



EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 18, September 2022



Photo: The Grand in Torquay; impressively illuminated when viewed from Torquay harbour

OUR EVENTS

IWFS North Black Pudding Competition

And the winner is... Jack Hayes of Sheffield College whose dish of Black pudding soda bread with asparagus, BBQ ketchup and crispy scotch egg won over the judges.



What an inspirational competition it has been. It captured the attention of young chefs across the region who were enthusiastic to demonstrate their skills and get creative in the kitchen.

Jack and the other winners were presented with their prizes at the Awards lunch which was held at the University of Bolton on Tuesday 28th June 2022.

Contestants, judges, staff from the catering colleges and guests from our Northern IWFS branches gathered to celebrate the competition winners. Guests were served a magnificent meal prepared by staff and students from Bolton College.

Thanks go to competition sponsors and the Bury Black Pudding Company who also generously provided their black puddings to the competitors and Bolton College.



Our northern branches are to be commended for this initiative having worked with leading figures in the hospitality industry to make this work and bring the IWFS to the table.

[Click here](#) to listen to two of the great judges, Paul Heathcote MBE and Aiden Byrne, giving their thoughts on the competition, what it meant to the competitors and the focus on black pudding.



OUR FESTIVALS

Torquay Festival – a taste of the English Riviera, 22nd to 24th September 2022

We were 39, including 14 from the Devonshire branch, and we meet in delightful Torquay for a weekend of fine food and wine. Those who had travelled were based at the iconic and elegant

The Grand Hotel situated above Corbyn beach. The festival commenced in style with a splendid eight-course tasting menu matched with six wines at the Michelin-starred restaurant The Elephant by Simon Hulstone situated in beautiful Torquay harbour.



On Friday, we were treated to a tour of Sandridge Barton winery which is now also home to the recently acquired Sharpham Wine and owned by IWFS members based in the Cayman Islands. We enjoyed an informative and educational English wine tasting. A highlight was tasting juice, both free flow and pressed, from recently picked grapes; a new experience for many. The tasting was followed by a tapas style lunch. For dinner, we enjoyed a fabulous meal served as sharing



plates at the delightful Wild Artichokes run by the dynamic combination of Jane Baxter (who cooks) and Sam Miller (who organises).

On Saturday members met for the AGM, Members' Forum and buffet lunch. Full details of this event and our festival will be included in the next issue of F&W.

Many thanks to Geeta and Gordon Lloyd for organising this most enjoyable festival.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR



In recent times, thoughts, in particular for those in the UK and Commonwealth, have been with the Royal family. I am sure many of you were moved by the emotions generated during the period of mourning.

It is great that Europe Africa branches have returned to "normal business" after the disruptions caused by Covid. There are still restrictions in some parts of the world, mainly in Asia, but also for travel to the US for those who are not vaccinated. We are confidently planning Europe Africa showcase festivals for 2023, see page 3 and our Dates for the Diary, and already have ideas for 2024.

The Executive Committee recently reviewed a paper "Strategy for Growth" and approved it and the need for investment. The proposals for the future of IWFS Europe Africa were prepared by members from several branches, led by Stephen Harrison, Chair of West Yorkshire branch. The main objective of the review has been "how to stem the decline of IWFS membership" and in particular "how to widen the profile of IWFS using today's communication methods". The report sets out five specific areas on which to concentrate and these were discussed at the AGM/Members' Forum in Torquay. More detail will appear in the next edition of F&W. As we start to implement the proposals, we will need help from branches and commitment from members to "make it happen".

I remind all members that they are currently the best source for recruiting new members by encouraging friends, family and colleagues to experience one or more branch events.

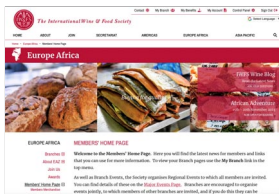
Please try the IWFS website (using your login details) – see "Window on the website" below. I appeal to branches to update their website information!

If you haven't already done so, I strongly recommend that you download the IWFS app (onto a smartphone or tablet) – instructions as to how to do so are on the website [<https://www.iwfs.org/europe-africa/publications/vintage-card>], giving you easy access to, inter alia, "Wine & Food Pairing" and "the Vintage Guide".

