

U3A ST AUSTELL WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

MID AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER



Dear Wine Group members

A brief mid month letter, just to update you on a couple of events and dates for the diary.

St Austell Arts Centre

You will have already seen from the mail sent by our Treasurer, Chris Scott, that we will be returning to the Arts Centre as our u3a base with effect 1st September.

In addition to the Committee searching for a new venue, I also have been looking for a venue with better facilities and have visited and contacted Church and Village Halls, Golf Clubs and even hotels, however with the need for an evening session and the need for alcohol to be consumed, and at a fair

rate, with car parking, this has eluded me. There is one possible venue, but bookings are quite full for evenings, so would be on an ad hoc basis. The issue of acoustics will remain the same wherever we find, unless an available venue is carpeted and much smaller in size, something no one has been able to find. However, if those who are unhappy with the Arts Centre would like to find somewhere locally, confirm availability and cost, then I am happy to look at it once you have done the groundwork.

Therefore, I think that we will remain at the Arts Centre for the next few months (other than events at venues elsewhere) and after our December meeting look at the situation again, with your input. This will give the Arts Centre a few months to prove their intentions of updating toilets and keeping the centre clean and tidy. Chris Scott has discussed dates and availability with Jonathan and we have been given Thursday evenings from 6.30pm. Dates will vary according to individual events for the remainder of this year.

Payments

As the wine group has to purchase wines, or pay for events in advance, we will continue with online payments including the £1 Arts Centre fee where applicable. This means the new prepayment card system will not be necessary for our meetings. Most of you will already have set up the online u3a St Austell for payments.

Forthcoming Events

A quick summary of what I hope to achieve for the next few months looks like this currently:

September 16th Assembly Room, Arts Centre 6.30pm onwards

Members' Tasting

I would like to ask 4 or 5 members to volunteer to talk about a favourite wine, costing between £8 to £10 and easily available locally. A bit of research to cover country, grape, growing conditions or similar would be of interest to everyone, plus of course why you enjoy this particular wine and what you eat with it. If you think you could do this please contact me and we can discuss the wine and any questions you may have. We will buy the wine according to numbers coming, and ideally will have at least 2 whites and 2 reds to try

during the evening. This will be very informal, hopefully informative and fun, please don't be intimidated as when we tried this in our first year as a Wine Group, we had a wonderful evening. We can vote to see which wine we all enjoy and why. For the same evening we will need a volunteer or two please, to buy and cut up some cheese and bread to accompany our wines, which will be reimbursed. **Cost for the evening £12.50 per person.** Booking information will be in the September newsletter, but I needed to give you this information in order to get volunteers on the case.

October & November (I have yet to confirm which month, date and times each event will be)

- Wine Tasting possibly hosted by a local hostelry, suggest taxi share
- Wine Tasting hosted by Old Chapel Cellars, Truro (minibus possibly to be arranged according to numbers) or taxi share

December 16, Arts Centre, 6.30pm onwards

Pre Christmas social get together. As we did previously and which worked so well, everyone to bring a platter of Christmas finger food (sausage rolls, smoked salmon appetisers, Christmas cake etc etc) and Wine Group to purchase wines including fizz, white and red wine, and Port or Madeira.

Spanish Evening, October 16th, Charlestown Church Hall

SAVE THE DATE!

The Spanish Group are holding an event in October, with Spanish food and music. They have kindly invited our Wine Group to join them.

I have said we will give some recommendations of Spanish wines for people to buy and bring along to enjoy, so I welcome please, your recommendations for a Spanish, white, rose or a red with a paragraph or two of information please. They should be readily available locally and I would suggest a price of under £10 or close thereto. **Please send to me soonest** and I will collate and send to Pippa for participants.

As the Spanish group will be providing the majority of the food, I would like to suggest that those of us who would like to attend could put together a couple of cheese boards. Therefore, perhaps each person could bring a piece of

cheese, or a large tub of olives, box of grapes or box of crackers. More of this in the next newsletter.

I hope you will support these events where you are available.

Please also don't forget your ideas are welcome and essential, especially for next year. We have a "blank sheet of paper" currently, so get thinking and planning.... How about **you** organise one month's meeting out of the possible 12 we have for next year?? One couple have kindly offered to plan a Wine meeting early next year, so let's start the ball rolling and not just sit back and let someone else always organise our monthly events.

September's newsletter will be out by the 1st, so please send in any wine recommendations, many thanks.

Regards

Amanda