



Whitewater Valley Wine Society

25th Anniversary Dinner

Friday 20th April 2012

Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick

A message from our Chair

As Chair of the Whitewater Valley Wine Society, I feel both privileged and delighted to be a part of this amazing wine society. The fact that the Society is now 25 years old, really speaks for itself. It has grown from a few members to over 70. Interestingly, our membership is a mix of both long time and newer members. The opportunity to learn whilst having fun has stood us in good stead.

Through our membership with other wine lovers, many of us have made firm and long lasting friendships, as well as serving Ernie Gosling's original purpose of exploring and enjoying the world of wine.

Thank you all for your considerable part in making the Society the success that it quite obviously is.

Long may it continue!

Tylney Hall Hotel

THE Whitewater Valley Wine Society celebrates its 25th anniversary on Friday 20th April 2012.

The venue for our special black-tie evening is Tylney Hall Hotel, located near Rotherwick and just a couple of miles from Hook. Tylney Hall is a Grade II listed building and remains an outstanding example of a luxury country house hotel that has never lost its old world sense of charm.

The Society is using the Mattingley Suite, a room full of grandeur and splendour, situated in the main part of this magnificent Victorian era mansion house. It is ideal for our special Anniversary Dinner.

The menu

*Roast Tomato and Red Pepper Soup
with Mozzarella and Pesto*

*Cured Salmon with Crab,
Pink Grapefruit and Coriander*

Roquefort Cheese, Walnut and Pear Salad

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*Seared Fillet of Sea Bass with Spinach
and Warm Tomato and Basil Vinaigrette*

*Pan Fried Breast of Guinea Fowl with Bacon,
Cabbage, Onions and Madeira Jus*

*Traditional Roast Sirloin of Scottish Beef
served with Yorkshire Pudding, Creamed Horseradish
and Red Wine Jus*

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*White and Dark Chocolate Truffle Torte
with Baileys' Milk Shake*

*Warm Apricot and Almond Tart
with Fresh Vanilla Custard*

*Traditional Crème Brûlée
with Lemon and Almond Biscotti*

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Coffee

Margaret Harvey, MW

The Society is delighted to welcome our guest speaker, Margaret Harvey, Master of Wine.

Our longer standing members know Margaret very well, as she has supported our Society for many years, presenting several tastings to us during the 1990s and up until 2004. Margaret is thus a perfect choice as our guest speaker and we know that our members will be delighted to hear her speak again.

Margaret was born and educated in Auckland, New Zealand, and came to the UK in 1975. She created Fine Wines of New Zealand in 1985 and passed her Master of Wine in 1991. In 1998, she was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit and in 2006 became an Honorary Life Member to the New Zealand Winegrowers for services to the industry. Margaret continues to work in the wine industry and this year chaired the judging of New Zealand wines in the Decanter World Wine Awards.

List of Society Chairs

1987 - 1992	Peter Abbott
1992 - 1994	Derek Oliver
1994 - 1996	Peter Dredge
1996 - 1998	Elwyn Wareham
1998 - 2000	Mac Cox
2000 - 2001	Peter Abbott
2001 - 2003	Liz Cooper
2003 -	Margaret Steer

The Society's history

The early years.....

In early 1987, wine enthusiasts Ernie & Eileen Gosling placed an advertisement in the local Gazette, inviting anyone with an interest in wine to attend a meeting at the Elizabeth Hall. At that meeting, Ernie talked a lot about how a society could be formed and there was plenty of enthusiasm about the idea. At the conclusion of the meeting, a decision was taken to form a wine society, based in Hook.

There was a lot of discussion about the name of the new society, those present finally settling on *Whitewater Valley Wine Society*. This name reflected the desire to support the local community, but also recognised that many of those present did not live in Hook.

Ernie asked for volunteers to be Chairman and to take roles on a committee. As a result, Peter Abbott took on the role of founding Chairman, duly supported by Ernie himself in the role of Secretary.

The Society chose to meet for tastings in the Elizabeth Hall, a venue which was used for many subsequent years.

Peter Abbott held the role of Chairman for the first five years, a role he later reflected "was great, because you get others to do the work, you get to talk with the speakers, and being at the front get to second helpings first!"

There are no detailed records of the Society's activities during the first six years and no information about the speakers who presented the wines.

The Society archives date back to 1993/94, when the prestigious list of speakers included newly qualified Master of Wine Margaret Harvey, giving her first presentation to the Society. At this time, members paid £9 to attend the monthly tastings, which makes our current charge of £12 seem excellent value, nearly 20 years later!

