

## *Forty years not out*

July 4th 1978	Peter Byford & Monty Varney <b>discuss forming a wine Circle in Ware</b> during a trip to the Maltings in Stanstead Abbots- both members of Stanstead Abbots Wine Circle at the time. SAWC was failing for a variety of reasons.
01-Oct-78	<b>Advertisement in Classified</b> asking for winemakers to join new club
28-Nov-78	<b>1st meeting-</b> present: Peter & Margaret Byford, Monty Varney, Graham & Mary Pipkin, and Ernie Cox
Feb-79	<b>Inaugural meeting-</b> Peter B(Chairman), Mike Hampton(sec.), Graham Meldrum(trsr), Monty Varney.
Mar-79	<b>1st Newsletter</b> published by Mike Hampton.
Dec-79	<b>1st Xmas party</b> held at 24, Heath Drive.
14-Jan-80	Established <b>1st permanent meeting venue</b> at Place House, previously we had meet in members houses.
April 80	AGM— John Davies becomes Social secretary.
19/5/80	<b>1st Ware Drive</b> , details published in Amateur Winemaker
21/6/80	<b>1st BBQ</b> at Swans Barn, Widford (John & Chris Higginson).
13/4/81	AGM <b>Mike Hampton retires</b> , Mike Yates takes over Newsletter, Ivy Freemantle(publicity), Eddie & Robert Hunt (raffles), Arthur Keene(trsr.), Graham Meldrum (House Mgr.).
April 81	<b>1st annual Show</b> , we run a Charity Draw which raises £160 for Ware Disabled Association.
9/11/81	Place House too cold, <b>we move to the "Old Bulls Head"</b> (cosy but cramped!).
Jan-82	Keith Brown starts his <b>Circle shop</b> .
Apr-82	AGM held at Chadwell Springs G.C., Barrie Ekins(social comm.), Richard Tite(trsr), Monty Varney(Comp.sec.), Chris Brown(mins.).
13-Jun-82	2nd Annual Show is run as <b>part of Ware Week</b> .
Autumn. 82	Mike and Adele Yates move to Devon, Roger How takes on Newsletter.
Sep-82	Members & friends join our <b>first overseas trip</b> to Champagne Country.
18-Dec-82	Christmas party at Keith & Chris Browns.
21-Feb-83	We move yet again this time <b>to Chadwell springs</b> .
18-Apr-83	AGM John Davies(comp. sec.), Keith Brown & Barrie Ekins(social), Gordon Jackson (House Mgr).
12-Jun-83	<b>Annual Show has record entry of 157</b> , still the highest!.
21-Nov-83	<b>5th Anniversary meeting</b> , a great evening of food & drink. Membership had reached 45 by the 5th Anniversary.
06-Apr-84	<b>AGM Keith Brown takes over as Chairman</b> , Peter Byford (president), Peter Robinson joins Social, Barrie Ekins becomes Show secretary.
1985	We had stalls at several events, our team led by Keith Brown
22-Apr-85	AGM Wendy How takes over newsletter from Roger, who becomes social Committee Chrmn. Elaine Robinson becomes Asst. Show Sec.
22-May-85	After many problems at Chadwell Springs, <b>we return to Place House</b> . 5th Annual Show Geoff Wilcox wins 3 trophies.
13-Jul-85	<b>1st Computerised Wine Drive</b> , by Peter & Elaine Robinson.
10-Sep-85	Ware Circle makes the Daily Telegraph. Peterboro column reported that Ruth Tite had organised a mystery Pub Crawl.
Sep-85	Richard Tite and Wendy How win Trophies at the Stort Fed show, 11 other awards won by members.
Dec-85	We run our Xmas Disco at Ware College.
21-Apr-86	AGM Ruth Tite takes over from Richard as treasurer, Ted Hammond (House Mgr.). Geoff Wilcox again wins Founders Trophy.
Jun-86	Annual Show moves to Place House, as well as Ware Week stall, we enter rounders and Tesco trolley race competitions - with little success!
Oct. 86	Our 2nd overseas trip, to the Loire Valley.
14-Mar-87	<b>Our 1st Square dance</b> at Ware College.
27-Apr-87	AGM, Peter Robinson(Social chmn.), Peter Byford (Newsletter editor) also wins Founders trophy.
