

# THAMES AND CHILTERN VINEYARDS ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting 2012

1.00pm – 2.30pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012

Stanlake Park Wine Estate, Twyford

### 1. Attending:

FirstName	Surname	ACCOMPANIED	Vineyard	Town
Michael	Gilbey	Linda	Pheasants Ridge Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Peter	Dart		Stanlake Park Wine Estate	READING
Andy	Creighton		Mill Hill Village Vinyard	LONDON
John	Petersen		Dropmore Vineyard	BURNHAM
Phil	Rossi		Oaken Grove Vineyard (Fawley)	LONDON
Denise	Santilli		Linch Hill Vineyard	STANTON HARCOURT
Patricia	Stefanowicz	3 JUDGES		LONDON
Paul	Cooper	Mark	Dreaming Squires Vineyard	GREAT MILTON
Michael	Dean		Vernon Lodge Vineyard	TOWCESTER
Indra	Hoon		Gallowstree Vineyard	EALING
Sian	Liwicki		Bothy Vineyard	FRILFORD HEATH
Jan	Mirkowski			MARLOW
Peter	Cridland		Ragged Hall Vineyard	ST ALBANS

### Apologies

FirstName	Surname	Partner / Co-owner	Vineyard	Town
Margaret	Mcvey Dymond			Winnersh
Colin	Baker	Nicola	Titchfield Vineyard	Titchfield
Jon	Leighton			
Oliver	Richardson	Shelagh		Wem
Nigel	Smith	Ina	Manor Fields Vineyard	Weedon
Simon	Tooley		Frithsden Vineyard	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
Barbara	Laithwaite	Cherry Thompson	Wyfold Vineyard	Henley-on Thames
Bob	Nielsen		Brightwell Vineyard	WALLINGFORD
Tom	Newey		Cobbs Farm Vineyard	HUNGERFORD
Roy	Philips	Lavinia	Parhams Vineyard	SHAFTESBURY

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes and actions from the previous AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were summarised as follows:

- AGM Held 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Henley-on-Thames
- The following Officers & Members were elected to the committee for 2011:
  - Chair: Bob Nielsen, Brightwell Vineyard
  - Vice-Chair: Peter Dart, Stanlake Park Wine Estate
  - Hon Treasurer: Andy Creighton, Mill Hill Village Vineyard
  - Hon Secretary: Denise Santilli, Linch Hill Vineyard
  - Webmaster: Nigel Smith, Manor Fields Vineyard,
  - Members: Richard Liwicki, Bothy Vineyard; Patricia Stefanowicz; Margaret McVey-Dymond; Phil Rossi, Oaken Grove Vineyard; Michael & Lin Gilbey, Pheasant's Ridge Vineyard
- Website revamped and updated
- English Wine Festival held 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011
- T&CVA Wine Challenge held 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011
- UKVA Wine Challenge June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2011: T&CVA members won 2 Gold medals and Trophies, 13 Silver, 10 Bronze medals
- Trade Tasting Day May 5<sup>th</sup> 2011: T&CVA table and 4 vineyards participated

## **3. Matters Arising**

The minutes were accepted. No matters arising.

## **4. Statements by Officials**

### Chairman's Report (Bob Nielsen)

Sorry I couldn't be at the AGM but Saturday is the busiest work day of the week during the summer season. We are fully booked for vineyard tours today Saturday, so there is no getting away from work.

My role as Chairman has been to represent the T&CVA at the UKVA Council. I attended every meeting in what proved to be a difficult year with the following main issues arising:

1. Botrytis and trunk disease discussions. A vociferous minority got rather heated about this issue, and a cry for the UKVA to 'do something' was made, as if we have a magic wand. All not helped by vested interests seeking to gain employment to 'research' the problem. The outcome was that it's no more serious here than in other countries who have already researched it. At the UKVA AGM the quorum did not think it a big problem and voted against the UKVA spending funds on it. Basically the answer is to follow the same procedures as for other long identified trunk diseases.

