



West Suffolk Fine Wine Society

Newsletter February 2026

Dear Members,

If, like me, you are feeling rather fed up with the continuing gloom we are experiencing what better way is there to alleviate this but our first tasting for 2026!

- **Monday 9 February 2026 -Great Barton Village Hall 7.30pm
Paso-Primero - wines from Spain made by a Brit!**

There is still time to book your place and welcome a visit from Tom Holt, a winemaker who lives in Shrewsbury but makes a range of innovative and successful wines in Northern Spain. He has a story to tell and 8 wines for us to taste including whites, reds, a rose and a vermouth. All using both well-known and rare indigenous grape varieties

The code for this wine tasting is PP, and the cost is £12 per member

- **Monday 9 March Great Barton Village Hall 7.30pm- Wines from Germany**

It's a very long time since we had a tasting of German wines, and for some there is a lingering question mark about their interest and quality. We are extremely pleased to have found an enthusiastic young German presenter, Jana Schaffner, for this tasting, who will take us through a selection of high-quality wines and try to dispel any doubts.

Jana writes: "Join me in March for an introduction to German Wines. I had the privilege of growing up in Germany where I developed a deep appreciation for the country's rich wine culture. Since moving to England my career has taken me from pairing wines at a four-star hotel to working at Virgin Wines, completing my WSET qualifications, and now at Corney & Barrow, where I continue to explore the world's finest wines.

German wines are often underestimated and are still tainted by a bad reputation, yet they offer an incredible range of styles - from vibrant zesty Rieslings to elegant nuanced Spatburgunders (Pinot Noirs). At this tasting we'll explore these wines in order, learning how terroir, vineyard ages and winemaking choices shape their character. From vibrant youthful wines to mature complex examples, you'll discover the depth and elegance that make German wines among the finest in the world."

The code for this event is JS, and the cost is £12 per member. Please book and pay as soon as possible and definitely by 2 March.

Monday 13th April Great Barton Village Hall 7.30pm Martin's Choice

This tasting will be presented by our very own Martin Higginson and promises to introduce us to a varied and interesting selection of wines which have impressed and stood out in the last few months. Martin is a qualified and experienced wine educator, writer and presenter, well-known on the local wine scene. Now he is not only a member of the society, but he has also joined the committee and brings some new perspectives and ideas. His previous tastings for the society have been both popular and well-received. Martin's brief is to select eight wines from around the world that represent diversity and good value but may well have not yet been discovered by members.

The code for this event is MH and the cost is £12 per member

If you would like to bring one or more guests to any of our events,, please get in touch with Wynn (wynn.rees@btinternet.com or 07580 132568)

Future Dates for your Diary

- 11th May
- 8th June
- 13th July
- 12th October
- 9th November
- 14th December

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS' BENEFITS-please ensure you have your membership card with you at the time. New cards for 2026 will be available at our next tasting

- **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)
- **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

The more observant amongst you will note that I have deleted the Angel Hotel. This is purely because Wynn is currently firming up the arrangements as some of our members have experienced difficulties. I will let you know the outcome as soon as possible.

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

We look forward to seeing you all at future events

Kind regards

Sue

Sue Leake

Secretary

WSFWS