



EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 21, October 2023



Windsor Castle drinks on the terrace



OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Let our 90th celebrations begin! We have received news of two 90th anniversary events that were held last month:

London branch at Windsor Castle – 15th September 2023

The first was at an historic venue and one fit for a king – Windsor Castle... The London branch organised this exclusive event with 72 eager participants filling the Vicars’ Hall, built in 1415, for a celebratory dinner. They enjoyed evensong in the Quire of the Tudor chapel, normally reserved for the Knights of the Order of the Garter, before moving to the Lookout, on the ramparts, for a champagne reception. Dinner was served in the Vicars’ Hall with a delicious menu being matched with a selection of fine French wines, notably Domaine Tariquet Premieres Grives, Cote de Gascogne, which was served, and was popular, at the 2018 International Festival in London.



Oslo branch at Laerlingekompaniet – 21 September 2023

The second was in Oslo with the 36 branch members celebrating at the Laerlingekompaniet which is a venue where aspiring chefs are trained. The comprehensive menu was prepared by experienced chef, well known to the branch, Kjell Arne and who now runs many restaurants around Oslo. The menu included delicacies such as Yellowtail tartar and finger lime; Halibut carpaccio with trout roe marinated in dashi followed by roasted grouse with a confit grouse leg and a madeira sauce; and finished with Chateau Lafon Sauternes 2019 accompanying the dessert. After dinner there was music and dancing and great fun had by all.



OUR AGM

Our AGM & Brockenhurst Event, 20th to 21st September 2023

The “pick and mix” nature of this festival proved popular with 43 members signing up for all or part of this annual event, attracting members from the Americas as it linked in nicely with the Queen Mary 2 cruise which departed from Southampton heading for New York.

Our two-day New Forest event was based in the Balmer Lawn Hotel, on the edge of Brockenhurst giving our members the chance to enjoy the beauty of the natural surroundings. Evenings of fine food and wine were enjoyed at both the Balmer Lawn hotel and also in the historic Grand Hall of the Rhinefield Hotel. A visit to Beaulieu was also on the agenda with a tour



of the Palace House, home to the Montagu family since 1538, and of course the iconic motor museum.

The AGM and Members’ Forum were held on 21st September (see the official details on page 3). The latter encouraged members to express their views on the way forward for the Society. Stephen Harrison, leader of the EA Development Working Group (which was formed to ‘make change happen’) created a presentation on ‘Strategy for Growth: Progress Update’ which can be viewed via this [link](#), which was presented by John Nicholas, EAZ chair.

Thanks were given to Isabel Sinclair, Wessex branch chair, for organising the event and to the Balmer Lawn team who were great hosts.

A full article will appear in edition 148 of Food & Wine.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR



I hope that all branches now have an event planned to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of our Society by André Simon. Please use the special logo for this anniversary, as featured on the front page, which can easily be downloaded from the website – just [click here](#). It can be used in conjunction with our registered trade-mark logo [click here](#) (branch admins have access).

You can see separate reports of the mini-festival and AGM and Members' Forum held in Brockenhurst just a few weeks ago. It was good to meet members from 12 different Europe Africa branches and the feedback was as always interesting. We were also joined by five members from the Americas prior to their voyage to New York on the Queen Mary 2.

As always, the Society is dependent on its members making things happen. This not only applies at Society and Regional level, but more importantly in Branches. All members can do their bit by organising or helping to organise an event, by writing up an event to share with members (on branch social media – a WhatsApp group is easy to set up – as well as Food & Wine) or by supporting the administration. Your Europe Africa Executive Committee also needs support and "new blood". We need a new Treasurer (see below), rather urgently, and other members of Exco have served you for a long time. We need to ensure that successors are in place. Please contact me initially at johnsnicholas@aol.com to discuss how you can help.

As autumn descends on the Northern hemisphere and spring emerges in Southern Africa, enjoy the events and festivals that you are organising and celebrate the 90th Anniversary with a toast to André Simon.

John Nicholas

Chair, IWFS Europe Africa

URGENT – volunteer needed to take on the role of EAZ Treasurer

With regret, I have accepted the resignation of our current Treasurer, Steve Graham, who will step down after the completion of the 2023 accounts. Steve has been invaluable in managing our finances over the past three years for which many thanks.

We need to appoint a new Treasurer as soon as possible. Please consider if you have any accounting or finance skills and whether you would like to take on this role. The responsibilities can be defined to optimise the skills and interests of any volunteer. Being good with figures does help but you do not need to be a qualified accountant to fulfil this role – our accounts are assessed by a newly appointed independent examiner who will take on the role for the 2023 accounts. Please [email](#) me, John Nicholas, or mobile 0044 7485 564 208 to discuss how you could help.



WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE

The EAZ landing page is being upgraded to provide more relevant information to non-members who visit the site as potential members. This work is still underway but we hope it will encourage more enquiries.

Members will get the best experience if they log in with their username and password. They will then be directed to the Members' home page which is regularly updated with information of interest to members. Members who are logged in can also use the My Branch menu at the top of the screen to take them straight to their Branch pages.

We encourage more Branches to regularly update the information about forthcoming events on their pages. It would be very helpful to members and non-members when visiting the site.

Alan Shepherd

EAZ Website Co-ordinator

YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



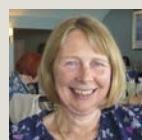
John Nicholas
(Zurich)
Chair



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



Stephen Harrison
(West Yorkshire)
Strategy



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)
IT

OUR OFFERS: SEASONAL MERCHANDISE BUNDLE

With the forthcoming festive season in mind please remember that there are a number of branded IWFS items available for members to purchase, via the [website](#), and which might be that perfect solution for you or your branch to gift (maybe as a thank you to that venue which has produced a memorable meal).

We have also put together a Seasonal Bundle, at a special price, which includes five of each of these items of branded Society merchandise – Gift Bottle Bags, Champagne Stoppers (perfect to keep those bubbles in the bottle) and Anniversary DropStops (three per pack).

Discounted Price £43 (inc p&p). Place your order now, via the [website](#), as the number of packs available is limited and will be sold on a first come first served basis.



OUR AWARDS

Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion

Lesley Berry, Secretary of the Sussex Branch, has been given an exceptional service award for her service to the Sussex Branch over many years. The certificate and medallion were presented to Lesley by EAZ Executive Committee member Alan Shepherd at a Sussex Branch dinner at the Sundial restaurant in Herstmonceux on 11th August 2023. Many congratulations to Lesley.



Samantha organises. The food concept is an exciting and inspired four-course feasting menu, served to share. Phillip Redhead, committee member, presented the award for a previous delicious meal served on 23rd September 2022.



Excellence Award

Sandridge Barton vineyard and winery (home of Sharpham wines) and Circa restaurant were both awarded our highly



Tom Wedgery

regarding Excellence Award for the winery tour and lunch at the Circa restaurant they hosted for us as part of our 2022 AGM festival held last year.



Rob Weeks

This July a number of members of the IWFS Devonshire branch reprised the event and afterwards Philip Redhead, committee member presented the awards to **Tom Wedgery** (who led the winery visit and tasting) and then to **Rob Weeks**, Head Chef at Circa.

Fun fact: Andrew Moon, the owner of the Sandridge Barton, is a member of the IWFS Cayman Islands branch, making the visit almost feel like a family occasion.

Restaurant Award

On 15th June 2023, 12 members from the Devonshire Branch attended an outstanding event at **Wild Artichokes** in Kingsbridge. This venue is the 'love child' of Jane Baxter and Samantha Miller who met at The Riverford Field Kitchen and then teamed up to start Wild Artichokes. Jane (who also appears on the BBCs Saturday Kitchen) does the cooking and

OUR AGM

The official details

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on 21st September 2023 at the Balmer Lawn Hotel in Brockenhurst in Hampshire and was attended by 32 members coming from 12 branches within the Zone and four non-voting members from two branches in the Americas.

The three Directors (John Nicholas, Ian Nicol and David Chapman) whose terms of office had expired were re-elected for further terms of three years. The Directors' Report and the Accounts for the year 2022 were adopted by the meeting and the appointments of the existing 11 members of the Executive Committee were re-affirmed as was confirmation of the co-optation of Stephen Harrison, Chair of the West Yorkshire Branch, earlier in the year as an additional member.



The resignation of the Independent Examiner, Chris Langham, was accepted and the Board of Directors was authorised to appoint a replacement for the current year.

There was no other business raised at the meeting and the meeting was completed speedily and was followed by the Members' Forum.

Thank you to Geoff Williams for the photos of the AGM/New Forest event.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

AFRICA (EAZ)

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 (APZ), Sydney

18th to 22nd October 2023

A festival is planned in this vibrant city plus there is a post-festival event to Melbourne and The Mornington Peninsula. Please put the dates in your diary. The APZ would love to welcome you. Bookings can now be made via the [website](#).

SWISS ALPS, RHINE CASTLES AND WINE CRUISE (AMS)

19th to 26th August 2024

Enjoy private winery tours from the foothills of the Swiss Alps to the canals of Amsterdam. Invitation due out soon.

