



Sacavin Courier



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New Chevaliers gather in front of the Vintners' swan just after their induction.

Le Chapitre d'Or

Monday 19th November 2018

We met again in the Vintners' Hall to celebrate a very special Chapitre: 50 years since the formation of the Commanderie de Grand Bretagne de la Confrérie des Chevaliers du Sacavin d'Anjou by M. Robert Cointreau and Colonel Hector MacKenzie. The Vintners' Hall is one of the most magnificent venues in which to dine in London. Owned and managed by the Worshipful Company of Vintners founded in 1363, the current building was largely rebuilt after the Great Fire of London and suffered very little damage during the War. The Company's motto is "Vinum Exhilarat Animum" with which all our members would most heartily agree.

Eighty one people were scheduled to attend this Chapitre, but most unfortunately, Brenda Wheal was taken seriously ill into hospital and therefore our Grand Commandeur, Geoffrey Wheal, and his four other guests were unable to attend. However, we had a very strong contingent from France – our Grand Maître Laure Pertus, Véronique Jérosme, Alain and Isabelle Guichard, Jean-Noël and Martine Denis, Maryvonne Mabit. Laure together with our Sénéchal, Felicity Bellamy, stepped in for Geoffrey and ensured that the ceremony proceeded without a hitch.

Following the fanfare and entrance to the Court Room and prior to the induction, Felicity, on behalf of our Grand Commandeur, promoted two members of your Committee for their commitment and hard work over the years. Jane Berger was promoted to Commandeur and Philip Wood to Officier. Jane was inducted in France in 2006 and joined the Committee in 2009. She has been invaluable in keeping us in touch with all our French friends and has made important contributions to the smooth running of the Confrérie. Philip Wood was inducted in 2008 and quickly took on the responsibility of being our Auditor before becoming our Trésorier. As a professional accountant Philip has brought us into the financial world of the 21st Century with such innovations as electronic payments.

Laure and Felicity proceeded to induct our eight new members.

Chris and Jan Powis, who many of us met on our last trip to the Loire, are both actively involved in many local activities. Jan is involved with the WI and local theatre. Chris has a deep interest in vintage and classical cars, including owning a 68 year-old London double decker bus.



David Longstaff graduated from Liverpool University and is married to Gillian. Many of us will also remember getting to know them both on our last trip to France. David also has the very rare distinction of being killed at the battle of Agincourt, but happily for all of us it was in a 1989 film of Henry V, filmed at Shepperton reservoir. He was first elected as a Councillor for the ward of High Barnet, was Deputy Mayor for Barnet in 2014-15 and elected Mayor in 2016-17.



Neil Ryce was elected Chartered Surveyor in 1983 and has followed several interests during his life, many with a musical dimension: from playing the cello to singing in a hospital operatic society. Other activities were more physical, including rowing, which led to him being elected to the Steward's Enclosure at the Henley Royal Regatta. Neil also can claim to have played a

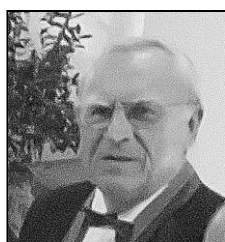


direct part, 'though in a small way', in producing Muscadet sur Lie from a small vineyard near Nantes.

Robert Archibald was born in Australia but returned to be educated in Scotland. He has spent his career of some 50 years in IT. He enjoys walking in the countryside and listening to music, both classical and jazz. He is a member of the Savage Club where he organises a biannual whisky tasting.



Alan Kenningham has arrived at Sacavin via his membership of the Oriental Club where he befriended our own Chevalier Duncan Burnett. Alan is a Chartered Accountant who has practised both in England and in the West Indies. He enjoys foreign travel and is a member of the Globe Trotter's Club. He is also a qualified diver.



John Martin with his wife established "Mayfly Ephemera and Books" in 1979 with premises in Bloomsbury. John specialises in ephemera, books, documents, archives, autographs and other such material. He has been a member of the Savage Club for the past 25 years. His interest in wine goes back to the tender age of ten when he first encountered a delicious home-made elder flower cordial. His interest in wine has blossomed ever since.



