



## OUR FESTIVALS

MAY 28TH - JUNE 2ND 2018

# LONDON

## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

### The Main Event: London

The Society's Triennial International Festival was held in London, hosted by the Europe Africa region. The event organisation was lead by Stephanie Shepherd and her team who set out to eschew the standard tourist attractions and show 160 fellow members, from 17 different countries, some of the delights only Londoners know. And they did with such success!



The venues chosen worked remarkably well. The Corinthia Hotel proved a particularly happy choice as the Festival hotel and its kitchen staff produced a wonderful opening dinner capturing the whole ethos of the Festival.

The Goldsmiths' Livery Hall furnished a fitting coda to the main event. Candle-lit chandeliers sparkled, wood panelling glowed and the gold plate glinted, the Pikemen of the Honourable Artillery Company provided a suitably martial 'Carpet Guard' and students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama provided expert entertainment. It seems almost redundant to say that the food, wine and service were also first class.

In between the two, the Merchant Taylors' Livery Hall handled the logistics of a wine tasting for 200 followed immediately by lunch with exemplary professionalism.



The restaurants of the Dine Around, Hurlingham Club and Forman's Fish Island exceeded the organisers expectations by a considerable margin. Walking tours gave groups the chance to explore other historical corners of the city. Eltham Palace provided a delightful venue but presented quite a challenge as every aspect of the dining experience had to be brought in.

Many members commented favourably on the choice of wines and their pairing with the food – which was a balance of top English wines and those from other countries in the Europe Africa Zone.

Thanks must go to Stephanie and her Festival team for putting on such a superb festival.



### Westminster Abbey Pre-Tour

This magical out-of-hours tour was held before the Festival began.

Members were given a guided tour of all areas of this historic abbey and were accompanied by The Purcell Club (old choristers of the Abbey) who sang for them at points during the evening.

The finale was a piece played on the magnificent organ which left members in awe.



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## Champagne Pre-Tour

Tour leaders of Golden Sabre executed a very well-planned tour laced with excellent knowledge, information and above all entertainment. The tasting opportunities began as soon as members boarded the bus to Champagne tasting seven of the famous Champagne brands.

The choice of lunches and location of accommodation were excellent. One of the many highlights was the visit to Taittinger with an outstanding visit to the cellars, tasting and then lunch at their Ancien Hotel des Comtes de Champagne.

Finally, all members clinically executed the challenge of removing champagne corks from bottles with sabres! The farewell to Champagne concluded with a vertical tasting of Krug: 1990, 1995, 2003 and Grande Cuvée. Plus, who knew that a little Burgundy wine settles the stomach and increases one's stamina for the bubbles? A valuable life lesson for any IWFS member.



## Irish Delights Pre-Tour

The event started at The Merrion, a stunning hotel in the heart of Dublin, with dinner at two star Patrick Guilbaud on the first night and the second evening at Johnnie Foxes "Hooley Show" (a very Irish song and dance show).

The third day saw members on the road to the Rock of Cashel and Kilshannig House and Stud, and lunch with owner Hugo Mery, then onto Killarney. Touring the Ring of Kerry, one of the most stunning coastlines in the world, was followed by a fabulous lunch and whiskey tasting at the five star Park Hotel.



Two nights in Cork to explore, a visit and tasting at Middleton Pot Still, another fabulous lunch at the Old Heads Golf Club, Kinsale, and final dinner at Jacob's on the Mall. Members were reluctant to leave and so very privileged to be on this special tour - with thanks to Ian and Chris Nicol for making this possible.

## Sussex & Hampshire Post-Tour

Having enjoyed two English wine tastings during the main Festival, 14 members left London to continue their education in English wines.

Accompanied by Julia Trustram-Eve, Marketing Director of Wine GB they visited a wide variety of vineyards from the relatively new Exton Park to the long-established Hambledon, from the well-known Bolney and Ridgeview to Meon Valley and Albourne.

The party also had the opportunity to visit Parham House, a beautifully restored Tudor Manor House where they met the present owner and enjoyed a mini-tasting of wines from Stopham Estate and Nyetimber. From their base in the medieval village of Cuckfield they were able to dine at Jeremy's Restaurant at Borde Hill Gardens.

