

# ORDRE DES CHEVALIERS BRETIVINS

## BAILLIAGE GRANDE BRETAGNE

*16<sup>th</sup> June 2026*

### *Young Bretvins GB – New Members evening*



“Hi there” to all Bretvins GB members. As you may now be aware our Bailli, Malcolm Craig, has initiated what we hope will be the “driving force” for future membership of our Bailliage.

As the newest and “young” member which, I understand, is anyone of working age, I am privileged to provide this report. Future event reports will be interchanged by others within the group. We hope you enjoy hearing about us and what we are doing to communicate between the younger members of the bailliage and also our aims to increase membership.



The website [www.bretvinsgb.com](http://www.bretvinsgb.com) *is currently being updated* with a section where you can see “who we are”. This includes brief bios of our personal and professional backgrounds. [YOUNG BRETIVINS GB | Bretvins Grande Bretagne](#)

If you are a Young Bretvins GB Chevalier or Duchesse Anne and would like to know more about what we are doing to improve our social awareness within the bailliage please contact me – [dwat1808@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dwat1808@yahoo.co.uk)

Our next event is being planned for late November / early December when we hope to celebrate with some early Christmas (Muscadet) cheer! Details will be circulated via email and WhatsApp when further information becomes available.

*14<sup>th</sup> June 2026*  
*Nantes, France -Fête de la Fleur de Vigne*

Celebrating the flowering and budding of the Nantes Muscadet wine estates at their prestigious headquarters of the Château de la Frémoire, Vertou, France.

This French tradition takes place approximately 100 days before the harvest. This year the celebration was about two weeks too late as, due to the weather, the flowering, this summer, had already blossomed by the time of this festival. It, however, did not disappoint our enjoyment of celebrating this bounteous occasion. 2026 promises to be a “good year” for Muscadet.







A fabulous weekend, one which all Bretvins members should experience. To this end, with the help of our friends in Nantes, I hope to arrange a 5-6 day tour to the Nantes Loire region next June where we can experience the delights of this region culminating in a tour of one of our wine growers' vineyards the day before the Flowering of the Vine Chapter and Lunch. Details in due course.

### ***June 2026*** **New Members**



**Debbie Watmore** is a retail buyer and hospitality professional with a passion for food, wine, travel and creating memorable customer experiences. Having worked across various retail, hospitality, and supplier partnerships for over 20 years, she brings a sociable, commercially minded and people-focused approach to everything she does. A keen wine enthusiast with WSET Level 1 certification, I enjoy discovering new wines, food pairings, and local dining experiences both in the UK and

abroad. Outside of work, Debbie loves travelling, baking, entertaining friends and family, and exploring independent food and hospitality venues.



**Lucy Wheeler** - *Lucy spent the first part of her career teaching various subjects including English, History and French to children up to the age of 11. She says "I feel I am a pretty good French speaker, though not fluent. Throughout my childhood my family owned a house in Dordogne where I developed an appreciation for France, food, and wine culture from my father. His cellar was managed by his friend John Rudd at Berry Bros. and we were lucky enough to drink many of the great wines from Bordeaux and*

*Burgundy in the 1970s. My father also loved the white wines of the Loire and Alsace, and Muscadet was a favourite with seafood lunches. His motto: "Every day is a Muscadet"!*



**Beni Kinsey-Sparkes** – your Bailli has known Beni for over 50 years. A great friend, Beni loves socialising and being able to help friends wherever she can. Beni lives in Wimbledon but loves to get back to her roots in Wales where she spends time with family and friends in Rhayader. Beni's son-in-law David Milton joined Bretvins Grande Bretagne in November 2025. This followed upon her family's enjoyment of our bailliage at the 2024 and 2025 Annual Chapter Meeting and Dinner as well as attending the more recent Drapers' Hall Tour and lunch at The Guildhall Club in the City of London afterwards. She looks forward to being an active member of the bailliage.

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**Bailliage Council Meeting**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> (of 3) Council meeting of 2026 included an excellent attendance by eight members with one apology for absence. This attendance highlights the energy your Council is putting into furthering the future of our bailliage. Below is our Council but please also refer to: [Council GB](#) on the website.

**Present**

Malcolm Craig – Bailli  
John Cunynghame – Bailli Éméritus  
Michael Bacchus - Prévot  
Susan Field - Halbardier  
Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor - Échanson  
Michael Richardson – Maître de la Monnaie  
Anthony Streatfeild - Chancelier  
Steven Turner – Maître de Garde-Robe

**Apology**

Howard Doe – Maître de Cérémonie

Important items for discussion on our Agenda included:

**Bye-laws:** our target for introducing these with circulation to members is January 2027

**Membership** – 7 new members (3 in March; 1 in April; 3 in June). More applications, please!

**Forthcoming Events in 2026:**

- September 10<sup>th</sup> evening wine taster based on the theme Tour de France,

Kensington

- November 18<sup>th</sup> annual Chapter and Dinner, Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge

Details to be circulated shortly for the September evening with a Calling Notice in mid-September for the Annual Chapter & Dinner. The latter to, hopefully, include a cabaret act from Peru!

