

President's Report for the year 2013 – 2014

I have decided to make the President's Report more like a newsletter this year. You will see that we've been as busy as we can to keep the momentum going. Following last year's AGM on Thursday 4 July 2013 we had a very enjoyable meal at Smollensky's Bar & Grill on The Strand.



Charlotte Catignani and Trevor Browne



Elizabeth Pearce and Leanne Stewart



Anne Kimber and Moya Pamplin



Brian Ward and Julie Tampsett



Darren Staniforth and Barbara Kapusta



Overview of the table – Stuart Cox was in hiding behind the camera!



Patricia Bennett and Sue Wright

We have only held one event during the year which was a Citrus Symposium at R C Treatt, Bury St Edmunds on 27 March 2014. A write up has been publishing in the July edition of Perfumer & Flavorist. Here are photographs from the day:



A chance to mingle over a tasty buffet



Charlotte's introduction



Many new faces to network with



John Forbes, the walking encyclopedia on all things citrus!



Fresh citrus display



Mary Brooks presenting



A photo opportunity with the speakers



Nick Peake



WFFC UK Committee present on the day

Gillian Bleiman, Berje was a guest speaker at the BEOA Symposium held on 11 April 2014. As she is on the Board of Directors of the WFFC USA, she wanted to use the opportunity to meet with the WFFC UK. Anne, Julie and I met with Gillian over lunch to see if there were any ways we could work closer with the WFFC USA.



Going forwards, I will be stepping down as President to make way for a new face. My full time job was made redundant back in October and I am now freelance. I have been President since 2010 and it is now time for someone new to step in to the role.

Our vision is networking, education and support for women in the Flavour and Fragrance Industries. I don't think we need to review our vision but to perhaps alter our approach. Our challenge is that we need to adapt to the changing workplace. We need to rethink our future and reinvent what we do to survive. Perhaps we need to do things differently. Up to now we have been successful at what we do but it is a lot of effort to put together a Symposium.

I recently did some studying with Brighton School of Business and Management and their June newsletter has an interesting section on networking and I have some quotes below:

“There is compelling evidence that partaking in some form of business-personal networking is advantageous – if not for career progression, then at least for the gaining of additional, useful, business contacts and business knowledge.”

With regard to Independent Business Networking Groups – “Again in most countries, there is a wide range of independent business networking groups – offering such events as early-morning breakfast meetings, workshops, training events, local conferences. ... In most countries and regions there are Women in Business associations. The purpose of these is to provide networking opportunities and support services specifically for women, in response to the difficulties that businesswomen still experience in some countries and-or in some business sectors.”

“An important channel for effective networking is provided by professional associations and institutes. In addition to membership status, qualifications, and a range of online resources, many also offer local or regional events – such as workshops, visits to organisations, guest speakers, and social events – all of which are also ideal for face-to-face networking.”

Please attend our AGM and come with ideas/suggestions for future events and the way forwards.

Leanne Stewart