



TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WE SPOKE TO OUR SENIOR GARAGE MANAGER IN LEICESTER, **SARAH HORNE**, WHO HAS BEEN BLAZING A TRAIL FOR WOMEN IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR.



**Sarah Horne** is the senior garage manager at our Leicester site, managing a team of eight people. Not only is she the first woman to hold this role, she has also been the first to hold a number of jobs within our business over the years, and has more than 20 years' experience in the industry.

*Q: How did you get into your current role?*

A: I've worked my way up through the business. I joined in 2007 as an administration assistant which was a stop-gap (I'd taken a career break to do a degree in physiotherapy), but quickly became a maintenance controller. I was then promoted to maintenance manager and before long I was running the entire Wales and West Midlands network of 80 employees and 10 garages.

*Q: What attracted you to working in the automotive business?*

A: It began in my childhood – both my dad and older brother ran their own haulage businesses so I would spend my summers in the lorries with them. I loved playing 'Spot the Scania' when we were out on the road and I also helped my brother repair old cars. After I left school I completed a vehicle engineering course and also gained my CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) which allows me to work as a transport manager. It was always a dream to work in the business – and I've realised that dream.

*Q: What are the best bits of your job?*

A: Every day is different – we go from dealing with the weird and wonderful to the run of the mill; I love the variety. There's also a challenging side in terms of learning to use the new technology. I'm also really lucky that I have a really great team to work with, not just in Leicester but within the wider Rivus business.

*Q: How does it make you feel to be the first female to hold a number of roles in the business?*

A: I don't generally think about it because it's just normal to me. I've been doing it for so long. But when I do stop and think, it makes me feel proud – and I know my late dad would be proud too. I've worked hard to get where I am, but I've also been lucky to work with some amazing managers over the years. Two of them were women and they were inspirational to me.

*Q: Would you encourage other females to explore a career in the business?*

A: Absolutely! If you're passionate about the business, as I am, then go for it – and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it!

*Q: What are your future plans – which jobs do you have your eye on?*

A: I quite fancy being a regional garage manager, and then after that maybe having a go at a director role – I don't see any reason why I can't do it.



## International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to:

- + celebrate women's achievements
- + raise awareness about women's equality
- + lobby for accelerated gender parity
- + fundraise for female-focused charities