John Nicholas
Chair, IWFS Europe Africa



WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE

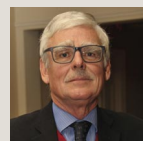


We have a new feature on the website this time – which is the Members' Home Page. This is a new default page whenever you log on to the website, unless you choose to go elsewhere. It contains links to help you to find the most popular things that members wish to, together with the latest news of forthcoming events and other major initiatives and activities. It will be updated on a regular basis. Please tell us what you would like to see there.

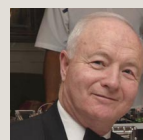
Another new feature is the advertising flash on the pictures at the head of many pages which will be used to tell you about major events that are open for booking and other initiatives. You do not need to log on to see these, and you can click on them for further information on the activities that they refer to. If you are responsible for your Branch pages you can use this facility there.

Alan Shepherd
EAZ Website Co-ordinator

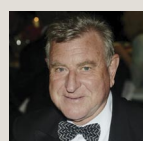
YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



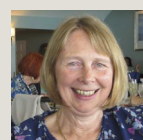
John Nicholas
(Zurich)
Chair



David Chapman
(Manchester)
Secretary



Ian Nicol
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)
Webmaster



Mrs Leonie Allday
(Bath & Bristol)
Marketing



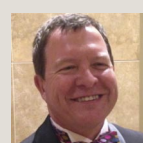
Dr Tricia Fletcher
(Manchester)
Awards Officer



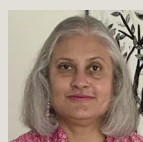
Stephen Graham
(Manchester and
St James's)
Treasurer



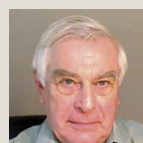
Tim Hodges
(Merseyside &
Mid-Cheshire)
Marketing



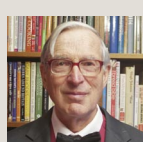
Hilton Kuck
(Cape Town)
African Branches
Representative



Mrs Geeta Lloyd
(Devonshire)
Membership Secretary



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



Alan Shepherd
(London)
Exco Member

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

A SPANISH SPECIAL: Catalonia – D.O Empordà and Barcelona, 23rd to 27th May 2023



We begin in Barcelona, festival-goers will then venture on a tour of the D.O. Empordà wine region, including three nights at the Perelada Golf and

Spa resort hotel and then return to Barcelona via the extraordinary volcanic Garrotxa region. The journey will close at the festival's 5-star Hotel El Palace in Barcelona. The festival will follow Spanish timings with late lunches (2 pm) and dinners (8 pm), be prepared!

The festival features an evening of music and art; dinner and a wine tasting in a private club; three dinners in Michelin star restaurants; four lunches as well as visits to wineries, museums and historic buildings. There might even be time for a few holes of golf or some pampering in the spa! The event has a limit of 40 people. Final details to be sent out shortly – watch this space.

AN AFRICAN ADVENTURE: 15th to 20th November 2023

Our African adventure is happening. Members will join a memorable four-day journey on the luxurious Rovos Rail train from Pretoria to Victoria Falls, with a final dinner and stay at the iconic Victoria Falls Hotel. The festival experience can also be extended to the pre-tour, in Cape Town from 11th to 15th November (in Cape Winelands), and/or the post-tour to Livingstone and Lusaka from 20th to 24th November (visiting a game farm). For more details visit the website.



FESTIVAL OF FOOD AT SEA: 22nd to 29th September 2023

This is an opportunity for IWFS members from all zones to join this special voyage on Cunard's Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to New York. Whilst not an EAZ event members and guests are invited to join together on this wonderful cruise liner which coincides with the 90th anniversary of the founding of IWFS in November 1933. Shortly after the first event in January 1934 André Simon sailed to New York leading to the formation of branches of IWFS in the US. For more details go to our website.

EAZ EXCELLENCE AWARD UPDATE

Following the success of the pilot stage the EAZ will shortly be rolling out the Award to all EAZ branches. The aim is to work to achieve this during October, to coincide with the time when the branches are making their plans for 2023. Although in this difficult post-Covid period things have been a bit slow to get going – a reflection perhaps of the natural caution of the age group into which many of our members fall – it is hoped that this Award will be useful to branches in 2023, and beyond, in forging stronger links with venues and giving them the recognition they deserve.



EAZ Diploma and Bar Badge were presented, on 24th July, to Phillip Redhead, of the Devonshire Branch – Committee member since 1995 and Branch Treasurer from 1996 to 2022 and also attended Society events internationally. At the age of 91 years old he has now stepped down. This a much-deserved award (he was awarded the AS Bronze medal in 2010).



