

# PRIORS DEAN VINEYARD

## FINE ENGLISH WINE

APRIL 2005

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Dear Vineyard Supporters

This is just a brief note to give say thanks to all who helped with the pruning. This has now been completed – well ahead of our usual time – the prunings have been raked up and burnt and the vineyard is looking a lot more respectable.

We are now waiting for Sid to replace all the rotten wooden crossbars. Unfortunately when we gave them a good look over it soon became apparent that the ones that were not actually broken were on their last legs, so he has to replace something like 45 of them. As you can imagine this will be a long job, but when completed should be serviceable for some while. The original ones were an afterthought anyway. We set up the trellis with metal crossbars but as the vines grew heavier the wires sagged so much that they had to be reinforced. To cut costs we used redundant timber from an old farm building, but in spite of creosote they never really had a long-term future.

Once the trellis is back in place the vines may need retying and there will be unwanted shoots to rub off. I will be in touch with everyone when we see how things are going.

We think it would be a very good idea to have a celebratory barbecue, probably sometime in June. We would look (and hope!) for a reasonably settled bit of weather before arranging it. Watch this space!

Many thanks again to you all.

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