



FRIENDS OF WARDEN ABBEY VINEYARD

Warden Abbey Vineyard is an ambitious project that is putting the local community at the heart of **producing award-winning wines!** In beautiful countryside near Old Warden in Bedfordshire, we can offer you a unique opportunity to get involved in the whole viticultural process, from tending the vineyard through to selling the wine.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) has taken on the lease of Warden Abbey Vineyard, and has been working to develop it as a vineyard for all the community since April 2010.

This project is run as a not-for-profit enterprise and aims to provide social, health and educational benefits for Bedfordshire whilst providing a financially and environmentally sustainable future for the vineyard. We are working with local schools and charities to develop educational, therapeutic, wildlife, heritage and employment projects.

By joining us for a modest fee as a **Friend of Warden Abbey Vineyard** in return for a newsletter and invitations to Friends' events, you would be helping to support this unusual venture – or you can become a volunteer, involved in tending the vines and maintaining the vineyard – or both!



Subscription is from £20 but any amount more will be gratefully received.

We would also welcome your involvement in fundraising and promoting the project and the wines. As well as supporting the community vineyard project in its work, by becoming a member you will receive:

- An exclusive newsletter for members with updates about the work of the Friends
- Priority booking/discounted/free entry on tours and tasting events
- Invitations to Friends-only events
- The opportunity to drop in at the vineyard on a Tuesday or Friday throughout the year (just check first!)
- 5 % off wine purchases
- Free glass of Warden Abbey wine at our Open Day
- A vote at our AGM

The medieval Warden Abbey was founded by Cistercian monks in 1135 as a daughter abbey of Rievaulx Abbey in Yorkshire. The monks cleared surrounding woodland and planted the Great Vineyard (10 acres) and the Lyttel Vineyard (4 acres). The vineyard was abandoned in 1537 following the dissolution of the abbey.



The current vineyard was replanted in 1986 on the site of the Lyttel Vineyard. It is around 5 acres (2 hectares) and there are around 4000 vines, comprising 4 varieties: Muller Thurgau, Bacchus, Regner and Reichensteiner. The average yield has been 4-6,000 bottles, but has varied from 0 to around 23,000 bottles (0 to 38 tonnes of grapes)!

The volunteers meet at the vineyard throughout the year:

December to February/March – repairs to trellis and rabbit fencing while vines are dormant.

January/February – pruning the dormant vines.

End of May – bud rubbing – removing unwanted buds that sprout from the main trunk so that all the plant's energies go into productive buds.

June to early July – tucking in – the new shoots are positioned by tucking them within the supporting trellis wires.

July/August – cutting back – lateral growth is trimmed back to create a "hedge" of the canopy. The top shoots are trimmed back.

August/September – leaf stripping – some leaves are stripped from around the fruit zone so that the sun can ripen the grapes.

End September/first half of October – harvest!

We welcome new friends for regular work or just picking – either way, talk to us today and/or leave us your details if interested.

You can also contact us via our website.

<http://www.wardenvineyard.org.uk>

Jane Markham – Vineyard Project Manager 07981-113714

Membership Application

I/we wish to join/re-join the Friends of Warden Abbey Vineyard as:

☐ Individual member £20 ☐ Joint members £30

☐ Life member (over 65) £200 ☐ Life member (under 65) £300

**Cheque for £ attached, payable to:
Friends of Warden Abbey Vineyard.**

Alternatively, please use the Standing Order form or see the note about setting up a Standing Order on-line.

Name

Email

We communicate exclusively by email to save cost and time.

Address

.....

.....

Post code

Telephone

Your membership will be treated as Gift Aid if, by ticking this box, you confirm you pay sufficient UK income tax to cover all your Gift Aid subscriptions. ☐

Future standing order payments will be treated as Gift Aid unless you inform us otherwise.

Signature

Date

Standing Order Form

To The Manager:

Your bank name

Address

.....

.....

Sort code:

Account number:

Please pay to . . .

Friends of Warden Abbey Vineyard

Bank: Barclays, Hitchin branch

Sort code: **20-41-15**

Account number: **13271994**

. . . the amount of £ now and on the same date each following year.

Signature

Print name

Date:

If you prefer to set up your STO on-line, please tick this box and we will not send this form to your bank; however, we would still appreciate these details so we can identify the source of incoming payments. ☐

If you set up your STO on-line, please use your name as '**reference**' and advise us by email when you have done so, for our records: info@wardenvineyard.org.uk

Please return this page to:

*The Membership Secretary
Friends of Warden Abbey Vineyard
BRCC, The Old Schoolhouse,
Southill Road, Cardington MK44 3SX*

For office use only – ref. no:

Form sent to bank yes/no on date: