

PRIORS DEAN VINEYARD

FINE ENGLISH WINE

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2005

Wine

In the last letter I told you with great pleasure that we had won a Gold Medal for our 2002 Medium Dry. This was in the Wessex Area competition held in the autumn. It really is a very good wine and a lot of people have bought some. However some have been disappointed to find the pretty medallion on the front only says 'Bronze Medal'. This was the award for its entry in the National competition in 2003. As our wine improves with ageing it might well have done better if we had entered it again last year – but we didn't and now we shall never know. There is not enough left to make it worth entering now. The Regional Associations do not supply award stickers as due to some regulation or other only National and International awards are allowed to be put on the label. We could of course put this information on a back label, but this is one of the things we have not got round to doing!

Working parties

We have had two of these now. The work is progressing well, and everyone who came seemed to enjoy it. Surprisingly the weather was pretty good. There is still quite a bit left to do so I am repeating the information in the last letter. This did not go out to everyone and possibly some others of you might like to come and have a go. All are welcome, including dogs.

The next one for pruning will be this coming Sunday – Feb.20th, followed two weeks later – Sunday March 6th.

Parking is at Keyham Farm as for grape picking. If you are uncertain of the route please phone for details. We will meet at the vineyard at 9.30 and finish about lunchtime. This will take place in all weathers even pouring rain, the only exception being snow, which may make it difficult to reach the farm. Obviously bring warm clothes and gloves, and secateurs if possible. No lunch or pay I am afraid but I hope to provide hot drinks.

Pruning is not particularly hard work, as it is mostly at eye level, and it is interesting, as you have to work out which of the shoots to leave. There is also a bit of work removing unwanted growth at ground level. Pruning itself is not suitable for children, but they can be very useful picking up the bits and transporting them.

Adopt a row

For people who can't come to set working parties and/or would like to see a row of vines through the year this is a good option. It probably means a visit once a month. You will have a key to the vineyard and use of the chalet and picnic site. First visit by arrangement.

In all cases there will be good free supplies of Priors Dean wine!

Again many thanks to all of you who have come and helped, and to those who couldn't help on the ground but have given us so much encouragement to continue.

Pam Morley
5 St. Mary's Road
Liss
Hampshire
GU33 7AH
01730 894147

Email pamelaelkins@ukonline.co.uk