ATT Welcome: Making tax accessible

Welcomes



23 June 2025

This will be my final message as Deputy President, and I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year.

Many of you may recall that I began, back in July 2024, by sharing a little about my history in tax. I also reminded readers that this is actually my second time serving as Deputy President as I was honoured to hold the role previously in 2016-17. July marked more than just a change for the ATT; it was also a time of political change in the UK, with a new government taking office and the appointment of Rachel Reeves as the country's first female Chancellor of the Exchequer.

While the ATT remains steadfastly apolitical and does not comment on political matters, tax itself remains a highly topical issue across the political spectrum. The Autumn Budget was followed by the Spring Statement, with changes including substantial reforms to the non-domiciled tax regime and the introduction of caps on agricultural and business property reliefs for inheritance tax. If there's one certainty in tax, it's that there is never a dull moment and the pace of change continues to challenge and inspire all of us in the profession.

Throughout these developments, the ATT continues to evolve and adapt to the changing landscape, maintaining its position as the leading professional body for tax compliance. A landmark moment came last year when we welcomed our 10,000th member, a testament to the growing relevance and value of our work.

Making taxation accessible and relevant to the public is an ongoing priority. To achieve this, it's vital that we communicate through the channels people actually use. In 2024, we launched a series of 12 educational YouTube videos designed to demystify key tax topics. This year, we have produced another 12, covering everything from Making Tax Digital and the marriage allowance to some of the more unusual taxes from the past, including the soap tax!

The ATT has also recently launched its own TikTok channel, expanding our social media presence to ensure that we meet people where they are, with clear, engaging and accessible tax content. This is an exciting development that will allow us to reach a wider audience and continue to promote the importance and relevance of tax knowledge.

One of the highlights of any year is the ATT Admission Ceremony. This event never fails to inspire me. It is a true privilege to welcome our newest members into the profession and to celebrate not only their individual achievements but also those of our prize-winners. It's heartwarming to see these successes acknowledged in the presence of proud family and friends.

Of course, no achievement is ever truly the result of a solo effort. Behind every individual success story lies a network of support, whether it's the encouragement of family and friends, the dedication of tutors, or the backing of employers and colleagues. Many of our members have balanced the demands of rigorous study with family commitments or other personal challenges. Their determination and resilience are a powerful reflection of the values that underpin our profession.

Looking ahead, on 10 July I will step up to become President of the ATT, succeeding Senga Prior at our Annual General Meeting. Invitations to the AGM have been sent to all members, and I hope many of you will be able to join us for what will be an important event. At the same time, Barry Jefferd will take over as Deputy President, and Eleanor Theochari will become Vice President. I am confident they will both bring great energy and expertise to their new roles. Whilst this will be my last welcome page as Deputy President, I'm pleased to be leaving you in Barry's safe

hands.

My presidential diary is already filling up with invitations. If any branches would like to invite me to join them, particularly for special events such as anniversaries, please do let the ATT office know.

Finally, as we approach the summer months, I encourage you to take time away from your usual routines. A well-earned break can do wonders for our focus and productivity. I hope you enjoy some restful and meaningful time away from your desks. Whatever your plans, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer. I am excited about the year ahead and look forward to the privilege of serving as your President.