



# EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 17, May 2022



Photos Piedmont (left) and Alsace (right) © Alan Shepherd

## OUR FESTIVALS

### In May we made it to ALSACE and PIEDMONT

After postponements, both these festivals took place in successive weeks at the end of April/beginning of May. In total, 68 different members took part with 12 attending both festivals. Of these, 46 were members from EAZ, 17 from Americas, 11 of whom travelled to the Paris and Bordeaux festival and only two from APZ due to the uncertainties for travel in Asia Pacific. The relaxation of Covid restrictions in Europe enabled these festivals to be enjoyed.



We were honoured by the presence in Piedmont of Michael Tamburri, from Australia the current Chair of Council. Two



former Chairs attended: Ian Nicol, at both festivals, and Chris Bonsall, in Piedmont. During the Piedmont festival, Chris was announced as the Honorary President of the Society in succession to Dave Felton. Here you can see Michael (right) congratulating

Chris (left) on his new appointment. Ron Barker, former Chair of EAZ, and the current Chair of the IWFS Wines Committee, also joined us in Alsace.

Comprehensive reports of these two wonderful festivals will be featured in the next edition of Food & Wine. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to savour the delights of the food and wines of these two regions in France and Italy and to share those experiences with both old and new friends.



Our thanks were expressed to David Ling, an IWFS wine consultant, and the Confrérie St Etienne – Alsace for their assistance in organising the Alsace festival. Phillip Kim, a London branch member, was also thanked for organising the enjoyable and educational festival in Piedmont.

Thanks, on behalf of IWFS and me, John Nicholas (EAZ Chair) to Stephanie Shepherd. Before her retirement from the role of EAZ Festivals Co-ordinator, she had overseen these two festivals. She held the role for the last nine years, organising many successful EAZ festivals herself, including the memorable London triennial festival in 2018 and ensured the success of others.

## OUR EVENTS

Black Pudding is the key ingredient of our competition which began in April with catering students across the North competing to create a dish with black pudding at its core. The regional heats are nearing conclusion, before the Grand Final in May and a prestigious Awards Lunch on 28th June.

Stephen Harrison, from the organising team, is very pleased with such positive responses from local colleges – student sceptics have now become enthusiasts and colleges are even now asking for it to be repeated in future!! Colleges have shared the results on their social media streams, raising the profile of the Society in the process. The icing on the cake, or the black pudding, is that the top chefs we are working with have congratulated the Society for its innovation and enterprise.

Click on the image above to view the amateur video with highlights of the story so far.

Tickets for the Awards Lunch will be available shortly – watch out for your email!



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



As I write this, I am between the Alsace and Piedmont Festivals – full reports will appear in the next printed issue of Food & Wine. As important, if not more important than these festivals, is the relaunch of branch events after the stop/start impact over the last two years.

Joan and I were pleased to attend the Pennyhill Park event organised by the Surrey Hills branch (see Branch Events below) – this event fulfilled my hopes that branches would hold more events together with members from other branches. The northern branches (in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire as they were) together have organised a competition between catering colleges to produce the best black pudding dish. This is really creating a great deal of interest and a positive response amongst participants. More of this in future.

I hope that branch leadership teams as well as all branch members are looking for ways to reverse the trend of our declining membership – invite your friends or introduce your families to the Society.

If you do not already do so, click around the website (you will need your username and password) or download the Members' app to find a multitude of different information.

*John Nicholas*  
Chair, IWFS Europe Africa



## BRANCH EVENTS

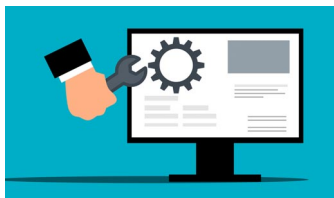
### WELCOMING THE NEW GENERATION, AND MORE, AT PENNYHILL PARK

Being a very small branch, Surrey Hills members are always keen to open invitations to other branches and they were delighted that numbers for this event on 1st April, at the prestigious Pennyhill Park Hotel in Bagshot, grew to 29, including seven guests. They welcomed a number of younger guests and hopefully such an enjoyable event will be the encouragement needed to join. Plus the event also welcomed members from other branches including London, Berkshire, Zurich and the new Vale Royal. Attendees enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and the food and wine were the materials for perfect bonding of members from other areas. A delicious seven-course tasting menu was served with paired wines from different countries – with thanks to their sommelier Sergio who made a very good selection and explained each choice with every course. Full details of the event will be available in the next edition of Food & Wine.



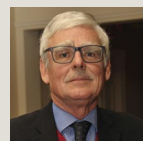
## WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE

The programme of improvements to the website continues. The facilities for booking places on festivals are now much improved, and are available to branches and groups of branches that are staging events that are not restricted to their own members. Society merchandise can also be purchased and paid for on line. Every branch can now have its own mini website within iwfs.org, and branches are urged to think about making more use of these facilities.

