



Sacavin Courier



NO. 64 WINTER 2013

Le Grand Ballon, (page 2)

Sacavin Jazz Lunch, (page 5)

Le Chapitre Prince Georges, (page 7)

Obituaries, (page 10)

Dates for your diaries, (page 12)



Sacavin Jazz performs at the National Liberal Club

In 75 minutes we had travelled about eighteen miles to land at Lugmarsh Farm on the west side of East Knowle a village two miles south of the A303 – the gateway to the sun – and apparently the birthplace of Sir Christopher Wren whose father was the Rector.



The ground crew arrived within two minutes of our landing which consisted of four severe bumps and the basket turning over on its side! We then all realised how important the initial briefing was although it omitted that sixteen balloonists would exit the basket in a prone position into a lush cow-patted field!

kit into the trailers, the balloonists were driven back through Cramborne Chase to the launch site and our own transport.

To allay any doubts the Ecuyer Emeritus is the only balloonist in the photograph wearing a cap!



The farmer was placated with a bottle of non-vintage claret plus a complimentary voucher for a future balloon flight. Having assisted in deflating the balloon and packing up all the

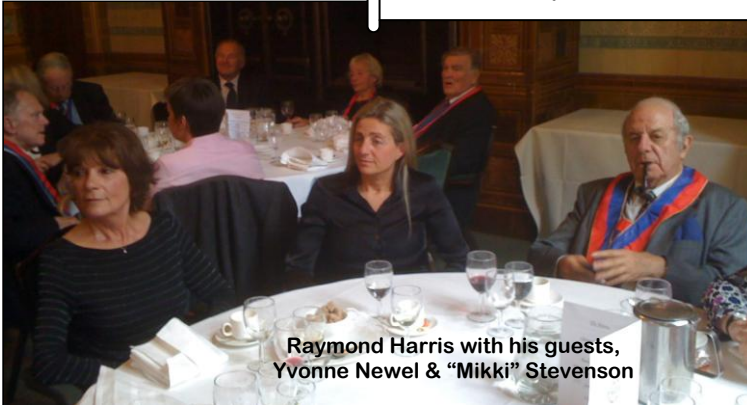
No more will I have to roll the top eighth of a firkin down Lower Thames Street at 11pm on a cold and wet late Autumn evening. What it takes to be elevated to the rank of Commandeur!

Everyone agreed they had had a fantastic experience and, so, thank you again Sacavin.

John Whitcutt



LUNCH WITH SACAVIN JAZZ



Raymond Harris with his guests,
Yvonne Newel & "Mikki" Stevenson



Trevor Harris & Audrey Patterson



Robert Timperley with
Leslie & Laura Garner



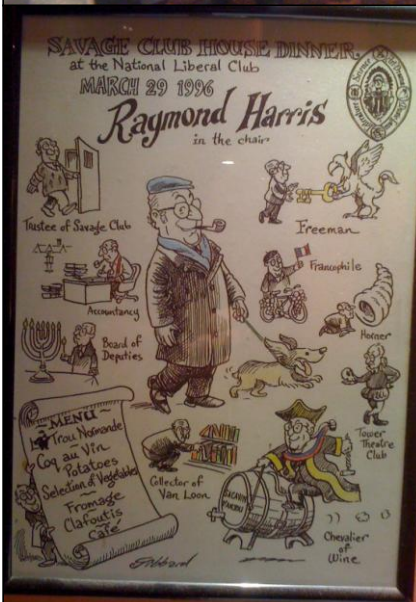
Cylvean Aitken-Sykes
with Julia Bellingham



