

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023

First the good news

Our 2020 still white wine 'Golden Harvest' was awarded a silver award in the Wessex Area Wine of the Year competition. In addition we were awarded a cup for the best still wine from a small vineyard. The wine had not been collected in time to enter it for the National competition in June but it looks as if this year should be successful. Many thanks are due to our wine maker and to our volunteer helpers throughout the year.

The future of the vineyard

I have got to accept the fact that I can no longer cope with the management of the vineyard, With no-one authorised to do the spraying we lost most of the crop to mildew. I hoped that by careful pruning and thinning out we would be able to overcome this but obviously this did not work. I am considering several solutions including appointing a manager, but probably I shall have to sell up. Whatever happens I intend to ensure that it remains a vineyard.

Work parties

Pruning has been delayed due to the wet weather. It has been impossible all January to cut the long grass because of the steep slope which can be treacherous for the tractor. However things are drying up and Stephen has started mowing. We will be having work parties on Sundays 12th and 25th of February. We meet about 9.00 and work for about 4 hours with a coffee break. Please contact me if you are interested.

Sales

We have had very successful days at various local markets. Many thanks to all who helped particularly at the South Downs Show on the hottest day of the year and the Petersfield Christmas market on the coldest.

There is a lot of interest in English wine, and a local wine in particular, and of course ours is very good quality. We still need someone to go round contacting local outlets as many cut down their orders due to the financial situation and need a reminder, plus there are some potential new ones. Salary and expenses payable.

And finally

Spring is coming, the vines will still be soon be shooting and the view from the vineyard is still terrific.

Nothing is all bad.

Very best wishes to you all

Pam