

Whitewater Valley Wine Society

Tasting Report: 30th Anniversary Dinner, April 2017

Guest Speaker:

Robin McMillan, Chief Executive of The Wine Society

Report by Keith Cooper

On Friday 7th April, about 50 members and guests gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Society. Our venue was Elvetham Hotel in Hartley Wintney, a stunning, privately owned estate, set in 35 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds.

We gathered in the Front Hall where we enjoyed **The Wine Society's Alfred Gratien Brut NV** champagne, served in magnums – and there was plenty of it! The men were in DJs and the ladies wore a variety of splendid outfits, it was a great opportunity to look our best!

We were then called into the glorious Oak Room for dinner where the splendour of the décor was immediately apparent. The hotel staff had done a brilliant job laying the tables, the place settings immaculate.

Our Chair Margaret Steer welcomed those present. Secretary Keith Cooper then welcomed our guest speaker for the evening, The Wine Society's Chief Executive Robin McMillan, along with his wife Gill. Robin said a few words about the champagne we had already drunk, then he introduced the white to accompany our starter, **The Wine Society's Exhibition Chablis Premier Cru, Montmains Jean Marc Brocard 2015**.

A little later Robin introduced the reds to accompany our main course, from New Zealand, **Dog Point Pinot Noir 2014** and from Argentina, **Mendel Unus Mendoza 2013**.

All the wines were sourced from The Wine Society – and they were all exceptionally good.

After our dessert and cheese courses, Robin then spoke to our members, giving them an insight into the running of The Wine Society. His chat included some great anecdotes from his career in wine. And he thanked all our members who are also members of The Wine Society for their continued support.

Throughout the whole evening there had been a great buzz in the air as members enjoyed the food, the wine and the atmosphere. It was nearly midnight by the time most of us were ready to leave. As we left, we knew the evening had been very special. It had been a fitting way to celebrate 30 years of the Whitewater Valley Wine Society.

We offer our sincere thanks to Robin McMillan and his wife for coming along to share our celebration evening with us. We were privileged to be

able to enjoy his company and to hear him speak.

We also offer huge thanks to our Chair Margaret Steer who put so much time and effort into preparing for our evening, thus helping to make it such a success.