2. New wine schemes. We didn't want the changes but the EU forced it upon us. A sub-committee of Ian Edwards, Owen Elias and Mike Roberts negotiated with Defra and EU to produce our scheme details. What we were finally given was not what we expected nor requested. Whether this was the fault of the EU, Defra or our team is lost in the noise. Probably it was all three. I suspect that we were not forceful in insisting on our requests and were eased aside by Defra's quest for an easy life. It did often seem in Council that Ian Edwards was not on the side of the UKVA in these negotiations. However we are now stuck with what is now law for the foreseeable future. I expect that most wines not going into the UKVA competition will go the simple 'Varietal' route.
3. The UKVA lost one Secretary early in 2011 and then lost another at the end of 2011. This second loss was due to very poor leadership by the outgoing Chairman. A lot of behind the scenes negotiation went on to hold the UKVA together to acquire a new secretary and new chairman (as of end October last year we had neither on the horizon). Fortunately we have steadied the boat and I have confidence in our new UKVA Chairman and Secretary.
4. One problem for the UKVA was that its Articles of Association were very restrictive ie: a UKVA Chairman could only be elected from the current representative council members – this is a gene-pool of 6. When none of the 6 agreed to be nominated (as usually happens) we were in a bind. I rewrote the Articles and they were adopted last year. Now anyone can stand for Chairman who has ever served on the Council at any time.
5. There are still tensions in the UKVA between the large growers who are small by number, but account for over 80% of wine produced; and the small growers. It is important for all to take some consideration of the position of the other groups. The greatest benefits do go to the small producers and in particular new producers for whom the UKVA is an invaluable source of information. Large growers will often have consultants and established growers have built their knowledge stores. At the moment any grower who pays only a small hectare levy is getting great value. An idea being floated is to have two tiers of membership. A social member, who doesn't grow grapes and who can be on a low membership fee with no green book etc, and a full member on a higher fee but with all benefits. Is this a path the T&CVA supports? It is a way to keep social members fees down as growers fees and benefits increase.
6. The UKVA competition is getting very successful. To keep it at manageable numbers there is a proposal that only wines that have won medals in regional competitions should be eligible for entry. What is the T&CVA vote on this proposal?
7. A private initiative by Mike Roberts and Chris Foss successfully secured the next 'Cold Climate Conference' for the UK - to be held at Brighton in 2016. The bid was sprung on Council (and EWP) at the last minute, and although Council gave the bid its blessing, it did not promise financial support. Your Rep did not support the bid as I felt the whole thing was premature and had not been planned or researched. I believe that shortly the UKVA is going to be asked to under-write a chunk of the costs – and it will be in the 10s of 1000s. I know that the Council will come under a lot of pressure to pay for the Roberts- Foss vanity project. The UKVA is now in good financial shape with a cushion of reserves (10 yrs ago we were broke!). It would not, however, take much to reduce these reserves and see a sudden rush to increase fees to compensate. There really is no need for the UKVA to increase fees above the rate of inflation.

8. Finally I tender my resignation as Chairman again – for I think the 9<sup>th</sup> time in 10 years! I will vote in favour of anyone who volunteers for the post. As ever, in the interests of keeping our small, but useful Association ticking over I will accept being Chairman and / or UKVA Rep again if needed. But only if there are no volunteers for these roles.

Best wishes to you all, and see you again before long – unfortunately our prospering Vineyard keeps us from socialising on summer weekends. Such is the life of a Vigneron!

### **Treasurer's Report for the Financial Period 1st March 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

As promised/foreshadowed last year, I have reverted to the 31<sup>st</sup> December year-end. All the 2011 subs had just about been collected and I was intending to start to collect the 2012 subs in January, when they were due. However there was some, doubtless welcome, slippage.

As you know we had a relatively active year with the AGM in March, followed by our taking part in the very successful 2 day Summer Festival at Stanlake which embraced our Wine Challenge. Our AGM receipts of £160 well covered our excellent DIY catering costs of £122.05 but the hire of the very pleasant venue set us back £196.35 for our 5 hour stay. Wine Challenge entry fees at Stanlake Park raised £93 which was offset by the modest travel costs of £42.20 for two of the judges.

Two major expenses in the past year were £600 for the new Website which includes some maintenance and £225 for a backlog of engraving of the Association's Trophies. These were effectively paid for out of our reserves since our current membership fee for the Association is only £1.50. See below.

