



Wine and Wisdom 2008

An Enjoyable and Popular Evening

Report from Jeremy Cope

On the evening of the 18th February, over eighty of the wise gathered at St. Mary's Parish Hall for our Annual Wine and Wisdom Evening. We have to thank Clive Taylor and his team (wife Jill and Andrew) for the success of this good humoured but competitive event. As always, Clive set the questions that bring out the best in us. However, dingbats and abbreviations revealed those less able to think outside the box.

We must also thank Pat Hooper and Pat Sherratt for organising an evening that provided such very good value for money. The evening was as always, underpinned by members who helped with chores and by Mike Weston who dealt with the wine.

Congratulations to the winners in reverse order:-

Tying third were Good Companions and Enigma with 80 points.

Second were the BJ's with 83 points winning a prize of chocolates.

Brainiest of all, for the second year, were Smith's Crisps with 84 points who were awarded inscribed glasses.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Spring 2008

SUBSCRIPTION TIME!! SUBSCRIPTION TIME!!

From time to time the topic of subscription increase is raised in committee especially as this has happened only once in our 20 year history. For the time being most committee members feel that the amount should remain at its present level of £6 single and £10 joint, relying on Gift Aid to add its supplement of about one third in value. One obvious benefit of a modest subscription is that we can appeal to as wide a membership as possible. Our finances are in surplus with a healthy bank balance enabling us to further our objectives, to earn interest, which also keeps subscriptions low and to maintain a prudent financial policy, which helps secure the Society's future.

Because we are a charity we are permitted to spend only a limited percentage of our subscription income for the benefit of members, apart from the newsletter. Quite rightly, the Charity Commissioners are becoming ever more vigilant in their supervision. While we can cover our permissible expenditure by means of the subscription we see no need to ask our members for more.

Nevertheless we are well aware that many committee members and others do generously contribute to our finances in a variety of ways either in kind or by their efforts, all of which enable the Society to function effectively. A good example of this is the raffle which keeps meetings in surplus overall, permits free entry to all and ensures that non-attendees do not subsidise those who are able to come to meetings. With a special cause, such as trees for Dover precinct, members are given the opportunity to support a cause that is of particular interest to them.

We now have 461 members and welcome new ones include:- Mr M Faulkner, Mrs J & Mr M Pope, Mr N Late, Mr P & Mrs J Hart and Mrs B Stapleton.

We send our condolences to families and friends of members who have recently died:- Mrs C Mackintosh, Miss J Wells, Mrs A Knott, Mr P Cook, Mr J Ullmann, Mrs A Sly (aged 101).

Sheila R. Cope