

u3a ST AUSTELL WINE APPRECIATION GROUP
JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dear Wine Group Member

A short newsletter to give you information on events for the rest of the year, plus a report from the Garden Party held on Sunday.

Garden Party June 2026

What can I say, other than this event was fabulous in every way!

Mark and Lin had performed a miracle in getting their new build “garden” turned into a true beauty with colour

everywhere, and a perfect central area in which we all fitted around tables, eating drinking and chatting, watching the excellent Garker Street Band perform in the Summer House – it was just like being at our own mini festival.

As ever you all over achieved in providing a delicious and varied spread of food, savoury, dessert and cheeses which kept us going all afternoon, and included the band tucking in too. Thanks to Sue O for coordinating the food, excellent as ever. We raised over £100 as a donation to their special causes which they were delighted with.

We gave Mark and Lin a small token of our enormous appreciation and thanks for allowing us to enjoy their home and garden, by way of a hydrangea. The weather even played ball despite an earlier shower, and remained dry and warm.

A few photos of the convivial afternoon which did include a bit of dancing....









2026 Wine Appreciation meetings

ALL TO REMEMBER, the way to book for any event is:

1. Contact Sue Osbrink to check there are spaces
2. Pay the amount online giving the correct reference, starting with your membership numbers then WG...dependant on the month
3. Quick email to Sue confirming you have paid.

If this process is not followed, **your place cannot be guaranteed. Thank you.**

ALL PAYMENTS TO THE WINE GROUP ACCOUNT PAY INTO

ACCOUNT NO 23132587 (Barclays)

SORT CODE 20-30-47 (U3a St Austell)

Events now open to book:

2 spaces only left for Carol's evening – let Sue O know ASAP if you would like these spaces.

Friday 14th August: “Summer Wine cruise along the Canal du Midi by Carol Avery, Wines with Carol”.

Dock: Pentewan Sands Sailing Club, Pentewan.

Welcome drink served at **1900hrs**, suggest **arrival 6.45pm**, Concludes by **21.30pm**. Tenders (taxis) **depart from 21.45pm** opposite outside the Ship Inn, Pentewan **Cost £24pp** to include wines and food.

Book by July 10th ref xxxxWGAUG26

After her visit late Summer 2025, Carol will regale us with anecdotes and wines from the beautiful South of France.

“Come on a summer wine cruise along the Canal Du Midi with Wine with Carol. We will likely start with deeper looks at both a well known fizz, and then a familiar white wine before sampling a delicious rose from the heart of The Canal du Midi. Then we will taste a red wine from an historic chateau and finish with a comparison between two more full bodied reds (a Reserve and a Grande Reserve) both from vieilles vines which are unusual to find produced as a single grape variety.”

Accompaniments: du pain et fromages. Thanks to Shirley who will assist Carol in the food prep.

Suggest everyone books a taxi for drop off outside the Ship Inn and walk from there. Any mobility issues please let me know. This is always a SOLD OUT event, which is thoroughly enjoyable in a small intimate setting in Carol's inimitable style.

September 18th Majestic Wines, Peter May returns to the Arts Centre. Start 6.45pm finish for taxis at 10pm. **Cost £20pp** to include food and room hire.

“Good/Better/Best tasting!” ~Taste a selection of standard, premier cru and grand cru styles to see what you really get for your extra £££. We will taste one white, one rose and one red with two quality levels of each – 6 wines.

A topic we have not so far covered, and I think a really good idea to see exactly what the differences are.

Book ref xxxxWGSEPT26 by end of August.

Volunteer for food please

October 16 Jenny and Mick are running a **Members' favourite Winter Reds** tasting at the Arts Centre. 6.45pm start, finish after clearing for taxis at 10pm please. **Cost £20pp** to include 5 wines, food and the room hire.

In preparation for long Autumnal and Winter evenings, Jenny and fellow members will be presenting a favourite red wine, 5 wines in total ranging both in alcohol percentage, country of origin and cost. Let's see who likes what type of winter warmer!

Book by September 16 ref xxxxWGOCT26

November 20 at the Arts Centre, **Andrew and Christine are giving us a Murder Mystery Wine Evening..."An evening at the Chateau Cludeau"**.

Arts Centre 6.45pm start, taxis for 10pm. **Cost £20pp** for 5 wines and the opportunity to do some detective work!

The heady combination of wine tasting whilst solving a murder mystery sounds fabulous, with lots of fun along the way. Well done Andrew and Christine!

Book by end October, ref WGNOV26

Volunteer for food please

Thursday December 10 Wine Group Christmas meal at the Cornwall Hotel. Arrival 6.30pm for sit down at 7.30pm (time for a welcome drink and raffle ticket purchases). Finish 10pm/10.30pm.

We will once again enjoy our own private room, a 3 course Christmas meal and time to socialise.

Hannah at the hotel has very kindly held last year's prices for us **£38pp**.

To reserve a space you need to pay **£10pp deposit by the end of August**, so that we can pay the hotel first week in September,

Then menu choices and **final payment by October 20th**.

Once the menu has been decided (later in year) it will be sent to you for your choice.

If you wish to stay overnight at the hotel, we have again been given a special discount (rate to be finally confirmed shortly), to include a full breakfast and use of their leisure facilities. When confirmed, call hotel direct and quote our u3a event date, payment will be taken at the time of booking.

Well members that concludes another Wine Group Year of events. Having talked to you, a few have suggested not having 11 monthly events going forwards, which makes sense thinking of a few we have had to cancel this year. I think there are peak months when many of you take your holidays and so I will try and avoid them. I think perhaps April and July are good examples, and we would keep the Garden Party in June. I realise the cost of wines and food has risen considerably and we do try to keep the cost to the minimum, hence taking out the trips by minibus where the cost is considerable.

Would you like to revisit the local Atlantic vineyard next year, to see their progress? At least the transport cost is

more realistic being closer to us. As a matter of interest, I see they have had yoga retreats, weddings and other events there whilst still raising their young family and coping with the vagaries of the English weather whilst making wine! A very busy entrepreneurial couple.

Continue to enjoy the sunshine but do take care in the next heatwave!

Regards

Amanda