



Women and Manual Trades

the national organisation for tradeswomen
and women training in the trades

April 2007

Email: Info@wamt.org

Website: www.wamt.org

WAMT Lord it up at the House!

On Thursday 1st March, staff, members, and Management Committee representatives from WAMT were welcomed to the House of Lords, for a special lunch celebrating International Women's Day.

Sponsored by the Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green, on behalf of the Women's Housing Forum, the event brought together people working in all areas of the housing and construction industry.



WAMT staff and MC members, with Baroness Howells of St Davids, and Baroness Anita Gale



Outside the House

As guests of Durkan, WAMT's representatives stuffed themselves on a three course dinner, served up in the Cholmondeley Room, with beautiful views of the river. We polished off the meal with House of Lords chocolates, then worked off all the calories with some energetic shopping in the gift shop!

Louise Ramsden, Admin Officer at WAMT, said : "The Lunch was a unique chance to have a glimpse behind the scenes in the Houses of Parliament. And it was great to catch up with Emily Thornberry MP, to see how she'd been putting the plumbing skills she picked up [at WAMT's Women MP's plumbing day] to good use!" WAMT staff also had the chance to chat to the Baroness Howells of St David's, who officially welcomed guests to the lunch, along with Baroness Anita Gale.

Building Work for Women Project : Update

The Building Work for Women project is going from strength to strength! The first two programmes have attracted a massive response and we have put 30 women through the pre-placement programme. These women - who have achieved, or are near achieving, a Level 2 in their trade - have benefited from training and support, driving lessons, Tools and PPE. The women are moving on to a range of placements - some with major contractors, others with smaller firms or sole traders. We are always looking for more employers, so if you are interested in having one of our women on placement with your company, please give us a call and we can see if it will be possible.

The Building Work for Women trainees were also invited to a reception at the Institute of Civil Engineers hosted by Claire Curtis Thomas MP, where they had the chance to meet Ruth Kelly, Minister for Women. Clare Welburn, Programme Manager for the BWW project, said : "It was a great opportunity to highlight the problems faced by women trying to get practical work experience to consolidate their technical training".

We are not running another pre- placement programme until the end of June, but if you think you might be eligible for the programme and are interested in participating please give either Crystal or Lola a call to have a chat.

Upskill Project Winds Down

It's a sad time for Upskill - the project will be ending on 31st March 2007 when funding runs out. The project has supported 136 women in its 2 years by offering one to one advice and support, and has been very successful in assisting unemployed tradeswomen into self employment. The project offered bespoke self-employment training to trainee and unemployed tradeswomen, as well as first aid and personal safety training.

The hugely successful DIY for Women programme gave practical DIY skills to 63 women, some of whom have gone on to undertake courses in construction. The project also held two successful trade fairs where tradeswomen were able to meet employers from the construction industry. All clients that were on the project will continue to receive free membership of WAMT until 31st March 2008 and can continue to access support from WAMT.

We'd like to let our clients know that it has been a huge pleasure working with them! All that's left to say is good luck to all the staff that worked on the Upskill project in its 2 year lifetime - WAMT wishes them all the best in their future.



An informative and fun day on Plumbing Essentials course

On Saturday 13th January, WAMT held a Plumbing Essentials course. Ten women enrolled on the course including members and non-members.

The day started with a short session on essential theory and then proceeded onto a variety of 'hands on' practical tasks. By the end of the day women actually produced a working model of a domestic cold water system- a tank at one end and a working tap at the other!



There was a fantastic atmosphere in the group and the evaluation comments were very positive. One woman commented : "The course taught me a great deal, it was friendly and useful. I really enjoyed it."

Contact Details

Women and Manual Trades
52-54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT
Tel: 020 7251 9192 Fax: 020 7251 9193
Info@wamt.org www.wamt.org



WAMT receives funding from the Association of London Government, the European Social Fund and the London Development Agency. WAMT works in partnership with JIVE and the UK Resource Centre for women and receives funding from EQUAL. WAMT also works in partnership with Building One Stop Shop and receives funding from the Learning and Skills Council under the Objective 3.



Matters Arising Notes from the Chair

It's been another busy start to the year at WAMT. Work has continued apace on all the existing projects with the Building Work for Women project being oversubscribed. The Upskill project has also held its second and final trade fair.

This month sees the closure of the Upskill project which ran DIY courses and provided self employment support to many trainee tradeswomen. I would like to congratulate the team past and present for the achievements.

As some doors close others open, and WAMT has finally secured money for a Membership and Information Officer. Fundraising has continued and applications have been put in for Self Employment support projects, expanding the DIY portfolio and extend the successful FEWEC project which maps women tutors in the industry.