With members of Sussex Branch they also visited Gravetye Manor Hotel. Like Borde Hill, Gravetye is famous for its gardens and members were delighted to have time to explore before indulging in an excellent meal accompanied by, of course, English wines.



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## Gourmet London Post-Tour

This post-tour gave members the opportunity to visit some of the best restaurants in London, which were simply not large enough to accommodate all 160 Festival attendees. Ari Sofianos and Chris Bonsall, of the St James's Branch, took on the organisation and delivered, unsurprisingly, an impressive breadth of Michelin starred dining experiences.

The programme encompassed a taste of the Mediterranean at The Ninth, a French focus at Gauthier, Cantonese cuisine at Hakkasan, Peruvian perfection at Lima, sophistication at Bonhams and the chance to be a guest of Alain Roux at The Waterside Inn. Members also enjoyed a tasting and a visit of the historic cellars at Berry Bros & Rudd plus a guided walk and historic tour through Mayfair.

## André Simon Lecture

Members were treated to a powerful presentation by Oz Clarke - British wine writer, TV presenter and broadcaster at the Merchant Taylors' Hall.

Oz's lecture focussed on the impact that global warming is having on wine production globally. It is a topic that members will have discussed and opinions will have already been formed. However Oz gave a compelling lecture making it very hard to conclude anything other than global warming is affecting the world of wine.



Oz highlighted key opportunities for emerging wine regions and also the new grapes the classic wine regions are now planting. To close he said how English wine producers are now benefitting from warmer temperatures and producing world class sparkling wines and how the leading Champagne producers are taking note and establishing vineyards here too.

To read the full lecture [click here](#).

## Tour of the In & Out Club

With the Festival in full swing some members took part in a tour of the In & Out Club, where members can stay when they visit London. Housed in the grand grade I listed former home of Lady Nancy Astor (an American and the first woman to take her seat as a Member of Parliament) the Club is also home to the IWFS International Secretariat. Members enjoyed the impressive rooms with their double height ceilings and traditional décor.



The Americas Festivals & Events Committee is hard at work curating a wonderful program of winery tours and sumptuous dining in Buenos Aires and Mendoza, Argentina; planned for the Fall of 2021. The cosmopolitan sophistication of Buenos Aires will complement Mendoza's wine region as centerpieces of this Triennial International Festival. Pre- and/or Post-Tours options are presently being evaluated. More news to come.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The nicest thing for me about the London Festival was the chance to catch up with so many branches and members from around the world. They came together to talk about how their branches are fairing, embracing new technologies with apps to keep members in touch and engaged, and plans for the future. There is a lot going on in the Society and this was further emphasised at the Council Meeting, which also took place in Festival week. I raised a toast at the Festival to absent friends. This included Bob Gutenstein who sadly passed away earlier this year, but it was nice to hear Americas are to plan an event in his memory.

The highlight of the week for me was undoubtedly the Goldsmiths' "candlelit" Gala Dinner in splendid surroundings and escorted by the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers with their drums. Numbers swelled to 210 as UK branches took the opportunity to join us for the evening and a chance to thank the 17 members of the Festival Organising Committee.

In my speech I was keen to point out how much we had learned, no matter our age or where we have come from. Some had learned the art of Irish dancing, expertise in whiskey tasting, the art of sabrage, Oz Clarke's view on climate change, the emergence of English wines, how to make real smoked salmon, and the history of the Goldsmiths, their Hall and the origins of 'hallmarking'. Members took away many mementos of their experiences and although we could not give away any gold I hope they all took away golden memories of the events.

Finally, I handed over the baton to Mike Donohoe, Chair of the Americas, to organise the next Triennial International Festival, which they are planning in Argentina (see page 2).

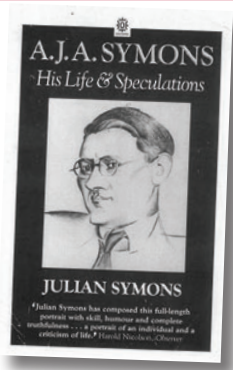
**Ian Nicol** Chairman,  
International Council of Management (ICM)



## NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The Society archives are an ongoing project and take on particular relevance this year for branches organising 85th Anniversary events, and those branches entering the Anniversary competition. At the request of Tom Murnan, Americas member, the first edition of Wine & Food from 1934 has been added to the Society's archives website plus an extract from the biography of the Society's co-founder A.J.A. Symons. The latter gives an insight into when he first met André and together they formed the Society.