HONG KONG (APZ)

15th to 17th November 2024, **pre-tour to**

Macau 14th to 15th November 2024 and **post-Gourmet tour** 18th to 19th

November 2024 – put the dates in your diary. Full details to follow.

BRANCH EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

UK Northampton

8th October 2023

Our Annual Dinner will be held at Hambleton Hall, Oakham, Rutland. For further details please contact the [Treasurer](#).

UK Capital Branch

17th October 2023

A wine pairing event, but not the usual type. This one is pairing wine with music, from Baroque era to modern world music. A live Royal College of Music graduate will lead us through the participatory proceedings. Come and experiment with us. Click [here](#) for details.

SWITZERLAND Zurich

17th October 2023

Restaurant Marktküche Zürich. This event will introduce us to the innovative vegetarian cuisine of Tobias Hösli. Starting at 7pm. Email [Kurt Haering](#) for more details.

UK Berkshire

20th October 2023

A tasting of German wines with host James Leach of Awin Barratt Siegel Wine Agencies / ABS. Our venue is [The Neville Hall](#), Waltham St. Lawrence. Aperitif served from 6.45 pm for a 7.15 pm start. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

UK West Yorkshire

20th October 2023

A celebration of autumn, with a 'Bountiful Harvest' lunch at the Leeds Printworks and cooked by the students of Leeds City College. Please contact [Sue Timme](#) for more information.

UK London

26th October 2023

Mature Clarets Tasting Dinner, 6:30pm at The Army and Navy Club, 36-39 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JN. The branch AGM will also be held. For further details see [www.iwfs.london](#).

UK Manchester

2nd November 2023

We are holding a black-tie evening to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Society with Adam Reid at The French – a special chef and venue for a special event. Contact [Chris Redman](#) for details.

UK Northampton

9th November 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the branch is at 11am and being held at Northampton Golf Club. For further details please contact the [Treasurer](#).

UK Capital Branch

14th November 2023

Wines of Life and Strife – Lebanon and Syria. We will be pouring the best-known wines from each of the two countries with a selection of food from the region. Click [here](#) for details.

UK London

16th November 2023

Is Chateau d'Yquem the best? Sign up now for this amazing opportunity to do a comparative tasting and make up your own mind. Venue is The Army and Navy Club, 36-39 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JN. For further details see [www.iwfs.london](#).

SWITZERLAND Zurich

17th November 2023

Fish Cooking Class with Christian Däniker who will introduce us to the secrets of fish dishes. He will be supported by a wine expert for matching wines. The event will be held in a school kitchen in Birmensdorf, so we can participate 'hands-on'. 6.00 pm start. Email [Kurt Haering](#) for more details.

UK Berkshire

17th November 2023

A tasting of 'Cool Climate Wines from Western USA' presented by Jennifer Williams-Bulkeley of [Ally Wines](#) – who work with top winemakers from exciting regions. 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 Merseyside & Mid Cheshire

23rd November 2023

Black Tie Celebrations at Aspire Restaurant, Trafford College, 251 Manchester Road, West Timperley, Manchester, WA14 5 PQ. Arrive at 6pm for 6:30pm. Contact [Hilary Rylands](#) for further details.

UK London

6th December 2023

Join us for a 'Classic Lunch'. Please check [here](#) for more details, once available.

UK Berkshire

8th December 2023

A special event featuring wines 'From the Chairmans' Cellar'. Chairman Colin Mair will carefully select some gems from his cellar. Our venue is [The Neville Hall](#), Waltham St. Lawrence. Aperitif served from 6.45 pm for a 7.15 pm start. Contact [Colin Mair](#) for details.

UK Manchester

10th December 2023

Christmas Luncheon will be held at The Museum Room at Manchester Hall. Contact [Chris Redman](#) for details.

UK Herefordshire & Monmouthshire

13th December 2023

Black Tie Christmas Dinner to be held at the delightful Eckington Manor, Eckington WR10 3BJ. Contact [Peter McGahey](#) for more details.

SWITZERLAND Zurich

16th December 2023

The Gala Dinner will be in the wine cellar of the Carlton Elite restaurant, right in the middle of Zurich. We expect fine dining and drinking. Email [Kurt Haering](#) for further details.

LOOKING AHEAD...

UK Manchester

10th February 2024

The Branch AGM to be held at The Lancaster Suite, The Midland Hotel. Contact [Chris Redman](#) for details.

UK London

29th February 2024

Dinner at Windsor Castle – a second chance! We are making plans for a second dinner at Windsor Castle. If you were unable to secure a place on this popular event in September, then please put the date in your diary. Booking details will be sent out later in the year. Open to all members.