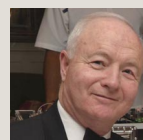


*Alan Shepherd*  
EAZ Website Co-ordinator

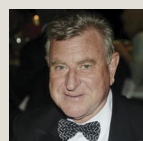
## YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



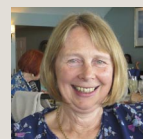
John Nicholas  
(Zurich)  
Chair



David Chapman  
(Manchester)  
Secretary



Ian Nicol  
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)  
Webmaster



Mrs Leonie Allday  
(Bath & Bristol)  
Marketing



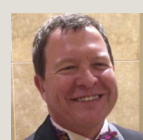
Dr Tricia Fletcher  
(Manchester)  
Awards Officer



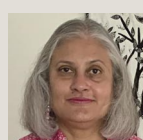
Stephen Graham  
(Manchester and  
St James's)  
Treasurer



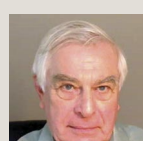
Tim Hodges  
(Merseyside &  
Mid-Cheshire)  
Marketing



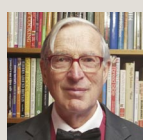
Hilton Kuck  
(Cape Town)  
African Branches  
Representative



Mrs Geeta Lloyd  
(Devonshire)  
Membership Secretary



Peter McGahey  
(Herefordshire &  
Monmouthshire)  
Editor – Food & Wine



Alan Shepherd  
(London)  
Exco Member



## EAZ EXCELLENCE AWARD UPDATE

Our new Excellence Award, still in its pilot phase but due to be rolled out across the Zone in the Summer, is proving popular with a number of venues already carefully selected as worthy recipients. The Merseyside and Mid-Cheshire Branch have presented three Excellence Awards: Buckley's Restaurant and The Yellow Broom (already reported), more recently the prestigious Spirit Restaurant & Bar in Warrington with a fourth ready for presentation to the Grosvenor Hotel in Chester. Award recipient, Paul Ratcliffe, of Buckley's, Chef Lecturer & Course Leader in Hospitality &



*Spirit owner Pragne Bhatnagar receiving the award from Hilary Rylands, Branch Secretary*

Catering said "It is incredible to receive this award from the International Wine & Food Society. Our students work hard to master their craft, and to be recognised for this by such a prestigious organisation motivates and enthuses our learners in their pursuit for excellence". According to Tim Hodges, Branch Chairman, the conclusion so far is that the Excellence Award opens up new channels with hospitality and forges a firmer link with

venues which in the longer term should raise the IWFS profile and member numbers.

Leonie Allday, Bath & Bristol Branch Chair is also pleased to announce that they have now made the first Excellence Award in the South West to The Carpenters Arms, Stanton Wick. It is a traditional, family-run country pub with which the branch has had a great relationship for many years. The team has consistently provided the members with good food and wine but it is the warmth of their welcome and their unfailing helpfulness which sets them apart from so many venues. Despite the many pressures on hospitality arising from the 'double whammy' of Covid and Brexit, and the fact that like many other venues they are short of staff, they have managed to maintain their high standards.

Congratulations to all the worthy recipients. We look forward to reporting on more in the future.



*Left to right: Leonie Allday (Branch Chair), Neville Bagot (Branch President), Simon and Louise Pledge (managers of The Carpenters Arms)*

## OUR AWARDS



As we continue to make up for the reduced number of opportunities to award our deserving members for their dedication to the Society, and the EAZ, the following awards have been made:

### To Berkshire Branch members on 18th March 2022:

- **Colin Mair** was awarded an Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion for all his work for the Berkshire Branch as a member, a Committee Member and also as Chairman.
- **John Farren** was awarded a 10 year Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion for his work on the Branch Committee.
- **David Kirk** and **Ros Kirk** were each awarded a 25 year Exceptional Long Service Diploma for their dedicated membership of the Branch.

### During the Alsace festival on 28th April 2022 to:

- **David Ling** was awarded an Exceptional Service Diploma for all his help organising the local arrangements for the EAZ Alsace



*Left to right: David Ling, Serge Dubs and John Nicholas*

Festival 2022. The presentation was made at the the L'Auberge de L'ill. He is pictured here with John Nicholas and Serge Dubs (the current Grand Maître of the Confrérie Saint-Etienne d'Alsace, and who has been the Sommelier of L'Auberge for many years). Although David is not a member of the IWFS he is the Wines Consultant for Alsace for the Wines Committee and has liaised with the EAZ on many occasions to give help and advice. He is a past Grand Maître of the Confrerie Saint-Etienne d'Alsace and was the first foreign person to hold this post.

### During the Piedmont festival on 6th May 2022 to:

- **Phillip Kim** of the London Branch was awarded an Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion for recommending and organising the local arrangements for the Piedmont Festival 2022.
- **John Nicholas**, EAZ Chairman and Council member received the distinguished Silver AS Medal. Many congratulations to John who is a very worthy recipient of this award (more details in next month's Global Grapevine).



*Phillip Kim (left) and John Nicholas (right)*

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire 17th May 2022

Dinner at Next Door, Frodsham, Cheshire. Contact: [Tim Hodges](#)

### UK Berkshire 20th May 2022

A tasting held at one of our favourite venues, Neville Hall, Waltham St Lawrence when we will be tasting a range of Lebanese wines, led by Duncan Ross of Berkmann Wines, with a guest presenter from Chateau Ksara, Lebanon. Dinner will follow the tasting. Timing: 6.45 pm. Contact: [Colin Mair](#)

### UK Wessex 22nd May 2022

Lunchtime Garden Party. We are delighted that we are to be joined by David Felton, the Honorary President of the IWFS who is visiting the south coast that week. Anthony Atkinson will again be supplying wines from his extensive cellar. Contact: [Isabel Sinclair](#)

### UK Bath & Bristol 27th May 2022

An Evening of Wine and Cheese at Waldegrave House – possibly only open to branch members. Contact: [Leonie Allday](#)

### UK Surrey Hills 28th May 2022

Visit to [Norbury Park Farm Cheese Company](#) at Albury, Surrey on Saturday 28th May for a demonstration and tasting. Limited places available. Contact: [Susie Punch](#)

### UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire 5th June 2022

Garden Party at Paul and Val's home in North Wales. Contact: [Tim Hodges](#)

### UK Wessex 10th June 2022

Dinner at the Guildhall Lounge, Poole where we will be enjoying a French themed menu and wines to match. Contact: [Isabel Sinclair](#)

### UK Herefordshire & Monmouthshire 12th June 2022

75th Jubilee Celebration lunch at Kynaston (nr Ledbury). Contact: [Peter McGahey](#)

### UK Manchester 12th June 2022

Lunch to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at 20 Stories, Manchester. Contact: [Nicola McLoughlin](#)

### UK Blackpool & Fylde Coast 4th July 2022

Join us for a Garden Party cum picnic in the delightful garden of Peter and Karen Smith close to Aysgarth Court, Blackpool. We start at 5:30 pm. Details from [Ron Barker](#)

### UK Herefordshire & Monmouthshire 15th July 2022

A Summer Dinner at Corse Lawn House, Tewksbury. Contact: [Peter McGahey](#)

### UK Berkshire 22nd July 2022

Join us for a luncheon at The Crooked Billet, Stoke Row. Contact: [Colin Mair](#)

### UK Manchester 23rd July 2022

Summer Lunch at The Black Friar, Salford, at midday. The event will start with a glass of fizz or a gin cocktail in the garden and followed by a three-course lunch. Contact: [Nicola McLoughlin](#)

### UK West Yorkshire 7th August 2022

Tour of [Dunesforde Vineyard](#), York. Join us for a personal guided tour of the vineyard, followed by lunch and a tutored tasting of their award winning wines. Contact: [Sue Timme](#)

### UK Blackpool & Fylde Coast 8th August 2022

We welcome back Jon Atkinson from Wintime in Liverpool (part of European Wine Growers Association) to share his favourite wines. Venue: Aysgarth Court, Blackpool. Details from [Ron Barker](#)

### UK Berkshire 12th August 2022

Tasting of wines from the Branch cellar at Harrow and Hope, Marlow. Contact: [Colin Mair](#)

### UK Surrey Hills 14th August 2022

The 31st Edition of Starters & Puds. Further details to follow. Contact: [Susie Punch](#)

### UK Blackpool & Fylde Coast 5th September 2022

Matching wines to Lancashire Pies. We will serve a Lancashire Butter Pie, a Pork Pie (served warm in the Lancashire way) and a Fruit Pie with wines to match. Details from [Ron Barker](#)



Looking ahead to EAZ and other Zone festivals:

### UK EAZ AGM Torbay 22nd to 24th September 2022

There has been a change in the plans for this year's AGM and Member Forum. We are now heading to the south coast for this event. The AGM and ABRM will be held on the 24th. Keep this weekend clear in your diary. Details will follow.

### SINGAPORE

#### 16th to 18th September 2022

Join this APZ festival and AGM (which has had to rescheduled) to visit this delightful island country to enjoy its culinary delights and explore its beauty including the Singapore Botanic Gardens – which has been awarded a UNESCO Heritage Site. Details to be released as available.

### USA Washington DC 12th to 15th October 2022

The Americas next Great Weekend takes you to the Nation's Capital. October is a perfect time to visit, when the weather is wonderful and the tourists have mostly gone. Guests will be staying at the Five-Star historic Willard Hotel, enjoying some of the major sites, as well as dining at the finest restaurants in DC.

### USA Willamette Valley 2nd to 6th May 2023

Join the Americas for a wonderful tour of this beautiful wine region visiting some of the top wineries and enjoying some of culinary delights of the region. Details to follow but in the meantime put the dates in your diary.

### SPAIN Barcelona and Catalunya 23rd to 27th May 2023

A delightful festival is being organised by the EAZ's local members. Starting in Barcelona you will then be taken to the Catalunya countryside to explore this 'land of castles' visiting vineyards and enjoying some of the best restaurants. Details to follow.