Jan Thurlow is the widow of John Thurlow who was inducted only last year into Sacavin. Jan was born and bred in Colchester and one of her first jobs was in advertising. Having a severely disabled daughter brought Jan into direct contact with the Care



System where she has campaigned relentlessly to improve the system for all. She possesses both Bachelors and Masters degrees in social policy.

With "Optime, optime, ils ont fort" still reverberating round the room, thanks to the efforts of Chevalier Max Brittain to improve our rendition, the fanfare sounded to close the Chapitre and usher members and guests towards the Dining Hall. What a site greeted them there. The dining room of the Vintners' Hall is a most impressive room: fit for a King – indeed three have dined there, including a Prince of Wales and many other Royal Princes. In addition to the tables glistening with polished glasses lit by the five great chandeliers overhead and framed by the high cabinets of ancient silver, the table was adorned with Anjou and Union flags, wrapped gifts for each attendee and a booklet giving a history of Sacavin.

Announced by a fanfare from the high gallery, the New Chevaliers were led to their places to dine.

Menu

*DRIFTWOOD ASH GOATS CHEESE,
port poached quince, English baby heritage beetroots,
honeyed walnuts and baby watercress salad*

~*~

*PAN FRIED BREAST OF GUINEA FOWL,
marinated in white wine and thyme, roast garlic mash potato,
buttered spinach, glazed baby carrots, artichoke puree and a
thyme jus*

~*~

*CHEESE BOARD
a selection of French cheeses*

~*~

*MULLED WINTER FRUITS
with cinnamon creme fraiche*

~*~

COFFEE & CHOCOLATES

Our Sénéchal, Felicity Bellamy, spoke about the wines when all members and guests were seated. The sparkling wine at the reception was a Bouvet Ladubay Saphir Brut, made with 100 percent Chenin Blanc. The white wine was a 2015 Savennières, Clos de Grand Beaupreau, Chenin Blanc from the Domaine de la Bergerie. The red wine a 2016 Château de Putille Anjou Village Cuvée Presse made

LE CHAPITRE D'OR



Neil & Rosie Ryce



Chris & Jan Powis with Neil Ryce



John Ingram & Anna McKowen



Sid Price with David Hollingsworth



Dubbed with the vine stock by Grand Maître Laure Pertus, David Longstaff is received into the order



Max Brittain & Laure Pertus listen as Sénéchal Felicity Bellamy welcomes our French visitors



John & Diana Whitcutt with Ray Lindley.

from Cabernet Sauvignon. The dessert wine was a 2014 Coteaux de l'Aubance, Les Fontanelles from the Domaine de Haute Perche, and made with 100 percent Chenin Blanc. All the wines were purchased during our last trip to the Loire and brought back by members helping to reduce our costs.

Felicity Bellamy on behalf of our Grand Commandeur welcomed everyone. She then spoke in French to our visitors saying how particularly honoured we were to welcome seven French Sacavin members including the Grand Maître. She thanked them for coming to our Chapitre d'Or and also for welcoming and entertaining us so warmly in Angers in May. She then welcomed our eight new Chevaliers, who are proof the Sacavin UK is alive and well in 2018.

She spoke of the 50th Anniversary and complimented Commandeur Richard Ridler on the fine history booklet he had written. She mentioned her father who was member number 18 inducted in 1970, and she was member number 219, having been inducted in 1982. She reminded us of the time when she and her father were ushered into Hector and Daphne Mackenzie's suite at the Dorchester for a nightcap!

The Sénéchal told us about future events including a tryst between the wines of the Loire and Portugal on 23rd January, the AGM on the 13th April, a possible visit to the Cotswolds and Highgrove, and lastly a visit to Kingscote Vineyard near East Grinstead, with a short journey on a vintage double decker bus. In 2020 there will be a visit to the Sancerre region of the Loire.