[Click here](#) to view the Society's archives.



## OUR AWARDS

During the London Festival three André Simon Awards and a Society Diploma were presented. At Eltham Palace, in the glorious setting of Henry VIII's medieval banqueting hall **Ian Nicol**, who has been Chair of both EAZ since 2014 and the International Council of Management (ICM) since 2016, was presented with the Silver Medal, as was **Andrew Jones**, who was Chair of Americas from 2014 - 2017 and member of the ICM since 2012. Both Ian and Andrew have made significant contributions to the Society through their leadership of their zones and contribution to Council matters, as well as the organisation of international events.

**Jeremy Diamond**, chairman of Kuala Lumpur branch from May 2006 to May 2009 and the very successful Kuala Lumpur festival in June 2013 was presented with a Diploma in recognition of his achievements and long-standing contribution to the Society. At the concluding Gala Dinner in the wonderful setting of the Goldsmiths' Livery Hall, **Stephanie Shepherd**, Chair of the Festival Organising Committee, was presented with the Silver Medal for her committed efforts in organising the Festival, as well as her leadership in organising other international events, notably in Savoie in 2015 and the Baltic Cruise in 2017.



Andrew Jones, John Nicholas, Ian Nicol, Mike Donohoe & Dave Felton



Jeremy Diamond & Stephanie Shepherd



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## IWFS International Council of Management (ICM) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**CHAIRMAN:**  
Ian Nicol  
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast, UK)



**TREASURER:**  
Dwight Catherwood  
(Los Angeles, USA)



**COUNCIL MEMBER & GLOBAL BRANCH AMBASSADOR:**  
Yvonne Wallis  
(Victoria, Australia)



**COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
Andrew Jones  
(Cayman Islands & New York)



**COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
John Nicholas  
(Zurich, Switzerland)



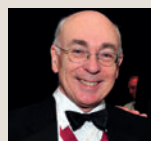
**COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
Mike Donohoe  
(Houston & Santa Fe, USA)



**COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
James Lin  
(Taipei, Taiwan ROC)



**HONORARY PRESIDENT:**  
Dave Felton  
(Pasadena, USA)



**SECRETARY:**  
Michael Messent  
(Wessex, UK)



**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT:**  
Andrea Warren  
(London, UK)

## ZONE NEWS



### AMERICAS CHAIR: Mike Donohoe

The next Great Weekend in the Americas awaits attendees from around the world, in Québec City in late September, where we will also hold our 4th Annual General Meeting. In the meantime, we are focusing on enhancing brand recognition of the IWFS and growing our network of branches. Branch startup opportunities are being explored in Raleigh, North Carolina; Mahwah, New Jersey; and Hudson Valley, New York. As always, we aspire to deliver a better product to our members.



### ASIA PACIFIC CHAIR: James Lin

We encourage camaraderie between our branches so we were pleased to see a joint dinner between Tokyo Bay and Jiyugaoka branches in Tokyo in June. Thanks Dennis Tanaka for organising. Going forward, we are delighted that Roppongi branch in Tokyo, Taipei branch in Taiwan, and KL branch in Malaysia have planned a joint dinner in Tokyo later in the year, this is wonderful. Inter-branch camaraderie is a great benefit of IWFS. We also have exciting news about new branches in Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan. Stay tuned.



### EUROPE AFRICA CHAIR: Ian Nicol

An important focus at our AGM in Bristol in September is the Members Forum to get inputs as to the future of our zone. Features of the weekend are a visit to Brunel's SS Great Britain (world's first iron, screw driven steamship) and Tynesfield (National Trust's conserved Victorian Gothic Revival Family house representing 19th - 20th century living) – a truly great venue to discuss the future. We are seeking a new editor to take over from Nathalie Rosin who has generated some fabulous editions of Food & Wine over the last two years. We thank Nathalie for her contribution.