Policy and campaigning activities have also been very much at the fore front. We have written a detailed response to the Olympic Delivery Authority regarding its Diversity and Equalities Policy, to ensure that women are able to feed into the games through out the supply chain, and to try to encourage positive action programmes to support women into Olympic sites. We have also been consulted by the ODA regarding our opinion on how to ensure women are able to access Olympic construction jobs.

WAMT's management committee has been joined by Angie Jezard, a management consultant with a huge amount of experience and expertise particularly in the field of finance. We welcome her appointment to the management committee and look forward to her support throughout the coming year.

The next few months look to be very exciting for WAMT with potential for more growth and expanding horizons.

Best wishes –

Janet Shelley (Chair, WAMT)

FEWEC Project visits Sheffield

On Monday 19th February, WAMT's Further Education in Construction and Engineering Project spent a couple of days up in Sheffield, staging a successful event for women in the Northern regions.

Held at Sheffield Hallam University, the event featured a workshop on 'Challenges for Women Lecturers / Trainers', as well as great networking opportunities. The women attending gave enthusiastic feedback, and pointed out the need to have more events like these.

WAMT also visited the women who teach and train at The Women's Construction Centre, which has been running courses (including tiling and plastering), that the women are then able to put into practise by renovating their own centre. It was inspiring to see what can be achieved with commitment and enthusiasm.

At The Women's Workshop - the only women-run workshop in the country - we talked to trainee tradeswomen about the projects and how WAMT can support them.



AVT
Avon Vale Training
ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING

THE LEADING ENGINEERING TRAINING PROVIDER IN THE SOUTH WEST

FEMALE ENGINEERS are in great demand! We welcome applications from women interested in engineering.

We offer **Engineering Apprenticeships** and a comprehensive range of courses designed to suit both Learner & Employer.

Engineering has become increasingly high tech and requires bright creative people who are practical & good at solving problems.

01249 661199
or email info@avonvale.co.uk
quoting reference "W & M T"

Avon Vale Training Ltd, SN15 3QH
www.avonvale.co.uk

Interested? Then get in touch...

All the fun of the Fair!

On the 28th February WAMT held its Trade Fair, at the Camden Centre in Kings Cross. It was an opportunity for employers to exhibit, and for members to gain information about the services and training opportunities that are available to them.

Amongst the employers exhibiting throughout the day were Hays Construction, Notting Hill Housing Trust, Pimlico Plumbers, A Woman's Touch, Jobcentre Plus and Building Partnerships from Lambeth.



Over 50 tradeswomen attended throughout the day, meeting with employers and training providers and learning more about what services they could engage with.

Also attending the Trade Fair were the HM Revenue and Customs - who were on hand to give Tradeswomen advice on Self Employment, Tax and Self Assessment - and The College of North West who talked to women about colleges and training routes open to them. UCATT were there to speak with members about Health and Safety and also with regard to getting CSCS training for our members.

The day was a success, with many of the organisations who exhibited informing us that they found the event extremely useful and that they had made important links with lots of tradeswomen that they may be able to work with in the future. Thank you to everyone who attended and who were involved in making the event such a success. We hope to be running another fair in the future.

Do you want to get off the tools?

Are you thinking of coming off the tools, or having thoughts about where your next move will be in terms of career progression? If you would like to get into site management you will need an NVQ level 3, and WAMT's OSAT programme could help you to get it.

This project gives women the opportunity to gain a qualification through On Site Training and Assessment (OSAT) which enables unqualified but experienced and skilled workers in the industry to get a nationally recognised qualification, NVQ 3. It also allows workers to become eligible for Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card. The CSCS card is increasingly being requested by clients and employers to demonstrate that contractors and sub-contractors have trained and qualified staff. The whole process is carried out whilst you work on site so you do not have to take time off to go to college.

Our new NVQ level 3 OSAT programme is recruiting now for women in the trade areas of Painting and Decorating, and Carpentry and Joinery. If you have the following :

- At least three years experience in your trade
- Supervisory or project management skills
- Self employed or running a small / medium sized business

Women and Manual Trades will fully support you to achieve your NVQ level 3. [For more information, contact Rebecca Fulton at WAMT on 020 7251 9192.](#)



Lisa Brereton

Dyson Young Woman Engineering Apprentice of the Year Award

Only eight per cent of the UK's engineers are women. The '**Dyson Young Woman Apprenticeship Award**' seeks to help change this by highlighting female engineers who have the potential to be great ambassadors and role models for the industry.

Organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and sponsored by BT, Cosmopolitan Magazine, Ford and the James Dyson Foundation, the prestigious award credits the achievements of women on apprenticeship schemes.