She thanked Vintners' Hall and Stephen Marcham for such a fine dinner, and

confirmed we had already made a booking for 2019. She concluded by handing over to our Sacavin Grand Maître Laure Pertus who



responded by saying how much she had enjoyed meeting so many of us in May and what a great pleasure it was for her and her colleagues to be here at our Chapitre in the Vintners' Hall

Chris Powis responded on behalf of the New

Chevaliers, indicating what a unique evening it had been and offering a toast for the future of Sacavin. Maj Stephen Marcham gave a short address. He pointed out that indeed three kings had dined in the Hall, but their options were somewhat limited since they were being held at the Tower at the time. Despite being located so close to the river the building had never flooded. The rights to Swan Upping had been granted by Henry VIII and that the Worshipful Company still used in their processions the very sword that had removed Wat Tyler's head.

The reaction from many fellow Sacavins was that it had been a really splendid evening which had brought out and demonstrated the deep friendship amongst members of our Confrérie. Thanks must go to all those involved in the Vintners' Hall, those directly involved on your committee and, in particular, to Chevalier Robert Aitken-Sykes.

Sid Price



Geoffrey Wheal's Chapitre d'Or Address

Elsewhere in this Courier we report the very difficult circumstances which, at the last minute, prevented our Grand Commandeur from attending the Chapitre d'Or. As Geoffrey is soon to retire from this role, the address he had planned to give was of a somewhat valedictory nature, so we felt it fitting to reproduce it here.

Rabelaisian Greetings to you all.

I am delighted to welcome you all to what is the final Chapitre of my time as your Grand Commandeur. I also have been asked to pass on to you the good wishes of my predecessor, Derek Sheen, who is sorry that he cannot be with us tonight. Tonight we are celebrating the 50th year since the then Grand Maître, the Marquis de Contades, ordered the creation of the British Confrérie. It, of course, began very small but over the intervening years has flourished and grown to what it is today.

I will not summarise our history because each of you should have by your places an illustrated booklet explaining it in detail which you can and, I hope, will read at your leisure later, because it is yours to take home. It has been written for us by Commandeur Richard Ridler who has updated and expanded our earlier history booklets and I must, on behalf of all of us, thank him for his hard work.

Besides our eight inductees to whom I will return later, I must mention especially our seven most welcome visitors from France who are here with us tonight. First and foremost, the Grand Maître herself, Laure Pertus. Laure is the first lady to hold the post of Grand Maître. She was due to visit last year for the first time in her new office, but sadly suffered a fall and was unable to come. Laure, it is a great pleasure to have you safely here with us tonight. I must say that my heart was in my mouth when you climbed on top of a precariously balanced table at the Greniers St-Jean and welcomed our travelling party to France last May. Happily, you got down unscathed.

My successor as Grand Commandeur will also be a lady, Felicity Bellamy, so please all take note that Sacavin will be firmly on trend with ladies in charge in both France and Britain though, I suspect, not in the new Chinese Confrérie.

We also welcome another old friend in our Déléguée Angevine, Véronique Jérosme. Those of us who were in France last May will long treasure the memory of the wonderful outdoor lunch in the sunshine in the grounds of Véronique's beautiful home, the Château Marchais. We repeat our thanks to her, her husband Alain and son, Louis, who made us so welcome.

Then we welcome Alain Guichard who we have met on many occasions, though not often here. Alain now holds the No 2 position in the French Confrérie. We congratulate him on this and are delighted he has brought his wife, Isabelle, with him.

Now, for what I think is their first visit here, we greet Jean-Noël Denis and his wife Martine. Jean-Noël is a member of the Grande Conseil and we hope to see more of him and Martine in the future.