Apr-87	Sunday visit to Felstead Vineyard.
Jun-87	<b>We have a float in the carnival procession</b> , it poured with rain. Circle has teams in Boules tournament. <b>we came 4th</b> .
Mar-88	Ware wins Stort Fed Trophy for fourth time.
21-Mar-88	AGM no changes to the committee. Keith Brown wins Founders Trophy. Three leavers: John & Betty Davis retire to Wales and Robert Hunt moves to Cornwall.
Oct-88	3rd overseas trip to Rhineland.
Nov-88	<b>10th Anniversary</b> , 50 members and ex-members celebrate at Place House.
Spring 1989	Record 5th win of Stort Fed Trophy.
March-89	AGM Chris Brown and Sue Wood retire from committee. Peter Robinson wins Founders Trophy with record score,
May-89	Ware contingent visits Wales & West Wine show - Barrie wins third in Cartoon Competition.
23-Apr-90	AGM Roger How takes over as Chairman, Barrie Ekins takes on the Newsletter, Wendy How becomes Show Sec., Keith Brown becomes Social sec., Peter Robinson becomes Competition Sec. & wins Founders trophy AGAIN!
May-90	Wales & West , Peter R wins first in Bitter Class.
Sep-90	Overseas visit to Champagne Country.

Mar-91	Stort Fed trophy winners, beating Latton. Roger How wins bitter & lager classes in Inter Society Comp.
Apr-91	AGM , Keith Brown elected President, Geoff Wilcox takes over as Social Sec. You guessed it, Peter R wins Founders Trophy for third time.
May-91	Roger , Peter R and Barrie all win awards at Wales & West.
15-Jun-91	BBQ moves to Stansead Abbots (Little Briggens) after some years in Chapmore End. Proves very successful despite cold wind and driving rain.
23-Jun-91	Stall at Braughing Fete - we do seem to attract rain - more helpers on stall than visitors!
Jan/Feb 92	Ware's low point in Stort Fed competitions, beaten in the Knockout and poor results at the Inter Circle Competition.
22/23 Mar 92	Wine Circle party goes for Winetasting weekend in Torquay.
April 1992	AGM, the Hows swap over Chairman's roles, Wendy taking over from Roger. Peter Rob wins the Founder's Trophy for 4th time.
July-92	Barrie heads the list after Annual show could Peter be deposed from founder's trophy.
9/11 Oct 92	Circle's bi-annual foreign trip to Normandy.
31-Oct-92	We recover our reputation a little, Peter R has seven firsts at Stort Fed Show and we win Inter Club class.
27-Mar-93	We get prizes for most points for beer and wine in Stort Inter club.
19/22 Mar 93	Another winetasting weekend in Torquay.
April 93	AGM, top wine maker and beer maker competition separated this year , partly in the hope that someone else but Peter Robinson would win Founder's trophy - failed he won both!
	Records suggest no changes to committees.
June 12 93	Annual BBQ held at Little Briggens, accompanied by usual gales and cold weather — probably last one.
July 10 93	Annual Show - followed by 17 course meal at Colin and Mary Lovett's. Another flying start for Peter Robinson in annual wine and beer competitions.
02-Oct-93	Peter Robinson needs wheelbarrow to collect trophies from Stort Fed Show! Elaine 1st in 2 food classes.
20-Nov-93	Christmas dinner at Sun Life charity dinner.
April-94	Annual pilgrimage to Torquay for Judith Irwin's winetasting weekend.
18-Apr-94	AGM, Richard Tite new President, Keith Brown takes on newsletter, Don Maguire becomes House Manager.
May-94	Mary Lovett gains 2nd place in dessert dish class at wales & West. We helped Stort Fed win 1st in Fed wine competition.
June-94	Successful 60s dance replaces annual BBQ.
July-94	Annual show entries up (147), did not stop Peter Robinson of course! We eat afterwards at Place House.
November-94	Weekend away in Belgium, Bruges etc.
03-Dec-94	Christmas dinner at Benedicts — oversubscribed.
January-95	Keith Brown publishes first colour newsletter.
April-95	AGM no major changes of committee members. Nor of best wine and beer winner - Peter R again!
April-95	Judith Irwin has moved to North Wales - circle members follow how for winetasting weekend there.
