



EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 22, January 2024



Cape Town art

OUR FESTIVALS

African Adventure – 11th to 24th November 2023

What an adventure it was – by road, rail and river! It began with a warm welcome from the Cape Town branch and an exciting food and wine matching dinner at the Foodbarn in Noorhoek (see Our Awards). Members then took to the Cape Winelands including Walker Bay, tasting the benchmark white wines from Paul Cluver, Elgin, then Burgundian style wines in the Hemel en Aarde valley at Bouchard Findlayson and Criterion accompanied by their Serendipity lunch; a visit to Stellenbosch gave members the Bordeaux style experience and then a dinner focussing on wines of Swartland. Then the main event began, the Rovos Rail journey, when 36 members journeyed 1400 km from Pretoria to the spectacular Victoria Falls



in Zimbabwe. It was a magical four-day, five-star experience with stops on the way including game drives in Matobo and Hwange national

parks. The trip combined relaxed travelling and sightseeing by day with formal dining in the dining car each evening.

The post-tour crossed into Zambia with two days alongside the mighty Zambezi to Livingstone. The final stop was a delightful dinner hosted by the Lusaka branch and then a super day hosted by the Luering family at their Mzimbilli Game Ranch. A full report will appear in Food & Wine, issue 149.

OUR COMPETITIONS

It's back – the IWFS Young Chef Competition 2024 – with a 'Free From' focus

The success of this competition in previous years has given our branches in the north the impetus to run it for a third year. As Tim Hodges, co-organiser, said "this competition has been so successful in establishing a closer relationship with our local colleges we have already invited nine colleges to take part and making approaches to colleges further south". Previous experience has shown how the competition engages and inspires the chefs of the future. For the IWFS to be part of their journey can only help strengthen the Society's long-term standing in the world of food and wine.

We thank our sponsors Saga Cruises, Bury Black Pudding Company Ltd and Savoy Educational Trust for their support. Plus our esteemed judges for the final who are Paul Heathcote



MBE, John McCerery (Saga Executive Chef on the Spirit of Adventure) and Steph Moon.

For more details please contact [Tim Hodges](#) or [Stephen Harrison](#) or visit our dedicated [website](#) to see examples of the types of dish that have made the final in previous years. College heats need to be completed by 29th February – so if you think there is a college who would snap it up, let us know, otherwise maybe think for next year or run a pilot in your area – we are happy to provide advice.



In the meantime please support your local catering college by organising events in their restaurant.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR



After a month of high winds, rain and floods, I am writing this on a cloudless morning in Southern England. It is bitterly cold, with no signs today of global warming!

I have recently read several articles about the impact already felt by the wine-making industry and the expectations of further change. The big question is whether traditional cooler-climate grape varieties can survive in their current locations as the Globe continues to

become warmer. I commend listening to the Oz Clarke André Simon lecture given at the 2018 London festival which can be accessed when logged in as a member to www.iwfs.org using the tab "Presentations - Audio & Video" in the Europe Africa section.

I look forward to hearing about more 90th Anniversary events and, if invited, I would try to attend whenever possible. Please contact me as below.

I am somewhat surprised and concerned that there has been no interest in taking on the role of Treasurer for IWFS Europe Africa. Therefore we are now recruiting outside the existing membership. Perhaps the task sounds too daunting. The role can be broken down into different aspects which different people could take on. Please contact me (Mail: johnsnicholas@aol.com or mob: 0044 (0)7485 564 208) if you think you could take on all or part of the role. The loading of transactions into Xero and the Annual Tax return is already outsourced and investment will continue to be managed by Steve Graham.

I did this role for seven years and most of the time I found it very satisfying, even enjoyable!

John Nicholas
Chair, IWFS Europe Africa

NEW AWARDS OFFICER APPOINTED

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ruth Hurst as the new Europe Africa Awards Officer. Ruth joined the IWFS in 2004 and is a member of the Manchester Branch and has served in various roles. Thank you Ruth for volunteering for this key EXCO role. Ruth can be contacted via email. Ruth was co-opted to EXCO on 19th January.