**Young Bretvins GB** – a new branch of our membership: see report 16 June 2026

*25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026*  
**Alcester Chancellery weekend**

A big “thank you” to Le Hérault, John Freeland and Bailli Paul Frizelle for sharing with us the article on the following page of their annual weekend.

Unfortunately, your Bailli could not attend the procession on Saturday but our Prévôt, Malcolm Bacchus and his wife were able to attend and represent us on this occasion. The Bailli and his wife joined Malcolm for the Alcester Chapter Meeting and Lunch the following day.

### Alcester Chevalier Bretvins

The Annual Chapter of our Confrerie was held in Alcester Town Hall on the last weekend in April. There were just over forty members and guests present, including the Baillis of Grande Bretagne and Pay de Galle. Our friends from France were sadly diminished as many are also members of the Alcester/Vallet Twinning Associations.



As this arrangement will regrettably be coming to an end in May, some have chosen to come with that organisation instead, but we look forward to seeing them here in Alcester. We intronised two new members, both Dames de Duchesse Anne, and welcomed back Mark Venables,

the Low Bailiff, who has been intronised in the past. We then went to Abbots Salford for our celebratory meal, after drinking from the new muscadet harvest.

The weekend once again coincided with the celebration of Shakespeare's birthday in Stratford.

A number of us supported this on the Saturday morning and our visiting vigneron



had the privilege of unfurling the French tricolor. We then retired to the Boathouse for an excellent lunch arranged by John Freeland.



Our next event is the Blessing of the Vine in June (venue to be confirmed) and then our annual boules competition to celebrate Bastille Day on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Following a successful event last year, we shall be returning to the proper boules pitch in Waterside Park, Evesham. This is a public venue and anyone who would care to join us would be

most welcome. Details from  
[bretvinsalcester@gmail.com](mailto:bretvinsalcester@gmail.com)  
David Hall, Chancellor.



***12<sup>th</sup> April 2026***  
***Intronization of Mark Smith***



A close friend of the Bailli, many will recognize Mark as the Antiques Medal Expert on the Antiques Roadshow. Along with his expert interest in “the military, battlefield tours” Mark is also a connoisseur of fine wines, especially those of the Bordeaux region of France. Notwithstanding his love of these wonderful “reds” and he was keen to join Bretvins and experience the delight

of Muscadet. This was a very special occasion for the Bailli. Mark looks forward to meeting fellow members.

***9<sup>th</sup> April 2026***  
***Dinner with our Bristol-based members!***



En route to Somerset your Bailli stopped to visit some of our membership based in Bristol. This was his first time to this great city so took the opportunity to visit Clifton, a wealthy Bristol suburb. This location is close to the home of our Maître de la Monnaie’s son, David Richardson and his family who are members – his wife Jane and daughter Jess. Here we are

with my wife enjoying a relaxing evening in local pub. Unfortunately, Graham Rowland, another Bretvins member from this area and his wife could not join us.

***April 2026***  
***New Members***

Nomination forms together with CV’s having been circulated to members of the Council the following new Chevalier and Dames de la Duchesse Anne were approved this month. Notwithstanding having paid their joining and membership fees for 2026 all have confirmed their availability to attend the annual Chapter Meeting and Dinner on 18<sup>th</sup> November where they will be formally “intronized”. We welcome:

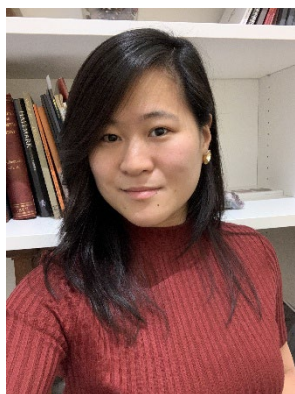
### **Sabina Lima – Member since March 2026**



As a multidisciplinary artist and hand embroiderer based in London, originally from Brazil, I bring a distinctive perspective to my work. My professional life is dedicated to the preservation of traditional craftsmanship and artisanal heritage. My journey began with a passion for architecture, which led to a PhD in Urban Planning. Later, I discovered a new creative and artisanal vocation, graduating with First-Class Honours in Hand Embroidery from the Royal School of Needlework.

