

**ORDRE DES CHEVALIERS BRETIVINS**  
**BAILLIAGE DE LA GRANDE BRETAGNE**

The Chevaliers Bretvins were created on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1948.

The second Grand Maitre, Le Comte Geoffrey de Goulaine, was a great friend of Owen Aisher, and following a visit to the Imperial Hotel in Torquay, it was decided to form the first overseas Bailliage in Great Britain. This was done on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 1970.

The first Bailli de la Grade Bretagne was Gabor Denes, who was followed by Owen Aisher in 1986. He handed over the title to John Cunynghame in 1999, and John then carried on the role until 2024.

In this time, they have held an annual dinner in the Autumn every year except during Covid. Additionally, they have also arranged several visits to vineyards throughout Europe. It helped that John was a wine merchant and used his contacts to make the visits particularly worthwhile!

Our own 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held in Southampton, where almost 100 people gathered to enjoy a buffet lunch in Petworth, a sumptuous banquet in the old Naval Yards of the docks, and then a trip to the Isle of Wight, where we enjoyed a memorable luncheon at the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Since it was formed, there have been a number of changes which have affected the organisation. Originally, travel to Nantes was quite an adventure, and visits were normally made as part of a large group. Nowadays, with the advent of low-cost travel, visits have less allure. However, the 10-year anniversaries are marked by a large gathering and, for the last two, the English contingent has been joined by the Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company, who have laid on spectacular parades in Nantes.

The Bailliage de Pays de Galles and the Chancellery d'Alcester are two other groups in Great Britain. In total there are 8 other active Bailliages and 1 Chancellery, who hold regular meetings.