

## WINCLE WI REPORT FOR 2nd March 2021

On Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, all 21 members, of Wincle WI plus a guest, “attended” a wine tasting via Zoom. This was definitely a 1<sup>st</sup> for us, enabled by special delivery to our doors on the day, by a few volunteer WI ladies with the two samples of Spanish wine. Our speaker was Mike Taylor, who works for Moreno Wines which imports wines for the trade (shops and restaurants). Moreno specialises in Spanish wines and supplies the Tempranillo restaurant in Macclesfield.

Mike has worked in the wine industry for 9 years and has a level 4 certificate in the WSET (Wines and Spirits Education Trust).

Mike introduced a white wine called Adaras Lluvia (2019, 12.5%) which comes from Venta Lavecia in Almantha, Spain. The area is at a fairly high altitude and the wine is a 50/50 combination of Sauvignon Blanc and Verdejo. It is overseen by master wine maker, Raoul Perez, who made his name in the North West of Spain with his white wines.

We then moved on to a red wine called Manoso (2017, 14%) which is made in the Rioja area. It is a Crianza – meaning it is kept in oak barrels for a minimum of 6 months, then 6 months in a bottle. The RRP for both wines is around £11 - £11.25. There were a few questions from our group, including what the most expensive wine he had tasted – this was £75 for 150mls of a very special wine that he and 2 friends all shared! When we are allowed to enjoy an evening out later in the year, we plan to visit Tempranillo for a Tapas evening, celebrating the end of the pandemic restrictions.



The WI business then continued with Suzanne going through any new correspondence and Carol Seddon giving a Treasurers report, in particular detailing the national discussions on the financial impact Covid has had on many rural WI's. Changes to how the annual subscriptions our set, have been implemented by the NFWI. In future any changes to our own local WI subscriptions, will be agreed locally by the Committee – However CFWI and NFWI contributions have not been reduced, causing a lively discussion!

Our future events are (Covid allowing):

April 6<sup>th</sup> A Zoom meeting with Jane Collas talking about recycling and “Saving the Planet”

May 4<sup>th</sup> A Zoom meeting with Amanda Glennon talking about “The Upside of Downs”

June A local walk around Wincle is planned – this will be our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for 9 months when we can hopefully meet in person at last

July A social evening in a member’s garden

August An outing to be arranged – details to be confirmed later.

September A ‘live’ meeting at the Swythamley Centre (we hope).

And finally....

Carol Seddon is not only our Treasurer, but a very busy lady since she recently became a ‘Covid vaccinator’. We are all very proud of her and this is her story.



When the first lockdown happened, the change in our settled and happy lives felt surreal. It made every one of us appreciate just what we had and what was really important, and as time went on, we all craved to have back our pre pandemic life.

Having retired from the NHS 3 years before after 37 years in nursing I was unsure what help I could be and so decided to continue volunteer work where possible.

As the weeks dragged on into months, it became clear that the only way out of the situation was with a vaccine, I decided that at whatever point this became available I would get my nurses uniform out and support in whatever way I could.

I applied to be a St John Ambulance volunteer vaccinator – the application process was very rigorous, and the training required was just as challenging. You didn’t need a clinical background to undertake the role, but the online learning required was very detailed and I suspect put a lot of people off – both clinical and non-clinical!!!

Having completed the online training (about 15 hours in total) I then had to undertake a face-to-face training session based in Manchester. This was a rewarding experience, being in a room with 22 other people (all masked and sat in our allocated 2metre distance box) I had almost forgotten the fun of interacting with other humans on such a large scale and the day was more enjoyable than I expected, even though it was a very long 9.5 hours session! There were about 40 attendees and modules included vaccine management and administration, emergency treatment of allergic reactions and cardiac arrest, all which required formal assessment and sign off. St Johns ambulance were working in partnership with the NHS and staffing the mass vaccination centre in the North West based at the Etihad Stadium complex in Manchester.

Training done, assessments passed, green T- shirt and ID badge obtained I was ready -all I had to do was find my way to the stadium for my first 8am shift.

It is an amazing set up at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, a very well organised and slick process. No one waited long and the vaccinations are carried out in a very caring and professional way. It was humbling to see individuals in their 80's who had come out for the first time in many months, it had taken many of them several bus or tram rides to get there because they all knew this would mean they could regain some level of freedom from the four walls of their homes. It was really cold weather, and several layers of clothes had to be removed to find an arm to jab, but everyone was so grateful, happy and relieved.

I then decided I should also be supporting my local community, so I applied to work at the vaccination clinics at Macclesfield Hospital (where I had worked for many years previously) These clinics are immunising health and social care staff and GP patients.

I have also supported the set-up of the local mass vaccination centre which is based at Alderley Park, again the timescale to arrange this was challenging but opened as planned on the 17th February.

There are many issues over the last year where we may question how effectively situations have been managed during the pandemic, but I do feel the vaccination programme has been one aspect that we should hold up as a great achievement. The production of effective vaccines in such a short timescale, the decision to order in vast quantities was a leap of faith that looks as though it has paid dividends. The large number of vaccination centres to support the programme have all been established in record time, thanks to huge effort by local teams who are motivated by the common desire to restore some normality to society.

Most importantly we are protecting those who are most vulnerable and giving hope of a return to a life where we can enjoy some level of freedom and spend time with family and friends.

I feel privileged to have played a part of it.

C Seddon