



North Yorkshire Wine Society Annual General Meeting

January 2024

It is my pleasure to present the North Yorkshire Wine Society's annual chairman's report for the Annual General Meeting of January 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their attendance and support throughout the year enabling the society to continue in offering opportunities to hear thought provoking presentations, develop our knowledge and of course taste some interesting wines.

2023 began with our AGM where we sampled "Wines from Meetings Past". In February wines from "Hidden France" were presented by HC Wines. In March a new, but I expect a likely future favourite, Preet Sahota from Edgmond Wines shared a tasting from "South Africa", while in April an old favourite Dr Jamie Harrison brought us wines from "Italy". Our first society member presentation of the year was given by David Saville who shared some "Grape Shakes" and the following month, the Summer Party was held in The Saddle Rooms at The Forbidden Corner near Middleham. It was an enjoyable evening commencing with drinks and canapés in the courtyard then delicious food and wines in the upstairs dining room.

In July our very own wine expert Mike Wherrett introduced us to "Wines from Uruguay". Our August meeting was potentially thrown into some disarray when the guest speaker cancelled at very short notice. Thankfully our own local hero Paul Tate Smith stepped in at almost the last minute and gave us "Wines from the Iberian Peninsula". September brought us the challenge of "Where in the World" presented by Laura Kent. In October, a firm favourite and friend of the society Richard Goodacre introduced us to the "Lesser-Known Regions of Spain" and in November our member Mick Whitaker presented wines encountered in his and Anne's travels in 'Sicily'.

As usual our Christmas Dinner at the Queen's Head in Finghall was yet another splendid evening and once again the food was delicious, the company was excellent and made even more special by the wonderful wine choices procured by Mike Wherrett.

We will continue to hold our monthly tasting meetings in Richmond Cricket Club during 2024. I would like to thank the manger and staff at the Cricket Club for their help and support in allowing us to carry on holding meetings in our current venue.

During 2023 we continued to provide a buffet supper when society members are presenting a tasting meeting. This has been quite costly after the cricket club kitchen closed and had to be out-sourced. This will be one of the discussion points at the coming year's AGM.

2023 saw nine new members join the society bringing our total membership to sixty-six. Our membership continues to grow and although our costs outstripped our revenue during the last year due to some non-recurring costs and the increased costs of providing a buffet at tastings when presented by members, but our finances are likely to be in better health through this coming year. There are, however, some anxieties regarding the cost of wines, venue and speaker's fees, all of which may impact in the longer term on monthly tasting charges.

It was good to see Jonathon Volks attend a meeting following his long period of ill health; and our thoughts and best wishes go out to Graeme Copping, our only Honourary Member, who also manages our website, who has been ill, spending some considerable time in hospital while recovering.

Updates to our website and social media account are on hold while Graeme recovers.

Later in the year we were all saddened to hear of the passing of long-standing member Judy Sheehan. I'm sure society members will have fond memories of Judy and our thoughts have been with Ray during the festive season.

A new introduction this year has been the use of a SumUP machine, which means that members can now pay tasting fees by card, rather than cash only. This system along with BACS payments makes it easier to manage the banking of society funds. Members will still be able to make cash payments if they prefer.

I step down as chairman at this AGM and I would like to thank members of the committee for giving up their own time to help in the running of the Wine Society.

In particular I would like to offer a special thank you to Alayne for her tireless work as secretary. Thank you to Alan for his time and skill in managing the society finances. Thank you to Jon for pulling together the 2024 programme. I would also like to offer a big thank you to Mike who has offered sage advice and continued to book the venue and also source excellent wines for the Summer and Christmas dinners, his experience as a long-standing committee member has been invaluable.

Thank you to members David, Mike and Mick for presenting tastings during the last year, all were very well received. Thank you to Jane and Jon for ensuring a supply of biscuits and crackers are available at each table every month. Thank you to the team of wine pourers and thank you to all members who at various points have helped out in the preparation and clearing up after tasting meetings. The ongoing success of the Society is totally reliant on the support of our members.

I look forward to seeing you all at our monthly tasting meetings during the coming year and hope you enjoy the programme that has been put together on your behalf.

Very best wishes to you all for 2024.

Rob Carr

Chairman.