

## **Women in Tax Chair's Report**

### **AGM 2017**

I'm delighted to present my second Annual Report.

Our second debate, in November 2016, looked at "How can we achieve a better tax system?" and we will be continuing the theme tonight, with our debate on "How should we tax multinationals?" For all those who think that a panel is doing well if it includes one or two women, I can assure you that there was no difficulty at all in finding 4 excellent speakers for our panel tonight.

Events in London have settled into a pattern of two "major" events – the debate and a dinner – and a series of "Masterclasses" where a smaller number of women can gather to discuss topics such as confidence-building or mentoring. We have more events planned for the new year, including one on "Finding your voice" which will apparently involve some howling and growling!

We planned our annual dinner in June for a Thursday evening - we managed to avoid the date of the General Election, but unfortunately our planned speaker (Jane Ellison) did not get re-elected, so we had to find another at short notice! We were extremely fortunate that Allie Renison, Head of European Policy at the IoD, was able to step in, and gave us some thought-provoking views on Brexit and other issues.

Over the year our network has expanded, with groups in the East Midlands and West Midlands added to the existing groups in London, Manchester and Bristol. We are happy to encourage other groups – but are not going to start those from the centre; we will support anyone with the enthusiasm to get something off the ground locally.

We look forward to continuing to raise the voice of women in tax, and to being a supportive network. I'd like to thank all of those on the committee for their help, particularly Rhiannon as Secretary and Sarah as Deputy Chair and Treasurer. If you'd be interested in joining the Committee, please let one of us know.

Heather Self

November 2017