



Next meeting: Monday 15th December  
7:30pm start

December 2008

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## Christmas Party

Well, it's only one day to go to the Christmas Dinner party at Blacknest Golf Club. Bookings have now closed, so if you've not booked, then it's too late.

Please note the start time is 7.30pm, and Peter Smith is looking forward to seeing everyone "in their Christmas best" {Ed: whatever that may mean}.

Wines have all been chosen, food selected, and the fun and games of the **raffle** and **wine Quiz** – are all ready to roll. So, pull out all those WSWS newsletters from long ago and brush up your knowledge. Proceeds from the raffle will go to charity. So that only leaves us to enjoy ourselves.

## WSWS EGM 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held at 7.30 pm before the normal monthly meeting on Monday, 19 January 2009 to consider the Society's financial position.

The cost of maintaining the Society has risen markedly over the past year, primarily due to an increase in the rent charged by Blacknest. Also, we no longer have a substantial reserve due to our very successful Anniversary Party. Therefore it is necessary for our income to increase. It should be noted that neither the subscription of £15 nor the attendance fee of £10 have changed since the Society's foundation 20 years ago, despite there being considerable inflation in all aspects of costs (venues, wines, speakers) over the intervening period.

In order to meet this increase, the Committee proposes that the annual subscription and attendance fee be adjusted by one of the following options:

Option 1: The subscription is increased to £20 and the attendance fee is increased to £12.

Option 2: The subscription remains the same at £15 and the attendance fee is increased to £13.

July suffers from few attendees - the Committee propose that meetings should not be held in July.

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## November meeting - Sherry & Tapas with Bryan Buckingham

It was a surprise to everyone when Bryan announced that the WSWS meeting would be the last such tasting that he was to undertake, and that he would be retiring from such activities after our meeting. No better excuse therefore for 42 WSWS members and guests to enjoy an evening that was quite unique for WSWS – food matched to wines that would never ordinarily be considered for drinking away from the pre-Sunday roast tippie.

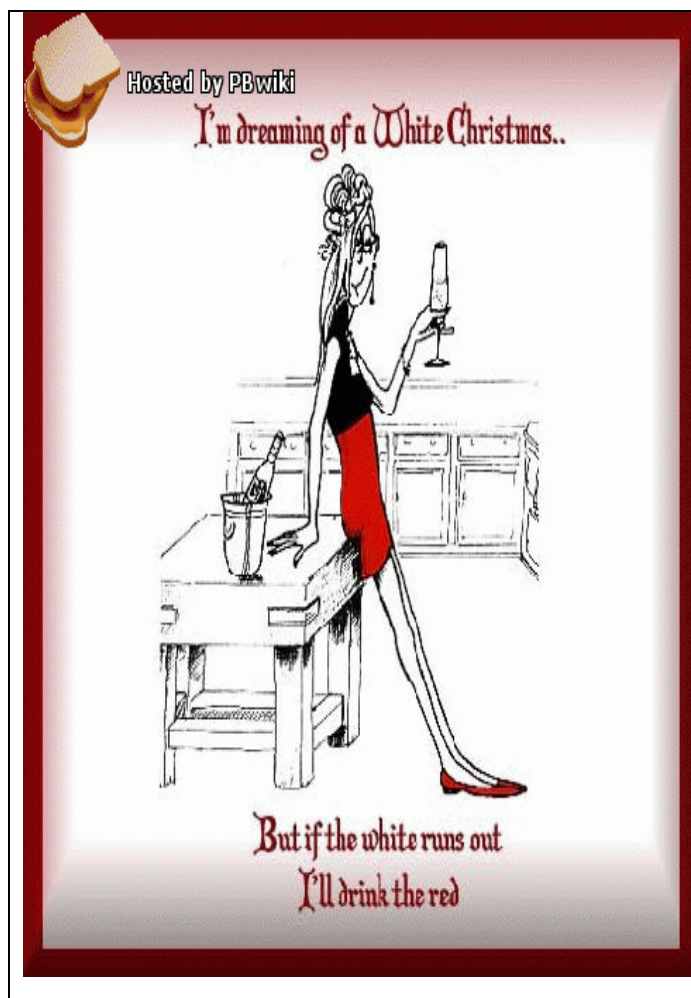
Bryan took us through the history of sherry, the microclimate that is "Jerez"; the way in which the various grape varieties are grown, the influence of the "flor" yeast; the science of the Solera; and

the blending of wines to deliver the final products we know today.