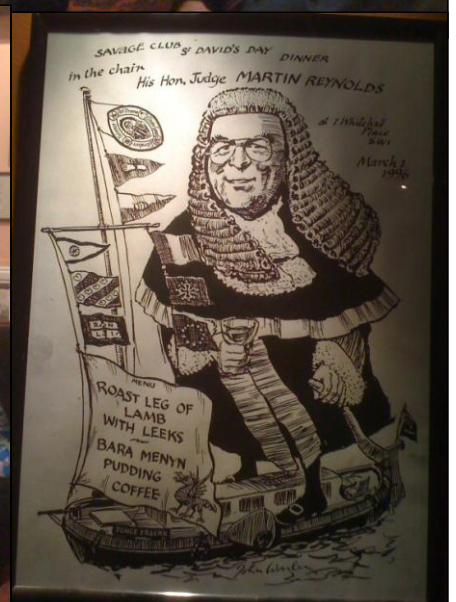
Sacavins amongst Savages



Sheila Macintosh & Alastair Bonar



Valerie Hart, Ingrid Gray
& Ruth Wyman



JAZZ LUNCH AT THE NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB

~~~~~

Wine and music? Haven't they always been natural companions? One early record of drinking songs dates to the 11th century, and derives from the *Carmina Burana*, a 13th century historical collection of poems, educational songs, love sonnets and "entertainment" or drinking songs. It contains numerous poetic descriptions of a raucous medieval paradise, including an *ordo vagorum* (vagrant order) to which people from every land and clerics of all rankings were invited—even *presbyter cum sua matrona*, or "a priest with his lady wife". In this parody world, the rules of priesthood include sleeping in, eating heavy food and drinking rich wine, and regularly playing dice games. A lifestyle with which our patron, Francois Rabelais would, surely, have approved.

So when Chevalier Adrian Macintosh suggested that his trio of jazz musicians might play for us at a lunchtime function, it seemed an offer too good to be true. But true it was and totally within the spirit of the oath we all took in front of Dr. Rabelais at our induction.

Playing under the name Sacavin Jazz, this is a talented group of musicians. Adrian, a percussionist, spent over 27 years with the Humphrey Lyttelton Band and has led a variety of bands on the British jazz scene. His Sacavin colleagues, John Rees-Jones, on double bass, and Max Brittain on guitar have both played with Humphrey Lyttelton but have also had extensive careers elsewhere and are visiting teachers of their instruments at Eton College.

All three are also members of the Savage Club, that mysterious organisation located within the bowels of the National Liberal Club. So, a great line-up. Sadly, in the event, an accident prevented John from attending but we were pleased to hear that he has since recovered. However, another Savage, Paul Morgan, himself an experienced professional bass player, (anything from Ronnie Scott's Club to principal bass with the BBC Radio Orchestra), was able to stand in at the last minute.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September was a dismal, damp and grey day. In contrast, the David Lloyd George Room at the National Liberal Club was warm and welcoming. Hardly had we arrived than the music started. However, in

deference to the more genteel among us, a modicum of restraint had been applied to the idea of "a raucous medieval paradise". Instead, we had, as advertised, "Gentle jazz, some with a French flavour".

As we mingled with friends, exchanging pleasantries and clutching a glass of Bouvet-Ladubay's Saumur Brut Blanc de Blancs, Henry Mancini's "*Days of Wine and Roses*" from the film of the same name provided a cheerful background. Other melodies followed, the tempo increasing with "*Watch what happens*" from the Broadway musical "*Newsies*", only to subside again with Charles Trenet's romantic "*Que reste-t-il de nos amours ?*", better known to us under its English title "*I wish you love*".

Somewhere along the line came that old favourite "*Autumn Leaves*", originally a French song but sung in both French and English by numerous artists, including Edith Piaf.

Great entertainment, wonderfully relaxing and timed beautifully to end just as conversation, fuelled by the flow of Vin d'honneur, had reached a decibel level close to health & safety limits. Nevertheless, those with a keen ear might still have been able to identify the finale, a song that Renault used to advertise the Clio – "*Johnny and Mary*".

And so to lunch. The menu you see below, accompanied by a choice of Muscadet Clos de la Butte, Domaine Eric Chevalier and Côte