Whitewater Valley Wine Society			
Tasting Date: 8th June 1994			
Presented by: Margaret Harvey, MW			
Name of the Wine	Eye	Aroma	Pallate & Overall Comments
£5.95 Seifried Estate Dry Riesling 1993 Nelson +92	clear	pleasant/ light	very little taste! needs something else!
£4.95 Aotea Sauvignon Blanc 1993 Gisborne	very clear dark in colour	Gooseberry/ Pleasant	Keen drinking - not strong (aroma)
£5.95 Redwood Valley Sauvignon Blanc 1993 Nelson A	crystal clear	nothing	Tingles on tongue. (dry)
£5.95 Aotea Chardonnay 1993 Gisborne 12/26	clear	flavoury	very pleasant BUY.
£7.35 Redwood Valley Chardonnay 1992 Nelson 12/26	thick	Aspar.	heavy.
£12.95 Rippon Pinot Noir 1992 Wanaka Queensland	light in colour	light earthy	Too young
£10.75 Redwood Valley Cabernet Sauv- ignon 1991 Nelson 12/26	rich	heavy fruit	full! BUY.
£5.95 Redwood Valley Late Harvest	thick	honey	Good pudding, wine

Member Mo Stone's tasting sheet for June 1994, an evening of New Zealand wines presented by Margaret Harvey.

By 1994, the venue for meetings had become the community centre in Ravenscroft. Speakers in the mid 1990s included Alun Griffiths from Berry Brothers, Chris Horridge and Keith Grainger, all of whom we have invited to return to speak to us in this 25th anniversary year. A highlight of the summer was always a visit to Hampshire's Woodings Vineyard, owned by late member Charles Cunningham.

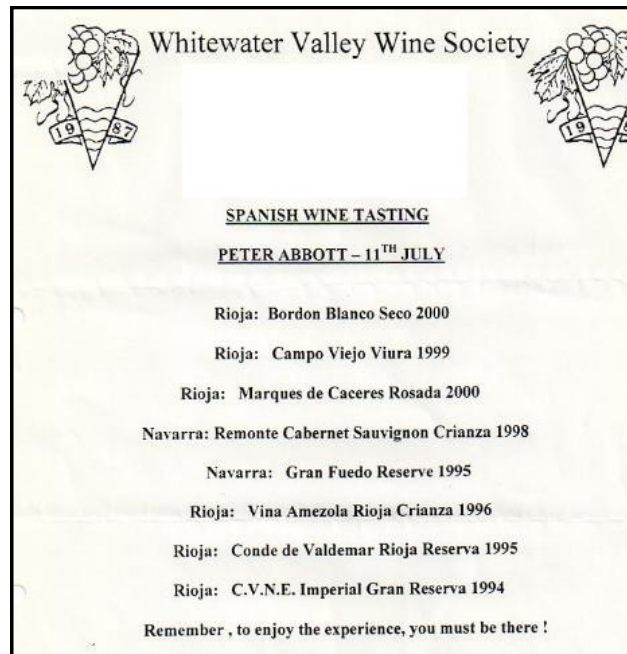
Another speaker who presented in February 1995 was a certain Keith Cooper, who along with his wife Liz, had joined the Society a few months earlier. He presented a blind tasting, run as a competition which was won by member Paul Nolan.

The second half of 1995 was a sad time for the Society. The death of Secretary David Steer was rapidly followed by the death of founder Ernie Gosling. Chairman Peter Dredge's committee had shrunk to just three. So he was keen to recruit Amanda Waters and Alan Waters as joint Secretaries, and Mac Cox, who would later become Chairman.

Following the death of Ernie Gosling, his close friend Jasper Morris (then of Morris & Verdin and now Burgundy Director at Berry Brothers & Rudd) organised the Ernie Gosling Memorial Tasting, an event which was repeated twice more in the late 1990s. The Society holds in its archives the Visitors Book signed by attendees, many of whom were Society members. The book refers to Ernie as "the man who uncorked the region's passion for wine". The wines tasted included Chateau Latour 1986, Pol Roger 1988, Chateau Brane Cantenac 1982 and Oloroso Anada 1918! The lucky few of us still remember the experience!

In 1997, Jasper also presented a 10th anniversary tasting to the Society, featuring 11 wines, one from each vintage from 1987 to 1997 inclusive. It was around this time that Diana Urquhart kept watch on the finances as Treasurer, whilst Dolly Ramnarine and Barbara Jones joined the committee, both of whom continue to serve today.

The Society had weathered many changes during a two year period and it was down to the new recruits to take the Society forward through what was a difficult time for the Society. They were fortunate that founder Peter Abbott was ready to help and happy to stand for a further stint as Chairman.



The tasting sheet for July 2001, an evening of Spanish wines presented by Peter Abbott.

The Society's history

Recent years.....

Under the chairmanship of Peter Abbott, the committee were keen to take the Society into the new millennium and to restore the numbers which had dwindled a little. Terry Holdsworth took on the role of Treasurer and Tony Wallis became Secretary. Keith and Liz Cooper also joined the committee and a year later Liz found herself nominated as the next Chair of the Society.

