

Meet the speakers



Jane Johnson

Founder and MD,
Careering into
Motherhood

In 2015, after eight months on maternity leave, I returned to work as a Global Director at a multi-national bank and negotiated a job-share. I was the first person there to negotiate a job-share at that level. It was an extremely successful partnership both for my employer and me.

In 2016 I went on to start a highly-successful recruitment business helping women to find senior roles that offered flexible working. My clients included Lloyd's of London, KPMG, BT, HSBC, Covent Garden Market Association, Boston Consulting Group, Nestle, MTR CrossRail, among others.

I was inundated with candidates and could not meet demand, so rather than turn away the women I had set out to help, in 2019 I started the Careering into Motherhood community. Initially as a Facebook group, membership has grown by word of mouth to more than 8,000 women today, and so has our offering. I have run mentoring programmes for 60 women, online coaching programmes during lockdown, launched the award-winning Careering into Motherhood podcast, hosted well-known female speakers at our Masterclass series, even a lockdown comedy night by Zoom. I speak at corporate events for firms that want to be part of a societal change when it comes to women and work. In 2019 I was invited by 10 Downing Street to advise the Department For Business (BEIS) on flexible working.

Throughout all of this I have seen one common thread – coaching, mentoring and a supportive community, can completely change a woman's career trajectory. And post-pandemic, demand for coaching has never been greater. By using our platform to connect women with Coaches and coaching resources, we help them to access more opportunities and to have fulfilling careers.



Ashanti Bentil-Dhue

Chief Executive,
Good Soil Leaders

Ashanti is the CEO of Good Soil Leaders, an inclusion work culture and leadership development company that works with organizations to realize an ROI on their diversity, equity, and inclusion endeavors.

They help organizations realize these benefits through the identification, selection, and engagement of the right DEI experts and providing training, coaching, and consulting to stakeholders involved in DEI work. Ashanti is also the host of Good Soils Podcast and Confessions of A DEI Pro: The Podcast for Practitioners & Consultants.

Meet the Speakers



Sarah Jackson OBE

Sarah is a work-life balance and flexible working expert. Since becoming a parent over thirty years ago, her working life has involved campaigning and practical action to make paid work more inclusive of parents and carers.

She was until 2018 the CEO of Working Families, a role in which at times she job-shared, job-split and worked reduced hours, in order to retain time for her family life. Her experience at Working Families included the annual employer best practice awards, commissioning and editing research into flexible working, and lobbying government on behalf of working mothers and fathers.

She is an expert in workplace discrimination, and in family-friendly and flexible working best practice and policy development. Her innovation and practical thought leadership has included the Modern Families Index, the now annual survey of working parents in the UK: Go Home On Time Day, and the Happy to Talk Flexible Working recruitment initiative.

Sarah is also Visiting Professor at Cranfield University School of Management, Chair of PiPA (Parents and Carers in Performing Arts), a trustee of Rosa, the UK Fund for Women and Girls, and a trustee of Scottish Opera.



Stephanie Hyde
Chief Executive, JLL UK

Stephanie's leadership is a transformational chapter for JLL in the UK, the company's second largest market, at a time when real estate is growing in prominence.

Stephanie joined in Spring 2021 following 25 years at PwC. Her role is to lead the UK business and strengthen JLL's position as the technology focused and market leading real estate advisor. Stephanie is a passionate big advocate of Sustainability, is focussed on meeting JLL's ambitious targets and supporting clients to think beyond words to measurable actions and delivery. She is Chair of the CBI's 'Centre for Thriving Regions and Nations', its flagship vehicle for engaging with the government's levelling up agenda, which is a key priority supports the pivotal role the Real Estate industry can play as a regeneration catalyst.

During her time at PwC, she delivered growth across multiple business lines, developed client programmes in the UK and globally, and ran its industry programme with a key focus on technology, transformation and sustainability. She previously led the UK regional business for PwC and was a member of the firm's Global Leadership Team and UK Executive Board.