## HONORARY PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

America has its Trump. And, elsewhere around the world, the Alt-Right, the populists, the nativists have captured leadership roles in places like Turkey, Poland, Thailand and the Philippines. Yet Mexico goes Left with its new president. Bolivia is strongly socialist, and Vietnam remains communist. Political poles around the world do seem further apart. There's frequent noise. Yet some people still converse. They quietly, and thoughtfully, debate. And they often do so around a dining table. They pass provincial plates of food to break up the commentary. If they are fortunate, they share good wines to soften the sharp edges of opinion. They are us. They are Society members. Keep talking. Keep learning.

**Dave Felton** Honorary President

## UPCOMING FESTIVALS

# NEW ZEALAND

## APZ AGM WEEKEND 8-10 MARCH 2019

Please join us in New Zealand in March 2019 for a fabulous festival hosted by the Auckland Branch of the Asia Pacific Zone.

### AUCKLAND MAIN FESTIVAL

8-10 MARCH 2019

See the best of New Zealand's largest city.

### NAPIER-HAWKE'S BAY PRE-TOUR

4-6 MARCH 2019

Hawke's Bay is the oldest and second largest wine region in New Zealand.

### QUEENSTOWN-CENTRAL OTAGO POST-TOUR

11-14 MARCH 2019

Central Otago is the largest and most highly renowned wine region in New Zealand.

Invitations will be issued early August.

Open to members of all zones.

Please consider joining us!



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### BRISTOL (UK), 23-24 SEPTEMBER 2018

Bristol, Brunel and beyond - join the EAZ AGM weekend in England's west country and with the opportunity to dine at the Lord Mayor's Mansion House. Full details on the [website](#).

### QUEBEC (CANADA), 26-30 SEPTEMBER 2018

An Americas event which is fully booked. Please check the Americas pages of the [website](#) if you would like to be placed on the waitlist.

### ZÜRICH (SWITZERLAND), 19-21 OCTOBER 2018

Join the Zürich Branch for a wine, food and culture weekend in the Valais, a major wine area of Switzerland. The programme includes a city walk in Sion, visit of a young wine maker, dinner with the best regional chef and visit of the smallest vineyard in the world. Contact [Kurt Haering](#) for details.

### AUCKLAND (NZ), 8-10 MARCH 2019

The 2019 APZ AGM Weekend will be held in Auckland, with a pre-tour in the North Island and a post-tour to the fabulous Central Otago wine region in the South Island. Stay tuned.

### DOURO RIVER CRUISE (PORTUGAL), 9-16 JUNE 2019

A wonderful cruise is planned by the Americas along this major river on the Iberian peninsula designated as a World Heritage Site. A pre-tour in Lisbon is also planned from 6-8 June. This event is currently sold out.

### BORDEAUX (FRANCE), JUNE 2019

Plans are being finalized for this EAZ trip – ideally 4-nights from 4-8 June; visiting chateaux in Pessac-Léognan, Médoc, and St-Emilion. Numbers will be limited to 30 so that we can have the widest choice of visits. Full details will be emailed to members as soon as they are available.

### VALENCIA (SPAIN), OCTOBER 4-7 2019

Venture to Valencia for the EAZ Great Weekend, AGM and Members Forum.

### CHARLESTON (AMERICA), 16-19 OCTOBER 2019

Join the Americas in Charleston, South Carolina - one of the US top destination cities. Events include a tour of where the first shot rang out that started the Civil War, Fort Sumter and a not to be missed southern mansion visit and more. The best Southern Cuisine will be perfectly paired with world-class wines. Watch this space.

### BORDEAUX (FRANCE), APRIL 2020

The Americas are also planning a trip to Bordeaux in April 2020. Details to be sent out when available. This popular destination will be open to all members.

### MADEIRA (PORTUGAL), NOVEMBER 2020

The Europe Africa Zone is planning an event on the island of Madeira. The dates being considered are 2-8 November, more details as they become available.

### HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 2020

The Asia Pacific Zone is planning a wonderful festival in Hong Kong in November 2020, open to all members. Stay tuned for further details as they become available.

*If you are interested in joining an event that is full, or reservations closed, then please contact the organiser in case space is available.*

## 85TH ANNIVERSARY COMPETITION



The winning branch will be considered to have organised the most stand-out event. Submissions from branches, providing details and photos of your event, are invited by 7 January 2019. Visit the [website](#) for full details.