Dr Alf Roberts, chief executive of the IET, said: "The Institution is committed to raising the profile of engineering and encouraging more young people, including women, to consider a wider participation within the industry. In particular, we hope it will help to address the shortage of female role models within the profession and demonstrate that engineering is a great career for women".

Lisa Brereton (17), at **Schneider Electric Ltd** in Chippenham, beat thousands to be selected to be a finalist at the Awards. The Judges were impressed by her outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to engineering particularly by such a young apprentice.

As an Electrical Apprentice Lisa works in a team which designs, builds, tests and commissions critical power systems for a variety of organisations including regional electricity companies, the MOD, data centres and banks. Lisa performs detailed wiring and panel assembly for the electronic control systems that Schneider Electric supply.



Steve Gale, operations manager of **Avon Vale Training**, said: "As her Training Provider we look after Lisa's development during her apprenticeship. We are delighted with her progress and her drive. She is determined to be the best engineer she can be and will no doubt go on to inspire others to follow in her footsteps".

During her time as an apprentice, Lisa has pioneered and implemented a more satisfactory way of wiring products, which has not only proved to be more efficient but has also been more cost effective to the company.

If you are interested in engineering as a career then speak to Gwen at Avonvale on 01249 661199.

Down the drain

Kerrie Keeling (founder of A Woman's Touch, a female construction company based in Wimbledon) was welcomed to Buckingham Palace last month, to attend a reception for women in business hosted by the Queen. Among the distinguished guests were Sharon Osbourne, Cath Kidston, Sarah Doukas (owner of Storm model agency), and Jo Fairley (owner of Green and Black's).



Kerrie's invitation!

Kerrie shook hands with the Queen who asked about A Woman's Touch, and went on to casually comment "Oh Anne would like that" as Kerrie was passed down the welcoming committee which included The Princess Royal and the Duchess of Cornwall.



Kerrie Keeling

Later during the champagne and canapes reception the Queen approached Kerrie to comment how it had been difficult to persuade some women to attend, when faced with the competition from London Fashion Week, but Kerrie said the choice had been easy for her!

Kerrie set up A Woman's Touch in 2003, making the move from an Investment Banking career, because she was fed up with her own experiences of the building trade and felt things really need to be shaken up - and that's exactly what she's done. The company employs 20 staff, 17 of whom are women, specialising in trades such as plumbing, carpentry, tiling, plastering, electrics and decorating. Currently operating within the London area, Kerrie is planning national expansion later this year, which will include rolling out the new and exclusive DIY training business - run in the comfort of client's own homes.

Kerrie has recently been honoured with two prestigious awards - she won the NatWest everywoman Business Woman of the Year Award, and was runner up in the O2 / Evening Standard Aspirational Business Award ("room for improvement" she jokes!). The company's advertising slogan is "A Woman's Touch - The cowboys are quivering in their boots"!

For more information on A Woman's Touch please visit www.awomanstouch.org.uk

Good News! – SITE project wins funding!

WAMT has just heard that its latest bid for project funding – from London Council's European Social Fund – has been successful! The new project will be called SITE (Steps Into Training and Enterprise), and will help Tradeswomen find routes into Self Employment. It will offer one-to-one Business and Marketing Support, self-employment and multi-skill training, employment seminars and Trade Fairs. Watch this space for more information!

Free training in Construction

Interested in receiving free training within the construction industry? A new project at Olmec could help you get training, career guidance, and support in finding employment. In order to be eligible, you need to be:

- Living in Social Housing and/or claiming housing benefit.
- Unemployed
- A UK resident with the right to work

All expenses (i.e. travel, registered childcare) can be reimbursed (on presentation of receipts).

To register your interest contact Monica at Olmec on 020 7091 9486 or alternatively email monica.saini@olmec-ec.org.uk

Tradeswomen's Networking Events

Women and Manual Trades are running a series of Tradeswomen's Networking Events in 2007.

Events happen on the first Monday of every month (excluding August and December), and include talks, films, and a great chance to get together and network with other tradeswomen. Dates for your diary are:

4th June 2007

2nd July 2007

3rd September 2007

8th October 2007

5th November 2007

The event on the 2nd April, featured a film screening about the women who built Waterloo bridge.

More details of later events will be announced in the e-update, nearer the time.

All events will start at 6:30pm and will be held at 52-54 Featherstone Street, EC1Y 8RT

If you would like to come to any Tradeswomen's Networking Event please let us know in advance by calling the WAMT office on 020 7251 9192.

Interested in training as a British Gas Engineer?

British Gas wants to attract more women into its workforce. They are running a series of open days where women will have the opportunity to speak with British Gas about possible opportunities.

Future events will be held in :

14th April - Dartford

2nd June - Thatcham (Hampshire)

Places are limited and by invite only, so if you are interested and would like to spend a couple of hours chatting about possibilities, email your name, address, and any contact numbers to engineering.academy@centrica.co.uk, (Please quote 'WIP' in the subject line, and state which event you are interested in).