She's an avid reader, keen swimmer and loves dogs.

Meet the Speakers



Caroline Iggulden

Associate Editor,
News UK

Caroline Iggulden is Associate Editor at The Sun newspaper. In her current role she is responsible for editorial campaigns and partnerships across print and digital such as the award winning 'Jabs Army' Covid vaccination volunteer drive and 'Green Team' environmental initiative. She is also on the paper's regular editing rota.

Caroline started at The Sun in 2003 as a trainee reporter and has held various positions including Head of Features.

As a writer and editor, Caroline has reported on everything from elections to terror attacks, World Cups to the London Olympics, royal weddings and most recently the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

She spent 5 years in New York where she wrote for The Sun and The New York Post and covered the 2016 US election. Whilst in the states she also consulted on various editorial start-up projects for parent company News Corp.

In 2021 she was nominated for Interviewer of the Year at the British Press Awards. She lives in London with her husband and three children.



Iole Matthews

Head of Bright
Horizons Coaching
and Consultancy

With 30 years facilitation, training and management experience within the charity and private sector, Iole now provides strategic and operations leadership as Head of Bright Horizons Coaching and Consultancy business.

As well as leading a team which delivers coaching globally to over 80 clients, she also manages the Advisory Services in order to bring expert advice to over 40,000 working parents and carers via our Work+Family Space portal. Having been a working mother for the greater part of her career she now has the privilege of supporting working parents across our clients as they make work+family work

Meet the Speakers



Jane Warren

Chief Underwriting Officer,
Liberty Specialty Markets

Jane Warren is Chief Underwriting Officer (CUO) and Active Underwriter at Liberty Specialty Markets (LSM). She is also UK Legal Entities Managing Director, a role she has held since March 2019.

Jane is responsible for strategic and operational leadership relating to Lloyd's Syndicate 4472 SBF. She is a Liberty Managing Agency Limited board member and supports the management of Liberty's underwriting platform at Lloyd's. Jane is also the UK Branch Manager for LSM's European company platform Liberty Mutual Insurance Europe SE and the Executive Sponsor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for LSM.

Jane joined Liberty in 2019 from Axis Specialty Europe, where she was Chief Operating Officer (COO). She was responsible for Axis' international insurance operations in Singapore, Bermuda, Dublin, and London Market, including Syndicate 1686, and maintaining regulatory relationships. The role included supporting the strategic development of key countries and their leadership teams. Jane held a number of senior roles within Axis prior to her appointment as COO.

Jane has over 25 years' experience in the insurance industry in senior management, Operations, Re/Insurance Underwriting, Risk Management, Broking and Regulatory roles.



Julia Ellis

Partner and Head of
Commercial Law,
Ignition Law

Julia has decades of experience supporting businesses with a broad range of commercial challenges and legal needs. She started her career in private practice at international law firms Weil Gotshal and Taylor Vinters, then worked in-house for large corporates including Premier Food, TK Maxx and Centrica.

She later moved to Ignition Law, where she leads the commercial practice, and also advises start-up and SME clients on a broad range of commercial matters, including the supply of goods/services (business-to-business and business-to-consumer); procurement activities; intellectual property and data protection. Most of Ignition's lawyers (including Julia) work remotely on a part-time basis, juggling other roles, businesses and/or the demands of family life.

As well as overseeing the firm's marketing function, Julia is involved in coaching and mentoring early in career lawyers. She is also a mum of two, and so life is never dull!

Meet the Speakers



Neil Peters

Suicide Prevention
Consultant, Nuthatch

Neil is an accomplished freelance programme and project manager specialising in suicide prevention and mental health.

In 2020, Neil set up Nuthatch Consultants to support charities and business with suicide prevention, mental health & well-being advice. They can provide guidance, consultancy and project management to support organisations.

He is currently working with Parents 1st to set up a Pan Essex Peer Support Network to support parents in pregnancy and beyond. As a Dad of two young girls, issues around fatherhood are of particular interest to Neil.