As a Freeman of the City of London and a member of the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, I remain closely connected to the living traditions of the British guild and livery movement - institutions which, like *L'Ordre des Chevaliers Bretvins*, unite fellowship with the promotion of regional excellence and cultural identity. I am currently pursuing excellence in the craft of shoemaking, combining couture sensibilities with hand embroidery to create bespoke and artistically distinctive footwear.

I greatly admire the Order's commitment to the wines, gastronomy, and traditions of the Pays de Nantes, and value the opportunity to help strengthen appreciation of this rich cultural heritage within Great Britain. The shared spirit of fraternity, craftsmanship, and cultural ambassadorship resonates deeply with my own values and commitments.



### **Jessica Jue – Member since March 2026**

I am a silversmith and jeweller based in London, creating contemporary silverware and jewellery inspired by nature, movement and texture. My work combines traditional hand skills with modern design, and I am passionate about keeping these craft traditions alive while continuing to push them in new directions.

Outside of the workshop, I enjoy travelling, discovering good food and wine, and spending time with friends and family. I joined the Young Bretvins because of its warm, sociable atmosphere and shared appreciation for good wine, food and friendship. I look forward to meeting fellow members, taking part in events, and learning more about the traditions and culture that the Order celebrates.

### **Leonid Dementiev – Member since March 2026**

I am a fine jeweller based in the Goldsmiths' Centre, specialising in working with precious metals, diamonds, pearls, and gemstones. My work mostly focuses on private bespoke commissions and bespoke wedding jewellery.

Alongside my studio practice, I serve as Vice Chair of the Institute of Professional Goldsmiths—a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the craftsmanship of

jewellers and silversmiths across the trade.

I am incredibly excited to be a part of Bretvins GB and am looking forward to getting to know its members and taking part in many fantastic events both here in the UK and across Europe!

***29<sup>th</sup> March 2026***  
***Pays de Galles Chapter Meeting & Lunch***

The Bailli and his wife, Julia, travelled by train from London Paddington to be welcomed at Cardiff Central by hordes of travelling Harlequins & Bristol rugby fans. Dodging through the crowds we eventually made it to the centrally located Holiday Inn hotel. Here we met one of our newest Chevaliers (intronized in Nov25), Martyn Parrett and his wife Debbie and together we headed off back through the crowds to a bar then supper before retiring.

Up early for breakfast then the four of us walked the short distance to the Cardiff & County Club situated at the main entrance to the Principality Stadium. Here we were met by another new Chevalier (intronized Nov25), David Milton, his wife, Angharad (Hari) plus another potential new member Sebastian Gray. The presence of fellow Bretvins from our bailliage was noticed by our hosts who welcomed us with the generous hospitality.



Pre Chapter, Chevaliers, Dames de la Duchesses Anne and Guests began the day with coffee, pasties and, of course, Muscadet. The Chapter Meeting began with a robed “defile” procession with the flags and banners plus music supplied by visiting dignitaries from Nantes. Bailli Clive Johnson in his typically good-

humoured manner presided over the meeting in with calm demeanour. The bailliage intronized two new members – a Chevalier and a Dame de la Duchesse Anne.



**13<sup>TH</sup> March 2026**  
**Tour of Drapers' Hall + Lunch, Guildhall Club**



A group of 24 consisting of Bretvins GB members, their guests and other friends of the Bailli met at Drapers' Hall in the City of London for pre-tour coffee and biscuits. Our guide explained the history of the Hall before taking us to parts of this exquisite building before detailing stories of individual rooms. A brief history of the Hall from its website references “in the 1420s the

Drapers' guild decided to build its own Hall. This first Hall was in St. Swithin's Lane. The present Hall, situated in Throgmorton Street, was bought from King Henry VIII in 1543 for the sum of 1,800 marks (approximately £1,200). This had been the house of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex and Chief Minister to Henry, but had been forfeited to the King on Cromwell's execution in July 1540”. It goes on “Destroyed by the Great Fire of 1666, Drapers' Hall was rebuilt between 1667 and 1671 to designs by Edward Jarman. In 1772, it was again rebuilt after a fire which did considerable damage and, in the 1860s, the frontage was changed and the interior altered by Herbert Williams. It was later altered once more in 1898-9 by Sir Thomas Graham Jackson”.



Departing Drapers' Hall we embarked on a short walk to The Guildhall for lunch at The Guildhall Club.

Dining in the Lord Mayor of the City of London's private members club we enjoyed a 3-course lunch including pre-lunch drinks and fine wines plus after dinner port / brandy, chocolates and coffee in the Aldermens' Dining Room. This Room offered spectacular views of the City skyline across its historic setting at the “Heart of the City”



**12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
**Bailliage Council Meeting**

Prior to the Meeting the Bailli welcomed Susan Field to the Council as our new Habardier. Susan was unable to attend the November chapter meeting where

this handover from long-standing Chevalier, Tim Humm, would have taken place. The council thanked Susan for taking on this position and noted “with thanks” the many years of service from her predecessor.

