



# EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 19, January 2023



## OUR COMPETITIONS

### 2023 is a Vegetarian focus

Our branches in The North (a collaboration between four northern branches) have launched their second competition this time focusing on Vegetarian dishes. This new competition is aimed at the talented young chefs of the Northern Catering Colleges inviting them to create the best plate of food made exclusively with vegetarian ingredients.



Tim Hodges, from the organising team, said "With the increasing number of people in the UK enjoying vegetarian meals, the popularity of which can be clearly seen in the burgeoning range appearing in many restaurants and supermarkets meant that vegetarian food was the natural choice. Recent reports have suggested that as much as half of the UK population

could be vegetarian or vegan in less than 20 years. The next generation of chefs are starting to seize the trend and developing new and exciting vegetarian options and the IWFS needs to be a part of this."

Sponsorship for the competition is being generously provided by The Vegetarian Society Cookery School. The cookery school teaches professional chefs and home cooks while also offering free classes to community groups. The school is part of the Vegetarian Society, which has more than 50,000 members, and recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. The competition will showcase fabulous vegetarian ingredients, our



regional catering colleges and the extraordinary talents of the staff and students and more...

The competition will reach its climax

on 12th May at a prestigious awards lunch to be held at Bolton University, where we will present four awards to students for the best original vegetarian dishes. We will circulate further news as it comes in.



## OUR AGM

### Our AGM 2023 will be held in the New Forest

Please put 20th and 21st September in your diary for two days of great company, food and wine plus making future plans for the EAZ. With your support and energy our future is looking bright. On 21st September the Members' Forum and AGM will be held followed by lunch and a visit to a local attraction. We plan to be based in Brockenhurst in the heart of the New Forest National Park. This event has been scheduled just before the start of the Cunard Festival of Food at Sea, Atlantic cruise to New York (see Upcoming Festivals) and a number of members are booked in. We hope many of you will be able to join us whether you are heading for the high seas, or not!



## NEW BRANCH: Capital

We are delighted to announce that a new branch, Capital, will open in London next month. Their inaugural event will be held on 15th February – see our Branch Events below for details. More news about this exciting opening next time.



## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR



As I write this, we are in the middle of the second very cold spell of the winter, but the sky is blue and the sun is shining, and daylight is noticeably longer than it was in the dark days of December. Let us hope the political troubles not just in the UK, but worldwide start to be resolved.

It is in these uncertain times that the friendships generated in our Society by our shared love of food and wine are important for our general well-being. Those friendships can be enhanced by helping with the development of our Society. Examples of where you might be able to help are to: organise an event for your branch; help with some of the administrative tasks of the branch; encourage non-member friends/acquaintances/relatives to participate in an event... and then to join; if you move location and there is no branch nearby, form a new branch; volunteer to help the strategy Group implement its ideas. There are many other ways!

We are a volunteer organisation. The more of you that help, the more we can do and enjoy.

2023 is the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Society by André Simon, with the first event taking place in January 1934. For 2023, I hope your branch has a great programme of events to enjoy. My wife and I would love to receive invitations to join significant celebratory branch events. We are also looking forward to participating in IWFS showcase events in the US and Spain, as travel inconveniences have largely been removed.

*John Nicholas*  
Chair, IWFS Europe Africa



## WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE

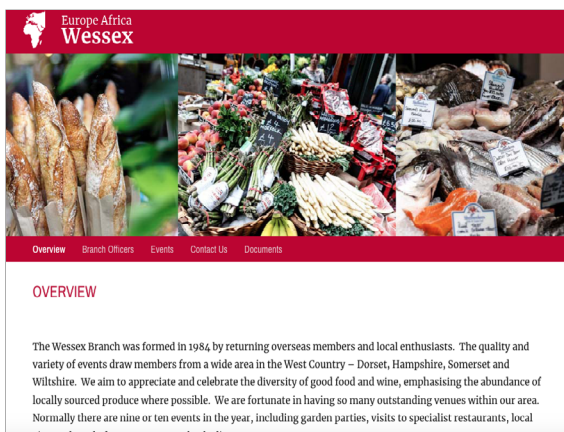
**Members' Home Page** – this is now well established and updated on a regular basis with the latest news. Please tell us what you would like to see there.

