

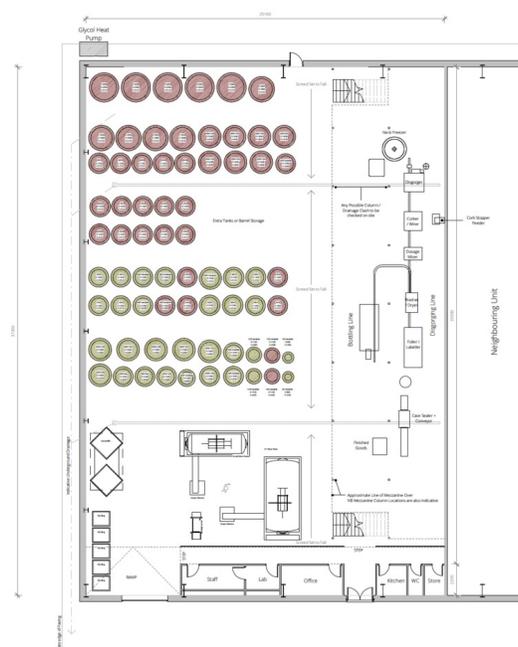
Life outside

All,

clearly the big news over the past month has been the EU - and whether they would give me a grant. I am delighted to say that they gave me the full amount I had applied for - £162k. This has allowed me to order a new press and tanks (46 of them of varying shapes, sizes and functions), which are coming from Germany at the end of July. I have also bought a smaller second hand press from another winery, as they are increasing their own production. As a result, they are doing less contract work and some of their clients have come to me to have their wine made.



Also this month, I have been granted my wine production licence; have a confirmed plan for the winery (below); but a trade effluent licence remains as elusive as ever.



I now have confirmed clients for winemaking; some clients wanting storage; and a range of other potential clients wanting everything from pressing table grapes to make a base alcohol for gin, to a 'virtual winemaking' project, that will allow people to get involved in winemaking decisions - <http://moonberries.net>. I have more visits in the next couple of weeks to confirm clients, which I will be doing these with my consultant winemaker, Owen Elias. Owen has been making wine for over 25 years, worked with Chapel Down for many years (where he won winemaker of the year on at least 4 occasions) and currently also consults for Hush Heath. He is therefore highly respected within the UK wine world, with good reason as he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of vines, clones and winemaking techniques.



As the purpose of my EU grant is to generate jobs in the rural economy, I have been recruiting and will be interviewing potential winery staff at the end of the month. We also have a new office manager - Carole will not only look after the admin and bookkeeping but as she has a background in marketing for a wine merchant, will also help clients with their own marketing.

As buds begin to burst in the vineyards, fingers crossed that we have no more frosts, which could damage this year's harvest.

**Regards,
Henry Sugden**

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