Faced with average attendances in the low 20s, Liz mustered the team for a mass leaflet drop across Hook. During a seven day period, the committee hand delivered nearly 2,000 leaflets to homes in the town. It worked and within 12 months numbers had risen to the mid 30s!

The Society introduced many new speakers, whilst continuing to bring back the members' favourites. The former included Diego di Napoli (Puglia) and Sandie Leckie (Chateau Musar vertical), whilst over 40 members took advantage of an invitation from Berry Brothers to visit their warehouse in Basingstoke.

In February 2003, Margaret Steer became Chairperson and Keith Cooper took on the role of Secretary, both of whom have held those positions to the current day. Further new faces to join the committee included Alan Culver, Alastair Dudley, Ken Pickworth and Val Richardson.

The Society's growth continued unabated and the community centre was filled to capacity on many occasions. In October 2004, the Society welcomed back Margaret Harvey for what we believed might be her last visit to the Society prior to her retiring from her business, Fine Wines of New Zealand. Such was our desire to fit everyone in that we relocated for one month only to The Raven Hotel, where 46 members and guests enjoyed a splendid selection of Kiwi wines.

The increasing numbers gave more opportunities for special events, members enjoying summer garden parties, barbeques, dinner and dancing at Peppone's restaurant, as well as annual pre-Christmas weekends to The Chine in Bournemouth. We also welcomed Claire Ford on to our committee and Roger Faircloth as Treasurer, followed by Cliff Allen.

By 2007, the Society had been tasting wines for 20 years and we celebrated with a black tie dinner at Heckfield Place. Having supported us so well throughout the years, Alun Griffiths MW of Berry Brothers, was a natural choice for our guest speaker. Alan summed up the evening by saying "It was a glorious setting, the food was good, the

wines accompanied the food well and the port was lovely. It was a privilege to talk to such an enthusiastic audience.”

The following year presented another opportunity for a fine wine dinner, when the legendary Michael Broadbent MW accepted our invitation to be guest speaker. Seventy-two members and guests had the opportunity to meet the grand master and hear him speak. The wines we tasted included Alfred Gratien champagne, Chateau Desmirail 2000 and Smith Woodhouse 1985 port, the final wine being Michael’s favourite of the evening.

By 2009, it was becoming clear the Society had outgrown the space at the community centre and a new venue was needed. Wishing to stay in Hook town, The Raven Hotel was an obvious choice and it has been our home ever since. Members have welcomed the higher levels of comfort and the committee has welcomed not having to move all the furniture at the beginning and end of the evening!

In 2011, the Society introduced its own website, so our activities can now be viewed by all in the local community and beyond. Jim King also joined the committee during the year and is well known by all for his keeping “Order”.

It was not long before we had filled our room at The Raven, with 60 members attending the tasting presented by Matt Sutherland of Dog Point Vineyard. The Society has a record number of 72 paid up members, with average attendances of between 40 and 50 at our tastings.

In 2012, the Society celebrates its 25th anniversary. The highlight of our anniversary year is this Society dinner at Tylney Hall Hotel, where 55 of us have gathered to mark this special occasion. And what better choice of guest speaker could there be than Margaret Harvey, who we are delighted to welcome once again.

List of dinner attendees

Table 1

Margaret Harvey
Terry Holdsworth
Marti Holdsworth
Tim Sutcliffe
Diana Urquhart
Roger Faircloth
Rosemary Faircloth
Sandra Pickworth
Ken Pickworth
Margaret Abbott
Peter Abbott

Table 2

Margaret Steer
Mark Smith
Amanda Waters
Chris Crane
Brian Waren
Sonia Halliday
Alastair Dudley
Sheridan Dudley
Claire Ford
Richard Ford
Val Richardson

Table 3

Keith Cooper
Liz Cooper
Di Warner
Dave Palmer
Barbara Mullins
Brian Mullins
Jennie Loader
Carl Loader
Hazel Bentley
Ashley Doggett
Dolly Ramnarine

Table 4

Paul Spencer
Simon Cubbage
Mary Jenkins
Chris Bromage
Gaynor Chen
Peter Chen
Hettie Dibbin
David Dibbin
Simon Hindshaw
Sheila Hindshaw
Barbara Jones

Table 5

Alan Culver
Deborah Murgatroyd
Mo Stone
Alan Cruickshanks
Elaine Denton
Matthew Denton
Gill Wright
Ian Surrey
Sue Moore
Ian Andrew
Martha Huckins

Thanks and Appreciation

This booklet has been compiled by Secretary Keith Cooper to mark the 25th anniversary of the Society. Keith joined the Society in the mid 1990s and has held the position of Secretary for 9 years.

Keith would like to extend his appreciation to the following members, past and present, who have provided considerable amounts of information and materials relating to the Society's history.

Peter Abbott

Margaret Steer

Mo Stone

Peter Dredge

A copy of this booklet can be downloaded from the Society's website at www.whitewaterwine.org.uk

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