## OUR IWFS BRANCHES 139 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE

### AMERICAS (79)

#### CANADA

**ALBERTA** - Edmonton

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Vancouver  
Victoria

**ONTARIO**

Kitchener-Waterloo  
Niagara  
Oakville  
Toronto

**QUEBEC** - Montreal

#### CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Islands

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican Republic

#### MEXICO

Tecate  
Tijuana

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**ALABAMA** - Birmingham

**ALASKA** - Anchorage

**ARIZONA**

Paradise Valley  
Phoenix  
Tucson

**CALIFORNIA**

Chula Vista  
Coachella Valley  
East Bay  
Hollywood  
La Jolla  
Laguna Beach  
Los Angeles  
Marin County  
Monterey Peninsula  
Napa Valley  
Orange County  
Pasadena  
Physicians Of Los Angeles  
Rancho Santa Fe  
Riverside  
Sacramento-San Joaquin  
San Fernando Valley  
Santa Barbara  
Southern California

**FLORIDA**

Boca Raton  
Jacksonville  
Miami  
Naples  
Palm Beach

**GEORGIA** - Atlanta

**HAWAII** - Honolulu

**ILLINOIS** - Chicago

**INDIANA** - Indianapolis

**IOWA**

Council Bluffs  
Okoboji

**LOUISIANA** - New Orleans

**MARYLAND** - Baltimore

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Boston  
Central Massachusetts

**MINNESOTA**

Minneapolis/St Paul  
Rochester

**MISSOURI** - Kansas City

**MONTANA** - Bozeman

**NEBRASKA**

Greater Omaha  
Norfolk

**NEVADA**

Lake Tahoe  
Reno

**NEW MEXICO** - Santa Fe

**NEW YORK**

Buffalo  
Long Island  
New York

**OHIO** - Cleveland

**OKLAHOMA**

Oklahoma Central  
**PENNSYLVANIA**

Bucks County  
Philadelphia

York

**PUERTO RICO** - San Juan

**SOUTH CAROLINA** - Aiken

**TENNESSEE** - Memphis

**TEXAS**

Austin  
Dallas  
Fort Worth  
Houston  
Northeast Texas

**WASHINGTON** - Spokane

**WASHINGTON DC**

Washington DC

### ASIA PACIFIC (32)

#### AUSTRALIA

Margaret River  
New South Wales  
Victoria  
Western Australia

#### CHINA

Beijing City  
Chaoyang District (Beijing)  
Shanghai

#### HONG KONG

Hong Kong Island  
Hong Kong Pearl

#### INDIA

Bombay  
Delhi

#### INDONESIA

 - Jakarta

#### JAPAN

Jiyugaoka  
Roppongi  
Tokyo  
Tokyo Bay

#### MALAYSIA

Ipoh  
Kuala Lumpur  
Penang

#### NEW ZEALAND

 - Auckland

#### PHILIPPINES

Cebu  
Manila Ladies  
Philippines

#### SINGAPORE

 - Singapore

#### SOUTH KOREA

Decanting Soul  
Seoul

#### TAIWAN R.O.C.

Kaohsiung  
Taichung  
Taipei  
Taiwan Belle

#### THAILAND

 - Bangkok

#### VIETNAM

 - Saigon

### EUROPE AFRICA (28)

**ESTONIA** - Tallinn

**FINLAND** - Helsinki

**IRELAND** - Leinster

**NORWAY** - Oslo

**RUSSIA** - Moscow

**SOUTH AFRICA** - Cape Town

**SPAIN** - Valencia

**SWEDEN** - Malmö

**SWITZERLAND** - Zurich

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Bath & Bristol  
Berkshire  
Blackpool & Fylde Coast  
Devonshire  
Herefordshire & Monmouthshire  
Leicester  
Liverpool  
London  
St James's (London)  
Manchester  
Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire  
Northampton  
Surrey Hills  
Sussex  
Thameside (London)  
Wessex  
West Yorkshire

**ZAMBIA** - Lusaka

**ZIMBABWE** - Harare

For more information or  
to contact a branch, visit

**[WWW.IWFS.ORG](http://WWW.IWFS.ORG)**



**@IWFSGlobal**

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special member benefits  
or news about events  
happening further afield.



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