OUR AWARDS

AS Bronze Award was presented to Leonie Allday, on 24th September at the EAZ AGM weekend in Torquay. The award recognises her continued services to Europe Africa, both as Chair of the Bath & Bristol branch and for her contribution as an Executive Committee member responsible for marketing, in particular the development of the Excellence Award which after a trial period is shortly to be launched to all branches. Many congratulations to Leonie.



EUROPE AFRICA LTD AGM 2022

The AGM was held in Torquay on 24th September 2022. The resolutions, all of which were passed, were to approve the minutes of the last AGM, to approve the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021 and to confirm the Members of the Executive Committee. In addition, the appointment of Chris Langham, as Independent Examiner, was approved.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

UK Blackpool & Fylde Coast 3rd October 2022

In October we celebrate our branch 70th Anniversary. The celebration dinner will be held at the prestigious Fairhaven Golf Club, Lytham St Annes. Bookings are now closed. Details from [Ron Barker](#).

UK Herefordshire & Monmouthshire 7th October 2022

Lunch at The Griffin Inn, Felin Fach (Nr Brecon). Contact: [Peter McGahey](#).

UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire 21st to 22nd October 2022

Great Weekend at Tyn Y Cornel Hotel, Wales, on the shore of Tal-y-llyn Lake in Snowdonia National Park. Read more in the [Telegraph](#) review. Places are available but not at the special rate. But if you would like to join us for a break in Wales please contact [Hilary Rylands](#).

UK Berkshire

21st October 2022

A tasting of wines of southern Italy is being presented by Clive Stanton of Eton Vintners, Windsor. Meeting at 1830 for 1900 at Neville Hall, Waltham St Lawrence. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire October/November



We are planning Presentation of Excellence Awards to Bolton College; The Church Green, Lymm; and The Grosvenor Hotel, Chester. Dates to be confirmed. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for details.

UK London

9th November 2022

Dinner at the [Army and Navy Club](#), preceded by our AGM. See our website www.iwfs.london for full details.

UK London

15th November 2022

Wine Tasting with Dinner, featuring wines from the Savoie region of France. To be held at [Le Vieux Comptoir](#), a taste of regional France within Marylebone Village. See website www.iwfs.london for full details. *Now full.*

UK Berkshire

18th November 2022

A tasting of the wines of South Africa is being presented by Nik Darlington of Red Squirrel Wine. Meeting at 1830 for 1900 at Neville Hall, Waltham S. Lawrence. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

UK London

24th November 2022

Special IWFS Dinner at the House of Lords in the Atlee and Reid Room at 7.00 pm prompt. Members of other branches especially welcome. Full details on www.iwfs.london.

UK Wessex

27th November 2022

We are holding a Gala Dinner at the [Forest Park Hotel](#) in the New Forest at 18.30 for a champagne reception. Accommodation is available at a special rate in the hotel. All are welcome. Price for the dinner is £75 a head members and £80 non-members. Please contact [Isabel Sinclair](#) for further details.

UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

7th December 2022

Our Christmas Party at [The Grosvenor Hotel](#), luxury hotel, in the heart of Chester. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for details.

UK Herefordshire & Monmouthshire

15th December 2022

Black Tie Christmas Dinner at [Cotford Hotel](#), Malvern. Contact: [Peter McGahey](#) for details.

Looking ahead to EAZ and other zone festivals

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. See [website](#) for full details.

UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

17th January 2023

We are starting the new year with dinner at [La Boheme](#), Lymm Cheshire – the home of old-school French fare. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for details.

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, Catalunya

23rd to 27th May 23-27 2023

A delightful festival is being organised by the EAZ's local contacts. 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. See page 3 and booking details to follow soon.

SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW YORK

Festival of Food at Sea

22nd to 29th September 2023

Members are invited to join this informal group on the Cunard Queen Mary 2 as she sails from Southampton to New York. Whilst not an EAZ event it will be a special voyage staging a Festival of Food & Wine on board and it coincides with the 90th anniversary of the founding of IWFS in November 1933. For more details go to our [website](#).

AFRICA

15th to 20th November 2023

Join us for an African adventure for a four-day journey on the luxurious [Rovos Rail](#) train from Pretoria to Victoria Falls and night at the iconic [Victoria Falls Hotel](#). There is also a pre-tour in Cape Town from 11th to 15th November and a post-tour to Livingstone and Lusaka from 20th to 24th November. See page 3 or visit our [website](#) for more details.

