



40th Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 17th February 2026
7.45pm Whiston Parish Hall, Whiston**

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Houfe, Julie and Howard Thompson, Steve and Rebecca Wragg, David and Paula Hunter, Sheila and Robert Hunt, Matt and Lisa Twigg,

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th February 2025, had been previously circulated and copies were available to all members on the night.

3. Matters arising from these minutes.

CD outlined the 40th Anniversary celebrations to be discussed further at item 7, and commemorative pin badges/ medals were handed to all members present. The Vineyard option had proved too costly. However, an opportunity to meet the grower had arisen courtesy of The Grape Kitchen. 25th Feb 2026, 1pm to 4pm. The email had been sent out separately.

4. Chairman's Report

CD outlined the calendar we have enjoyed for the previous 12 months. This included, Lightfoot Wines, Members' Night, Mexican with DC Italian with CD, South American evenings, Sparkles with DT, Barry Starmore, Minted and Skinted, Call My Bluff with JC, Unusual Wine Bottles and Aldi v Lidl with MH and the Christmas party.

CD took the opportunity to thank all committee members saying what a privilege it was that David Clay would be presenting tonight's wine at the 40th anniversary, which he and Doris had been members of for 40 years.

CD made particular reference to DT the Treasurer who tirelessly presented the accounts and kept us on track, DD the Secretary for inspiration, new committee members DG, SH, and JG, who had each brought fresh ideas and support, JG and ED for catering, JC for his unwavering support and holding the longest period of chairman, MH for developing and maintaining the website, along with the fantastic Christmas tree he provides at the church, GB for volunteering to be audit accounts examiner, and for everyone who attended and supported the FWC.

CD advised that Robert Hunt had been a committee member for a number of years but was not going to stand for this year's committee. Thanks were given to Robert for his support and commitment.

CD made reference to the Committee Meeting held on 14th October 2025, where the unanimous decision was made to make David Clay an honorary member.

CD presented DC with a gift and poster to express the club's thanks for his loyal service, and some chocolates to show our appreciation to Doris. As of today, at the 40th anniversary, DC was awarded the position of honorary life member of the club, attending all future meetings as a guest of the club in recognition of all his hard work and the commitment he has given in all his varying roles.

5. Treasurer's Report

DT gave a presentation on the current financial position of the FWC accounts. Income and Expenditure Statement was circulated for the period ending 31st December 2025.

DT outlined that in 2024 we had a surplus of £78.18, reducing in 2025 to £68.04, in December 2025 the bank balance was £711.11 an increase of £ 68.04.

In summary we had paid less for the same amount of wine we had drank, but our expenditure on events had increased. DT recommended that the monthly fee of £10.00 should remain the same.

CD thanked DT for her meticulously attention to detail and all the work she had done, especially with the frustrations of the card machine.

Bank statements and Dashboard illustration were circulated and are available on request.

6. Election of Officials

CD asked for the room to vote for the Chairman Clive Davis, Secretary Deborah Davis, Treasurer Dawn Towler FCCA, and the following committee members John Coates, Sylvia Harris, Jo Graham, Emilio Darden Linares, David Greenslade, Matthew Hopps. David Clay remains an honorary member with an open invite to meetings.

7. Future Events

CD outlined the future tasting calendar:

March 2026 - Preet Sahota - New presenter

April – Members' Night volunteers please, bite sized food pairing optional. DT, GB,MS JB volunteered

May - The Grape Kitchen - New Presenter

June - Barry Starmore

July - The Endless Summer - In Search of the Perfect Wine CD

August - Summer Party. Ticked Event, in the Main Room, with live entertainment. All welcome friends and family. Cost tbc

September - Lightfoot Wines tbc

October - Gothic Wine Halloween Special MH

November (4th Tuesday) - Annual Dinner Sitwell Golf Club (Christmas Menu)

December - Call My Bluff party night.

8. Any Other Business

Room change.

CD advised that we could swap to the bigger room but it would involve starting at 8pm. Also an additional cost. The mood in the room was to re arrange the chairs and tables to try and create more space, so as not to lose the cosy atmosphere. We would review this at the forthcoming committee meeting 24th March after a room layout had been tried in March.

DB on behalf of the wider FWC gave thanks to the Chairman CD for his hard work and commitment to the FWC.

Sandwiches and cakes were provided from Costco and served with vegan and vegetarian options.

9. CD closed the meeting, and thanked everyone for turning out on such a cold and wintry evening.