We currently have some 40 paying Members all but one of whom have, and occasionally read, e-mail so that our postage costs are very low. In 2011 I had 20 payments of subs by BACS transfer compared with 10 in 2010. It would be very helpful if even more members did so though I appreciate that not everyone on the internet is sufficiently relaxed about the security aspects.

I have confirmed receipts of subs from 19 members and with a further 9 awaiting clearance by our bankers NatWest. It must be time to change our Bankers. One for my successor!

This being the AGM, we need to approve a subscription rate for 2013, to be levied early in that year. I think it should be more than £1.50 and we seek your views. We also need to approve the UKVA rate and hectarage levies, which is difficult since it has not yet been set. We suggest that you authorize the Committee to accept any reasonable charges approved by the UKVA Council.

Andy Creighton, Hon Treasurer, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2012

**Income & Expenditure Account for the Period 1st March 2011 to 31st December 2011**

2010 Income		2011		2010 Expenditure		2011
£	Main Account	£		£	Main Account	£
0	Membership Subscriptions	Total receipts	<b>3046.86</b>	0.00	Hire of Hall for AGM	<b>196.35</b>
		retained by TCVA		<b>49.50</b>	Catering for AGM	<b>122.05</b>
		Remitted to UKVA	<b>2942.34</b>	0.00	Wine Challenge Judges Travel	<b>42.20</b>
0		Underpayment to UKVA	<b>17.60</b>	0.00	Website Fees (new site)	<b>600.00</b>
	Less remitted to UKVA etc			<b>0.00</b>	Secretarial (include postage)	<b>8.10</b>
0	AGM Catering receipts			<b>160.00</b>	Hon Treasurer's postage	<b>0.00</b>
0	Wine Challenge Catering	Part of Stanlake Festival		<b>0.00</b>	Newsletter	<b>0.00</b>
0	Wine Competition Entries			<b>93.00</b>	Certificates/Trophies	<b>225.00</b>
3	Donations			<b>10.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>
2	Bank Interest (Reserve a/c)			<b>1.30</b>		
0	Adverts			<b>0.00</b>		
5	Total Income to Main Accounts		<b>313.80</b>	0.00	Total Expenditure	<b>1193.70</b>
				29.00	Deficit for period	<b>-879.90</b>

**Preliminary Balance Sheet for the Period 1st March 2011 to 31st December 2011**

Liabilities		Assets	
General Fund Balance 28/2/11	<b>3525.91</b>	Balances at Natwest Bank	
Minus deficit for the Period	<b>-879.90</b>	Current a/c	<b>1379.28</b>
Unchanged Prom Fund for the Period	<b>480.20</b>	Plus debtors/unclred receipts	<b>146.20</b>
		1390 Less creditors/uncl'd chq.	<b>506.80</b>
		2098 Reserve a/c	<b>2100.15</b>
General Fund Balance 31/12/11	<b>3126.21</b>	3488	<b>3118.83</b>

N.B. The Balance of Liabilities and Assets should be identical but differ by £7.38. This will relate to debtors/creditors and needs to be resolved.

**A.M. Creighton, Hon. Treasurer**  
20th July, 2012

**It was proposed by Peter Dart and seconded by Patricia Stefanowicz that the accounts be adopted. This was passed unanimously.**

