineering industries, as well as teenage girls from the Bemrose School Derby whose contribution offered us all a great insight into how our industry is perceived by the audience we are trying to appeal to! . The key note speech was given by the Minister of State for Transport Baroness Susan Kramer (*seen here with David Horne, Managing Director, East Midlands Trains and Adeline Ginn, founder of Women in Rail and General Counsel at Angel Trains Limited*). Baroness Kramer said "*We need the industry to encourage more women to come on board and make the most of the opportunities on offer. The Women in Rail group has done a great job in raising awareness of careers in rail.... The best way we can help to encourage more women to work in rail is by working hard to get into the mind-set of our future engineers from an early age. By influencing girls whilst they are still at school and college and helping them realise there are lots of exciting opportunities waiting for them out there, we can help provide a more diverse and skilled workforce*". Further speeches were also made by Tim Sayer, Engineering Director at East Midlands Trains and Rachel Turner, Logistics and Configuration Manager at Porterbrook Leasing Company Limited who spoke about her personal experiences as a female engineer in the rail industry. The event was very well received and we hope to repeat it again in 2015!



Joint University Presentation Programme

With the current skills shortage, it has never been more critical to ensure that we are attracting bright, young, enthusiastic people to start their career in the rail industry. To this end, over the past few years a range of organisations, including Women in Rail, Young Rail Professionals, IMechE and IET, have actively been going into universities and engaging with undergraduate students to promote this vibrant, challenging, exciting industry as a place for a career. Although promoting the rail industry to university students is by no means the only activity required to tackle the skills gap it is seen as one of the key activities to get vital resources in the short term.

The skills gap is an industry owned issue, and as such the industry is coming together to tackle it. Women in Rail is engaging with the institutes of the Railway Engineering Forum, Young Rail Professionals and RRUKA to undertake a Joint University Presentation Programme (JUPP) for the 2014/2015 academic year. This programme will engage with the undergraduates of 40 universities over the course of the year to excite and enthuse them about a career in the rail industry.

The purpose of this programme is to promote the industry as a whole with all its disciplines. The common message is one of general industry promotion, inspiring and enthusing university students to consider a career in the rail industry.

The JUPP will draw on the young people within the rail industry to go and give these engagement presentations. Training will be made available to all presenters, giving them an excellent opportunity to further develop their skills. This also provides a brilliant opportunity to help build charterhip competencies, and to share the passion for the vibrant, dynamic industry that we all work in.

The presentations will be taking place from October 2014 through to March 2015 in universities all throughout the country. The standard format is for a 20 minute presentation followed by 40 minutes of Q&A/discussions, with the time of the presentation depending on the specific university's timetable.

If you are interested in getting involved and presenting to young people at colleges and universities about the rail industry and sharing your experiences with them please get in touch with Jodi Savage jsavage@wabtec.com



Women in Rail secures a blog with Huffington Post

Women in Rail has secured a blog spot on the Huffington Post. The first post entitled "*Why Aren't Women Interested in Rail?*" was released on the 6th August 2014. Check out the website and read all about it!

<http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/>

Why Aren't Women Interested in Rail? | Adeline Ginn



As women we have fought for years for equality. We read constantly how as a gender we are striving to break the glass ceiling and change perceptions....

UK Lifestyle

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/adeline-ginn/why-arent-women-intereste_b_5613811.html

Women in Rail pledges in support of the Cabinet Office's *This Life* campaign

Women in Rail is partnering with the Cabinet Office to support their Women in Technology and Engineering Compact - "*This Life*" - campaign which purpose is to boost numbers of women in tech and engineering careers and increase numbers of girls taking maths and physics A-level. As part of this initiative, Women in Rail pledged, amongst others, to gather the necessary data to build a strong business case for improving gender diversity within the rail industry, showcase female role models within the sector, expand its mentoring programme to ensure support to up to 100 women within the sector and partner with like-minded organisations to demonstrate the breadth of employment opportunities offered by the UK rail industry and inspire young people to consider a career in rail.

The campaign was officially launched by George Osborne at the London Science Museum on 7th May and details can be accessed using the following link: www.yourlife.org.uk

Women In Rail Mentoring Programme

The Women In Rail Mentoring Programme continues to grow and develop. We are in the process of moving the mentoring portal from the existing site which Network Rail kindly hosted on behalf of Women in Rail to our very own website.

Round 2 of the Women in Rail Mentoring Programme will start mid September and you will be given an opportunity to register via the website or by e-mail. A communication will be made within the coming weeks and we hope many of you will take part in this initiative which is proving a tremendous help to many women within the industry.

We want to take this opportunity to again thank Network Rail for the support they have shown us with this initiative and we are very much looking forward to Round 2!

Website

The structure of the Women in Rail website is almost complete and we are aiming for a launch mid September.

The website will feature a news section, details of upcoming events, our mentoring portal and an interview section showcasing some of the many roles which women carry out in our industry. We can't wait to show it to you!

What next?

- Women in Rail is being set up as a Charity and a Community Interest Company (CIC) – a non-profitable organisation - so as to provide full transparency to our members and supporters.
- Women in Rail annual celebration and wine tasting event - Thursday 27th November – at the offices of Berwin Leighton Paisner in London (near Monument tube station). Details will be sent within the next two weeks.
- Women in Rail and Westminster Advisers are joining forces to host a breakfast event in the next couple of months – details to follow shortly!

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