**Booking events online** – there have also been some substantial improvements to the facilities for booking major events online, and these are now available for any event that involves more than one branch. Contact [Alan Shepherd](#) if you need assistance with this. Populating Branch pages – we would also encourage branches to put more information on their own sections of the website. There is no shortage of space and they are a great window for you to spread the word (see here Wessex branch).

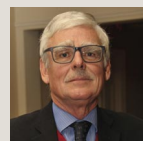
### IWFS logos and branding

– Branch Admins, please note that the IWFS Society logo/artwork and EAZ letterhead master are available under your branch menu, available only for those with Branch Admin access, to assist you with branch promotions and communications.

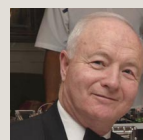
*Alan Shepherd*  
EAZ Website Co-ordinator



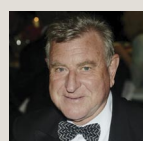
## YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



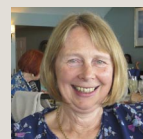
John Nicholas  
(Zurich)  
Chair



David Chapman  
(Manchester)  
Secretary



Ian Nicol  
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)  
Webmaster



Mrs Leonie Allday  
(Bath & Bristol)  
Marketing



Dr Tricia Fletcher  
(Manchester)  
Awards Officer



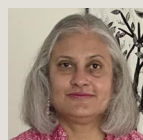
Stephen Graham  
(Vale Royal and  
St James's)  
Treasurer



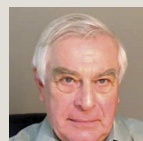
Tim Hodges  
(Merseyside &  
Mid-Cheshire)  
Marketing



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



## BRANCH FOCUS: WEST YORKSHIRE



The West Yorkshire (WY) branch is riding on the crest of a wave... they have experienced three years of growth in branch membership numbers – from 36 at the end of 2019, which was just before Covid struck, to 50 today. Branch Chairman, Stephen Harrison, pointed out that the cumulative growth in WY member numbers of almost 40% had been achieved despite making no marketing effort. WY branch events now routinely attract 30 or more attendees – some 50% more than just a few years ago.

In an era of unparalleled interest in, and supply of, extraordinary food and wine, WY's strategy is to provide unique, exciting, stimulating and special opportunities to learn more about and enjoy, different food and wine, sourced from a wide range of producers. Their events are balanced between those that are food-led, wine-led, and producer-led, but almost all are fundamentally in keeping with the IWFS core purpose, the celebration of the unique synergistic partnership of wine and food together.

EAZ has recognised there is an opportunity to exploit this trend being enjoyed by the WY and to develop a clear agenda to reposition the region for growth. Lessons have been learned from the Black Pudding Competition, and, with support from EAZ, a Strategy Group has been established, with members from across the region taking part. Part of the remit, to exploit the potential for a robust social media infrastructure, will be tested and we are hopeful that the branch will be able to take advantage of this when rolling out its exciting programme for 2023.



## OUR AWARDS

The EAZ Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion was presented to Stephen Harrison on 26 November at the West Yorkshire AGM. Stephen was recognised for his service and work for the West Yorkshire Branch as a member, Committee member and Chairman and establishing the Northern Branches Development Team and also co-managing the very successful Black Pudding Competition. Tim Gittins (*right*) is seen here presenting this most worthy award, to Stephen, on behalf of the EAZ.



statement. Your branch should have received the promotional package to support this. For further details please email [Leonie Allday](mailto:Leonie.Allday@iwfs.org). In due course a "Golden List" of Excellence Award recipients will additionally form a valuable reference.

Three recent, worthy, recipients were:

- **Bolton College** – in November 2022 members of the IWFS Northern Team presented the Award to the Principal Bill Webster, and his team, for the Awards Lunch that they had prepared for some 80 people in June 2022, to celebrate the winners of IWFS catering college Black Pudding competition.



## OUR EXCELLENCE AWARD TIME TO SELECT YOUR NOMINEES



This new award is being received enthusiastically by the recipients and now is the time to roll it out nationally to your favoured venues. Leonie Allday, Excellence Award committee member, said "We would encourage branches to introduce the Excellence Award which, in our experience, effectively

promotes the values and benefits of the IWFS and, as the award is decided solely by the Branch, there is no administrative delay. Plus recipients have made it clear that such support for the hospitality industry is needed and much appreciated."