Ruth will replace Tricia Fletcher who was a member of our EXCO for nine years serving as Company Secretary and latterly as Awards Officer. John Nicholas, Chair of EXCO, would like to thank her for all the hard work and in particular for the improvements she made to the Awards process. The membership should be most grateful that this important role was performed by Tricia with diligence and patience. Thank you Tricia.



WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE

No major changes to www.iwfs.org to report this time. The Members' Home page continues to be updated regularly with the latest news. Contributions are always welcome.

Please log in with your username and password when you visit the website. You are liable to miss out if you do not, as some information is not displayed to casual visitors.

A project is currently under way at the international level to update the site home page to provide a more welcoming and informative experience for potential members.

Alan Shepherd
EAZ Website Co-ordinator

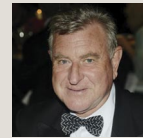
YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



John Nicholas
(Zurich)
Chair



David Chapman
(Manchester)
Secretary



Ian Nicol
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)
Webmaster



Mrs Leonie Allday
(Bath & Bristol)
Marketing



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



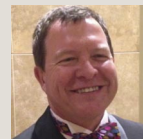
Stephen Harrison
(West Yorkshire)
Strategy



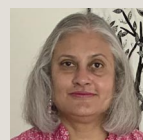
Tim Hodges
(Merseyside &
Mid-Cheshire)
Marketing



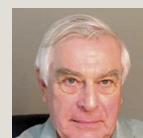
Ms Ruth Hurst
(Manchester)
Awards Officer



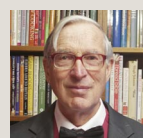
Hilton Kuck
(Cape Town)
African Branches
Representative



Mrs Geeta Lloyd
(Devonshire)
Membership Secretary



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



Alan Shepherd
(London)
IT

OUR AWARDS

Below are those members who have been recognised for their hard work and dedication they have put in, freely, to the Society. Thanking the restaurateurs for their outstanding dishes and service they give to us is also important. The awards presented during the latter part of last year are listed below.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE DIPLOMA AND MEDALLION

Africa, Lusaka Branch Dinner on 22nd November for the African Adventure travellers included five loyal members of the branch receiving awards. **Ken Cummins** who had given long service as a committee member of the branch and is presently Secretary; **Mairi Cummins** had given long service to the branch, on the

committee and in arranging events. **Emily Luering** had given service to the branch committee, supported and promoted the EAZ, including help with the African Adventure programme; **Arne Luering** had given long service to the branch and

been an enthusiastic Ambassador for Society Festivals and also hosted the final day of the African Adventure; and last but not least a surprise presentation was made to **Mark Luering** – he is the current and long serving Chair of the Branch, which he has built up to be one of the largest branches in EAZ. Ian Nicol commented that he had presented a husband and wife with awards in the past but never before an entire family. Congratulations to all. Ian Nicol and Michael Tamburri, both previous Global Chairmen of the Society, were there to present the awards.

UK, Merseyside & Mid Cheshire Branch recently presented three of their members with this coveted Europe Africa award for their dedicated service for the branch as a member and committee member. On the 23rd November 2023 at their 90th



Angela Britland and Anne Saville

Anniversary Dinner Europe Africa Chairman, John Nicholas, presented the following members with their award: **Angela Britland** was awarded a 10-year Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion and **Anne Saville** received a 25-year

Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion. On 30th November 2023 the Branch Chairman, Tim Hodges, presented **Mike Saville** with a 25-year Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion for his dedicated service to the Branch as a member and Committee Member.

