



EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 7, December 2017



BRANCH EVENTS – STRENGTHENING FOR THE FUTURE

Two recent EAZ branch events have been held not only for their members but to members from other branches too – even attracting some from overseas. This is proving a successful formula within the EAZ to not only build inter-branch friendships but also strengthen the branch events. Moving forward it is hoped other branches will be encouraged to open their doors to visiting members... Remember to forward details of your branch events for the Dates for Diary (see page 4 for some 2018 events).

ST JAMES'S, LONDON

Around 60 IWFS members from several branches and countries were present at an outstanding Dinner at The Ritz in London on 23rd October 2017, organised by the St James's Branch.

Dinner was served in the elegant Music Room and members enjoyed a "stunning" and "magical" meal which included a very delicate Artichoke Royale (with truffle) starter, followed by langoustines – tender and succulent – in a nage of vegetables and herbs.



The wines were carefully selected to match the dishes and included Santorini Assyrtiko 2016 (Estate Argyros), Alsace Riesling Grand Cru Brand 2009 (Josmeyer), Chateau Pontet-Canet 2004 and Chateau Batailley 2005 and a delightful Vouvray Moelleux Domaine du Clos Naudin 2003 (Foreau) went well, though there was some bottle variation.

A previous visit by the St James's Branch had been felt to merit the IWFS Restaurant Award. This having subsequently been approved, was presented by EAZ Chairman Ian Nicol to The Ritz Executive Chef John Williams, who



in a quietly self-effacing way said it was all down to the young people who work for him. "I just guide them" he said. Some guide! His cuisine has been awarded a Michelin star and on this night's evidence more would be well deserved.

Congratulations and thanks went, too, to Ari Sofianos, Chairman of the St James's Branch,

HEREFORDSHIRE & MONMOUTHSHIRE



On the 14th December 2017 the Herefordshire & Monmouthshire Branch hosted a splendid Christmas Dinner at the Castle House Hotel, Hereford. The dinner attracted members of other branches too including Bath & Bristol, Wessex, Blackpool and Manchester. The four course meal was excellent in every respect, preceded by Jean de Foigny Champagne and accompanied by four first rate wines, most notably a Ch

Potensac 2001, which was generously made available by David Chapman of Manchester Branch, who spoke about its merits during the meal. The Society Chairman, Ian Nicol, who was also present, thanked the principal organiser Jim Muir, the Chairman Judith Stares, and all the Committee for their efforts and took the chance to highlight the particular pleasures of attending a dinner which gave the opportunity to meet with members of other Branches. It was a memorable evening and a great start to the festive season.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

May I start by wishing everyone season's greetings and hoping that you had a Merry Christmas. In our house seventeen of the Nicol clan got together for the celebration, including the latest addition, three month old grandson Dylan. A great time was had by all. Looking forward, as we enter 2018 and our 85th Society Anniversary Year, Chris and I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to meeting many more of you.

I have said before we have done a great job in the Society championing the matching of Food and Wine at dinners and no decent vineyard or restaurant does not follow this ethos. I was troubled to read recent articles on genetic engineering and drug development which could greatly affect the future of alcoholic drinks. Scientific tools to help winemakers reduce the harshness of tannins and the need for sulphites might be welcomed. However the suggestion of stripping out alcohol from wine and beer (to be used as fuel) and replacing it with drugs which give the feeling of wellbeing and relaxation, without the adverse side effects of drunkenness, mood swings, liver and heart disease, hangover, and impaired driving, fills me with dread.



Admittedly the £3bn bill to the NHS and Emergency Services of dealing with alcohol related problems has got to be dealt with but we must preserve the winemakers art and not turn them into chemists.

Ian Nicol
Chairman EAZ and
International Council



WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE: AN UPDATE

The Society is currently developing a new website. It will have a different look and feel, and will be designed to work better on phones and tablets than the existing one.

It is intended that, as far as possible, content on the existing site will be moved across to the new one. It would be very helpful if Branch Chairman, and others who are responsible for any material on the existing site, would check that it is up-to-date, and remove anything that is no longer required.

Please email [Alan Shepherd](mailto:Alan.Shepherd@eaz.org), who is on the committee representing the EAZ.



YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



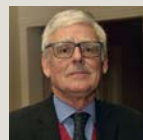
Ian Nicol
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)
Chairman



Michael Messent
(Wessex)
Vice Chair & Legal
Advisor



David Chapman
(Manchester)
Secretary



John Nicholas
(Zurich)
Treasurer



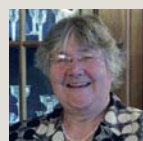
Mrs Margaret
Chippendale
(Manchester)
Membership Registrar



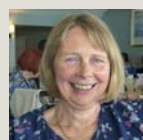
Dr Tricia Fletcher
(Manchester)
Awards Officer



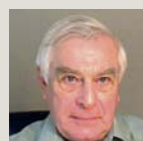
Hilton Kuck
(Cape Town)
African Branches
Representative



Mrs Stephanie Shepherd
(London)
Events Co-ordinator



Leonie Allday
(Bath & Bristol)
Marketing representative



Peter McGahey
(Herefordshire &
Monmouthshire)
Events support



Peter Diamond
(London)
Committee member

2017 AGM AND DINNER

The ABRM/AGM was held on 24th September when interesting discussions for matters relevant to the EAZ were held in an open panel session. Organiser Stephanie Shepherd had planned to set up working parties to discuss topics such as future PR and Marketing ideas for the region. However attendance was a bit disappointing so this was not possible. It is hoped that the 2018 may attract more members to enable



useful discussions to take place.

The AGM Dinner on board HQS Wellington was a very successful and enjoyable dinner attracting more attendees. The venue is fascinating in itself. Built at Devonport Dockyard in 1934

she saw service in New Zealand waters before being recalled for convoy duty in the Second World War. She has served as the Headquarters of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners since 1948.



Mark Groves and his team at the Cook and Butler had pulled out all the stops and served a delicious meal with matched wines.

In 2018 the AGM will take place in Bristol on 22nd and 23rd September and we look forward to seeing many more of you there. It will be advertised in Food & Wine in due course.



OUR AWARDS

New EAZ Award

The zone recognises that as lifespan extends so does the time our members remain, and serve the society. Some members will have been recognised for their work in the zone by presentation of the André Simon Bronze medal some years ago, but some of these we find are still serving as officers in branches and on zone committees many years later. We recently introduced the EAZ Award for



such people and the first to be presented was to Jeffrey Benson (pictured left), Chairman of London Branch, on his 80th Birthday. This is a pin badge for a lapel, or medal ribbon. Jeffrey was

also awarded the IWFS Diploma by the International Council in recognition of his services to the IWFS since he joined the Society in 1968 which included setting up the IWFS London Wine School along with serving an extended term as committee member and Chairman.

Bronze Award

On 25th October at the AGM dinner of the London Branch Graham Lovelock received the AS Bronze medal for his support as Treasurer for the London Branch.



Graham originally trained as an accountant in New Zealand, before coming to the UK. He has served as Treasurer of London Branch for the last five years, and

examiner for the EAZ Accounts. He continues as Treasurer for the London 2018 International Festival, He has made a massive contribution to the Society at both levels, which has been universally appreciated.

NEW BANK DETAILS

If you need to make payments to IWFS Europe Africa Limited, please note that the bank details with HSBC have changed for payments in GB Pounds from outside the UK and for Euros paid within the UK or from outside the UK. There are no changes for payments from a UK bank in GB Pounds.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU CHECK ANY BANK DETAILS YOU MIGHT HAVE STORED ON YOUR BANK PAYMENTS SYSTEM BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY FUTURE PAYMENTS.

Notices of payment details for future events and membership renewals now include the revised information (the changes are in bold).

1. Main account for membership fees and EAZ organised events except for the London festival and pre- and post-events:
 Bank sort code: 40 47 07
 Account number: 41699075
IBAN: GB85 HBUK 404707 4169 9075
BIC/Swift: HBUKGB4114J or HBUKGB4B
2. London Festival Account
 Bank sort code: 40 35 34
 Account number: 64058887
IBAN: GB58 HBUK 403534 6405 8887
BIC/Swift: HBUKGB4108P or HBUKGB4B
3. Euro Account for payments in Euros
 Bank sort code: 40 12 76
 Account number: 76001304
IBAN: GB41 HBUK 401276 7600 1304
BIC/Swift: HBUKGB41CM1 or HBUKGB4B



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

UK London

10th January 2018

A New Year at the Innholders Hall, one of London's top livery halls with Michelin-starred chef Herbert Berger. 7pm start. Contact [Alan Shepherd](#) for details.

UK Devonshire

11th January 2018

Dinner at Bianco's in Torquay. For more details contact [Geeta Lloyd](#).

