

'ORDRE DES CHEVALIERS BRETIVINS

BAILLIAGE DE LA GRANDE BRETAGNE



Bretvins GB visit to the Vintners' Company

On March 26th 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.

We afterwards 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
27th March 2025



Council Meeting + Presentation to John and Marjatta Cunynghame

On 4th 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: 18 – 19 January 2025
Report to the Membership

18th January 2025 – Chapter Meeting et al

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 intronized 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.

19th 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, 20th 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

FOR FULL PROFILE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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 1st - 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 2nd - 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 18th 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 3rd – 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.

The Muscadet Regions of the Pays de la Loire around Nantes



“Thank you Bretvins” for a great weekend and congratulations, again, to Yves Cailler upon his installation as our new Grande Maitre.

I'm sure Bretvins Grande Bretagne will be supporting future visits to the Pays de Nantes to learn more about the region, its diversity and culture.

Malcolm Craig
Maitre de Ceremonie, Nov. 6th

VISIT TO THE BAILLIAGE OF GUERNSEY 27 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

Programme of Events

Friday 27th

Cider tasting at Rocquette Farm

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

Saturday 28th

Island Tour



Visit to German Occupation Museum



Buffet lunch at Royal Guernsey Golf Club



Sunday 29th

Folk & Costume Museum



Les Caches Farm (National Trust of Guernsey)



Chapter Meeting with Officers (Left to Right)



Seneschal - Shirley Breedon

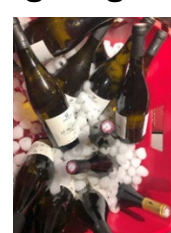
Cancelier – Wade Emerson

Bailli – Jim Le Pelley

Maitre de Monnaie – Steve Hogg

Echanson – Helen Renouf

Gin tasting with the maker of an extensive range of gins



3rd 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 competeing 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.