Celebrating Volunteers and Creativity: Joint Presidents' Reception

Briefings



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On Thursday 16 October, the iconic National Theatre provided a fitting backdrop for the Joint Presidents' Reception – an evening dedicated to honouring the exceptional contributions of volunteers within the Association of Taxation Technicians (ATT) and the Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT).

The evening brought together members, council representatives and guests in a venue symbolic of both creativity and collaboration. The evening opened with a warm and insightful welcome from Paul Handley, Production and Technical Director

at the National Theatre, who reflected on the theatre’s rich heritage and its pivotal role in the UK’s cultural landscape.

In their opening remarks, ATT President Graham Batty and CIOT President Nichola Ross Martin paid heartfelt tribute to the volunteers whose commitment underpins the success of branch programmes, governance and shaping the future of the profession. Their speeches explored key themes including the evolution of tax education, ethical considerations around generative AI and the challenges posed by regulatory change.

Guests were reminded of the wider cultural and economic significance of the UK’s creative sector, its close ties with tourism and the importance of maintaining stability in tax reliefs for creative businesses. The discussion acknowledged the unique working patterns of performers and creatives, emphasising the need for flexibility in employment and tax policy.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards, with special recognition given to individuals for their exceptional service. Among the ATT award-winners were Katharine Lindley (ATT Council Award), John Foulkes and Justine Riccomini (Certificates of Appreciation), and Senga Prior (Past Presidential Scroll). CIOT awards were also presented, including certificates of thanks and merit to Ian Hayes, Professor Penelope Tuck, Karen Eckstein, Mike Thexton, Susie Walker and Charlotte Barbour (Past Presidential Scroll). Joint branch certificates celebrated outstanding contributions from Catherine Cox, Andrew Evans, Davyd Fisher, Craig Pollock and Anne Smith.

As Shakespeare famously observed, ‘All the world’s a stage.’ On this occasion, it was a stage for celebrating dedication, creativity and collaboration. The Joint Presidents’ Reception was not only a tribute to the volunteers who make ATT and CIOT thrive but also a reminder of the collective effort that drives both organisations forward.

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Special recognition was given to award winners for their exceptional service.

Image



CIOT President Nichola Ross Martin

Image



ATT President Graham Batty