

PRIORS DEAN VINEYARD

FINE ENGLISH WINE

www.priorsdeanvineyard.co.uk

Information and sales.

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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

The year in the vineyard

Definitely a disappointing year. It started well, with the pruning done in good time, and then a period of sunshine and light breeze when the vines were flowering meant they set a good crop. Then it all went downhill, the vines need to be sprayed at regular intervals to keep away the mildew, and just at the wrong time we had machinery troubles, which coincided with a period of hot humid weather. Result powdery mildew jumped in and none of the chemicals we are allowed to use will eradicate it once it is established. It became obvious we were going to lose two thirds of the crop. Although a few rows of Seyval escaped, the decision was made that it was not cost effective to pick. Every time we send a load to the winery it costs £400 crushing fee and then so much per bottle thereafter, If we were desperately short of stock it might have been worth it, but we have had two good years recently and have enough in store. So no 2010 vintage I am afraid.

Many thanks are due to all who helped with the cold winter pruning, and the summer trim and sort out. Although there seems no tangible result this time the vines are always looking ahead and work done this year helps to form new buds for next summer's fruit. Your help last summer could mean a record crop next year.

Wine for sale

The current wines on sale are the 2006 Medium Dry, a light fragrant wine for easy drinking, and the 2008 Classic Dry which is the latest edition of our very dry but fruity wine which has been such a favourite with our customers over the years. At the Wessex Area Competition in November 2009 the judges' verdict was 'aromatic, well-balanced, grassy, fragrant nose, clean citrus fruit.'

We have some new local stockists this year, notably Harting stores at South Harting, and Liss Forest Post Office Stores. Also Froxfield Stores now has our wine again.

Price from the vineyard. 2006 Medium Dry £5.00 per bottle £60 per case of 12 bottles

2008 Classic Dry £7.00 per bottle £80 per case of 12 bottles.

Delivery is free locally (within about 20 miles) of 6 bottles or more, and we can deliver smaller quantities locally for a small charge. For anything further afield we can arrange carriage at cost. Please contact me for details

The wine is available in the shops, but please note the price is not necessarily the same as ours. Also some have very limited stocks so best to check before making a special journey.

Blackmoor Farm Shop (Apple Shop)
Durleighmarsh Farm Shop
East Tisted Post Office Stores
Froxfield stores

The Handy Store, Medstead
Harting Stores, South Harting
Liss Forest Post Office Stores
Selborne Post Office Stores

Working parties

Once again the time has come round for pruning and we would be grateful for any help. My knees are still groggy, Jim has sciatica, and the vineyard slope gets steeper every year! For those who don't know, volunteers meet on occasional Sunday mornings to help out for a few hours. No money is involved, but free bottles of Priors Dean wine are available, and you can have use of the vineyard whenever you want, say for family picnics or barbecues. The first working parties for 2011 will be on **Monday January 3rd (Bank Holiday), and Sunday January 16th**. We start about 9.30 and go on until lunchtime. It is a help if you could let me know if you are coming, but otherwise just turn up. Bring secateurs if possible. Of course this depends on the weather as the road to the farm can be impossible if there is any snow. Please phone for information if any doubt.

The latest thriller by James Morley

This is 'Olympic Nemesis' and is a sequel to 'The Nemesis File' and 'Emily's Hour'. It is largely about sailing, including Sailability - sailing for the disabled - which Jim helps to run at Frensham Pond Sailing Club which features in the books. Jim has now published five books, all exciting holiday reading and mostly set locally. They are available from One Tree books in Petersfield, from Amazon, or better direct from Jim at a discount which includes a donation to charity. Tel.01420 538688

Pembrokeshire cottage

It was great that so many of you used it this year and as expected everybody left it in perfect condition.

For those who don't know, Neil and I bought it as an investment and a retreat for ourselves and also advertised it as a holiday let when we did not need it. However the friends that were looking after it for us have left and I am reluctant to let it to strangers because there is no-one to check it between lets and who knows how it might be left. Therefore it is now for the use of family and friends only. There is no charge although a contribution towards electricity etc. is welcome. It is good for it to be used so please let me know if you would like to come again or need more details. It is up a quiet country lane in the National Park, sleeps five and dogs are welcome.

My Email

I have had to change my internet supplier and am currently having difficulty getting connected. It seems to be a hardware problem. I hope I shall soon be back on line, although with a new address, but in the meantime Jim is sending out these newsletters for me. It seems remarkable that I managed for fifty years or so without a computer, but now I am utterly frustrated not to be able to Google! I will let all of you know when I have an address; meanwhile please phone me, or contact Jim by Email or on 01420 538688 if there are any problems.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and fruitful New Year.

Pam and Jim

P.S. Don't forget to buy your Priors Dean wine!