





*It's Gordon Knott's turn to recall his memories of Round Table.*

### **Wokingham Round Table (831), Round Table Area 25, A Personal Tale**

*As prophesied, our new friends in Wokingham Round Table annihilate us with their banter, sharp wit and quick one liners. But once the Stripper had taken centre stage, our new friends lost interest in our humiliation and showed their appreciative noisy side, until the talcum powder appeared.*

It was a tradition in Wokingham Round Table for new members to be tasked with organising one of their early meetings. And so, Jeremy and I found ourselves at the pub, organising. How quickly we slipped into the ways of Tabling.

After several pub visits, the only idea to survive was The Quiz. Questions written, we put down our pencils and in unison said, "they are going to annihilate us". To save the evening, we did what every Tabler has done before us. We booked a Stripper as the support act to The Quiz. The talcum powder was her idea.

Wokingham Town was fortunate, it had two Round Table Clubs, Wokingham and West Forest. The later having been started when numbers in Wokingham RT got too big, that was the official line.

Charity and the Community was a big part of the Club, as it still is for all Tables today. We could be found rattling tins on the streets of our market town, arranging lunches for the elderly (they were of similar age to me now) cutting lawns or pushing cars out of fields after Firework Night.

Christmas was a busy time for tin rattling. Saturdays in December we could be found collecting in town. During the evenings we took Santa's Sleigh around the local housing estates, knocking on doors, collecting money for our "good causes".

My first Christmas as a Tabler, I got lucky. I had the lead role, Father Christmas on the third slot of the day. I arrived at the Town Hall early for the costume handover. Robe on, belt tied, hat on, just the beard. No one thought to mention if you have the lead role and are not the first slot, bring your own beard. After four hours, two Father Christmas', the beard was wet, bad smelling and ho-ho, waiting for me.

On the social side we had family sports day, themed parties, progressive suppers, treasure hunts. There were Area events, Rowlock Rally, Smoker and of course National Sporting Weekend. We had BBQs in the field at Cantley and the return to Cantley to ensure the hot embers discarded under the hedge had not caught fire. There was Club Night in the Chairman's garden, clay-pigeon shooting. But it was okay, health and safety was not an issue in those days.

Sports Day, a fun event for all the family. Fun races for the children, welly throwing for all, 100 yard dash and Beverley's wardrobe malfunction. Funny how certain images stay with you. Beverley did not win but received the loudest appreciative applause.

Rowlock Rally, a relay row from Abingdon to Henley. Some Clubs thought it was a race. You could easily spot them, they would be the ones carrying their heavy boats over the lock when the lock gates were against them. Wokingham RT used the closed lock for a well-deserved rest. That is not to say we did not give it our all. We did, we were punctual at the hand over points and rowed hard, by our standard.

Area Smoker, a highlight in the calendar year, held at Slough Community Centre. The venue was perfect but more importantly, they allowed us back every year. The format of the evening involved half-a-dozen Clubs in Area 25 performing a spectacular entertaining short Show. The Shows were judged and the winner had the honour of organising next year's Smoker. And yes, you've spotted the problem. No Club wanted to organise next year's Smoker so Shows were written to ensure second place or lower.

But Tablers knew how to incentivise and dozens of white bread rolls were provided. These were not for eating and if they were stale, all the better. They were for dunking in beer and in experienced hands, became deadly missiles. If the Tablers on stage displeased, the dunked bread rolls were dispatched at speed in their direction. To ensure no downtime between Shows, exotic dancers wearing very little, eventually, were booked. Several, indeed, as they would be on stage many times during the evening!



One-year, Smoker achieved notoriety in the Sunday Papers with the headline “Round Tablers Watch Strippers As Building Burns”.

Part of the headline is true and it is also true the Centre’s fire alarms did go off. Two big red fire engines did arrive in a blaze of sirens and flashing blue lights and yes, strippers were on stage being noisily appreciated as firemen wearing masks and breathing apparatus burst into the hall.

With the motto “Adopt, Adapt, Improve” or it may have been “the show must go on”, the show continued and the strippers “entertained”. The only outward sign they showed that they were aware the fireman had arrived, their tassels started spinning faster and in different directions.

It all started when the alarm confused the smoke it detected as fire smoke. But it was grey bellowing plumes of motor bike exhaust. A Club was going all out to win Smoker and the motor bike on stage was going to clinch the win. When I say “on stage” that is not quite correct. Jumping the bike off the four-foot-high stage onto the central aisle at full throttle was going to clinch the win. It was okay, health and safety was not an issue in those fun days. To jump the bike, fast acceleration was required, to get fast acceleration a lot of engine reviving was required. This in turn created bellowing plumes of exhaust which was required to trigger the fire alarm. How were we to know, we had no risk assessment.

We explained this to the firemen. They explained to us, having been called out they must check the building and ensure it is safe. Concerned they were going to evacuate us, we invited the firemen to join us. So, they sent a couple of rookie firemen to check the building and made themselves comfortable at the back of the hall wondering, how two tassels can spin that fast in different directions at the same time.

With the charity, community work and the social side of Club, fellowship in Wokingham’s Round Table flourished. Today, Wokingham has a successful active 41 Club, meeting the second Tuesday of every month at Sand Martins Golf Club. Oh, except those months with a 2020 in it.

