



# Quaffing

PWS Quarterly Notes & News



February 2005

## From The Secretary

As another Society year draws to a close, we come to the formalities of our Annual General Meeting.

Please read the enclosed AGM papers and, if you have any motions you wish to propose, please forward them to the Secretary to be received at least 14 days prior together with any proposals for Committee membership. The Meeting will be followed by some fun with a blind tasting or similar challenge organised by Sheila Robinson and Peter Ellam. Please note that you will find two tasting glasses useful for this - you can purchase additional glasses at any meeting. The AGM is a free event

and open to members only.

For the April meeting we welcome Lance Foyster MW who will bring us up-to-date with Austrian wines which have been making a comeback after the scandals of a couple of decades ago.

Into May and we look forward to revisiting home ground with a selection of award winning English wines. As you may (or may not) know, we have two growers amongst our membership including Roger Marchbank who will lead this tasting. It promises to be very interesting following some of the best conditions for growing in the last couple of years.

June's meeting takes us to

California with wines from the Beringer table i.e. Wolf Blass in America. Having partaken in a recent special offer at Threshers, I can attest to the quality and quaffability of the reds at least.

Once again in July, we will hold our annual Garden Party at Rosie's Vineyard in Elm Grove, Southsea. This popular annual event is an informal evening of wine and nibbles and a chance to socialise with other members. There is plenty of room in the garden now and awnings mean that the weather can't spoil the occasion!

*Bob Hawthorne*

### PWS Committee Members & Contact Details

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 7th June 2005**

*Wolf Blass/Berringer - Claifornian Wines*

Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

**Tuesday 5th July 2005**

*Summer Party*

Rosie's Vineyard 7.00pm

**Tuesday 5th September 2005**

*Brown Brothers Tutored Tasting*

Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

**Tuesday 4th October 2005**

Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

## Austrian Wine with Lance Foyster MW

Lance Foyster's interest in wine began with family holidays in France and Portugal, and continued with harvest work in the Rhone valley while he was reading for a Classics degree at Magdalen College Oxford. After graduating in 1984 he joined the wine trade - what else could he have done? - and has been there ever since, passing his MW in 1991. He set up his own business in January 2003, and works from West London.

His interest in Austria is relatively recent, dating only from 1998. But in the last six years he has visited the country many times, and now represents 10 different producers in all the country's main wine producing regions. In the UK, most of these wines are sold to the top restaurants of London and the independent wine trade, but increasingly, the multiples are beginning to show an interest and he has recently sold three dry white wines to Waitrose and a red to Marks and Spencer. He is thrilled by the purity and concentration of flavours in the best wines, and believes that the cool but dry climate of Austria is unique in enabling grapes to ripen fully in the long slow autumns without losing their totally natural fruity, balanced acidity.

Austria is in danger of becoming fashionable thanks to its recent success in blind tastings with other exalted international rieslings and chardonnays. Lance will show us just why.

## English Award Winners

At this time of year Roger Marchbank is involved with pruning the 5 New Forest vineyards, including his own on the dry days and making the 2004 wines at Setley Ridge Vineyard in Brockenhurst which are all from the same Forest vineyards, including his own. However they do buy grapes - particularly red ones - from the resurgent Bishops Waltham Vineyard owned by fellow PWS Members John & Lesley Youles.

In between he finds time to be the United Kingdom Vineyards Association Chairman and takes every opportunity that he can to talk about and demonstrate English wines

The 2004 vintage is the 50th since Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones restarted commercial grape growing in Hambledon in 1952. His first harvest was in 1954 and I hear that after several owners in recent years have reduced the vineyard to tiny proportions it is to be replanted by the new incumbent.

Since Roger last presented English wine at PWS, the full force of EC legislation has hit the producers such there will be no table wines in the list - they will all be Regional (Vins de Pays) or English Vineyards Quality (AC) having undergone testing & tasting.

Roger will show us a selection of award winning wines from the 2004 English & Welsh Wine of the Year competition. The top awards went to sparkling wines - a success story that continues and grows as more consumers are introduced to the sheer class and value of these wines. The Trophy and Gold Medal given to a Pinot Noir is the result of good grape growing and winemaking helped by the long sunny autumn of 2002. It is in the Silver Medals that 2003 starts to show its hand, with early ripening varieties such as Schonburger nad Siegerrebe showing up alongside some late harvest and naturally sweet wines from England!

# MAY TASTING - BOOK NOW!

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

## English Award Winners

I/We would like to attend the English tasting. Guests are welcome.

Please reserve ..... places at **£6.50** per head - Total enclosed £.....

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Send cheques payable to "Portsmouth Wine Society" to:

**Roger Foster, Cams Hill House, 24 Portchester Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8PT**

**By 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

## Don't Forget: A.G.M Tuesday 1st March 2005 Please Book Using the Enclosed Form

**This is a Members Only Event and is Free of Charge**

# APRIL TASTING - BOOK NOW!

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

## Austrian Wines with Lance Foyster MW

I/We would like to attend the Austrian tasting. Guests are welcome.

Please reserve ..... members places at **£11** per head

Please reserve .....Guest places at **£14** per head

Total enclosed £.....

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Send cheques payable to "Portsmouth Wine Society" to:

**Roger Foster, Cams Hill House, 24 Portchester Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8PT**

**By 25<sup>th</sup> March 2005**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

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Please complete the booking form on the other side  
and return to:

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