### **St. Vincent Festival, Nantes, France 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Saint Vincent is the patron of wine growers and makers. He is honored on the last Sunday of January, a time when the vine is resting. Many of our wine brotherhoods hold chapters on this occasion. This is the case of the Chevaliers Bretvins in the region of Nantes (France) to celebrate, in 2026, the 30<sup>th</sup>



anniversary of the Cotes de Grand-Lieu Appellation in Saint Philbert de Grand Lieu. It was an excellent opportunity to entrust winemakers to their patron saint. The celebration was also held in conjunction with the Confrerie des Raisvins (Brotherhood of the Grapes) and the Confrerie de la Fouasse (Brotherhood of the Fouasse Bread). The mayor, the town council, the parish priest and winemakers of the Cotes de Grand-Lieu were all in attendance.

**Day 1** – devoted, principally, to the

Chapter of the Nantes Bailliage where eight new members were formally “intronised”. This was held in the magnificent surroundings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Century Abbey of Saint Philbert de Grand



Lieu. As is customary, good humour reigned during the Chapter. About 120 members of the French Bailliage attended. This was supplemented by myself, my wife, Julia, Anthony and Mary Pugh (Pays de Galles), Jim and Alison Le Pelley, John and Sally Woodcock (Guernsey) plus Paul and Rosemary

Frizelle with David and Jane Hall from the Chancellery of Alcester. Following lunch members and guests were invited to a Muscadet wine tasting from this local area. At least eight wine growers were represented enabling everyone to experience a range of Muscadets “all under one roof”!





**Day 2** On Sunday in the magnificent surroundings of the church at Saint Philbert de Grand Lieu a substantial “bretvine” delegation and many parishioners attended to honour Saint Vincent. 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 Parish Priest supported by Chevalier, Rev. David Hall, Alcester Chancellery who had been asked to participate in the service.



After the service - for a further reception and another opportunity to sample Muscadets - before a “sit-down” four-course meal including Muscadet (of course) plus Red & Sparkling wine. This was excellently prepared and served.





The weekend ended with the Bretvins Hymn which was preceded by some celebratory words, and presentation of Muscadet and glasses to the visiting Baillis who, in turn gratefully expressed their thanks, in French, to our hosts.



We then all retired with warm thoughts of a great weekend before travelling home the following day.

**Malcolm Craig**  
**Bailli, January 2026**

## 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.

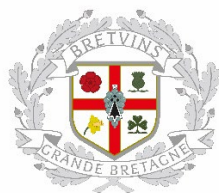
We look forward to your support in 2026! Until then very best wishes from the Bailli and Council for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Malcolm Craig  
***Bailli***

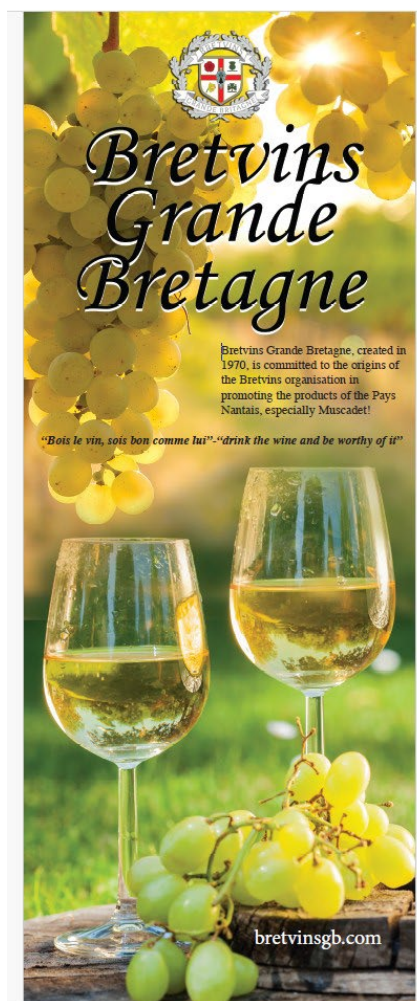
Michael Richardson,  
***Maître de Monnaie***

# ORDRE DES CHEVALIERS BRETIVINS

## 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 Bretivins' 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 professional to join Bretivins 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 Bretivins 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.



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

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 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,  
*Maitre 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 (founded 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 Streatfeild**  
**Chancellor, 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 Connetable, 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 Connetable 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 Cunynghame'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.*