

WINE APPRECIATION

I hope that everybody had a merry Christmas and are ready for tackling 2024. No doubt, there will be lots going on within the u3a.

The wine group has had a good year with busy meetings each month. New members have also joined us. We all look forward to tasting new wines from far and wide. There is always some nice surprise with a wine that we have not tasted before or make friends again with wines that we had over the last few years. It is an adventure to get to taste them and we always appreciate them.

The wine group celebrated the festive season with our annual lunch at the Cumbria Grand Hotel. It was a jolly crowd of 37 members and we enjoyed a lovely lunch and quite a few drinks. The staff from the hotel always make us welcome.

The next occasion was the Christmas party on 15th December, held at the Institute. Again, a lovely time was had by everybody. Brian and Karen Loader very kindly arranged the New Year's party and a lot of the wine group and other members from the u3a had a good time.

Now we are back to our normal meetings and the first one was on 19th January. John Furniss-Wright presented the wines. It was quite a journey as we had wines from Switzerland, Macedonia, Romania, Georgia, Moldova and Portugal. It was a great success.

This month we will be enjoying wines from France and Italy. In March we will have our annual 'special wine evening' and we do go all the way then. Flags, decorations, food, and of course, featured wines for that night. Some members will even dress up for the occasion. This year the glorious wines from Austria will be on the menu. Now, I do wonder who might turn up wearing Lederhosen?

Now this is only the start of the year, so what will the rest be like. Come and find out!

Elisabeth Culbert