It was Bryan's 4<sup>th</sup> (or was that 5<sup>th</sup>) and sadly last visit to WSWs, and as we have moved venues every so often, it seems that he's never talked to us in the same place. Many photos were taken to assist memories as they fade over time.

### Diary notes

<b>Make a note of the following dates, (WSWS <u>always</u> meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month unless stated) mystery pre-meeting wine at 7:30 onward; meeting commences at 8pm</b>	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b> <b>starts 7:30pm with EGM</b>	Quality Wines from South Africa Keith Cooper, Secretary of Whitewater Valley Wine Society. He is very knowledgeable on this wine area and regularly presents to the Whitewater Wine Society on various wine areas
<b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2009</b>	Jaboulet Reborn! Anne Helene from Jaboulet and Amy Mathews of Liberty Wines.
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>	Fine Wines of Burgundy Richard Household - Managing Director of Revelstoke Wines
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2009</b>	New and exciting developments in Portuguese Wines Tasting led by Raymond Reynolds a specialist in Portuguese wines



### Sampling Notes

It's becoming quite a habit for retailers of all sorts to offer discounted booze in the run up to Christmas. This year, we've seen the 40% off from Threshers; champagne at up to 50% off, and numerous "special offers". As the paying public, we can take two routes – buy our favourites at better prices, or experiment with more expensive wines that normally we would simply leave on the shelf.

One of the joys of WSWs is the ability to taste some more unusual / rare / expensive offerings. For some, the "PX" at the November meeting was like being reunited with an old friend, while for others, it was new. Not all liked it – but that's part of the charm of WSWs.

There's only 10 shopping days left before Christmas, and only 18 before we are receiving the January credit card statements. Have a peaceful break.

David & Kim

<b><u>Who's who in the Committee?</u></b>	
Graham - The money man	Peter - Events co-ordinator
Sallie - Membership Secretary	Kim & David - Editors (Executive & "still" in-training)
Geoffrey - Secretary & all things snail	Additional help:
	Graham (The web master "tekkie")

**In the Vineyard:** a monthly look at what is going on in the Northern Hemisphere

**December** is for "fun and frozen fingers" – The fun happens in the cool, damp cellars where the early tasting of new young wines begins in earnest. The objective is to determine how the young wines will be used. In some cellars, special lactic bacteria may be added to the barrels or tanks in order to encourage malolactic fermentation. To assist this process, the cellars may be warmed.

The frozen fingers occur through the taking of cuttings for propagating young vines. The vines themselves are dormant and can withstand temperatures above -20°C. Pruning also starts.

**WEST SURREY WINE SOCIETY  
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING  
7.30 p.m. 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
BLACKNEST GOLF CLUB**

**AGENDA**

- 1. To receive financial Update from the treasurer;**
- 2. To make recommendations regarding future annual and monthly membership fees;**
- 3. A.O.B.**

Members unable to attend the EGM should complete and return a signed proxy form to Geoffrey Matthews by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, stating their preference between options 1 and 2

**PROXY FORM**

FOR

AGAINST

a) Subscription Option 1: The subscription is increased to £20 and the attendance fee is increased to £12.

b) Subscription Option 2: The subscription remains the same at £15 and the attendance fee is increased to £13.

c) July meeting - Cancellation of future meetings in July

Signed

Name:

