



It is my honour and pleasure to present the North Yorkshire Wine Society's annual chairman's report for the Annual General Meeting of January 2023.

2022 was a momentous year for the society, yet one tinged with sadness following the passing of our esteemed president Ken Stephens. Many of us will have fond memories of Ken's ability to share his extensive knowledge and good humour, evidenced by the large number of members who attended his funeral and wake afterwards.

This was our fiftieth year as a society, a wonderful achievement and a testament to members old and new who are ensuring our longevity. Indeed, we have increased our membership by eight in the last year and with some members returning following the pandemic, our finances and future appear healthy this coming year. To this end I would like to extend my grateful thanks and appreciation to all of our members for their continued support and attendance.

I firmly believe that the members are the lifeblood of the North Yorkshire Wine Society and it is vital for the future of the society that members play an active role where possible, and I am grateful to those members who offer to share their knowledge or experiences of wine as part of our annual programme in addition to our 'professional' speakers. We will continue our policy to have three presentations by members in the coming year.

I offer my thanks to all of our committee members for giving up their time to help ensure the smooth running of the society. In particular I would like to highlight Alayne our secretary, who has for several years ensured communication to members and organised our annual programme; Alan our treasurer, who advises and ensures efficient management of our finances and Mike who is active in booking our summer and Christmas dinners as well as procuring the wines which we enjoy and are always excellent choices. I would also like to thank Sheila for agreeing to be co-opted to the committee to stand in for Mick who has understandably been unable to attend meetings, and her contribution to those meetings.

There will be some changes in our committee membership and activity in 2023. Jon, our current vice chairman has taken over the planning and organising of the annual programme for 2024. There will also be a vacant position on the committee as Nancy is expected to be formally recognised as society president during the AGM and constitutionally will no longer attend committee meetings.

I would like to thank Garry Yorke who recently “retired” from his role ensuring a choice of biscuits are available at each table during tasting meetings. Garry has done a sterling job for many years and has now handed the mantle to Jane Priestley. Thanks to Jane for offering to take on this role.

The committee and I would like to express our thanks to member Graham Copping who curates our website and has put a lot of time and effort into giving the site a completely new look and update and is still adding tasting notes from meetings of previous years. As an expression of thanks, the committee took the decision to offer Graham an honorary membership, which we are pleased to say, was gratefully accepted. If you haven't accessed our website recently, please visit and see the improvements for yourself.

Our presence on social media continues to develop and we have increasing Instagram followers in the UK and across the world. Those followers include some famous faces so please have a look and see for yourself!

As mentioned earlier, this was a celebratory year for the Wine Society, which included presentations by some excellent speakers and offerings from our members. Some memorable meetings included those by Rebecca Gibb who indulged us with her choices of “fizz”, the ever-popular Paul Tate-Smith who offered us “a trip around Italy” and the excellent Richard Goodacre with whom we shared an interesting “Golden Celebration” of wines rooted in each decade of the life of the society (very clever!). You may also remember presentations by committee members one of which was pulled together at very short notice following a cancellation, and which provoked much chatter and laughter as well as providing some excellent wines for tasting.

Our summer dinner, while a disappointment for some due to some issues with the food, was still an enjoyable gathering with some good wine choices. At our annual Christmas dinner, held yet again at the Queen's Head in Finghall, there were an amazing 51 attendees and everyone appeared to have an enjoyable night.

Our monthly tasting meetings will continue to be held in Richmond Cricket Club in 2023 and I would like to express my thanks to the staff there. We will also continue with our new policy of providing a finger buffet for those planned meetings where society members present wine tastings.

I look forward to welcoming you to our monthly tasting meetings during 2023 and hope you enjoy the programme that has been put together on your behalf.

Best wishes to all for 2023.

Rob Carr

Chairman.