Roannaise "Les Vieilles Vignes", Domaine Robert Sérol. Those participating in the Loire-Atlantique excursion in May will note that Domaine Eric Chevalier is on the schedule of planned visits.

**Menu**

***Chicory and Spinach Salad  
with Goat's Cheese and Walnuts.***

\*\*\*

***Poached Chicken Breast, Baby Vegetables,  
Wild Mushrooms & Cider Sauce  
with New Potatoes and Broccoli.***

\*\*\*

***Summer Pudding.***

\*\*\*

***Coffee and Mints.***

That feeling of wellbeing following a good Sacavin lunch traditionally ensures a very leisurely dispersal thereafter. On this occasion, exceedingly leisurely, as Adrian and his brother Savages kindly invited everyone downstairs to their inner sanctum, their club-within-a club. A chance to discover what nefarious deeds actually take place in the Savage Club!

Well, it turns out to be quite civilised. Founded in 1857 with the admirable objective of "the pursuit of happiness", the Savage Club remains one of the leading Bohemian Gentleman's Clubs in London. Those accepted for membership are classified into one of the six membership categories which best describes their main interest, Art, Music, Drama, Literature, Science and Law, although we learnt there might be a certain flexibility here.

Revitalized by a renewed intake of the tippie available from the bar into which we were now warmly welcomed, we found ourselves surrounded by a myriad of mementoes recalling notable Savages both past and present. Our attention was drawn to Charlie Chaplain's walking stick, hanging on the wall.

Nearby, amongst many photos, paintings and drawings of others prominent in the world of theatre and the arts, were two cartoons representing a couple of Sacavin Savages, Raymond Harris and Martin Reynolds, illustrating differing aspects of the law. Another sketch, this time Savages in a group, included a likeness of that promising Wiltshire vigneron, Alastair Bellingham, treading grapes. Naturally, music found a place, characterised by several images, including a picture of the award-winning composer and Savage, Zeliko Marasovich of film, television and theatre fame. Here too was a copy of Alexander Flemming's Nobel Prize, following his discovery of penicillin, fulfilling the Science criterion. Anyone, who hadn't spotted that, surely couldn't fail to notice a large molecular model in the near vicinity but who knew what it represented? Perhaps overwhelmed by such a good lunch, many did not. But there were a few, upholding the Sacavin's honour, who recognised it for what it was, the condensed empirical formula for alcohol, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH. Well, of course!

Our thanks to Sacavin Jazz for the splendid musical entertainment before lunch. Afterwards, too, for such an interesting and illuminating introduction to the Savage Club, whose membership criteria would unquestionably make it better suited to govern than that lot up the road in the Palace of Westminster. Indeed, given the convivial atmosphere, it was easy to ponder whether "the pursuit of happiness" shouldn't, perhaps, extend to running the country? Messrs Cameron, Clegg and Miliband beware! It wouldn't be the first time that those within No. 1 Whitehall Place had harboured such ambitions.

It was with some reluctance that we finally departed, nodding a fond farewell to a bust of Sarah Bernhardt standing guard by the doorway and well fortified for the journey home through the gathering dusk of a chilly September evening.





## Le Chapitre Prince Georges

### 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Our Commanderie celebrated the birth of Prince George and also the birth of the splendid renovated ceiling at Vintners Hall. 64 guests enjoyed the occasion, which began with trumpeters heralding the Grand Commandeur and committee.

Three new chevaliers were duly inducted and welcomed into the Commanderie.