***Thank you Gordon for that ‘insight’ ( I use that word loosely) into your Tabling with Wokingham. I also took part in the Rowlock Rally in the late 70’s. Readers will recall that another of these articles was written (Cartier 9) by Paul Thackray who was also a Wokingham RT member, obviously before Gordon joined because Paul made no mention of such ‘lively’ evenings!! He talked about “music hall shows which could get a bit smutty”. Wokingham went downhill after Paul left!!***

## 2020 Wickens Wander - London



Every year around this time a small band of hardy travellers have a wander round the lesser known parts of London and a few jars in a pub to shake the off dust and more often than not, warm up! This inevitably meant a train or coach up and back, some pretty hectic Underground and London bus trips and lots and lots of walking. Sadly this year I could not even do the recce with Dick Sheerin and had to abandon the trip - but who knows maybe we might be able to sort something

out for the spring. In the meantime the plan is to show a ‘wander’ presented by a proper London guide, maybe have a few reminiscences and a quick quiz to round things off.

**So please join us on Zoom on Monday 7 December at 7.30 pm - courtesy of Richard Carter**

# Tangent News



Caroline has sent me the following social events for Tangent (and a joint gathering). You see, I told you, Christmas is still happening (25th December this year).

**MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2020**

Tangent only - **“Our Very Own Christmas Party”**



**‘Bubbles, Baubles and Bingo’**



Dress: Christmas jumpers, hats, baubles and all things Christmassy!

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Zoom



Pour yourself a glass of bubbly, have your baubles handy, show off your best Christmas jumper and 'Eyes Down' for bingo!

**Contact Caroline to participate and receive your unique bingo card to print at home**

## MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2020

**Tangent/41Club**  
starting at 7.30 pm

Venue: Zoom

Memories of past Xmas and New Year celebrations aided by photos...and as an example see right for a reminder of New Years Eve, eight years ago.  
(Theme was Hi di Hi)



An evening of laughs and fun with a sherry and mince pie or two and perhaps carrying on with another sherry and mince pie.

**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON!!**

## NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010



**Apologies from the Editor as the following was omitted from the last edition of Cartier**

**It's now looking good that 16th July will be ok!!  
Fingers crossed and vaccine willing!!**

*I am sure most of you will be all too aware of the difficulties posed by Covid and that now includes our Ladies Night. We could have gone ahead with a dinner for a limited number but no mixing with other guests and, particularly, no band, dancing or cabaret and meant that we would have been infringing the Trade Description Act if we called it Ladies Night.*

*So please note the new date by which time we hope to be back to normal.*

**Bob Merrett**

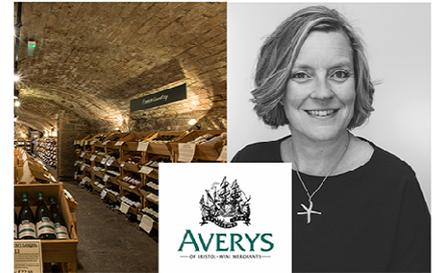


Monday November 23rd 7.30pm on Zoom.

Everyone welcome

Subject to her commitments David Darts has secured Mimi Avery of Avery Wines to talk to us about her love of wine. A short introduction and then some fun with a quiz which Richard has asked me to include below.

No prizes for the winner!!



**Chairman Richard and David Darts scoop top Wine connoisseur for our next Zoom social event !!**

*Averys began in 1793 and over the years, the family has built its reputation as one of the UK's most pioneering wine merchants. Today, it is 5th generation Mimi Avery introducing a new generation of wine lovers to Averys. At the heart of what we do – and have done for over 220 years – is share our passion for wine. We love discovering wines with a story to tell – whether for everyday drinking or fine wines for the cellar.*

*So, if you're looking for 'real' wines, full of character and flavour...  
Welcome to Averys.*

## QUIZ

### WINE VARIETALS

- 1: What type of French wine is typically made from Pinot Noir grapes?
- 2: What is the most widely planted grape in the world?
- 3: What is Australia's most important wine grape?
- 4: What is the dominant grape in Chianti?

### FACTS AND FIGURES

- 5: How much wine is in a standard bottle?
- 6: What's the biggest kind of wine bottle?
- 7: How many grapes does it take to make a standard bottle of wine?
- 8: On average, how much wine does one acre of grapevines produce?
- 9: How much wine is in a barrel?
- 10: How long after planting is a grapevine ready to make wine?

### TOAST TO WINE LOVING HISTORICAL FIGURES

- 11: Which wine was used to toast both the signing of the Declaration of Independence and George Washington's inauguration?
- 12: What was Jackie Kennedy's favourite kind of Champagne?
- 13: How many bottles of Pol Roger Champagne did Winston Churchill drink in his lifetime?
- 14: Which two U.S. presidents attempted to grow grapevines?

### VINO VOCAB

- 15: What does non-vintage (or NV) mean?
- 16: Which species of grape is responsible for most of the wine made throughout the world?
- 17: What does a vertical wine tasting entail?
- 18: What does appellation mean?

### TESTING YOUR CHAMPAGNE SAVOIR-FAIRE

- 19: How fast can the cork fly out of a Champagne bottle?
- 20: At what point in the winemaking process does Champagne get its bubbles?
- 21: How many bubbles are there in a bottle of Champagne?

### FUN FACTS

- 22: How old is the oldest winery in the world?
- 23: What colours can wine be?
- 24: Which Greek goddess is used to signify that a wine bottle has been certified as biodynamic?

### WINE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- 25: Which country has the largest area of vineyards?
- 26: What is the only winemaking region in the world that wasn't affected by the phylloxera louse?
- 27: How much wine is consumed throughout the world each year?

### FOR THE BEER LOVERS

- 28: Which ancient civilisation is said to have been the first to make beer?

A - The Babylonians. B - The Saxons. C - The Klaxons. D - The Sumerians.

- 29: What city is the world's biggest beer festival held in?

A - Slough, United Kingdom. B - Munich, Germany  
C - Prague, Czech Republic. D - Amsterdam, Netherlands

- 30: From which country does corona beer originate?

A - Mexico. B - Spain. C - Guatemala. D - China.