

Dear all,

apologies for the length of time since the last newsletter. There has been lots going on as ever, although we have managed a two week holiday.

The exciting news is that we now have a new winemaker, Nick Bamplied-Lane. A Kiwi, he has worked for Cloudy Bay in New Zealand before moving to Veuve Cliquot and now Dom Perignon (all part of the LVMH group), so it is fantastic to get someone of his experience making wine in England.

We have also just heard that we are the first winery in UK to pass the accreditation audit for WineGB's new Sustainability scheme. This means that any of our growers who pass the vineyard certification will be able to display WineGB's Sustainability logo on their labels - something to look out for in future.



More info here...

We are currently labelling and boxing the last bottles of wine from 2019 for those people whose labels have just been printed, as well as finishing some bottling and disgorging. However the focus is now switching to preparing for the harvest.

Our new 8Ton press arrived this week - and needed a crane to unload it is so big. Over the next month we have 40 new tanks coming from Germany and France, as well as barrels, pumps, hoses and other items. We are taking on extra staff for harvest - a British assistant winemaker (Luke), two cellar



hands (one from South Africa, the other from UK) as well as drawing on a pool of GAP year students from the local rugby club to load and clean presses.

It was great to see 8 of our wines (of 10 submitted) win awards at this year's WineGB awards. For those looking to buy wines we have made, the following of our growers are selling online:

Bacchus - Brenley Farm

Bacchus and Rose (2019 wines) - Terlingham Vineyard

Bacchus, Pinot Gris and Rose - Wayfarer Wines

Bacchus, Red and Rose - Wildwood Vineyard

Pinot Gris - Heppington Vineyard

Rose - Drink FOLC

White blend (2019) - Meopham Valley Vineyard

With the Southern Hemisphere having already had a Covid harvest, we will apply some of their lessons. Fortunately the recent quarantine changes do not affect trucks coming from Europe and we are working with suppliers to ensure that the teams coming to set up the equipment are not impacted.

Here's hoping that the warm weather holds for harvest!