Rosemary Burnett is London born, and a very well travelled lady with wide ranging interests. She lived abroad then back in the UK worked in education. Rosemary is an associate member of the Oriental Club and serves on a committee. She says her favourite drink has always been wine so she is certainly eminently suitable to be a member of our Confrerie.

Rosemary's husband Duncan was born into an RAF family so has also travelled widely. He worked in tropical agriculture, and then became a tea taster so I am sure he could teach us how to taste Loire wines properly! He developed a love of wine whilst in Malaysia, and this continued when he worked in Brussels. Duncan is keen to enhance his enjoyment and knowledge of Loire wines and we welcome him into our midst.

Tony Moore had a successful career in IT. He started wine tasting as he joined Pinner Round Table, then progressed to setting up a monthly wine club with friends. He is very active in the Pinner 41 Club and Pinner Rotary and the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. In addition he is a Morris Dancer with the Merrydowners Morris Side – author's note – could this be a good idea for a future Sacavin event?! I merely raise the question! Tony has attended several Sacavin events and he is heartily welcomed by us all.

The trumpets sounded from behind the freshly regilded balustrade high above us as we welcomed the Grand Commandeur and the new inductees into dinner in the magnificent Vintner's Hall, with chandeliers sparkling and glimmering below the newly restored ceiling.

It really is superb and tremendously impressive, and has made a huge difference to the ambience of the Vintner's Hall.

We enjoyed a superb dinner with a fine array of wines carefully chosen by Des Holland. Des thanked the chef for such an excellent dinner. He then guided us through the wines. The Saumur Brut Cuvee Saphir, Bouvet Ladubay was a sparkling wine of great elegance with full refined fruit flavours and a balanced structure.

The white wine was Ampelidae Brochet Pointe de Doux, a late gathered Sauvignon from older vines. It was first made in 1995 by Frederic Brocket, who started his wine making career aged 11 with two small tanks, three oak barrels and a bucket! He is a passionate wine maker with the stamina of a marathon runner and the sleeping pattern of a round the world yachtsman! The wine was smooth, creamy and not as dry as some. It went beautifully with the Orkney crab.

The Borgeuil Les Varennes Domaine Nau Frères was 100% Cabernet Franc. The Nau brothers run a family business, using no pesticides, handpicking, with no yeast addition, and as is traditional in Borgeuil no final filtering before bottling. The wine had intense flavour and great suppleness, with soft and smooth tannins.

The Coteaux de l'Aubance Domaine de Montgilet 2012 was 100% Chenin. This is the first time we have drunk a dessert wine from this domaine. It had a rich fruity bouquet, with hints of marmalade, quince, apricot and pineapple. The flavour was honeyed and citrusy.

*Choice of Cointreau or Dalmore 15-year old Single Malt*

Felicity Bellamy



## LE CHAPITRE PRINCE GEORGES



Marie Foley, Janet Macfarlane, Valerie Ingram & Cylvean Aitken-Sykes



Tim Hollingsworth, Anne & Tony Moore, Mike & Sarah Sheridan



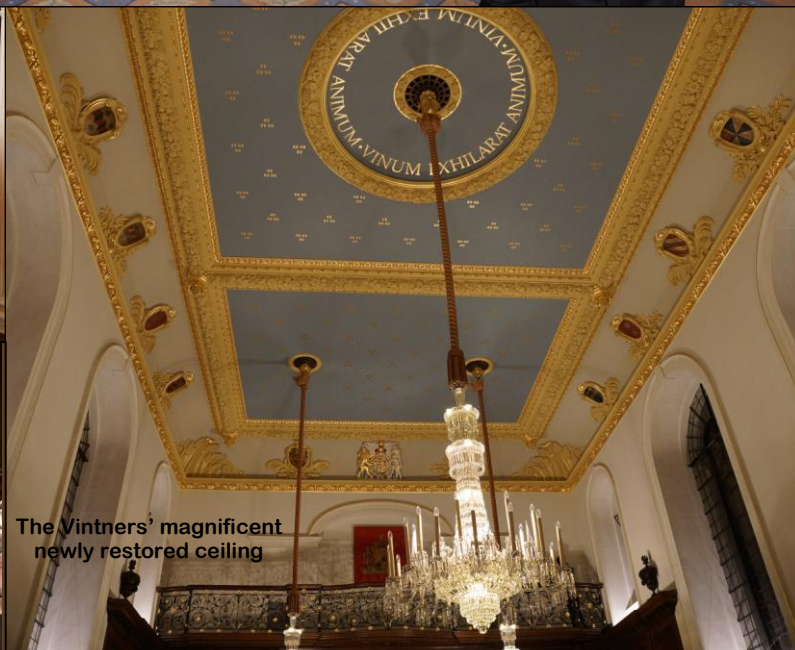
Our new Chevaliers, Rosemary & Duncan Burnett & Tony Moore with the Grand Commandeur's entourage.



Our two valiant trumpeters



Duncan Burnett responds on behalf of the new chevaliers



The Vintners' magnificent newly restored ceiling