## 2012 Members are:

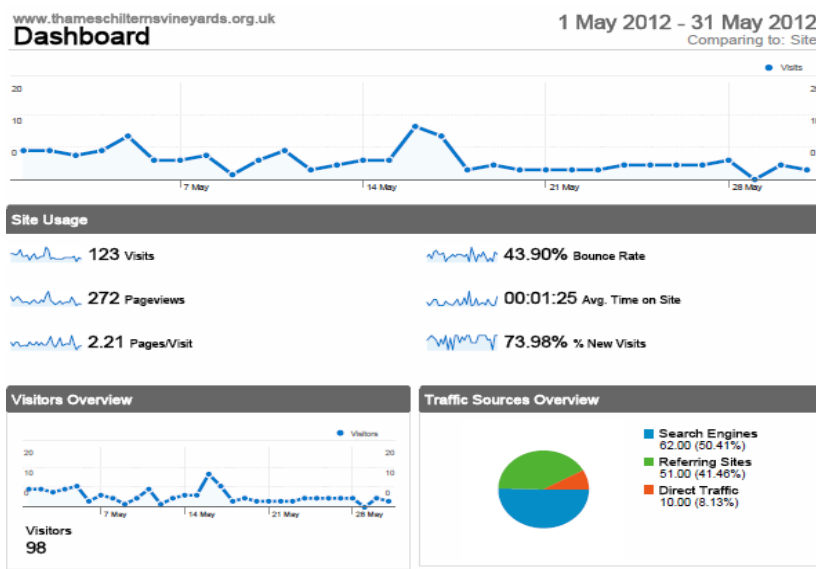
FirstName	Surname	Partner/ co-owner	Vineyard	Town	Comment
Jonathan	Abbott	Jane	Grange Farm Vineyard	CHIPPING NORTON	
Colin	Baker	Nicola	Titchfield Vineyard	Titchfield	
Steve	Callaghan	Viviane	Hendred Vineyard	WANTAGE	
Tony	Castle		St Andrew's Vineyard	LONDON	
Tim	Chafor		Chafor Vineyard	TINGEWICK	
Antony	Chapman	Carol	Hale Valley Vineyard	WENDOVER	
Paul	Cooper			OXFORD	
Andy	Creighton		Mill Hill Village Vineyard	LONDON	
Peter	Cridland			ST ALBANS	
Peter	Dart		Stanlake Park Wine Estate	READING	
Michael	Dean		Vernon Lodge Vineyard	TOWCESTER	
David	Ealand		Old Luxters Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	
Alastair	Field			Woodcote	
Dorothea	Fisher			READING	Life member
Gerry	Fowles			READING	Life member
Michael	Gilbey	Linda	Pheasants Ridge Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	
Andrew	Harrison		Wimbushes Vineyard	CHISWELL GREEN	New member
Indrajit	Hoon		Gallowstree	LONDON	
Barbara	Laithwaite	Cherry Thompson	Wyfold Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	New member
Henry	Laithwaite	Kaye	Pump Lane Vineyard	MARLOW	
Jon	Leighton				Life member
Anne	Linder	Direct Wines	Theale Vineyard	THEALE	New member
Richard	Liwicki	Sian	Bothy Vineyard	ABINGDON	
Margaret	McVey-Dymond			WINNERSH	
Jan	Mirkowski	Anthea		MARLOW	New member
Nigel	Morgan		Daws Hill Farm	HIGH WYCOMBE	
Tom	Newey		Cobbs Farm Vineyard	HUNGERFORD	New member
Bob	Nielsen	Carol	Brightwell Vineyard	WALLINGFORD	
Douglas	Palin			LONDON	
David	Palmer			LONDON	
John	Petersen	Feona	Dropmore Vineyard	BURNHAM	
Matthew	Press		Seer Green Vineyard	SEER GREEN	New member
Roy	Philips	Lavinia	Parhams Farm Vineyard	SHAFTESBURY	
Oliver	Richardson	Shelagh		WEM	Life member
Phil	Rossi	Leena	Oaken Grove Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	
Rob	Santilli	Denise	Linch Hill Vineyard	STANTON HARCOURT	
Wendy	Sargent	Nick	The Old Forge Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	
John	Shields			LONDON	
Nigel	Smith	Ina	Manor Fields Vineyard	Nr AYLESBURY	
Patricia	Stefanowicz			LONDON	
Rob	Sutton			Chalfont St Giles	
Alex	Taylor		Bridewell Organic Gardens	CHIPPING NORTON	
Simon	Tooley		Frittsden Vineyard	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	
David	Wheeler			MAIDENHEAD	Life member
David A	Wheeler	Caroline Ballard		CHIPPING NORTON	New member
Richard	Woodward	Diana		COMBE	

## Secretary's Report (Denise Santilli)

Following a members survey at the beginning of 2011 we decided to do a few activities very well rather than spread our time and resources too thinly. The main activities conducted were as follows:

Activity	When	Outcome
New website	June 2011 by CD Associates	Completed: positive feedback from those who have visited the site. Average number of hits per month low. Advertising opportunities to be considered. How else to maximise website?
AGM	Sunday March 27 <sup>th</sup> 2011, The Old Barn, Henley-on-Thames. 12-1.30pm meeting, followed by Lunch and Wine Tasting	18 attendees, officers elected & 3 new committee members joined.
Local PR activities (press, radio, local TV)	English Wine week 28 <sup>th</sup> May – 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	Individual vineyards provided necessary facts /interviews to media. No centralised T&CVA activity
Trade Wine Tasting Day	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2011; one Great George St, London T&CVA table & attendees	T&CVA table hosted by Bob Neilsen: 4 vineyards participated
T&CVA English Wine Festival	Stanlake Park Wine Estate, 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2011 Wines supplied by T&CVA commercial vineyards, Wine Tasting & lectures hosted by Patricia Stefanowicz	Huge success. 600 attendees. Good PR for English Wine and T&CVA with substantial sales by individual vineyards on the day. Total income from tickets sales & cheese platters = £3375 Total expenditure = £3374. Feedback constructive (see following slides)
Annual Wine Challenge	Morning of July 24 <sup>th</sup> 2011	39 entries judged by 3 masters of Wine: 3 Golds, 12 Silvers, 16 Bronze, 3 Highly Commended
Wineskills courses hosted at member vineyards	Throughout the year	Individual members registered with Wineskills directly. Individual vineyards offered to host the courses
Recruitment of new members	As the opportunity arises	7 new members have joined since the last AGM

The new website has received approval from all members who have visited it. We obtain (free) monthly activity reports from Googleanalytics which shows how many and the type of visitors the website has received, which pages they viewed and how long they spent on each page. An example page is attached here:



**The T&CVA website** receives a moderate number of visits, but this could most probably be increased by accepting advertising on the website (Vigo have expressed such an interest), by keeping it up to date, by encouraging members to visit frequently and including a link to the website alongside their own websites. The main purpose of the website is to inform members and the public of activities of the T&CVA, and to provide a repository of information (e.g. minutes of meetings, competition results, photos) for members and to provide a professional platform for the T&CVA to the general public and press. The website is kept up to date by CD Associates using information collated and provided by the Hon Secretary. Members are encouraged to provide news of their activities to the Hon Sec which can be posted on the website. It was suggested that the website have a “blog” section: Denise will investigate the costs of this with CD Associates and poll members to see how many people would use such a blog.

**The English Wine Festival 2011** was considered to be a big success and we discussed how to improve on the present format to encourage even more people / families to attend for longer in subsequent years (see the presentation given at the AGM for full details). It was agreed at the meeting that we would hold the English Wine Festival over the weekend of (provisionally) 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at Stanlake Park Wine Estate from midday until 6pm each day and, subject to agreement of exact details by the committee, will include the additional activities over and above those at the 2011 Festival:

- A separate, supervised, activity area for children
- Ice creams and food (e.g. Pizza) suitable for children
- An increased entrance fee
- A long lead time for advertising and promotion through suppliers
- Ticket sales in advance of the day
- A few more tasting tents and vineyards

## **6. Election of Officials for 2011**

The following were proposed, seconded and approved as officials and committee members for 2012: -

Chairman & UKVA Rep	Peter Dart
Vice Chairman & UKVA representative	Bob Nielsen
Hon Secretary	Denise Santilli
Hon Treasurer & Mem Sec	Sian Liwicki
T&CVA Technical Advisor	Patricia Stefanowicz
Ordinary Members	Margaret McVey-Dymond
	Richard Liwicki
	Phil Rossi
	Michael Gilbey
	Linda Gilbey
	Andy Creighton



## **7. Motions to be passed**

It was agreed to increase the T&CVA subscription fee for 2013 to £10 per year in order to build our financial reserves. (**Action:** Denise to update membership application form)

It was agreed that the T&CVA committee have the authority to approve the UKVA subscriptions and hectarage levy for 2013 when they are agreed at the next UKVA AGM (usually in January).

## **8. Any Other business**

It was agreed that we should purchase a trophy for the best still rose wine for the 2013 Wine Challenge. (**Action:** Patricia Stefanowicz to source the trophy)

It was agreed that Bob Nielsen, as our UKVA representative, would seek the approval of the T&CVA committee members on motions proposed by the UKVA, before voting on our behalf.

The T&CVA will move to internet banking (**Action:** Sian Liwicki)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 14.30