Apr-95	Elaine 2nd in food class at Wales& West.
June-95	Dance at Stanstead Village Hall - successful but too small.
July-95	Annual Show , Peter Robinson not quite so successful as usual.
December-95	Christmas dinner at Benedicts again.
April-96	AGM no change on committees guess who won the founders trophy.
April-96	Wales&West and Llandudno (Judith Irwin's wine weekend), usual trips although only 4 at Wales& West.
July-96	Annual show, another good entry Peter Robinson as usual most successful member.
August-96	New member Geoff Vigus's wine placed first in the annual computerised wine drive.
August-96	The death of Andy Andrews is announced. Regarded as the founder of homewinemaking as we know it today, and a good friend of our Circle.
October-96	Visit to Tolly Cobbold's brewery. 13 members had an enjoyable visit to this interesting old brewery in deepest Suffolk.
Nov-96	Our overseas visit to Dublin with 12 members. Our winery visit to one that produces a black brew with a creamy head! The weekend was great fun and enjoyed by all.
April-97	AGM — Wendy How retires as chairman after five years and is replaced by Peter Robinson. Barrie Ekins becomes our new president. Peter also wins... nuf said. Roger is the year's top brewer.
April-97	6th annual winetasting weekend, again to North Wales. 12 attended Judith Irwin's latest "connoisseurs" event.
June-97	Having given up large "open" BBQs because of inclement weather, we had a very successful members only BBQ in Geoff & Diane Wilcox's garden.
August-97	The Kennys win the Wine Drive, Dave & Sue's wines tied for first place.
Dec 97	We run a stall at the, cold, but popular Dickensian evening. Our mulled wine was very popular
April-98	AGM, Sue Kenny takes over fromn Geoff Wilcox as Social committee Chairman, this is now 11 strong! Maisie pushes Peter close to Founder's trophy.

May-98	Overseas visit meets Judith Irwin! The overseas trip was with Judith Irwin to the Loire Valley for a week. Plenty of interesting wines and food.
July-98	Another successful show, with the usual front runners of Peter Robinson and Maisie. Sue Smales and Ruth Tite walk off with the food trophies. 12 savoury and 6 dessert courses are consumed at the Place House evening do, with 17 members — along with most of the winning wines.
July-98	We hear the sad news of death of early member & past treasurer, Arthur Keene
14-Nov-98	20th Anniversary Dinner Dance
23-Nov-98	20th Anniversary meeting.
April-99	AGM, Geoff Wilcox retires from Social Committee
May-99	Wine Circle visit Butlins, for Wales & West Show, Peter R does well again.
June-99	BBQ held at the Scout hut, the Tites organise games
July-99	Annual show produces a good spread of winners, yes Peter R again does best
September-99	Circle members do well in Stort Fed Show
19-Sep-99	Circle visit to Denbies vineyard to taste a selection of English wines.
November-99	Members of the Circle go to Sidmouth for the Judith Irwin winetasting weekend
03-Dec-99	The Circle has a stall offering mulled wine at the Dickensian evening, £225 raised for charity. WE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE MULLED WINE AT THIS EVENT EVERY YEAR UNTIL ??
January-00	New Millenium sees a first for the Circle , we are the first Wine Circle with their own website - built by Elaine Robinson.
19-Feb-00	The Circle had a disappointing result at the Stort Fed inter-club competition
Spring 2000	Ware's first foray at the National, Peter R comes away with a first
April-00	AGM, Helen Maguire takes over the post of President
July-00	Maisie Pringle does well in the Annual show, only 2.5 points behind PR, Roger how wins the beer make trophy
September-00	Ware members make 134 entries in the Stort Fed show, more than half of the entries. We come away with 7 firsts and the most successful club award.
18-Nov-00	Another successful Autumn Dance , we raised £350 for charity.
December-00	We again do well with our mulled wine at the Dickensian evening, raising £230 for charity
Christmas 2000	A group of Ware members enjoy a boozy Christmas hosted by Judith Irwin in Sidmouth
April-01	AGM retirement of a couple of committee members, and Peter R is finally deposed as Maisie wins the Founders Trophy
July-01	Peter R again the most successful member at the annual show with 4 firsts
July-01	Ware week stall we try out Colin Lovett's nobby ball game.
