

# ORDRE DES CHEVALIERS BRETVINS

## BAILLIAGE GRANDE BRETAGNE



### CHAPTER MEETING AND DINNER ROYAL THAMES YACHT CLUB 18th NOVEMBER 2025

“They’re changing guards at Buckingham Palace.....” said A.A.Milne many years ago. Well we changed the “guard” – *well the Bailli – last year* - but this year we changed the venue to the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge.

The new surroundings gave us plenty of room to meet for drinks before the Chapter Meeting.

The 54th Chapter Meeting opened with the presentation of a new banner commission by the Bailli, Malcolm Craig, made by the award-winning designer Vivienne Havell, hand-sewn in silver wire and thread. Malcolm then welcomed Chevaliers and Dames de la Duchesse Anne, together with Bailli is and guests from the Courts of Guernsey, Pays de Galle and Alcester.



With the Chapter declared open there were further changes:

- Steve Turner was appointed as the new Maître de Garde Robe
- and at our recent Council Meeting, following the retirement of Tim Humm, we appointed our first lady Council Officer, Sue Field as Halbardier. *Seeing the size of the Hallbard (complete with its “blood” stains), it may be that Sue will need an assistant to help her carry it!* Sadly, Sue was unable to be present, because of another appointment.

With three new members – Ms Nan Nan Lui, Mr David Milton and Mr Martyn Parrett, to be “intronised”, there were no changes to the traditional procedures, involving the “initiation”

test of withdrawing wine from a barrel with a pipette and then sampling the Muscadet – *having – of course – received the seal of approval of its quality from the Echanson.*

With Council Members having recited their duties and sampled the wine, the patience of the assembled guests was eventually rewarded with the cry to “**bring on the wine**”, the command “**let them be served!**” with the unanimous response. “**Salut Confreres!**”



Then upstairs to the dining room where the catering staff treated us to a fine meal for the 60 members and guests.

Quite what the catering staff “made” of the final act of singing the Bretvins hymn “*we shall never know.....!*”

With others showing interest your Council anticipates a much *less formal* Chapter Meeting next year in late April / early May. It is anticipated that further new members will joining the Bailliage at that time. This event, together with our plans for 2026 will be discussed at the Council Meeting in February. Details of these will be circulated to all members by email and the Bretvins GB WhatsApp Group. Please also remember to look at our website for details of “events” both here and at other Bailliages.

Photo right of our Bailli Éméritus, John Cunynghame (1<sup>st</sup> left) with the Bailli, Jim Le Pelley (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and others from the Guernsey Bailliage. Thank you to them, fellow Chevaliers, Duchesses Anne from other visiting Bailliages, our members and other guests for making the evening so very special.



We look forward to your support in 2026! Until then very best wishes from the Bailli and Council for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Malcolm Craig  
**Bailli**

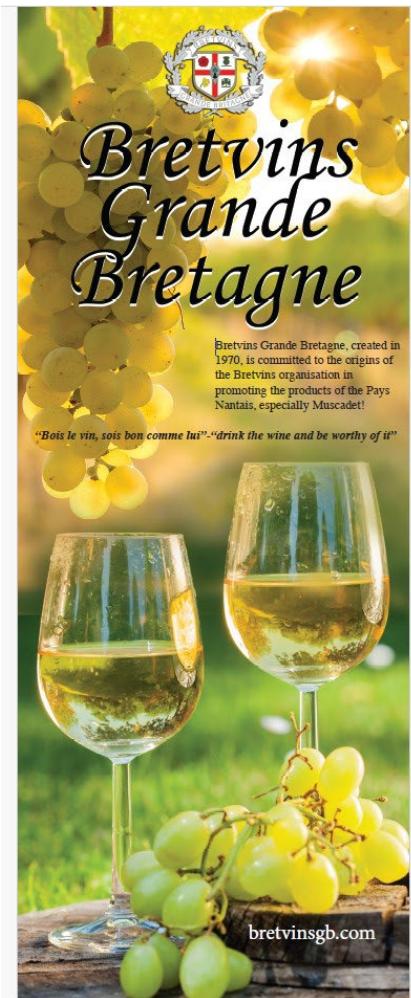
Michael Richardson,  
**Maître de Monnaie**

# ORDRE DES CHEVALIERS BRETVINS

## BAILLIAGE GRANDE BRETAGNE



### New Members Reception - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025



On September 11<sup>th</sup>, our Bailli, Malcolm Craig, and his officers held a reception for a number of potential new members at the Royal Ocean Racing Club in Central London.



This was an opportunity to introduce our guests to the Muscadet and to explain what the Bretvins' Order is about.

As well as providing a lovely venue it gave us the opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting.

Malcolm also exhibited the design of a new Banner for the Bailliage. This was generally commended and will be on display at our Chapter Meeting and Dinner in November.



