

www.chalfamwineclub.org.uk

01494 + Mike Baldwin (876286), Sandy Clark (765227), Carole Hazlehurst (863142),  
Naomi Jones (765820), Suzanne Thomas (765122), Ruth Lawrie (763601)

### Club News

- Final chance to purchase tickets for the CAWC Summer Party, to be held on Saturday 2 July. Tickets are £20 per person, partners welcome. Please see Sandy on Tuesday. Please note due to wine and food ordering commitments, we are unable to refund any cancellations received after 7 June.
- For all those coming to the Summer Party, welcome fizz will be served from 6.30pm, taxis (a must!) at 11.30pm. To protect the lovely wooden floors at Elizabeth and Alastair's house (The Hawthorns, Little Chalfont), please do not wear heeled (stiletto) shoes or shoes with marking soles.

### This Month

Chris Horridge from Altus Wine will be presenting an evening of paired grape comparisons.

### Next Month

Janet Gonsalves is back to give us an update from Umbria.

### Chairman's Jottings....

The day was cool for the most part, and a bit windy, but that aside, our trip to Biddenden and Chapel Down was a delight; entirely due to the idea, organisation and implementation of Suzanne, to whom many thanks.

Since a day's outing to an English vineyard is, thus far in the Club's history, a unique event, it would be inappropriate not to devote a fair amount of this month's jottings to outlining the event for those who were not fortunate enough to be available to attend.



Both vineyards provided excellent guides, and we were treated to a walk around the vineyards (around 22 acres at each location - all right 10 ha in French terms) - plus a visit to the vinification area - I won't call them cellars, since we don't seem to do underground cool areas for carrying out the grape processing. The extracted juice is

either fermented in sheds, or even in the open air (temperature controlled vats of course) - and then the bottling areas. So a pretty thorough tour.

Chapel Down is, rightly so, very proud of the recent God Medal for their Rose Brut (done in the Champagne way, but not - of course - able to be called either Champagne, or Champagne method, perish the thought!)

And we learned a thing or two - particularly the names of grape types never heard before - like Ortega. This particular grape isn't listed in any of the reference books I've got, but (of course again!) can be found on the net: and it has an interesting history - so here it is.



Ortega is a cross between Muller-Thurgau, and Siegerriebe. There - satisfied now? No?

Well, Muller-Thurgau is well enough known, albeit without a great reputation, and is itself a cross - between Riesling and Sylvaner: both pretty well known grapes. But what of the other 'parent' - I'd never

[www.chalfamwineclub.org.uk](http://www.chalfamwineclub.org.uk)

heard of that one either. It turns out that Siegerriebe is a cross between Madelaine Angevine and Gerwurtztraminer: and Madelaine Ange.....no no enough is enough, I think. I'm satisfied to have traced Ortega to being something between a Riesling and a Gerwurtz, with inputs from other grapes to give it early ripening potential, which, notwithstanding global whatsit, the UK still needs.

And there were other pretty unknown grapes being grown as well - Dornfelder; Acolon; Bacchus; Huxelrebe; Reichensteiner; Scheurebe. Would you like me to give you a family tree of those as well? ..... no - I thought not.!



So, we went to have comprehensive tastings at both of the vineyards and then an excellent lunch!

Incidentally, at the risk of incurring your wrath by mentioning Ortega again, I have to say that the resulting wine (Biddenden's 'Gribble Bridge') is very good, with a rich flavour possibly inherited from Gerwurtz, but drier and with better acidity, from it's Riesling inheritance maybe: anyway, be that as it may, it won a bronze medal recently - and quite a lot was bought by us!

Thanks from us all for an excellent outing Suzanne.

Photographs kindly provided by Jon Haines.

### What's going on....

Last chance to take part in the many events being held both locally and country wide for English Wine Week.

**englishwine week**  
Saturday 28th May - Sunday 5th June 2011

Local events include:

- Sparking wine tasting at Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking
- Display and tastings of English wines in Brewery shop at The Chiltern Brewery, Aylesbury
- Special tastings at the Chiltern Valley Winery and Brewery, Henley-on-Thames
- English wine and cheese pairings at No. 2 Pound Street, Wendover
- Test your wine knowledge with the Decanter Quiz - English Wine Week [www.decanter.com](http://www.decanter.com)

Go to [www.englishwineweek.co.uk](http://www.englishwineweek.co.uk) for the full events calendar.

Regent Street  
A Taste of  
**Spain**  
2011



London's Regent Street, Sunday 5th June (noon-7pm)

"A Taste of Spain" returns to London this week for the sixth year running, with tapas, jamon, sherry pouring and wine tasting.

### Your Thoughts....

A big thank you to all those who completed the questionnaire during the AGM in April. To maintain and improve upon the Club's success, we rely on you telling us what you like, what we could do better and some suggestions for the future. So, in a nutshell:

www.chalfamwineclub.org.uk

- The average spend on a bottle of wine = £8.80.
- We're glad most agreed the cost of the wines tasted during the evening is pitched about right with the majority would also like the opportunity to occasionally taste more expensive wine.
- Overwhelming support for the buffet on club nights...and over 55% said they'd volunteer to provide the catering. This is greatly welcomed - please see Ruth to book your slot!
- It's good to see the Newsletter is well received and with a nod towards carbon footprint / saving the trees, e-mail is the preferred method of receipt. We will of course still print a few copies (only) for those not on e-mail.
- The Fillipetto's evenings organised by Naomi were a great success and judging by the questionnaire results, over 75% of you would like more events like this. So watch this space for more organised events. If you have a favourite shop / restaurant which you think would be a good venue for a CAWC event, please let us know.
- Although the European wine trips in the past have been a great success, last year we were unable to get enough support to make a trip viable. This was due to a number of factors including the cost of the trip (particularly with the unfavourable exchange rate) and the changing demographics of the Club. Your comments this year were similar to last and therefore we will not be organising a Club trip for 2011. We hope that some time in the future, there will be sufficient support for a group trip as I know those who have been in the past thoroughly enjoyed them.
- Your favourite meetings from last year were the Christmas "Call my Bluff" evening and Tim from Sommeliers Choice. We hope Tim will be returning to the Club before the year is out and we already have our thinking caps on for a fun theme for this years Christmas party. Paul Mapplebeck's Bordeaux evening was also a firm favourite as was the Waitrose Sauvignon Blanc evening.
- Finally, thank you for all the kind comments written on the questionnaires. It's great to have such positive feedback. The Club doesn't run itself and all the Committee are very grateful for your appreciation.

### Set-Up Rota

July	Help.....
August	Help.....
September	Help.....

### Catering

A very big thank you to Elizabeth and Dee for providing the buffet this month.

July	Paul Todd and Ruth Lawrie
August	John Blanchard & Denise Healey
September	Jean & Duncan Matheson

### Diary Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Janet Gonsalves	The latest developments from Umbria
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Laura Clay, Society of Wine Educators	Sparkling Wines
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	T.B.C	



Driving? ....Please use the spittoons provided and ask the pourers for less.  
For the facts, go to [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