Autumn 2001	The autumn dance was successful despite some problems selling tickets and we donated a record £450 to our two charities.
19-Nov-01	The <i>Cook &amp; taste</i> evening goes Caribbean with many exotic dishes to taste & eat
December-01	Dickensian evening, sales of mulled wine raise over £300 for the Robin Hood Relief fund.
April-02	AGM was more of a protracted affair than usual, Ruth Tite retired as treasurer - the first time for 21 years that we won't have a Tite treasurer, actually Ruth has been doing it for 16 years. Don & Helen retired as House managers.
April-02	Ware's third visit to the National, we have 30 entries from members. We achieve 5 firsts, 3 for Elaine (including 2 food classes), one for Peter R and one for Colin Lovett. Elaine is elected to the National committee , following her building of the National Winemakers website.
02-Aug-02	<b>We hear the sad news of the death after a long illness of Mike Hampton</b> , our first secretary and key man in the establishment of the Circle.
07-Dec-02	Christmas dinner at the Roebuck was an enjoyable evening in a private room.
12-Apr-03	Square dance with Ted Ivin, our usual caller was again successful despite some early concern about slow ticket sales.
April-03	AGM, Peter Robinson retires as Chairman after 6 years, he is replaced by Roger How for his second stint in the job. Ruth Tite is elected President in recognition of her sterling work for the Circle as treasurer. Wendy How takes over as treasurer from Colin Bull. Colin Bull & Sue Smales move to Devon, following several past members who retired to the West Country.
July-03	Ware week was very successful, unfortunately we did not have a stall for the first time for 20 years.
19-Jul-03	Annual show , normal service is resumed - Peter R is winning the lions share again.
18-Aug-03	BBQ held on what seemed to be the hottest day of the year at Peter & Elaine's.
15-Nov-03	25th Anniversary Dinner at The Farmer's Boy, Brickendon
Nov-08	30th Anniversary lunch at The Roebuck, Ware
May-10	Annual Square Dance held at Age Conern Hall, this was the last one we held after 24 years
Apr-12	provided mead for "Great Bed of Ware" exhibition launch event
Mar-15	WWBC is the UK's no 1 wine circle after its tremendous success at the National Association of Wine & Beermakers show. We wiped the board by best wine Circle and winning over a 1/3rd of the points available and 17 trophies. Well done Peter R , Elaine, Kevin, Chris and Robert.
May-15	We also did extremely well at the Wales&West and Beds & Herts shows
Jun-15	This year's walk was to the Forty Hall vineyard. A new Community vineyard, the wines not yet available for tasting
Mar-16	WWBC again UK no 1 wine circle at the NAWB show, this time winning 16 trophies
Jun-16	Tea party, members were invited to a tea party by Graham & Mary Brace in their garden in Braintree - nice afternoon and good weather.
Mar-17	The Circle retains its no 1 status and this time takes home 22 trophies at the NAWB show

Dec-17	Still providing mulled wine at Ware's Dickensian evening. The first time we did this we provided less than 10 gallons of wine. For the last few years we have sold 26 gallons of wine and we still ran out between 7.30pm and 8pm.
Mar-18	NAWB show - yes Ware is still no 1 - 23 trophies this year including the Master Trophy which was shared between Kevin and Peter Robinson- only the second time this has been shared.
Nov-18	40 years not out! 26 people due to attend the celebration lunch at The White Horse , Hertingfordbury - actual date 28 Nov 1978
<b>STATISTICS</b>	
<u>Chairmen</u>	
1979	Peter Byford
1984	Keith Brown
1990	Roger How
1992	Wendy How
1997	Peter Robinson
2003	Roger How
2004	Peter Byford
2010	Elaine Robinson
2016	Kevin Martin
<u>Presidents</u>	
1984	Peter Byford
1990	Keith Brown
1994	Richard Tite
1997	Barrie Ekins
2000	Helen Maguire
2003	Ruth Tite
2006	Roger How
2009	Sue Kenney
2012	Wendy How
2015	John Grindell
2018	Dave Kenny
<u>Venues</u>	
<u>Nov-78</u>	meetings in members homes
Jan-80	Place House
Jan-81	The Bulls Head
Feb-82	Chadwell Springs GC
May-85	Place House
2006 - to current	Ware Arts Centre