Finally, but certainly not least, Maryvonne Mabít who is a very regular and delightful visitor to our Chapitres. Although her husband José is no longer the

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*Grand Secretary, she still does a large amount of work in France and even found time to help with my dismal French when I had to speak French in Angers this year.*

*I have made various references to our trip to France last May already but the wonderful weather and splendid welcome we received from our French friends made it a truly memorable trip, probably the best of the ten such trips I had attended. Thanks again to our organisers, John and Marie Foley, for their usual impeccable arrangements.*

*I am pleased that, during my time as Grand Commandeur, we have established a pattern of five events a year, far in excess of what we had years ago. Biennial trips to France, alternate with trips here at home; winter and summer lunches/dinners; Chapitres here at the Vintners' Hall, and our AGM at the Queen's Club. All are regularly documented in our magazine, The Courier, so I will not go through the past year here.*

*Now is not the time for looking backwards but to look forward to what I am confident will be an exciting and successful future. I feel that our Confrérie is well placed to begin another fifty years, building on what has already been achieved. There will be a changing of the guard but new people bring new ideas and new initiatives which are what will be required. I am sure that we have the quality of people to continue the successes of the past.*

*In this I specifically include our eight inductees tonight, who also, with the rest of you will, I hope, be the potential leaders and committee members of the future. To our inductees this evening I say that we are hoping to get to know you all in the forthcoming months and years and we hope you do like drinking wine with us. Sacavin is more than fine wining and dining in interesting places. It offers a unique brand of friendship and fellowship into which we welcome you wholeheartedly. It also offers you the chance to taste, get to know and enjoy the lovely wines of the Loire both here and in France. Do go to France with us if you can and see where the grapes are grown in the vineyards, how the wines are made and talk to the actual growers.*

*At your places at table you should each have found an unusual wine glass bearing our emblem. They are for you, use them to remember Sacavin and the wines of the Loire Valley, particularly Anjou. For those of you whose heraldry is not a strong point, I would just explain that the small blue flags with yellow fleur-de-lys upon them that you see on our tables this evening are the arms of Anjou and symbolise our links with our mother area.*

*Before closing, a few thanks: first, to Steve Marcham, the General Manager of this lovely hall, who spoke to us about it. Steve is dining here with us this evening. Also thank you to all your staff who have looked after us so well tonight.*

*On the Sacavin side, thanks to Felicity Bellamy and Duncan Burnett who have organised the wine and food respectively, which we have all enjoyed this evening.*

*Our next function will be at the National Liberal Club on 23 January 2019, about which you will be receiving letters next month. I hope to see you there but in the meantime may I wish you all a safe journey home tonight followed by a Happy Xmas. May 2019 be a happy and healthy year for you all.*

# Jazz Lunch at the National Liberal Club

*Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September*

We were blessed with a dry autumn day as 60 Chevaliers and their guests gathered at the National Liberal Club for a Jazz Lunch. The David Lloyd George room proved a fitting venue for the four fine jazz musicians to play to assembled guests for almost an hour before lunch. Three of the musicians are Chevaliers, Max Brittain, Adrian Macintosh and John Rees-Jones, whilst the fourth, the violinist Mike Pigott proved a welcome addition to these gentlemen. Mike called the tunes, and we were delighted to enjoy fine jazz from our talented quartet.

With a French theme in mind, amongst the numbers they played were Les Feuilles Mortes (the Autumn Leaves), C'est si Bon, and I Love Paris (Cole Porter). Also in their repertoire were My Blue Heaven, The Lady is a Tramp, 'S Wonderful (George Gershwin) and Cheek to Cheek (Irving Berlin).

While the jazz melodies danced in our ears we enjoyed an excellent Vin d'honneur from Langlois Château, which has become a particular favourite in recent times. We nibbled on delicious canapés which were plentiful and enjoyable

Domaine des Deux Arcs was a case in point. It proved a fine match for the lemon pannacotta. I felt the two went very well together. Usually Bonnezeaux is far too expensive for us to serve.

The Grand Commandeur thanked the National Liberal Club chef, and the staff for their excellent service. He also particularly welcomed three ladies who had joined us for lunch:- Julia Bellingham, Laura Garner and Jan Thurlow. He thanked the musicians and re-iterated how very lucky we were to have music of such high quality to accompany our Vin d'honneur.

