

Connections

Meet a member – the President

We thought you might enjoy getting to know your CWN colleagues, so here's the first of a regular series of profiles. Where better to start than with our new President, Clare Dobie?

Clare joined CWN only four years ago: 'I was hunting around the web for a list of trustee vacancies and saw that CWN had just such a list. I had to join to access it. And to join I had to attend an event. At that event I met Diane Morris who charmed me into applying.'

What did you expect from the organisation then?

I didn't quite know what to expect; I had never belonged to a network. But joining was simple and I immediately saw there were some attractive events.



What did you find?

A mixed group. I soon saw the advantage of meeting people from other sectors. You can have too much of your own kind and meeting people with other experiences is stimulating.

How did you come to get so involved – what offices have you held in CWN?

Soon after I joined, I was persuaded onto the Marketing Committee, then was elected its Chair a few months later. I was on the board in that role for a year; then I stood as Vice-president. I became Acting

President unexpectedly when Nicola Stevens sadly stood down in January.

How do you find your professional life enhanced by CWN?

Some events have been specifically helpful. I remember one on applying for jobs – it seemed to have a public sector focus – when I was just about to complete an application form to become a non-executive director of a NHS trust. I'm sure the lessons I learnt helped me succeed, as otherwise I would have had no knowledge of public sector procedures, having worked in the private sector all my career. And I thoroughly enjoy my

directorship, which has opened my eyes to what is going on in the NHS.

What do you want to accomplish in this year as President?

I have five priorities.

- o First, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary in such a way that raises our profile, attracts new members, celebrates our success and leaves behind a legacy. The committee has done a fantastic job of organising a series of events.
- o Second, I want to continue our high standard of events, rich in their diversity.
- o Third, we will continue to develop our communications. Members have already seen a new style email Update. I know this has been well received, because some members have been kind enough to tell me. *Connections* is going from strength to strength, now with a slightly updated look.
- o Fourth, we will improve our technology; iwe will soon be launching an on-line directory.
- o Fifth and most important, we want to continue adding members to ensure the continued success – financial and otherwise – of the network. With the 30th Anniversary celebrations to draw them in, we have grounds for optimism.

This is CWN's 30th anniversary year – what do you hope to see highlighted in CWN's 40th anniversary year?

That's a good question. While there has been plenty of progress, women today face some of the same issues as when CWN was 20 years old; discrimination is subtle but it still exists. Will this still be the case in another decade? I think it could be. Women who haven't even had a career break are still paid 11% less than their male counterparts; I fear there will still be a gap when CWN celebrates its 40th year. Women can help themselves of course; for a start they need to become better negotiators. I am sure CWN will have much to celebrate in another ten years.

What do you want from members?

The more you put in to CWN the more you get out. So do the following:

- o Check you have paid your 2008 subscription and set up a standing order for 2009 so you don't need reminding next year
- o Consider joining a committee. Choose between Business, Marketing, Membership, Personal Development and Social Activities.
- o Come up with ideas for events. All are welcome!
- o Suggest venues for events, possibly your own company's premises. We are always interested in new locations.

For your diaries

- 30 April Drop-in drinks
- 6 May A walk round the City's hidden gardens
- 12 May 30th Anniversary launch
- 14 May WoW Inspirational woman of the year dinner
- 20 May Reinventing yourself

Fuller details of CWN events and a booking form enclosed. For more information, see www.citywomen.org

CWN events

HR: friend or foe?

An evening of discussion on HR was organised in liaison with Siobhan Martin, Worldwide Partner at Mercer. The panel of HR professionals came from a variety of backgrounds: Gill King, Managing Consultant, King Associates; Janet Rubin, HR Executive Director, LGC; Kate Grussing, Managing Director, Sapphire Partners.

Siobhan kindly hosted the event at Mercer's stunning offices near Tower Bridge. On seeing the fabulous view from the meeting room, overlooking the London Assembly building and the bridge itself, members and guests risked being distracted from the matter in hand! Not for long however, as Siobhan outlined the heads of discussion and led what proved to be a fascinating look at the ways in which HR meets the needs of employers and employees in large corporations and SMEs.

The highly successful structure of the evening gave rise to a wide-ranging discussion of the challenges faced by the HR professional and by employees and managers engaging with their HR department in businesses today. An important point, to which participants returned several times, was the need for HR to be accepted as adding value to a company, rather than seen solely as a cost-centre. The need for managers to have skills in people management as well as their content-knowledge was also highlighted.

Susanna Dammann

Political competence at work

Mayfair was the venue for a very informative evening on political intelligence in the workplace; the group included

a large number of guests as well as CWN members.

The format gave attendees many opportunities to share thoughts and opinions, while benefiting from the expertise of guest speaker Siobhan Soraghan. Highlights of the discussion focused on the important contribution that women can bring to being politically effective and the apparent correlation between political effectiveness and leadership ability. Anecdotal evidence was in abundance on the differences in how men and women deal with the challenges that politics bring to the workplace.

