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Celebration of Women in Automotive
International Women's Day – 8 March 2018

Thank you to everyone who joined us last week in celebrating International Women's Day at the British Motor Museum! Over 100 of our members turned out to hear from our fantastic panel of speakers, make new acquaintances, and admire the glamorous range of cars on offer. Sarah Noble kicked off the evening, thanking the wonderful women who have helped to inspire and drive Women at the Wheel so far, and looking ahead to the continued growth of the group. Angela Lamont's reflection on the progress of women in society, alongside the development of the automobile, over the past 100 years was certainly food for thought. Both continue to progress rapidly and it's a very exciting time to be a women in the automotive industry!

The lively panel discussion covered a range of topics impacting women in the automotive industry. Points of focus included the benefits of sponsorship versus more traditional mentoring and coaching for women. Pia Wilkes shared her own positive experience, while Kat Hutchings emphasised the importance of being able to clearly and confidently determine what you need from the relationship and ask for it. Flexible working was also a prominent topic, with many stories from the panel and the audience advocating its benefits, from childcare to using it to achieve personal goals. Richard Blackwell reiterated its' benefit to employers in helping retain a company's core value-add – its' workforce. Attracting and keeping women in STEM fields, as well as non-STEM automotive roles, was another popular topic. Orla Murphy recounted disappointing her career adviser by choosing Electronic engineering with music, and many agreed the perception of engineering as a grimy 'hard hat' job remains a challenge. Shedding light on the breadth of talent needed in the industry, from artists to scientists, is also another area that, whilst growing, needs further buy-in from schools and universities.

Thank you once again to our panellists – **Orla Murphy, Richard Blackwell, Kat Hutchings** and **Pia Wilkes**, for sharing their incredible experience with us, and to moderator **Angela Lamont** and organiser **Sarah Noble** for so adeptly fielding the many questions across the room!

Become a Member

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