

### AGM Report – Editor Mike Jupp.

Well, what can I say ? With many years of being associated with our journal after this latest period of 6 years you see me on my way for someone else to take up the reigns, which I very much hope happens.

As you know I'm going due to what happened - which was one committee officer thinking it was ok to "mislead" me ( to put it politely ) for his own convenience and two others thinking I wouldn't find out they had sent emails to me with bits removed to hide what they really said - as well as an officer thinking it was ok to circulate a private email from me to all the committee members.

I confess I didn't expect that after all I had done over the years for our group and I assume you would have been as upset as me. The situation might have been different and salvable if I had been offered any apologies for what happened but I wasn't, so that was that. I thought hard and was very reluctant to do so but felt I had no option left than to resign. Despite that I've done my best to still communicate properly with everyone but can't say that has been reflected by all.

I could have resigned two issues ago after the Spring issue but that's not the way I work or am so I decided not to let you down and continue until this issue so the group had every opportunity in the following six months to find someone else. Apart from giving my assurance I would do my best to help that person I haven't been party with any attempts to find a replacement. I hoped the committee would but as I write this it sadly appears they have failed.

I suspect some will say in this day and age everyone should be receiving it by email but to me that breaks with the tradition of members having it to save and in their hands to read whenever they want. For all the years before emails that was what we did and I don't see why it should stop now – assuming someone can still be found to produce it.

As you know I've also been concerned about "unapproved" spending of our group's money. My belief is if it is going to be spent then it should be discussed and agreed by the committee beforehand rather than that being a "fait accompli". Our committee may be spread far and wide with us being a group covering the 7 counties in the South West but with emails it really is easy for everyone to be involved – than **not** ! I have spoken with our Chairman who has assured me in future that will not happen and everything will be properly discussed and agreed.

Our group is small and doesn't have too much to decide during the year but I sadly found there was a reluctance, at times I would even go so far as to say a refusal to manage ourselves properly by having things decided by a committee vote. Indeed, I found I had to ask/insist upon that when it wasn't being done. Living in a democracy I would hope you will agree that shouldn't happen or be needed, yes ? Hopefully the committee will have learnt from the lessons from the past year and will ensure such things do not happen again.

One thing for which I apologise for is not completing the scanning/archiving of the Westvet journals. This is currently in the capable hands of Busy Fingers, our printers who have served us so well during my editorship. Having failed to accomplish that as promised I will now ensure it's completed as soon as possible. I'd like to think you'll miss me, perhaps not ! Cheers and all the best to you, Mike.