

## Drymen Wine Club

October 2009

This is the best time of year. The weather turns colder. The nights are longer and darker. We're on the roller-coaster to Christmas and it starts with Halloween. We don't often meet on a Saturday but it was the 31<sup>st</sup> and the coffin lids were off at the McKinney's. Fancy dress was de rigeur and, buried in the depths of the Rushypark Forest, we were unlikely to be bedevilled by hordes of trick-or-treaters.

We had decided to have a blood red evening, the wine of vampires, and Margaret had the difficult task of selecting an opening wine with a spooky connection. Maybe not as difficult as I had thought! Coming in from the cold on her broomstick, dressed as a witch complete with a green face and a wart on her nose, Margaret conjured up possibly the spookiest wine in the world – a Zinfandel called Poizin which comes in its own coffin! This was a jaw-drawing red, coming to the end of its life and described as “the wine to die for”.

It's not often you find a witch in fishnet stockings! Lindsay, appearing for the first time since she and Jamie got engaged, had modelled her costume on Michelle Pfeiffer in Stardust. Least said, soonest forgiven! Her wine was pitch-dark, almost black in the glass and thick with blackcurrants and brambles. The Waxed Bat is from Laithwaites.

What is it about librarians and school-teachers that makes them metamorphose into their alter-egos when party time comes around? Cynthia was a most convincing devil. She could even tell when her tail was being pinched! She brought a rich Australian red, full of flavour and with a real kick. Black Devil Aglianico – another from Laithwaites – is a good pasta wine with a round clean full fruity taste. £7.49 a bottle.

Spain does not have Halloween as a tradition except as a recent import, so Consuela had to improvise considerably with her tapas. Mozzarella peppers, vodka flamed chorizo and spiced tortilla put a devil of a fire in our mouths. The apple doking soon extinguished it. Jamie, holding Lindsay by the ankles was cheating!

The village has been eerily quiet during the last month. Charles eventually rang me to say that the scaffolding around the golf club was for maintenance – we all knew that, Charles!

Lindsay (what would we do without her) could tell us that the events on the tv series, Fringe ([www.fox.com/fringe](http://www.fox.com/fringe)) were about to come true in Drymen. As I don't have a television, this meant nothing to me, although I am concerned that the village could end up on the new flight path for Edinburgh Airport. If you have noticed the increasing number of planes, especially first thing in the morning, contact our MSP, Bruce Crawford, and let him know your concerns. [Bruce.Crawford.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Bruce.Crawford.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

Count Dracula aka Alistair gave us a beautifully oaky and soft red from a bottle with a skull in profile. Elk Creek Vineyards Bone Dry Red is a rich cabernet sauvignon which lives up to its name. Thanks Drac.

My offering was also a cab sauv and Californian. Grown from a Bordeaux grape and aged in oak, this gave an aromatic wine with plenty of fruit. Vampire. From [thedrinkshop.com](http://thedrinkshop.com) at £8.60 a bottle.

The challenge of having such a cosmopolitan membership is that cultures collide. Fortunately, Germany has an ancient Halloween tradition, mostly centred around witches, so Hans was flying high when he produced a sensational bottle of old fashioned flavours. Violets, leather and chocolate surged from the surface. This full, sweet wine comes from Australia and goes by the name Mollydooker Enchanted Path. Available from [surf4wine.co.uk](http://surf4wine.co.uk)