

## Drymen Wine Club

September 2009

The weather has drowned and beaten us for a month so we were all glad to meet at Sally and Paul's for an evening of alcoholic relief. A new face braved the elements to join us – Edwina Wilcox, child star who once made an appearance on Tiswas and now works as a full-time extra on films and TV shows.

First out of the box was Eric's bubbly concoction of citrus and cider fruit. It was a sharp, clean taste and not one of us could identify this as a Vouvray – a Mousseux Brut to be exact, £12 per bottle from Yapp Brothers (House of Fraser).

Next was a vividly (and some said worryingly) yellow wine, full of apricots, peaches and honey. Nancy had ordered Domaine de Condoulet Viognier from Berry Bros & Rudd at a modest £6.90 per bottle. This was a delicately balanced wine, not overwhelming on flavour but intriguing nevertheless.

We had the second and third choices the wrong way round, or perhaps not. Walter's offering was another from the chenin blanc grape (like the Vouvray) although markedly different with its pear and nut combinations. Wine Rack has a fantastic deal on Chateau Guimoniere Anjou at £6 per bottle for purchases of three or more. It really is worth a try if you like wines which are out of the ordinary.

We were loose on theme tonight, working vaguely around wines with an autumnal undertone. This tends to favour reds more than whites. People associate dark berries with the end of summer and harvests and bramble picking and ... yes, I'm reliving my youth!

Sally and Paul lead pretty hectic lives; Paul jetting up and down to London every week leaving Sally to keep the home fires burning and raise three children. How on earth did she find time to cater for 25 hungry souls invading her modern living space? But cater she did. A selection of individual quiches and salads, a spread reminiscent of a tapas bar, (really loved the olives, Sally) and cheeses to ensure that the enamel remained on our teeth. (See the BBC scare site on the effects of white wine on tooth enamel!)

All attentions were turned to (on?) Edwina as she was tonight's celebrity. She has worked on sets with Robbie Coltrane, Ewan McGregor, Gillian Anderson, to name but a few, and is a regular background shopper in River City. Apparently it is a lot of standing around in the cold for a few seconds of reflected glory.

Geoff was recommending the new dental surgery in the village; much easier than driving to Bearsden. All we need now is an optician and all our frailties are covered!

Charles wanted to know what was happening at the golf club. The builders are in and it looks like there is going to be a huge extension to the club house.

Consuela suggested that it was the long-anticipated spa complex with swimming pool, whirlbath, sauna, gym and treatment rooms for hot stone therapy, acupuncture, beautician and aromatherapy. Geoff added that there should be reiki and hypnotherapy, particularly for golfers who looked like they were in danger of exploding. As Charles clearly was. What did any of this have to do with golf, he bellowed. Fortunately, I don't play.

Marcia treated us to a rich dark wine. It was full of cherries and vanilla with a spicy finish – not hot spice, more Christmassy if you know what I mean. And we were stunned to find that we were drinking a wine from Tesco's Finest range – a Barbera d'Asti Superiore. It comes from Fratelli Martini so it has passed through excellent hands. At under £7 per bottle, this was a bargain.

Julia had been to her favourite shop, M&S. We knew by the carrier bag! With no collusion on their parts, Julia had bought more cherries but the element which had us all talking was the intense perfume, roses in the evening mist. This was Umberto Fiore Barbaresco, £7.49 per bottle.

Slyv was spot on with the theme and deserved full autumn colours for her choice of finishing wine. A beautiful, rich, sweet wine from Germany, deep golden like a mead from the Dark Ages, packed with honey, peaches and apricots. As one member said: "unless you're a native German speaker, you just point at it on the shelf". So Gretchen said it for us! Zimmerman-Graeff Ilbesheimer Herrlich Beerenauslese from Laithwaites, £6.49 per half bottle. (We no longer have the Laithwaites icon on the Wine Shops page as they have suspended all affiliateships and put the scheme under review. Their website is simply [www.laithwaites.co.uk](http://www.laithwaites.co.uk))

As I have brought up the subject of the Wine Shops page, I should draw attention to the icons for wine related gifts, Christmas presents and bubbly for the festive season. Please use the buttons as the small sums they remit to the club pay for the upkeep of the website. Thanks.