The combination of the award sticker with a framed certificate and IWFS information leaflets makes a memorable



- **The Church Green in Lymm** – the award was presented to owners Aiden and Sarah Byrne by members of the M&MC branch, in December 2022, for their outstanding service and exceptional meal provided at a branch event.

- **The Grosvenor Hotel** – in December 2022, Tricia Fletcher, our IWFS awards officer together with M&MC branch members, made the presentation to the Grosvenor's events manager Tracy Wilkinson whose team provided first rate service and a superb meal on a previous visit.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### UPCOMING FESTIVALS

#### USA Willamette Valley

2nd to 6th May 2023

The Americas are organising a wonderful tour of this beautiful wine region visiting some of the top wineries and enjoying some of culinary delights of the region. Now fully subscribed but [click here](#) to find out more and join a wait list.

#### SPAIN DO Emporda, Catalunya, Spain

23rd to 27th May 2023  
Places for this festival were quickly filled with members from across the Society signing up. Starting in Barcelona attendees will be taken to the Catalunya countryside to explore this 'land of castles' visiting vineyards and enjoying some of the best restaurants. A waitlist is being held for those who missed out on registration. [Click here](#) to find out more.

#### UK EAZ AGM New Forest, Brockenhurst

20th to 21st September 2023

We hope you will be part of our AGM and Members Forum to include delicious wine, food, friendly company and some planning for the future. It may also be a welcome pre-cruise event for those booked on the Cunard cruise mentioned below. More details to follow but in the meantime place the dates in your diary.

### CROSSING CONTINENTS

#### SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW YORK

##### Festival of Food at Sea

22nd to 29th September 2023

This is an opportunity for IWFS members from all zones to join this voyage on Cunard's Queen Mary 2 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 email [Peter McGahey](#) or via our [website](#).

### AFRICA

15th to 20th November, 2023

This is a four-day African adventure 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. There is a waitlist but see our [website](#) for more details.

#### AUSTRALIA, Sydney

18th to 22nd October, 2023

A festival is planned in this vibrant city plus there maybe a post-festival event. Please put the dates in your diary. The APZ would love to welcome you. More details will be released as available.

### BRANCH EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

#### UK London

8th February 2023

Lunch at the [Savile Club](#) David Wakefield has organised lunch for us at another of his favourite venues, the Savile Club. Many of you will remember the excellent dinners that we have enjoyed there in the past. Timing, 12:30pm. See our [website](#) for more details.

#### UK Manchester

11th February 2023

Our AGM event is being held at Manchester's iconic [The Midland Hotel](#). For more details email [Christine Redman](#).

#### UK London

14th February 2023

Fine Zinfandel 2016 Tasting being held at The Army and Navy Club (RAG). Join us for a tasting of unusual wines from a member's cellar. Event starts at 7pm. See our [website](#).

#### UK Capital

15th February 2023

##### new branch opening

Please join us for our inaugural event, a White Wine Tasting by the Capital branch 'Cork Dorks'. Location: RAF Club, London from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. Email [Elena Frank](#) if you would like to attend. We'd love to see as many of you as can make it, limit of 40 max.

#### UK Berkshire

17th February 2023

We have a Spanish focus with wines presented by Paul Fritz-Johnson of Welch & Co. Our venue is [The Neville Hall](#), Waltham St. Lawrence. Aperitif served from 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.



**The International Wine & Food Society**  
CAPITAL BRANCH

**Our  
inaugural  
event!**

**Uncorked:**  
**WHITE WINES**  
**Wine tasting Masterclass by the Capital Branch Cork Dorks**

Part of our proprietary *Uncorked* wine tasting masterclass series, including Red and Sparkling wines

- De-mystifying styles from around the world
- Guided tasting of six distinct wines
- WSET-Diploma qualified former-sommelier instructor
- Takeaway Infographics

**Entertaining, inclusive and interactive!**  
**Canapes and welcome glass of bubbly to celebrate the launch of our branch**

RSVP: [Elena Frank](#)  
[elenarepole@hotmail.com](mailto:elenarepole@hotmail.com)  
How much: £ 45 per person  
How to pay: Lloyds Bank, Omar Sayed,  
A/C 22160768, Sort code: 30-90-72

When: Wednesday, 15th Feb 2023  
Time: 18:30-20:30  
Where: Royal Air Force (RAF) Club  
128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### UK London

21st February 2023

Dinner at [Champagne Route](#), a wine tasting dinner with a champagne importer at one of our members' favourite restaurants. Starts at 7pm. See our [website](#).

### UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

22nd February 2023

Lunch at [The Inn at Huxley](#), Huxley, Chester. Showcasing quality produce from local and regional suppliers. At 12.30 for 1pm. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for more details.

### UK London

2nd March 2023

English Still and Sparkling Wines. Join us for a tasting of outstanding English still and sparkling wines, organised and led by an expert. The evening will begin at 7pm at The Army and Navy Club. See our [website](#) for more details.

### UK Berkshire

17th March 2023

Richard Bampfield MW, local Master of Wine, will take you through the 'Top wines from Lidl'. Our venue is [The Neville Hall](#), Waltham St. Lawrence. Aperitif served from 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

### UK West Yorkshire

18th March 2023

The Wines of South Western France, a soirée featuring the wine and food of one of France's least well known regions, with wines presented by our friend, the hugely entertaining Patrice Lipatti-Mesme. For enquiries, please contact [Sue Timme](#), our secretary.

### UK London

30th March 2023

Pinot Gris and Cabernet Franc Wines, join us for a tasting of interesting wines made from these grapes. Organised and presented by Dr Bernard Lamb, National Guild of Wine and Beer Judges. 7pm start at The Army and Navy Club. See our [website](#) for more details.

### UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

April 2023 (date tbc)

[Yellow Broom](#), Twemlow Green, Cheshire, one of county's most popular eateries in this picturesque village. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for more details.

### UK Berkshire

21st April 2023

This month we are looking at wines from artisanal producers in France with Tim North of [Joie de Vin](#). Our venue is [The Neville Hall](#), Waltham St. Lawrence. Aperitif served from 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

### UK London

11th May 2023

Lunch at [La Poule au Pot](#), join us for another of our 'classic lunches' organised by Ronda Fogel – midday start. See our [website](#) for more details.

### UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

12th May 2023

The North, 2023 IWFS Vegetarian Competition Awards Lunch – an opportunity to see the winners of this year's competition, as featured in our lead story. Thinking of doing something similar in future? Don't miss the event being held at [Bolton University Buildings](#). Lunch 12.30 for 1pm. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for more details.

### UK Berkshire

19th May 2023

We are heading east to taste wines of Romania and Slovenia with Andrew Walker of [Solaris Wines](#) with guest presenter Jakob Kripp, owner of [Prince Stirbey Estate](#). Our venue is [The Neville Hall](#), Waltham St. Lawrence. Aperitif served from 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

### UK London

8th June 2023

Lunch at [La Vita e Bella](#), the next in our series of 'classic lunches' organised by Ronda Fogel, featuring set lunch menus and excellent house wines at well-established restaurants – midday start. See our [website](#) for more details.

### UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

22nd June 2023

Join us for dinner at [The Church Green](#), Lymm, Cheshire – recently presented with our Excellence Award. Run by famous chef Aiden Byrne and his wife Sarah. Dinner 6-30pm for 7pm. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for more details.

### UK Berkshire

23rd June 2023

Visit to [All Angels Vineyard](#), Enborne, where we will be tasting the sparkling wines of this estate owned by the Ardley family in the heart of Berkshire followed by a meal. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

### UK Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

3rd September 2023

It's our Summer Picnic, which has become a regular favourite and will be held once again at the home of our members, Val & Paul, in North Wales. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) if you are in the area.

### UK London

15th September 2023

[90th Anniversary Dinner at Windsor Castle](#) – yes, we are celebrating the Society's 90th Anniversary with a Dinner at Windsor Castle. Members across the globe are welcome. Details will be sent out once available and posted on [www.iwfs.london](http://www.iwfs.london).