Siobhan, who has a Cranfield MBA and is trained in the field of NLP, specialises in the development of senior executives, the supervision of coaches and the design of advanced leadership programmes.

Marion Pye

A very special art viewing

CWN members were indeed fortunate to enjoy a remarkable evening at the home of Alison Myners, Chairman of the Contemporary Art Society. Alison's amazing house, a mere hop and a skip from the grounds of Buckingham Palace, is packed with fascinating works of modern art on all of its five – or was it six? – floors. We were free to wander around, glass in hand, and admire the paintings, sculpture and installations. Alison also outlined the work of the Contemporary Art Society in promoting the collection of art and supporting new artists. This unusual treat was thanks to member Betty Morton, who is on the CAS board.

Sue Sheen

Membership benefits

CWN members gain RSA advantage

The RSA, which holds excellent lectures in its lovely John Adam Street building, has offered CWN members a special deal. Fully paid-up members of CWN can now join the RSA as a Fellow without paying an upfront registration fee – a saving of £65 – and do not need sponsors when applying to join.

The RSA has a useful library and a cafe that's a convenient meeting place. Several CWN members are already long-standing fellows. See www.rsa.org.uk for details.

Forging links with the City

Strengthen your links to the City of London by becoming a member of a livery company. The Worshipful Company of Marketors, though in an ancient tradition, is a modern company with very specific aims – promoting the benefits and maintaining the integrity of marketing.

The membership consists of senior managers and professionals from well-known organisations, the sales

and marketing services industry, consultancies and academia. I am on the Membership Committee and will be only too pleased to help eligible CWN members.

Diane Morris

Places to eat in London

One of my favourite places to meet, eat & retreat in the heart of London is The Arts Club at 40 Dover Street. It's tucked away in Mayfair, the perfect central venue and excellent place to congregate with friends and entertain clients alike. Needless to say, the food and service are excellent too.

The Club dates back to 1863 and continues to attract artists, authors and art lovers of all types. on conversations and laughter into the night.

It's a private members club but CWN has negotiated a special 'corporate' rate of £500, instead of the usual £700 p.a., plus a one-off joining fee. I can arrange for its delights to be opened to you too.

Jan Hildebrand

Celebrations – CWN’s 30 years

This autumn CWN celebrates a remarkable 30 years of networking and events. We will be starting off a year of festivities with a launch on Monday, 12 May. Our distinguished speaker will be Angela Knight, CBE, Chief Executive of the British Bankers’ Association, who has been much in the news recently dealing with the FSA report on the Northern Rock failure, so you will already be aware that she is a fluent and intelligent spokesperson for banking. How much more interesting then to hear her talk on ‘The changing role of women in the City’. There will be a reception sponsored by Merrill

Lynch, where the event takes place. Not to be missed – so book now!

At the event you’ll also find out more about the other 30th Anniversary events, planned for:

Thursday, 18 September	6.30 for 7.00 pm.
Friday, 3 October	8.00 to 10.00 am.
Thursday, 13 November	7.00 for 7.30 pm.
1-2 weeks in March 2009	Yes, 9 or 14 days!
Thursday, 30 April 2009	6.30 for 7.00 pm.

News of members



Janet Gaymer

We are delighted to hear that Janet Gaymer, our Patron, has been appointed an honorary Queen’s Counsel. This rare award was made for her work on the development of employment law in the UK over 35 years in private practice, during which time she has served on numerous influential committees shaping the development of

employment tribunals. We send our hearty congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

Two Janes on the radio

Jane Craig, a partner in family practice with Manches, recently appeared on a couple of Radio 4 programmes. On Law in Action she discussed the significance of the Crossley case in prenuptial agreements (something she favours strongly for older or richer couples). And on Money Box Jane berated the government’s delay in assigning new rights for cohabiting couples.

Jane Keir, partner with Kingsley Napley, has also appeared on Radio 4, talking on Woman’s Hour about the significance of the Heather Mills divorce settlement. She will be giving a presentation later this year on the topic.

CWN contacts

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Useful website addresses
City Women’s Network (CWN)
www.citywomen.org
European Professional Women’s Network (EuropeanPWN)
www.EuropeanPWN.net
The International Alliance for Women (TIAW)
www.tiaw.org

CWN’s spring AGM

CWN members turned out in force for the March AGM, though they might have been forgiven for thinking it wasn’t that long since the last one – indeed, it has only been four months. The recent change in the end of our accounting year means that in future we shall be holding our AGM in March.

Business was brisk and to the point: following a review of the past few months, Clare Dobie was elected as President and Roz Morris as Vice-president. All members present sent their warm good wishes to our previous President, Nicola Stevens.

After the AGM members joined guests for a relaxed and enjoyable cocktail party in the elegant lounge of the Women’s University Club.



Newly elected – Roz Morris, who became CWN’s Vice-president at the AGM in March.

