

Welcome to 2026!

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

Happy New Year to you all,

It's hard to believe that it's a whole year ago that I was last writing that, 2025 seems to have vanished in a flash! However, your committee have been putting together a full programme for this year and I hope to see you in person on at least one of the tours on offer.

This edition has a review of the wonderful festive Zoom wine tasting, which is becoming ever more popular, as well as looking forward the Spring Weekend in Essex and our overseas trip to the Carcassonne area. It is now past the date to pay the balance for Essex but, if there is anyone who has suddenly realised that they might be able to make it after all, send your booking form as soon as possible and we will see if the hotel has any rooms free for you. We know that there are no longer any deluxe rooms available, but you might be in luck with a standard room.

The Carcassonne trip looks fantastic and several people are planning on extending it either before or after the organised tour (or even both!). I am afraid that if you have not booked already, it sold out withing 24 hours of appearing on the website! There is a waiting list so please get in touch if you wish to be added to it

We hope to be able to give you details of the Annual Dinner in the next few weeks, so keep checking the website.

All the best for 2026,



Jane Orr

In this issue...

Forthcoming Event: Short Tour to Carcassonne, France - 18-21 June 2026

Forthcoming Event: Spring Weekend in the Crouch Valley, Essex - 27-29 March 2026

Report on Zoom Wine Tasting - December 2025

Booking Form for Essex

Booking Form for Carcassonne

Sip, Taste, Travel **LIMOUX & LANGUEDOC**

Midsummer weekend in Carcassonne

*18-21ST
JUNE
2026*



£640pp SHARING
(SINGLE SUPP. £200)

3 nights B&B - also includes 2 Dinners & 2 Lunches with Wine.

Details on next page. Click for [booking form](#) and [Ts & Cs](#)

Carcassonne in south-west France is the base for the tour. The area is rich in Roman and Cathar history and the stunning hilltop medieval town (La Cité) is a UNESCO World Heritage site. For those who wish to extend their holiday, Robert Boutflower of Tanners (who will be accompanying us) will be very happy to suggest other vineyards that could be visited before or after the tour.

Travel: accessible by air (Carcassonne or Toulouse airport), train (TGV) and car (A61 motorway).

Hotel: the 4 star Sowell “Les Chevaliers” is on the banks of the river with a view of La Cité, and 15 mins walk both from there and from the station.

Please be at the hotel by 4pm on Thursday 18th June.

Schedule:

Thursday

o 5pm wine tasting (with “nibbles”) in a local wine bar to give introduction to the wines of the region followed by dinner (with wine) in a local bistro.

Friday

- o Morning: visit to Limoux (Famile Antech).
- o Lunch at a locally famous rustic country taverne
- o Afternoon: a visit to a red wine specialist (Domaine La Louviere)
- o Evening at leisure

Saturday

- o Morning: visit to a family winery (Château Eulalie) in Minervois with a light lunch to accompany the wines
- o Afternoon: visit to a family winery (Château Cendrillon) in Corbières.
- o Dinner (with wine): lovely restaurant (Michelin guide) with terrace in La Cité.

Sunday: depart at leisure after breakfast

The non-refundable, non-transferable deposit payable on booking is £250 pp with the balance payable by 18th April 2026.

[Click here for the booking form.](#)

[Event booking terms can be found here.](#)

EXPLORE THE CROUCH VALLEY

Spring Weekend to Essex, 27th - 29th March 2026

Essex has a surprisingly large and long-established wine growing industry with over 30 vineyards scattered across the county's rich rural landscape. The Crouch Valley has a microclimate which allows six vineyards here to grow Anglo-Germanic grape varieties, alongside those more typical to southern Europe.

Based near the cathedral city of Chelmsford, the tour includes:

- Two nights bed & breakfast accommodation at Pontlands Park Hotel.
- Friday afternoon trip to New Hall Wine Estate for tour and tasting.
- Friday evening dinner at Pontlands Park, with wines from Tanners.
 - Saturday trip to Clay Hills Vineyards, for tour and tasting.
- Saturday trip to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, the last remaining intact World War I Royal Flying Corps air base.
- Saturday afternoon tour and tasting at Galleywood Vineyard & Winery, followed by dinner in their gourmet restaurant.
- Sunday morning visit to the Crouch Ridge vineyard, for a tour, tasting, and a light lunch.

*£580 per person based on two people sharing
(single supplement of £140)
Room upgrades for £40 extra*

To book, complete and return the form at the end of the newsletter

ZOOMING GOOD FUN!

Our annual online wine tasting is becoming more and more popular. This year we had 50 individuals joining on 15 devices, enjoying each other's company, enjoying the wine and also enjoying Robert's wisdom and humour as he talked us through what we were tasting.

We started with the bubbly – Tanners English Sparking Wine – and this proved very popular amongst those there. This is the good side of global warming! We then compared and contrasted two white wines – the Lyrebird Australian Chardonnay and the Talmard Mâcon-Chardonnay. Opinions differed as to which people preferred but that is the whole point of a group tasting.



When we got on to the reds, I think we were all impressed by the Tanners Super Claret which actually comes from Château Cissac. Definitely super! The other red, a Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon was very drinkable but not quite in the same league.

We finished the evening with the 2016 Tanners Crusted Port and a mellow glow of having shared in good wine and good company.



THE CHARLES HASTINGS WINE CLUB

Spring Weekend in the Crouch Valley, Essex, 27th – 29th March 2026

BOOKING FORM

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to Mr. D. Carter at events@chwineclub.org.uk or 11 MacKinnon Place, Dunfermline. KY11 8PW. Please note that the £165 per person **deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable** and that the balance payment must be received no later than 15 January 2026. Full payment may be enclosed with this form; if so the amount of the deposit per person will be treated as non-refundable and non-transferable. CHWC event booking terms are available on the Club's website or in hard copy from the Club's Secretary David Carter.

Full name(s):

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Mobile:

I/we would prefer a TWIN / DOUBLE / SINGLE room.

Preference will be honoured if possible but choice between twin and double cannot be guaranteed.

I/we would like a superior room upgrade @ £40.00 per room YES / NO

I/we have dietary restrictions:

I/we have disabilities which restrict(s) mobility:

I/we would like to receive details of the cost of additional night(s):

Next of kin name, relationship and contact 'phone number:

The full price of the event is £580 per person sharing, with a single supplement of £140.

Payment by bank transfer is preferred; please contact David Carter at events@chwineclub.org.uk for bank details. If paying by cheque please make it payable to **The Charles Hastings Wine Club** and send it to David Carter at 11 MacKinnon Place, Dunfermline. KY11 8PW.

THE CHARLES HASTINGS WINE CLUB

Short Tour to Carcassonne, 18th – 21st June 2026

BOOKING FORM

*Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to Mr. D. Carter at events@chwineclub.org.uk or 11 MacKinnon Place, Dunfermline. KY11 8PW. Please note that the £150 per person **deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable** and that the balance payment must be received no later than 18th April 2026. Full payment may be enclosed with this form; if so the amount of the deposit per person will be treated as non-refundable and non-transferable. CHWC event booking terms are available on the Club's website or in hard copy from the Club's Secretary David Carter.*

Full name(s):

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Mobile:

I/we would prefer a TWIN / DOUBLE / SINGLE room.

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I/we would like to receive details of the cost of additional night(s):

Next of kin name, relationship and contact 'phone number:

The full price of the event is £640 per person sharing, with a single supplement of £200.

Payment by bank transfer is preferred; please contact David Carter at events@chwineclub.org.uk for bank details. If paying by cheque please make it payable to **The Charles Hastings Wine Club** and send it to David Carter at 11 MacKinnon Place, Dunfermline. KY11 8PW.