Steve then told us of the disaster which struck shortly after renovations had finished. A flood occurred with the ceiling and chandeliers found dripping wet. However all was restored to the glory we saw on the night of our Chapitre. Steve concluded by assuring us that "Wine exhilarates the spirit" and I am sure all members of Sacavin agree with that!

The Grand Commandeur thanked Elizabeth Peroz for her kind words, then gave news of Derek Sheen and his wife Hazel, and also Jane Berger. He reported on the successes of the Sacavin events in 2013 - namely the Wine Challenge in January, the AGM, the trip to Ross on Wye and the jazz lunch at the National Liberal Club in September. He

spoke of the next Loire trip in May and an autumn lunch at the National Liberal Club. He warmly welcomed the new chevaliers and then thanked all involved in making the Chapitre and dinner such a fine evening.

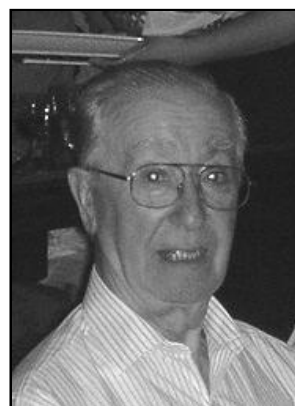
Without everyone who helps to organise the Chapitre and Annual Dinner, the Sacavin would not run as the well oiled (or should I say lubricated!) machine that it is. Everyone quietly gets on with their tasks behind the scenes to produce the truly splendid occasion we enjoyed at le Chapitre Prince Georges. The Vintners' Hall with its magnificently restored ceiling proved a fitting tribute to the young prince, who will one day be king of England.



### Arthur Prince

We were sorry to learn that Arthur Prince died in September after a short illness. One of the Sacavin's Essex fraternity, Arthur was introduced by Frank Coe, and inducted at the Chapitre du Millonaire, Vintners' Hall in 2000.

According to family lore, he was descended from the Huguenots. Born in London in May, 1925, Arthur married Dora Mortimer. Wartime saw Arthur in the Royal Navy, where his very first draft was to a River Class Frigate called HMS Braid, at Renfrew, Scotland. However, between Portsmouth and his arrival in Renfrew, Braid had been converted to the French ship, L'Aventure, crewed in the main by French expatriates who had escaped from France.



His working life was spent with The Salvage Association, a City organisation founded to service the London Marine Insurance Market. His work included travelling extensively throughout the world on company and principal's business, notably a two year attachment in the United States. He served in all the executive departments and retired as General Manager in 1986, after 38 years with the company. Sadly, his wife Dora died some years ago.

Arthur was, for many years, an amateur winemaker. Moreover, he took this a stage further by making barrels too. These were very small, commissioned by the British Commanderie to be hung on the end of our collarettes. Many older Sacavins will have such barrels, beautifully turned by Arthur on his lathe at home.

He has a son living in Nice who, together with an English wife, have two children. We offer them our condolences.

## Terry & Gaynor Hatton

Sadly, the last 12 months saw us lose a further two colleagues, also from Essex. At the close of 2012, Terry Hatton finally succumbed to debilitating illness, a few weeks short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Then, in the summer, his widow Gaynor passed away. Thus ended a long family relationship with Sacavin which started with John Ford, Gaynor's first husband, who was inducted back in 1983 at the Chapitre de Chanson at the Café Royal. Those of us who go that far back, remember the 1984 Summer Wine Tasting and Lunch at Park Farm in St Osyth which was so splendidly hosted by John and Gaynor.



Terry was married first to Molly and the couple got to know the Fords at numerous dinner parties hosted by Pat and Frank Coe. After both Molly and John had died, Terry would visit Gaynor on occasion and their acquaintance developed into a serious relationship. As Gaynor put it, "He would woo me with flowers, chocolates and dinners too and on one occasion he even bought me a new car!" They were married in April 1991 and had twenty-one happy years together.