FREE FIRST AID TRAINING

Islington Council is sponsoring FREE St John Ambulance First Aid Training for organisations working in the Borough. If we have 12 women interested, we can set up First Aid Training for WAMT members. To register your interest please contact WAMT on 0207 251 9192.

New Women Into Construction Project for Sussex, Kent, and Medway

People for Action are working on a new ESF/LSC funded project which aims to increase the status, training and employment of women in construction.

They are currently delivering an all-women Plastering NVQ in partnership with Hastings Borough Council, Carol Biggs and the East Sussex Dry Lining and Plastering Academy. Courses will be run quarterly from now on, with the next intake in September 2007.

For more information or to register with the project, contact Naomi Stones at Amicus Horizon Group, on 01424 776613, or email Naomi.stones@amicushorizon.org.uk

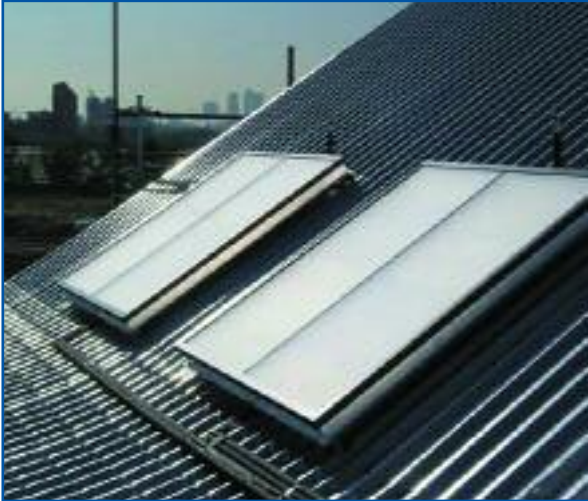
Would you like to advertise your business here?

Over 1500 people receive our Newsletter - including Tradeswomen, Organisations such as housing associations and interested individuals. For as little as £50 you could be reaching these people too.

Please call 020 7251 9192 or email info@wamt.org for more information.

Solar thermal systems

CO₂ emissions are the greatest contributor to global warming, and are produced when any fuel is burnt. 50% of the UK's carbon emissions are from buildings and so those of us in the construction industry have a crucial role to play in designing, building, refurbishing and maintaining buildings so that the amount of carbon they emit is reduced.



Solar thermal is classified as a LZC (Low or Zero Carbon) technology. It is the easiest and cheapest one to retrofit into existing buildings and is the fastest growing renewable technology at present in the UK. An individual's hot water demand is consistent throughout the year, irrespective of whether they live in a new or old dwelling. A well designed solar thermal system can supply 1,500 to 2,000 kWh (40-50%) of an average household's hot water needs and save 0.5 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. During the summer months most hot water needs can be met from solar with a correctly sized and well designed system and even in the winter (on a sunny day) the hot water will be partially heated meaning the boiler has to be on less. Many UK roofs are suitable as any orientation between south east and south west and any tilt between 10° and 60° is suitable. It is important to check that the roof is not shaded either by trees or from nearby buildings.

4m² of solar panels and 200 litres of stored water in a dual coil cylinder is the optimum size for a family of four. For larger systems 1m² flat plate collector is required per 50 litres stored water. Evacuated tube sizing is usually 30 tubes to every 200 litres of storage requirement. An installed solar system in a domestic retrofit typically costs between £2500 - £4000 and grants are available. When fitted in domestic new build the total installed cost is usually less than £2000.

Design for solar

It is important that all new buildings are future proofed for solar. Buildings should have a south facing roof with no overshading and space for solar panels. This means dormer windows need to go on the north facing roof slope. When master planning the layout of a development each building must be designed to ensure a north/south roof aspect, as opposed to a mixture of north/south and east/west which is the norm at present.

It is important when choosing a solar thermal system to know what type of system will perform well as the UK solar market is still partially unregulated with some poor quality systems available. To maximise system efficiency it is important to match collector area to amount of stored hot water, use a pumped system, specify efficient controls, install a solar rated dual coil cylinder and fit a thermostatic mixing valve on the hot draw off. In hard water areas it is important to fit a water conditioner to guard against scale. In commercial and other non domestic buildings it is important to design out the possibility for Legionella proliferation.

In the next newsletter, Cath will discuss components featured in solar thermal systems.

Cath Hassell has been involved in sustainable building for the last 10 years, and set up ech2o consultants in 2002. ech2o is an environmental consultancy offering design advice and seminars on all aspects of sustainable water use, low carbon energy systems, carbon literacy and environmental choice of materials. www.ech2o.co.uk