



Newsletter

West Surrey Wine Society



WSWS
Established 1988

Our next event is held on:

**20th March 2017 at
7.30pm for 8.00pm at
the Farnham
Conservative Club**

March 2017 edition

**March Meeting – Monday 20th - 'Croatia – New, Old World' presented by
Dennis Sunjic, of Liberty Wines.**

Croatian wines have attracted a lot of interest over the last few years and we are fortunate to have Dennis Sunjic as our presenter for March. Dennis was born in Croatia but has worked in the UK for many years. He will tell us about the very complex history of Croatia and link it to the development of the wine industry, the complex 'terroir' and why every single style of wine can be produced in such a small country (indigenous varieties, crisp whites, powerful reds, sparkling, Port-like fortified, Ice Wine etc.). He will describe the different regions and has selected wines from these regions to illustrate their different characteristics.

Dennis had a wealth of experience in the wine trade, bar tender, sommelier and wine buyer, before moving to Coe Vintners and then to Liberty Wines in London where he is now a sales manager. He has a WSET Diploma Level 3 and has been presenting masterclasses in Croatian wines in the UK and Ireland for 10 years including the London Wine Fair.

While the Tim and Jacky are taking a well-earned holiday Graham and Monica Cook will be manning the desk, and collecting your money, at the March meeting. To facilitate arrangements with the Conservative Club, and ensure we have enough 'Welcome Wines', it will help if you let Graham know, without commitment, if you are likely to attend or not.

Graham's email: monicagrahamcook@btinternet.com

Pourers

Although the Society now has a core of volunteer 'Pourers' it is important that we increase the numbers so that no one has to pour so often that they become disillusioned and opt out. Please let any member of the committee know if you are prepared to join the 'Pourers'.

Who's who in the Committee?

Chairman	Gerald Hackemer 01252 793684 gerald_hackemer@compuserve.com	Events co-ordinator	Peter Smith petervillagestore@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Brian Arthur 01252 726593 briansheilarthur@aol.com		Tim Thackeray 01252 710071 tim.thackeray@falconfarnham.co.uk
Secretary	Geoffrey Matthews 01252 797195 gmatthews91@icloud.com		Graham Cook 01252 716298 monicagrahamcook@btinternet.com
Membership Secretary	Jacky Thackeray 01252 710071 jacky.thackeray@falconfarnham.co.uk		Frances Hackemer 01252 793684 frances.hackemer@gmail.com
Treasurer	David Rathmell 01252 794817 dw.rathmell@btinternet.com		Bill Loach 01252 712593 wgaloach@aol.com

<p style="text-align: center;">Diary Notes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Make a note of the following dates, (WSWS meets on 3rd Monday of the month unless stated otherwise)</p>		
Monday, 20 th March	'Wines of Croatia'	Dennis Sunjic, Liberty Wines
Monday, 10th April - Note this is the second Monday in the month.	'Wines of New Zealand : The Family of Twelve'	Deborah Zbinden DipWSET & Certified Wine Educator
Monday, 15 th May	TBA	

April Meeting – Monday 10th - 'Wines of New Zealand: The Family of Twelve' presented by Deborah Zbinden, of Wine Confidence.

Please note that due to Easter the April meeting has been brought forward to the second Monday of the month.

In April we return to the 'Land of the Long White Cloud' when Deborah will present six red wines and six white wines, made with a diverse mix of grape varieties, covering every major New Zealand wine region. The wines are made by world-class wineries, definitive for those varieties, and known as 'The Family of Twelve'. 'The Family of Twelve' was founded in 2005 as a fraternity of twelve of New Zealand's most prestigious artisanal wineries, including such names as Felton Road, Ata Rangī, Neudorf, Pegasus Bay and Villa Maria. Contrasting personalities, different wine regions and styles make up the 'family' and they celebrate these differences. This is a rare opportunity to taste right across the range of wines from one of the world's top quality producers - truly 'a country wide horizontal tasting'.

Deborah Zbinden, DipWSET, is the founder of Wine Confidence, a new wine school based in Epsom, and has over 15 years' experience in the wine industry, including Marketing Manager of Accolade Wines. Her aim for Wine Confidence is "to help wine drinkers of all levels of knowledge and interest squeeze more enjoyment out of every drop".

Deborah is also the daughter-in-law of Society members Freddy and Lydia Zbinden.

February Meeting

Owing to the indisposition of the scheduled speaker Trudy Welch stepped in to give a presentation on the wines of Southern Italy focussing on the Puglia region.

Trudy, being part French, has known the Bordeaux and Bergerac regions of France from childhood. She recounted that she started work in the wine trade in the 1970's graduating from selling wines in the East End of London to selling in the much 'posher' environment of the 'City'. She is a member of the Association of Wine Educators. Members soon settled down to tasting eight typical wines from Puglia finishing with a special, and expensive, 'sticky' from the island of Pantellaria as a final flourish. The wines received a mixed reception from the members, particularly in view of the cost of some of them.

News of Members

Mick Linsell, who volunteered to take on the thankless task of 'Web Master' has been co-opted to the committee.

We were delighted that Darren and Celia Pendery, Hilary Carter and Veronica Holdford became members in February. A very warm welcome to them all.

At the February meeting we also welcomed Philippa Mitchell on her first guest visit.

Membership now stands at 67.

Committee Members

The AGM is coming up in June and with the current Chairman having completed his 3 year term the search is on to find a successor. Anyone who has an interest in taking the Society forward over the next 3 years is invited to have an informal chat with the present Chairman. Contact details under [Who's Who on the Committee](#).

Farnham Wine Festival

The Editor of local magazine 'Vantage Point' has asked if the Society is prepared to advertise the coming Farnham Wine Festival to its membership. As 'Vantage Point' gives the Society a free plug each month, which has resulted in several new members joining us over the past years, I am happy to do so.

'The Farnham Wine Festival will take place at Farnham Maltings on 7th and 8th April, with a session on the Friday evening from 7pm-11pm, an afternoon session on the Saturday from 12pm-4pm and a final session on the Saturday evening from 7pm-11pm.

The festival will feature over 120 international wines including champagnes and premium wines, alongside wine experts and producers. In addition, there will also be music, entertainment, concessions, food, money off wine vouchers and more.

Local wines and producers will also feature with their own special section to celebrate the strength and diversity of wine production in this area. These will include Albury Vineyard, Blackdown Ridge, Greyfriars and Jenkyn Place.

It will also be supporting two local charities, Challengers and Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care.

Entry to each festival will be just £10 per session if booked in advance, with wine tokens also available at a reduced price when booked together. Corporate and group rates will also be available for parties and larger bookings.

Book NOW at www.vantagepointevents.co.uk

As a thank you the Editor of 'Vantage Point' is offering a discount to WSWS members who wish to attend. If you wish to take advantage of this offer please contact the Chairman.