This is the first of three events for which your Echanson bought wine in France. In thinking ahead we have been able to save a considerable amount of money by buying excellent quality wines at advantageous prices. Our French friends were also most supportive in giving us some discount on the wines, which was greatly appreciated. This is of great benefit to all Chevaliers and guests. Interesting Loire wines are not always so easy to find in the UK, and still for the next two Sacavin events we will be reaping the rewards of our Sacavin visit to Angers in May 2018.

After lunch we were kindly invited to the Savage Club bar, or the lovely NLC Terrace to round off a splendid Sacavin occasion. We thank our musicians most sincerely and they certainly show the Sacavin spirit of camaraderie and friendship towards our great wine order.

Felicity Bellamy

## MENU

### Canapés

*Vin d'honneur: Langlois-Château, Crémant de Loire*

~\*~

Paupiette of Sole, Salmon Mousse, Chive Cream

*Saumur Champigny 2015 – Domaine des Varinelles*

~\*~

Lemon Pannacotta & Raspberry Jelly

*Les Hauts Fleuris Bonnezeaux 2015,*

*Domaine des Deux Arcs*

~\*~

Coffee & Mints

In a break with tradition we chose not to serve a white wine. We drank the perfectly balanced Saumur Champigny from Domaine des Varinelles. This married very well with the fish course.

One of the advantages of a Loire visit is the chance to bring back interesting Loire wines at competitive prices. The Bonnezeaux from



## JAZZ LUNCH

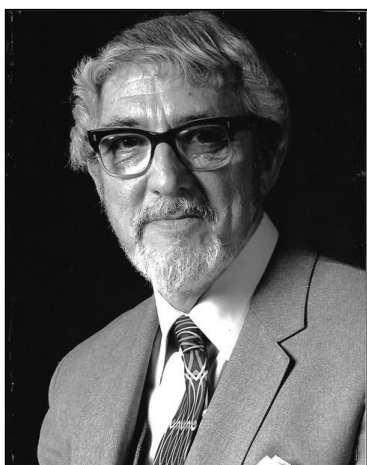


## Leonard Salzedo and His Music

Not all fellow Chevaliers will be aware of the work of Leonard Salzedo, but everyone who has attended our Chapitres will have heard his music. Leonard Salzedo is the composer of the stirring fanfares and processional music heard at every Chapitre. He was inducted at the inaugural Chapitre held at Vintners' Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1970 and soon thereafter succeeded Anthony Chaplin as 'Chef de Beaux Arts'.

Like John Braun, one of our founding fathers, author of our Constitution and initiator of the Sacavin Courier, Salzedo was also a member of the Savage Club and the liaison of the two societies continues to be mutually beneficial.

For example, in the recent edition of *Drumbeat*, the quarterly journal of the Savage Club, musician and classical record producer Mike Purton's article contains some interesting biographical



notes on Salzedo's musical career, as well as announcing the exciting news of the issue of some of the composer's rarely heard work on CD.

The extracts from Mike's article are reproduced below with his kind permission. He writes:-

*I have launched a series of (mainly) unrecorded British chamber music on my own label, MPR.*

*My first such release is MPR101 'Idyll – The English Flute Unheard'. Two featured composers, Leonard Salzedo and Sir George Henschel, were Brother Savages. Salzedo's string quartets nos. 1, 5 and 10, played by the Archaeus Quartet, are presented in my fourth release, MPR104.*

*Leonard was originally a violinist, trained at the Royal College of Music and also studied composition with Herbert Howells, orchestration with Gordon Jacob and conducting with George Dyson.*

*In 1947 Leonard joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra as a violinist, eventually moving to the Royal Philharmonic, where Sir Thomas Beecham insisted on performing some of his compositions, including his First Symphony and his ballet The Witch Boy (eventually credited with more than 1,000 performances).*

*Leonard was a prolific composer but his music has been unjustifiably neglected. Apart from writing music for films such as The Revenge of Frankenstein (Hammer) and The Witch Boy, probably his best known composition is the brass fanfare which opened Open University broadcasts. This is a movement from his Divertimento for Brass.*

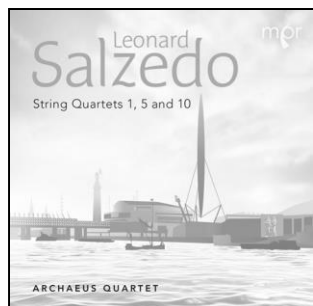
*Between 1966 and 1986 Leonard mainly conducted, often with ballet orchestras including those of Ballet Rambert, London Festival Ballet and Scottish Theatre Ballet. Brother Savage Eric Crees and I played under his baton in the early 1970s.*

*From 1986 he devoted his life to composing, but became ill around 1997, dying on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2000 at his home in Leighton Buzzard, aged 78.*

*We are most fortunate to welcome Leonard's daughter Caroline to the Club from time to time. Caroline, together with Pat Braun (widow of the late Brother Savage John Braun) provided support without which this recording would not have been made.*

*The three String Quartets (1, 5 & 10) date respectively from 1942, 1952 and 1997, covering the first and last of his compositions in this genre. It's very interesting to note the various influences in these most attractive pieces and we can often hear of Leonard's Sephardic Jewish ancestry. I asked Caroline whether her father enjoyed the music of Sibelius and she said "Oh, he absolutely adored Sibelius's music", confirming my suspicions, deduced from the first Quartet, which shows, within one continuous movement, his skill at developing small musical and rhythmic ideas. Leonard will have played plenty of Sibelius whilst an orchestral player.*

The CD cover is a wonderful view of the South Bank in the 1950s, featuring the Skylon and the Royal Festival Hall, where Leonard worked so often.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Quartet is more vital and rhythmic, showing Leonard's immense skill as an orchestrator. It's my favourite of the three and contains many dance-like passages including exuberant almost Klezmer-like passages which the Archaeus Quartet thoroughly enjoy playing, with great style.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Quartet is also very rhythmic and is quite dissonant at times, providing, towards the end of Leonard's career, a very interesting contrast to the first Quartet.

Brother Savage Leonard Salzedo was a delightful man, always friendly, kind and interested in others, which is exactly how he is remembered by professional musicians.

If anyone is interested to hear this wonderful music, they can visit Mike's website at [www.mikepurtonrecording.com](http://www.mikepurtonrecording.com) and go to the CD Shop where other gems including Idyll reside. Leonard's memory deserves to be kept alive!

Max Brittain



### Raymond Harris 1929 – 2018

We are sad to report that another connection with earlier Sacavin days has passed away. Raymond died on 15<sup>th</sup> October, aged 89. A familiar face at many events over the last several decades and, until her death in 2007, accompanied by Janine his French wife, he was inducted at the Chapitre du Retour Heureux held at the Café Royal in 1980. His credentials were first class, his sponsors being John Addey and Glyn Hardwick, whose membership went back to Sacavin's UK inauguration.

A chartered accountant, he put that talent to good use over a number of years as our Honorary Auditor, also at one time serving on the Management Committee as Ecuyer. He was promoted to Commandeur in 1998. His funeral at Golders Green Crematorium was attended by a good number of Sacavins.

Raymond married twice. His first wife acted with Tower Theatre of which he was a great supporter. Tragically, she died of cancer in 1966 when their daughter Yvonne was just 8 years old. Janine, coincidently born in the Sacavin home city of Angers, then came into

his life as a nanny, engaged to look after Yvonne. This had fortuitous consequences because 8 years later they were married. She had been brought up as a Roman Catholic but converted to Judaism when she married Raymond. He published a book on the notes she made when she converted. He added a section about whether it was wise for non-Jews to tell Jewish jokes when the book went into its third edition. His humour and friendship at our events will be much missed.



**Just prior to publication**, we learnt the very sad news that Brenda Wheal had died, having been admitted into Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow just before the Chapitre d'Or. We offer our deepest sympathy to Geoffrey at this difficult time. An obituary will appear in the spring issue of the Courier.

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Calling letters were dispatched 12 December



Calling letters to be dispatched at the end of February 2019