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

18th January 2018

Dinner at La Boheme French Restaurant, Lymm. Email [Val Bishop](#) to find out more.

UK Berkshire

19th January 2018

A tasting of German wine hosted by Kate Dowdeswell from Alwin Barrett Siegel. For details please contact [Julie Graham](#).

UK Wessex

26th January 2018

A Burns Night Supper with a piper, an address to the haggis and malt whisky served alongside a four course meal and wine at Gilbey's Restaurant in the Liston Hotel, Boscombe Spa, Bournemouth. For details please contact [Joan Cardy](#).

UK London

29th January 2018

Dinner at Café Spice Namaste, London. A special evening with a well-known TV chef. Do join us. 7pm start. Contact [Alan Shepherd](#) for further details.

UK Manchester

1st February 2018

Our branch AGM will be held at the Stanneylands Hotel, Wilmslow. Contact [Chris Redman](#) for details.

UK London

15th February 2018

English Wines Tasting – your chance to preview the wines being tasted at the IWFS International Festival in May. 7pm start. Contact [Alan Shepherd](#) for details.

UK Berkshire

16th February 2018

A tasting of Rhône wines presented by Doug Miles. For further details please contact [Julie Graham](#).

UK Devonshire

19th February 2018

Join us for dinner at Old Vienna in Torquay with Chef/Proprietor Werner Rott to enjoy his artisan cuisine made from seasonal local produce with the Austrian touch. For further details contact [Geeta Lloyd](#).

UK London

20th February 2018

Dinner at Noizé, London – an opportunity to try Mathiew Germond's new restaurant. 7pm start. Contact [Alan Shepherd](#) for further details.

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

20th February 2018

Branch AGM and Dinner to be held at the 39 Steps Restaurant. Email [Val Bishop](#) to find out more.

UK Wessex

15th March 2018

A tasting of eight French wines followed by a three course dinner at the Miramar Hotel, Bournemouth. For further information please contact our Secretary [Joan Cardy](#).

UK Berkshire

23rd March 2018

Our branch AGM will be held followed by a tasting of wines from Ellis of Richmond. For further details please contact [Julie Graham](#).

AUSTRALIA Perth

9th to 11th March 2018

This APZ AGM Weekend is hosted by the Western Australia branch and will be one to remember. A pre-tour in Sydney for all lovers of seafood from 4th to 7th March and a post-tour to the Great Southern and Margaret River wine regions will be from 12th to 14th March. Open first to APZ members, then to members from other zones. Max 100 attendees. Click [here](#) to find out more.

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

23rd March 2018

Award winning Crewe Academy Dinner in Crewe. Email [Val Bishop](#) to find out more.

USA, New York

12th to 14th April 2018

Enjoy a Spring Weekend in the Big Apple – dining in some of the City's best restaurants. For more details click [here](#).

UK Berkshire

20th April 2018

Taste the wines from Mahi of New Zealand. Presented by Duncan Ross from Berkman Wine Cellars. For details please contact [Julie Graham](#).

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

25th April 2018

Dinner at the new and highly acclaimed "Next Door" restaurant in Frodsham. Email [Val Bishop](#) to find out more.

UK London

26th May 2018

Members have been invited to take part in an exclusive musical and historical tour of Westminster Abbey in the company of members of the Purcell Club. Email [Stephanie Shepherd](#) for further details or to book your place.

UK London

28th May to 2nd June 2018

The EAZ is hosting the next IWFS international festival in London. If you would like to join one or two events, rather than the whole festival, then please email event organiser [Stephanie Shepherd](#) for further details.

UK Bristol

23rd to 24th September 2018

Join the EAZ AGM weekend in England's west country and with the opportunity to dine at the Lord Mayor's Mansion House. More details to follow.

CANADA, Québec

26th to 30th September 2018

This event sold out within hours of being opened for bookings. Please email [Stephanie Schmitz](#) if you would like to be placed on the waitlist and be part of this chance to experience the high quality food and wine the city has to offer.

NEW ZEALAND, Auckland

8th to 10th 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.

USA, Virginia

6th to 10th May 2019

A visit organised by Europe Africa to Virginia; a fantastic opportunity to visit some of the key wineries in this up and coming area; more details to follow. Open initially to EAZ members and then all zones.

PORTUGAL, Douro River Cruise

9th to 16th 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 6th to 8th June. Watch this space for more details.

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