UK, Herefordshire & Monmouthshire Branch, at the branch Christmas Dinner, Tricia Fletcher, Awards Officer, presented two awards, one to **Michael Hoddinott**, a 25-year Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion for his dedicated service to the branch as a Founder member, Committee Member, present Chairman and past Treasurer, and one to **John Boyd** who was

also awarded a 25-year Exceptional Service Diploma and Medallion for his dedicated service to the branch as a Founder member, Committee Member and past Chairman.



Michael Hoddinott and John Boyd

BRANCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

UK Berkshire Branch presented two Branch Excellence Awards late last year. The first recipient was **The Crooked Billet**, Crowthorne, Berks, on 19th November 2023 in recognition of an exceptional lunch they had prepared for branch members in July 2022. Then as Christmas approached the second award was



The Crooked Billet and Ruchetta

presented to Angelo Colao, chef and owner of the fine Italian restaurant **Ruchetta**, Wokingham, Berks on 15th December 2023. Colin Mair, Chairman of the Berkshire Branch made both presentations to the two very worthy recipients and who were very pleased to place their award sticker near the entrance for diners to see.

RESTAURANT AWARD

UK St James's Branch Ari Sofianos, Branch Chairman presented a Restaurant Award to **La Trompette**, London, on 21st October 2023 for an exceptional lunch that they provided for the EAZ members on 4th March 2023 and **The Fordwich Arms**, Kent, on 5th November 2023 for a superb lunch that they produced for the EAZ members on 19th August 2023. Ari presented the Award to sous-chef Ryan Sampson as unfortunately chefs/proprietors Dan and Natasha Smith could not be there on that day. Ari notes that "The Fordwich Arms serves some of the finest food in the UK and, in my modest opinion, the Michelin Guide clearly undervalues this restaurant as it is easily worth two stars!"



La Trompette and The Fordwich Arms



UK Devonshire Branch on 16th November 2023 Branch Chairman, John Slater, presented the award to Simon Hulstone the chef proprietor of **The Elephant**, Torquay. The award was for a dinner served during the Europe Africa AGM in September 2022 that so impressed members from around the world who attended. The restaurant was the first in Torquay to be awarded a Michelin star and the only one to retain it since 2006.

South Africa, Cape Town Branch **The Foodbarn**, Noordhoek, on 18th November Ian Nicol, who was in the country for the EAZ's African Adventure (see front-page), presented the award, along with Hilton Kuck (African branch representative) to its co-founder Franck Dangereux. Franck was recognised for the high standard of food and his continued creativity in the dishes served in particular for an outstanding dinner for the Cape Town Branch in October 2022.





DATES FOR THE DIARY

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

USA, New Orleans, USA

14th to 16th March 2024 (Americas)
It's set to be a 'Great Wine Weekend' – become immersed in the world of jazz, delicious cuisine and stunning architecture of the French Quarter. Registration is now open for a weekend of fine wine and food in this most vibrant of cities. Click [here](#) for details.

FRANCE, Loire Valley

28th May to 1st June 2024 (Europe Africa)
Join members around the world for the opportunity to discover this region with its chateaux, fine cuisine and different wines produced along the longest river in France. This festival is fully booked but has a waitlist which you may still join. Click [here](#) to see the programme.

RHINE – CASTLES and WINE

19th to 26th August 2024 (Americas)
Swiss Alps, Rhine Castles and Wine Cruise. A truly magical event is in the planning with a cruise along the Rhine with AmaWaterways while enjoying an exclusive food and wine experience tailored for IWFS members. Enjoy private winery tours from the foothills of the Swiss Alps to the canals of Amsterdam. Click [here](#) to view details.

UK West Yorkshire, Leeds and

Harewood Palace

13th to 15th September (Europe Africa)
EAZ Annual General Meeting weekend At Bardsey Village Hall and Gala Dinner at 'Thehovels' Harewood Estate. Details to be announced but in the meantime put the dates in your diary.

HONG KONG

15th to 17th November 2024 (Asia Pacific)
If you are looking for an energetic and exciting festival programme then Hong Kong will not disappoint with its host of high profile venues. A gourmet post-tour to Macau (17th to 19th November) is also planned. Click [here](#) to find out more. Bookings now being taken.