Three new members will be “intronised” at our Chapter Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Royal Thames Yacht Club. More may be joining in early 2026.

With the revised interest from younger professionals to join Bretvins other less expensive, but nonetheless exciting events are being planned in 2026. These will be tailored to meet the demands of those with young families. The Bailli hopes that all Chevaliers and Duchesses Anne look out for potential new members to join Bretvins Grande-Bretagne.

Howard Doe,  
*Maître de Cérémonie*

## Visit to the Vintners' Company 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

On March 26<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Bailli organised a highly successful visit to Vintners' Hall, which is a splendid Wren-style building in Upper Thames Street in the City of London. The Livery Company received its first Royal Charter in 1363. Apart from the London members, the party included Bretvins members from Wales and Alcester.



Room where the Council meets monthly to decide the business of the Company, surrounded by several paintings by old masters such as Rubens and a superb collection of wine glasses from the last 400 years or more.

The tour included a visit to the Company's Dining Hall which was laid up for the annual Lenten Dinner that evening with 140 diners expected and at least 5 glasses by each place, so the habit of singing the special Vintners Song at the end of the proceedings must have been wonderful to listen to!

We were also shown the Council



The Vintners Company is very proud of its role in the annual swan upping ceremony. Our guide explained that all swans on the Thames are owned by the Crown, the Vintners or the Dyers and he showed us the Swan Room with the Company flags used on the boat and pictures of the swan upping in progress. There was also a portrait of the Swan Master distinguished by a huge swan feather in his hat.

Afterwards we had an enjoyable lunch at the Little Ship / City Livery Club and had the opportunity of making closer links among the members.

Howard Doe,  
*Maître de Cérémonie*



## **Council Meeting + Presentation to John and Marjatta Cunynghame**

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 the first Council Meeting of the New Year took place at the Royal Ocean Racing Club, St. James's Place, London. Key topics discussed included:

- The need to undertake stocktaking of robes, hats, neck cord badges. This will involve communication with the membership to try to find out where these have been distributed.
- Introduction of a new membership sub-committee was approved. This will be chaired by our Maître de Garde-Robe, Keith Williams assisted by Sénéchal, Thomas Fitzgerald-O'Connor.
- An “events” sub-committee is the next step with its aims being to make membership more interactive with events that are attractive, time and locale conscious as well as being affordable.

After the meeting we retired to the bar for pre-lunch drinks before honouring our new Bailli Éméritus, John Cunynghame and his wife, Marjatta for their dedicated service of 25 years to this Bretvins Grande Bretagne.

The Council felt a gift worthy of John and Marjatta’s service was required. In this regard both were thrilled to receive our gift of two, specially designed and embroidered, Bretvins Grande Bretagne cushions by Hand & Lock, the Royal Embroiderers (found in 1767), with their names on the reverse.



## **St. Vincent Festival, Nantes, France 18 – 19 January 2025**

The first day was devoted principally to the Chapter of the main French Bailliage. This led with a ceremony and confirmation of the appointment of Malcolm Craig as the new Bailli of Great Britain, and secondly a formal recognition and celebration for the 25 years of service of John Cunynghame as the previous Bailli. Unfortunately, the new Grand Maître, Yves Cailler, was absent for both days due to illness.

There were ten new members intronised by formal ceremony into the French Bailliage.

About 120 members of the French Bailliage attended, and there was a good representation from the United Kingdom with, in addition to John and Malcolm, a number of members from London, the Chancellery of Alcester and the Bailliage of Wales.

Following the Chapter meeting held in Cave Martin-Luneau, there was a reception for all, with a number of Gorgeois Muscadets served. The Bretvin hymn was sung; then - after a light lunch - off to a tour of four vineyards to sample their wares.

In the evening, the London and Welsh contingents enjoyed a splendid meal at the marvellous Belle Epoque / Art Nouveau restaurant La Cigale.

### **19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – St. Vincent Procession, Church Service, Lunch and Presentations**



The weather was dry - but cold - for the Procession from the Salle Chaintreau, on the outskirts of Gorges, to the magnificent Elise Saint-Martin in the centre of the village. After the perhaps inevitable wait outside the church, we all processed in - the flags of the various Bailli associations leading the way - for the church service and Mass which was celebrated by the Bishop of Nantes

After the service, all lined up for the Procession back to the Salle Chaintreau, where - after a further reception and opportunity to sample further Muscadets. - the four-course meal was excellently prepared and served. Towards the end of the meal came the opportunity for an appropriate celebration of John Cunynghame's service - speeches, and presentation to him of a large Commemorative Medallion.



There then followed some further celebratory words, and presentation of Muscadet and glasses to Malcolm Craig, Anthony Pugh and Paul Frizzelle plus a number of the French Bailliage.



We then all retired to a magnificent sunset, and warm thoughts of a great weekend.

