



West Suffolk Fine Wine Society

Newsletter December 2024

Dear Members,

I am finding it hard to believe it is December already; where did the year go. The good thing is that in three weeks the evenings will start to draw out once more!

Those of you who were at the AGM last month will remember that you completed a questionnaire, for which, thank you. I thought it would be appropriate to summarise the points raised.

- There was a unanimously positive response to the qualitative questions about tastings, with most responses strongly agreeing that they were enjoyable, well run and good value.
- People enjoyed the nature and variety of the club's programme.
- A number of people thought that there were one or two meetings too many (probably a reflection on our increased number of tastings post-Covid when we probably felt that we were making up for lost time!)
- Interestingly there was little enthusiasm for diversification or for organising meals with wine.
- Many also disagreed that they preferred tastings with an element of food.
- A good number of members had taken advantage of the club's negotiated discounts but equally quite a lot had not.

The committee has taken note of the views expressed and will be discussing them at our next planning meeting.

Those who responded via the questionnaire represent only around a third of the total membership, so if you were not at the AGM or did not return your questionnaire, please feel welcome to let us know what you think and any ideas you have at any time by sending me an email.

sue.leake@btinternet.com

Forthcoming Events

December 11th Christmas Event

Those of you who have expressed an interest in this event will now have received an email from Wynn detailing the arrangements.

Dates for your Diary 2025-Great Barton Village Hall

We will be taking a break in January, with no tasting planned - there is little appetite for a tasting so close to Christmas and the New Year - certainly it is difficult to find presenters for this month of the year.

In February, we are hoping to have a tasting presented by a well known and popular local wine merchant who has not visited us for quite a while, but who is always an entertaining and informative presenter with excellent and good value wines. We are just waiting for confirmation and will publish the details as soon as we can.

Our visitor in March (March 10th) is "The Antipodean Sommelier", another presenter with a good track record who we look forward to welcoming again.

April has become the traditional month for our Annual Dinner, and we are hoping that we will be able to return to West Suffolk College once again.

In May, we have another visit from the extremely popular Preet Sahota, who will build his tasting around the theme of single-vineyard wines.

All the information about these events, including prices and payment codes, will be sent to members as soon as possible.

Membership Renewal-due by December 31st 2024

It is time to renew your membership and the form is attached along with the newsletter. At the AGM, the following renewal fees were agreed:

- Joining fee remains the same- £15.00/head to include tasting glasses
- Annual membership fee to increase to £16.00 individual, £32.00 for a couple
- Tastings to increase to £12.00

Please complete one of the following.

1. Forms completed electronically are to be emailed to sue.leake@btinternet.com

Payment by BACS- reference code MR

2. Send a signed copy of this form with your cheque payable to WSFWS, for £32.00 or £16.00, as appropriate to: Mrs Hazel Denton, 3 Abbeyfields, Haughley, Suffolk, IP14 3TA

REMINDERS

Please remember to bring your glasses to all events unless otherwise notified.

Please remember that you are welcome to bring a guest or two to events which are not subject to limited capacity. This is especially true if they are potential new members. There will be a small surcharge for guests - please contact Wynn to enquire before booking.

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS' BENEFITS-please ensure you have your membership card with you at the time.

- **The Three Kings Fornham St Martin**, Hengrave Rd, Fornham All Saints, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6LA. Tel. 01284 658866

10% discount off the final bill (food and drink) subject to availability and the following terms and conditions: Offer agreed by Chris Lee (Owner)

- *A booking must be made in advance, mentioning your membership number of the WSFWS*
- *At least two courses of food from the restaurant's main or classics menu must be ordered*
- *Not available on special days such as Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, Easter Sunday etc. Please check availability if in doubt.*

- *There may occasionally be other special offers/events available to members (information will be in the monthly newsletter)*
- *The offer will apply to all members in a group as long as one diner is a WSFWS member*
- **Adnams, Bury St Edmunds**-10% off any purchase. Offer agreed by Tom Crittenden (Manager)
- **The Wine Cellar, Bury St Edmunds**-10% off any purchase. Offer agreed by Bradley Dorrington (Owner)
- **The Angel Hotel, Bury St Edmunds**-20% off any bottle of wine when purchased with at least two courses from the à la carte menu. Offer agreed by Tom Clegg (Deputy Manager)
- **Corney and Barrow, 1 Rous Road, Newmarket CB8 8DH-Tel:01638 600000** 10% off almost all wines on production of a valid WSFWS membership card. Authorised by Rob Gow, Regional Sales Executive newmarket@corneyandbarrow.com

Please support our partner businesses and take advantage of the discounts but report any difficulty you have redeeming the discounts.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all at future events

Kind regards

Sue

Sue Leake Secretary, WSFWS