BRANCH EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

UK Northampton

9th February 2024
Northampton branch will be putting the "I" into IWFS with a lunch at the Oren Pho Vietnamese Bar and Grill in Northampton. An opportunity to try (or revisit) the fascinating cuisine of Vietnam.

UK Manchester

10th February 2024
The Branch AGM to be held at The Lancaster Suite, The Midland Hotel. Contact [Chris Redman](#) for details.

UK Herefordshire & Monmouthshire

28th to 29th February 2024
Dinner and a Day at Ludlow Races. We will dine at the Charlton Arms Hotel before enjoying a day at the races in a private box and lunch on the 29th. Full details from [Peter McGahey](#).

UK Northampton

6th March 2024
A wine tasting dinner at the Northampton & County Club (aka The George Row) hosted by the branch President, Dr Robin Sheppard.

UK West Yorkshire

15th March 2024
Join us for our Annual Dinner at Vice and Virtue, Leeds. The gala dinner will be with Chef Jono, from BBC 'Masterchef: The Professionals'. Please contact [Sue Timme](#), Secretary, for details.

UK Northampton

16th April 2024
The branch will be holding its ever-popular (and usually over-subscribed) lunch at Harpole, this year with a Spanish flavour.

UK Capital

17th April 2024
Dinner at the very popular wine trade club 67 Pall Mall and an evening of Rioja Wines. Contact [here](#) for details.

UK West Yorkshire

19th April 2024
Printworks Kitchen & Bar, a themed lunchtime event with cookery demonstration at Leeds College. Contact [Sue Timme](#) for more.

UK Surrey Hills

3rd May 2024
Members are invited to join us for Black Tie Dinner at Coworth Park, a magnificent hotel near Ascot. The chef holds a Michelin Star and the area offers many attractions. Arrangements to be finalised for a very special evening. Click [here](#) for more details or contact [Susie Punch](#).

UK Northampton

8th to 10th May 2024
Northampton branch goes walkabout for its "May-away", this year to sample the gastronomic delights in and/or around Cheltenham.

UK West Yorkshire

1st June 2024
Pinot Noir tasting at Bardsey Village Hall. Video presentation by Anne Krebiehl MW (2024 IWSC Wine Communicator of the Year and author of our 2023 monograph). Anne is a self confessed lover of Pinot which we are sure will shine through. Not to be missed. Contact [Sue Timme](#) for more.

UK London

19th June 2024
Black tie Dinner at Chequers – we are hosting a dinner at the Prime Minister's country residence, Chequers, on 19th June. We will be able to tour the house and gardens before dinner. Full details will be on the website shortly.

UK Northampton

20th June 2024
A private Black-Tie dinner at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. A few spaces for members from other branches may be available. Contact the Treasurer, [Tim Kidger](#), for more.

UK West Yorkshire

6th July 2024
We are hosting an Independence Day BBQ. The event will be kindly hosted by Kate & Chas Newstead at Roundhay.

UK Northampton

13th July 2024
The Summer picnic this year will be held at the home of two of our members in Gayton, with catering as usual by the other branch members.

UPCOMING BRANCH TRIPS

UK Capital

8th to 13th July 2024
We are holding a five-day festival of Italian Austrian fusion of cultures in Alto Adige in the Dolomites, Northern Italy. For details click [here](#).

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

28th September to 4th October 2024
Join us for a magical eight-day Tour of Tuscany. We will visit key sights from our base in Pisa and enjoy the delicious food and wine of the region. Bookings via Mistral Holidays and departing from Manchester airport. Deposit deadline, to Mistral, by 26th February. To find out more [click here](#) or email [Hilary Rylands](#).

UK West Yorkshire

29th September to 4th October 2024
Tour of Sicily, Ragusa and Syracuse to Etna. Contact [Sue Timme](#) for more.