**Anthony Streatfield**  
**Chancelier, January 2025**

**Annual Chapter Meeting, Reception and Dinner**  
**Oriental Club, London**  
**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**



This was a historic evening for the Bailliage with the handover after 25 years from John Cunynghame, Maitre to Malcolm Craig. The evening commenced with a reception for a healthy turnout of Bretvins and their guests including those from Nantes, Pays de Galles, Alcester and Guernsey.



The Chapter Meeting was graced by Loic Fricourt, Le Connétable, Nantes and his colleague Jean-Michel Coahatany who kindly entertained us on this special occasion.

**VISITING BAILLIS**



**Clive Johnson – Pays de Galles Jim Le Pelley – Guernsey Paul Frizzell - Alcester**

**SEE “MORE” TAB ON [WWW.BRETVINS.COM](http://WWW.BRETVINS.COM)**

**FOR FULL PROFILE OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

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## **Nantes Programme: 1st – 4th November, 2024**

### **including the Installation of the new Grande Maitre – Yves CAILLER**

Unfortunately, few of us were able to attend this milestone event. This was due to a late announcement from Nantes that the new Grand Master, Yves CAILLER, would be “intronised” during the annual weekend of the presentation of the Golden Bottle award in Vertou.

Sadly, our Bailli, John Cunynghame was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Therefore, as your Bailli-Elect I attended along with my wife, Julia. It was a marvellous weekend. The visit gave me the opportunity to meet the new Grand Master, many of his associates on the Grand Council as well as Baillis, their partners and friends from all the other regional branches.

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> - Supper with new friends**

After an uneventful and “on time” Ryanair flight from Stansted to Nantes my wife, Julia and I settled into the 7 Urban Suites prior to pre-dinner cocktails at the hotel bar before being collected by the excellent Loic FRIMONT, Le Connétable de Bretvins Nantes for supper at Le Loco. There we were joined by Ambassadeur for the Bailliage de Ligurie, Savone (Italy) Bretvins region, Jean- Luc LAMBION. Here I received the most enormous welcoming “bear-hug from the Savona Bailli, Bruno Colognesi. Thankfully, his two colleagues were more accommodating so no broken bones! Thank you, Loic, Jean-Luc and Bruno for your hospitality and friendship. I look forward to seeing you all again in January at the St. Vincent ceremony.



### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Morning tour of the Sevre et Maine Muscadet Museum**

This two-hour, including pre-lunch drinks (Muscadet) visit was a history tour of the wine region we all love so much. A fascinating tour, in French and, thankfully, interpreted by our friends from Italy into English. Otherwise, we would have been none the wiser! A lesson then for a future visit – perhaps next year in June. More on this in future communications. Middle photo (below) of an 18<sup>th</sup> C wine grape-pressing machine.



### **Lunch at a Muscadet Winery – courtesy of Jerome HOUSSIN, owner Domaine des Til**

More Muscadet! An excellent lunch with friends from the Pays de Galles Bailliage.



### **Afternoon / Evening Chapter Meeting: intronisation of the new Grande Maitre, Yves CAILLER**



The highlight of Saturday's events was the intronisation ceremony of the new Grande Maitre. In John Cunyngham's absence stepped in and represented our Bailliage. Grande Bretagne is the oldest regional outside France affiliation with Bretvins. Here I had to acknowledge, in French, our commitment to the new Grand Master.



### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nantes Chapter Meeting and Presentation to the 2024 Bailliage D'Or winner**



This annual award is presented to the local Muscadet wine producing region / municipality having won the most prizes for their latest vintage against other regions / municipalities.

Vertou was this year's winner – the first time they have won this prestigious prize.

**VISIT TO THE BAILLIAGE OF GUERNSEY**  
**27 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**Programme of Events**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Cider tasting at Rocquette Farm

Dinner in St Peter Port overlooking the harbour at the United Club.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Island Tour**



**Visit to German Occupation Museum**



**Buffet lunch at Royal Guernsey Golf Club**



**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Folk & Costume Museum**



**Les Caches Farm (National Trust of Guernsey)**



**Chapter Meeting with Officers (Left to Right)**



Seneschal - Shirley Breedon

Cancelier – Wade Emerson

Bailli – Jim Le Pelley

Maitre de Monnaie – Steve Hogg

Echanson – Helen Renouf



### 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden, East Sussex



#### **Feedback from those attending included:**

*From our Bailli “I found the whole day most enjoyable and the explanations given by our tour guide remarkably clear. The tasting itself was quite a revelation to me”! I think that there is still some way to go in competing with Champagne, but the gap is certainly narrowing”. Thank you, John Cunyghame, for your comments.*

*From our Maitre de Monnaie “...despite the low numbers we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly and learnt a lot about wine growing in England”. Thank you, Michael Richardson, for your comments.*