



Home  
Building  
Skills  
Partnership

Spring 2024

# HomeSkilled

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## HBF FUTURE TALENT CONFERENCE INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION OF HOME BUILDERS

HBF's annual Future Talent Conference took place on 7 and 8 March, with more than 100 industry apprentices, trainees and graduates coming together to expand their professional development.

Over the course of two days, participants engaged in interactive workshops covering biodiversity net gain, sustainability and reputation management. They also took part in a team project with finalists presenting their work on the event's final morning.

The conference also delivered a line-up of influential speakers. Former Downing Street Press Secretary, Paul Harrison

opened the conference by setting the scene on the political landscape and how it impacts home building. Oliver Novokovic, Technical & Innovation Director at Barratt Developments, spoke on modern methods of construction (MMC) and the importance of delivering low carbon homes.

Property developer and influencer, Charlotte Edwards - [aka The Accidental Female Developer](#), - shared her journey of starting out in the industry and the valuable lessons she had learned, and Cathryn Greville from the Supply Chain Sustainability School (SCSS) discussed the importance of allyship.

## THE FUTURE TALENT GROUP LAUNCHES

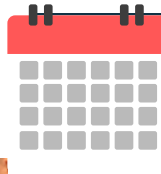


HBF has launched its Future Talent Group for new entrants in the home building industry. The new group is an update of the previous Future Talent Network which will now align closely with other HBF membership groups and support members in their professional development.

The Future Talent Group will allow those who are new to the industry to expand their networks, stay informed on industry news and events, and enhance their skills.

Membership is free for employees from HBF member organisations.

If you interested in signing up your new talent, visit [hbf.co.uk/FTG](https://hbf.co.uk/FTG).



## DIARY DATES

### HBF and Go Construct STEM Ambassador Online Session

Venue: Online

Date: 16 April 2024, 10am to 11am

### HBF Policy Conference

Venue: 1 Wimpole Street, London

Date: 24 April 2024, 10am to 5pm

### HBF AGM 2024

Venue: Royal Lancaster London

Date: 15 May 2024, 10.30am to 3.30pm

### Skills & Supply Chain Group Meeting

Venue: Thomas Telford UTC, Wolverhampton

Date: 21 May 2024, 10:30am to 3pm

### Mental Health Awareness Training

Venue: Online

Date: 4 June 2024, 9am to 1pm

### Career Attract Group meeting

Venue: Pullman Hotel, London St Pancras

Date: 5 June 2024, 11am to 4pm

To book an event, visit [hbf.co.uk/events](https://hbf.co.uk/events).

## STEM CAREER AMBASSADOR ONBOARDING SESSIONS EXTENDED

HBF and Go Construct have extended their successful onboarding webinars on how to join the STEM network and become Home Building Career Ambassadors for 2024. The informative sessions are open to all home builder employees and the supply chain.

Participants will learn about the sign-up process and tools and resources available to support them to become successful ambassadors. The Home Building Career Ambassador programme has been created

in partnership with STEM Learning and Go Construct to inspire more young people to consider a career in Home Building. The next online sessions will take place on:

- Tuesday 16 April 2024 - 10am to 11am
- Tuesday 3 September 2024 - 10am to 11am
- Thursday 7 November 2024 - 10am to 11am

To find out more, visit [hbf.co.uk/ambassador](https://hbf.co.uk/ambassador).

## POPULAR MASTERCLASS INITIATIVE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Following HBF successfully securing funding from CITB to extend its Brickwork Masterclasses, a further 150 masterclasses have been delivered and nearly 30 more sessions scheduled to take place before the end of June, exceeding expectations. Since the programme launched in 2019, over 11,000 bricklayers have been trained to upskill their brickwork knowledge and improve brickwork quality of new homes.

Building on the success of the Brickwork Masterclasses, HBF launched the Roofing Masterclass with the first training session to be delivered on sites in February this year. These sessions provide participants with practical skills and knowledge on common issues found by NHBC Inspection teams. By the end of June, 130 Roofing Masterclasses will have taken place at sites across the UK



as those working in roofing trades take advantage of the fully funded training. Masterclasses can be booked via the NHBC website at [nhbc.co.uk/shop/training-courses](https://nhbc.co.uk/shop/training-courses)

## WOMEN INTO HOME BUILDING PROGRAMME KICKS OFF IMPACTFUL SECOND YEAR

Earlier this year, HBF came together with members of the home building industry to mark the first year of the successful Women into Home Building Programme at a celebratory event. The programme developed with Women into Construction (WIC) aims to attract more women into site management roles by providing industry training and practical work placements.

Since its launch, the programme has engaged with 160 women, provided in-depth support to 69 women and supported 47 women to gain site management experience. In 2024, HBF will be partnering again with WIC, along with 11 national home builders to deliver the second year of the Women into Home Building programme.



Applications for the next cohort are open, with the programme scheduled to start on 15 April.

If you are an employer and interested in getting involved in this initiative, please contact [Tracey.Hill@hbf.co.uk](mailto:Tracey.Hill@hbf.co.uk).





### HOPKINS HOMES OFFERS CAREER PATHWAYS FOR ARMED FORCES

Hopkins Homes has become a signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant, illustrating its commitment in supporting the defence community into careers. It is also working closely with the Ministry of Defence Career Transition Partnership to recognise talent and transition them into home building careers.

Hopkins Homes offers comprehensive development pathways on various disciplines including site management, engineering, commercial and technical teams and has gained remarkable success in nurturing talent.

Shane Vinyard, Group Head of Quality & Training at Hopkins Homes, said: "Our entry pathways offer the ideal opportunity to start a career in new homes construction management. Hopkins Homes have enjoyed real success through our program, and I am delighted that we will be offering a further intake later this year."

### OAKMERE HOMES SECURES FUNDING TO UPSKILL WORKFORCE

Oakmere Homes (Northwest) Ltd has received specialised training for its workforce, through the Home Building Employer Network pilot scheme. The network is part of a CITB initiative to support home builders to source and fund training for their workforce that can often be expensive and challenging to find. To date, over 65 home building companies have utilised the network and completed training.

Debbie Albion, Technical and Planning Administration Manager at Oakmere Homes used the service to support her team's training needs. The team completed NHBC virtual training courses on Housing Warranty & After Sales Service and Building Regulations & Controls, fully funded through the programme.

Debbie commented: "I would definitely recommend the Employer Network to other home builders; we were able to access courses which are not usually funded. It was very straightforward, and we just had to pick the course and it was booked and paid for, this makes training and funding a lot easier to access for companies".

The CITB Network pilot aims to simplify the way home builders can access training support and funding. If you would like to learn more, contact [Catherine.Bullough@hbf.co.uk](mailto:Catherine.Bullough@hbf.co.uk).

## GET IN TOUCH WITH THE HOME BUILDING SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

Our goal is to create lasting change by attracting new recruits, setting the highest training standards, and sharing best practices. But we can't do it alone - we need your support to bring these projects to life.

Visit the HBSP page on HBF's website to learn about our working groups and how you can get involved: [hbf.co.uk/hbsp](https://hbf.co.uk/hbsp)  
Alternatively, you can email the team at [skillpartnership@hbf.co.uk](mailto:skillpartnership@hbf.co.uk)