A great Rotarian (over 40 years service with Barkingside Rotary Club), Terry joined the Sacavin in 1990, his brother Michael two years later. Then, in 1994, Gaynor finally became a Chevalier in her own right after many years as an active supporter and prominent helper at Commanderie events. Sadly ill health prevented her from attending more recent functions.

Both Terry and Michael also proved to be a first class members, participating in nearly all our activities. Until brother Michael died in 2007, the two of them could be relied upon to enliven any gathering and were renowned for their humour and bonhomie. However, loyalty to Sacavin goes just so far. The two brothers had a love of good red wine and Crozes-Hermitage in particular. This is a Rhone wine, of course, but not that far from our own Loire territory so, perhaps excusable. Whenever abroad, Terry and Michael would be in pursuit of this wine and the opportunity to return home with some supplies in the boot.

These were all good people, held in high regard. Our association is the poorer for their passing.



## Keith Lockyer

Just before publication, we learned with sadness that Keith Lockyer, who had been in declining health for several years, had died. An obituary will appear in the next issue of the Sacavin Courier.



*Our thanks to John Whitcutt, Sid Price & John Ingram for the photographs in this issue of the Courier and also to Felicity Bellamy & John Whitcutt who both contributed articles.*



### A NOTE FROM OUR TRESORIER

- Subscriptions are due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The rate stays the same at £25, or £37.50 if your spouse is also a Chevalier.
- Most of you pay by bankers order so there is nothing more for you to do but accept my thanks for making my life simpler.
- If you prefer to pay by cheque, please send this to me, Ray Lindley, payable to Sacavin, rates as above at:- Lamb House, 64 High Street, Brightlingsea, Essex CO7 0AQ.

### A NOTE FROM OUR ENCHANSON

Members are reminded that we have a special arrangement with wine merchants,  
Le Chais, 49 rue des 2 Ponts, 62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer.

{ ☎ 00 33 (0) 3 21 31 65 42 @ [le-chais@wanadoo.fr](mailto:le-chais@wanadoo.fr) 💻 [www.lechais.com](http://www.lechais.com) }

**The deal:** A 10% discount on non promoted products, available to all Sacavin Members on proof of membership. Take any 'Calling letter' that has your name on. Our contact is Denis. However, please note our arrangement is not applicable to the branches at Le Touquet, Saint Omer or Calais.

Le Chais carry a large selection of French wine with monthly special offers at very good prices, and have an excellent range of fine wine from Burgundy & Bordeaux.

As specialist fine wine merchants for more than 3 generations, they retain many established 'traditions', so I feel I must remind you of their trading hours.

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am to 12noon and 2.30pm to 7.00pm

Saturday from 9.00am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 6.30pm

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Management Committee meeting **Wednesday 22 January 2014**  
The National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place at 11.30 am



Sacavin Challenge Chapter No.7 **Monday 27 January 2014**  
Wine tasting over Dinner at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place  
*Calling letters were dispatched early December*



Spring Lunch & AGM 2014 at Queens Club **Saturday 5 April 2014**  
*Calling letters to be dispatched mid February*



Visit to Loire-Atlantique **Monday 12 to Saturday 17 May 2014**  
*Calling letters were dispatched mid November*

