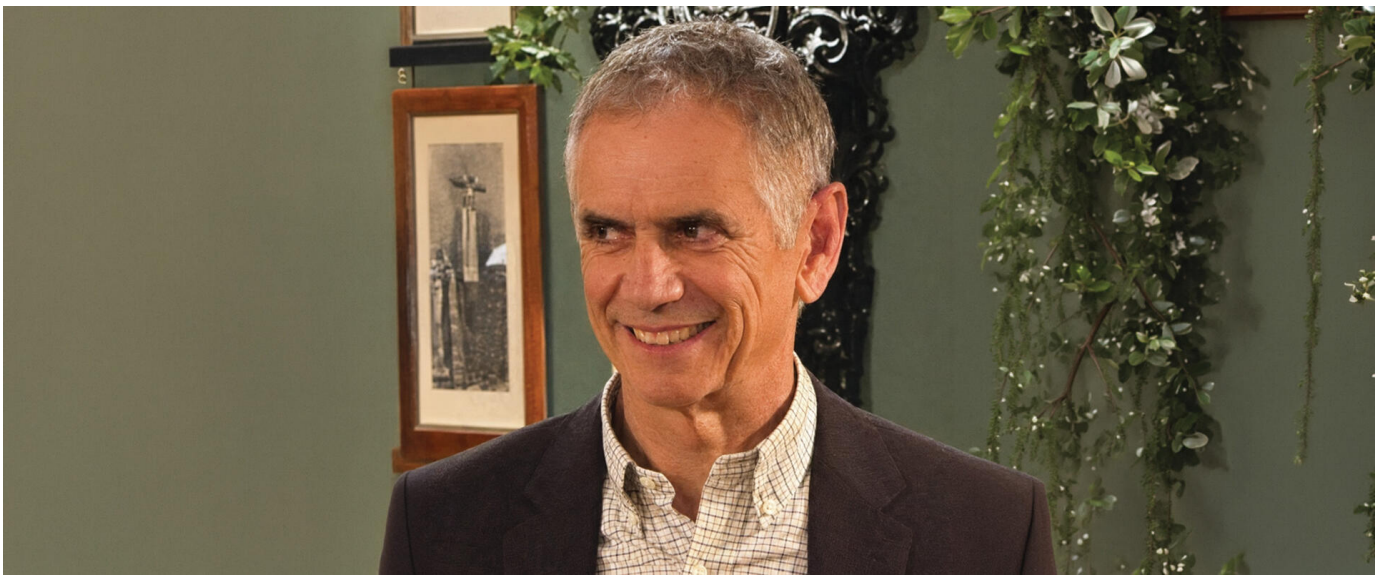
Obituary: Tribute to David Brodie OBE

Briefings

December 2026



27 November 2026

We were deeply saddened to learn that David Brodie OBE passed away in October. David was awarded a CIOT honorary fellowship in 1999 in recognition of his contribution to the tax profession.

David started his tax career at Coopers and Lybrand and founded TaxAid in 1992. He had previously volunteered with a legal advice charity and was struck by how people on low incomes could struggle to solve tax problems because they could notafford advice. The main objective of TaxAid was that people should understand the tax that they are required to pay and have access to free and independent help,where professional advice would be beyond their means. Initially operating in two small rooms in Kilburn High Road, by 1998 TaxAid was helping 30 clients a week.

David was passionate about improving the tax system. In 2001, he was seconded tothe Inland Revenue for two years to help identify policy and procedural changes that would make tax easier for unrepresented taxpayers and played a substantial

part in developing the short taxreturn. David handed the leadership ofTaxAid over to Rosina Pullman in 2001 but continued to volunteer for the charity for another 15 years and supported it throughout his life.

Davids work in setting up TaxAid was an inspiration to John Andrews, who made supporting the lower-paid one of his CIOT presidential objectives and went on to form CIOTs Low Incomes Tax Reform Group (LITRG) in 1998. LITRG worked closely with David and TaxAid. In 2003, Tax Volunteers, trading as Tax Help for Older People, came into existence with support from CIOT.

In 2015, TaxAid and Tax Help collaborated to launch the joint Bridge the Gap fundraising appeal, which led to the two charities working even more closely together. In July 2025, TaxAid and Tax Help for Older People merged, creating the UKssingle strongest voice for tax support. Together, they helped over 18,000 people last year.

David received an OBE for services to low-income taxpayers in 2001. In his later years, he worked for a number of other charities, notably those supporting people with Parkinsons disease.

Stephen Banyard (former TaxAid Chair) said: I feel privileged to have known David. His contribution was inspirational to many. He combined a genuine concern for the people he helped with the courage and vision to set up a charity, which has grown and provides a vital service today. He was a kind and gentle man, with a great sense of humour; a wonderful person to know.

John Andrews said: I have known David from his earliest days as my tax student and saw first-hand his steely resolve to help those who had suffered hardship or injustice. Earlier this year, wewere working together on a non-tax charitable venture and his quick mind andgenerosity of spirit made it a delight. Iwill miss him greatly.

The tax profession has benefited enormously from Davids work, and low-income taxpayers will continue to benefit from his legacy for years to come. Our thoughts are with Davids family.

Victoria Todd
Head of LITRG and
Tax Technical, CIOT