Recent Nuthatch projects have included reviewing suicide prevention and intervention pathways for a local authority, programme managing the launch of the National Suicide Prevention Alliance's lived experience network and working with Samaritans to review Highways England's suicide prevention strategy. Neil worked with JLL to write a suicide prevention strategy for their retail business. He has particular knowledge of reducing suicides in public places.

Prior to setting up Nuthatch, Neil led the award-winning suicide prevention on the railway programme for Samaritans in partnership with Network Rail.

In 2022, Neil presented a 12 part series on Men's Radio called Men Talk Mental Health. Neil's experience has shown that men are talking more about difficult subjects but there is still a real barrier to talking about how they are feeling and their emotional and mental health. The radio series explored with friends and others why this is discussed important issues which affect men's mental health including parenting, fatherhood and supporting partners. He has also launched Nuthatch Retreats, a side project to support people's wellbeing by connecting them with nature.



Suman Hughes

Vice President,
Mastercard

Suman is Vice President, Communications Europe for Mastercard, leading media relations across the region. A passionate believer in the power of communications, her expertise lies in helping a brand connect with its many audiences through integrated campaigns which enhance both external reputation and employee engagement. She is a trusted advisor to executives on all issues related to communications and reputation.

Suman has around 20 years communications experience spanning agency and in-house roles. She has two sons and lives in South-East London.

Meet the Speakers



Mary Doyle

Disability & Inclusivity
Consultant

As a proud wheelchair user, my life and work are dedicated to personal and organisational development to improve inclusion and understanding in society through coaching, consultancy and disability equality training. I want people to rock their difference, whatever it looks like.

Attributes of disabled people are often valued leadership attributes, collaboration, enabling others, empathy, and managing the unknown. I'm not your regular leadership development partner. When thinking about how to optimise personal and organisational performance, collaborating with a disabled female leader and IT geek is not the most obvious option. However, to develop different outcomes you need an experienced person offering alternative perspectives and solutions. I will help you take on your most important challenges, find exciting new directions, make brave choices, and turn them into an outrageous success.

I use my wealth of experience from my corporate positions and as a person who successfully deals with a disability in my life, to assist my clients to maximise their own potential, build inclusive teams and deliver exceptional service to their own customers and employees.



Jen Smollet

Accredited Leadership
Coach

Jen is a professional women's leadership coach. Jen specialises in authentic leadership, supporting women to lead with authenticity, confidence and resilience so that they can thrive in their leadership, with less stress, worry and self-doubt.

A former nurse, Jen and her wife adopted two girls into their family. She is a partner Coach with Careering into Motherhood who has talked about her experience of the adoption process to help other parents going through something similar.

Meet the Speakers



Michael Mpofu

Careering into Motherhood
Advisory Board Member

Michael began his career in South African politics, working for the official opposition and later in government as the spokesperson for the Premier of the Western Cape.

He has influenced policy and led behavioural change campaigns.

A media and Public Relations expert, he advises some of the UK's most influential firms. Michael shares our belief that social change happens through inclusive discussion and diversity of perspective, and he brings his experience of nuanced political and social change to the business as it grows.



Bridget Green

General Counsel and
Company Secretary,
Seraphine

Bridget provides legal counsel to maternity fashion brand, Seraphine, as well as being their HR Director. She joined Seraphine in May 2021, when she was 4 months pregnant - a testament to Seraphine's commitment to working mothers. And she is also a very proud single mother - by choice - of two.

Bridget is a seasoned in-house lawyer having worked almost entirely for well-known retail brands since qualifying. Retail is not known for its generous attitude towards working parents and this is all too often reflected in paleolithic benefits packages and a terrible attrition rate for mothers once they go on maternity leave. Bridget's mission is to ensure that Seraphine's core customer value of being "With Mums for the Journey" goes for its employees too. Seraphine is at the beginning of this journey, but is clear on its mission to "support our working parents with genuinely helpful initiatives, so that they can thrive in both their home and working lives".