

The History of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids

Answers for the teacher!

<p>Around 500 BCE the inhabitants of Britain were Celts. Their priests were known as Druids.</p>
<p>Although little is known about the Druids, there is written evidence of their existence in the writings of people like Julius Caesar, who invaded in 54 BCE.</p>
<p>Britain starts to convert to Christianity around the year 600 CE as Christian missionaries convert the Anglo-Saxon kings. By this time, the Druids have disappeared from history.</p>
<p>In the seventeenth century, people such as William Stukeley start becoming interested in the ancient sites such as Stonehenge and Avebury that dot the landscape of Britain, and interest in the Druids starts again with what is known as the “Druid Revival”.</p>
<p>In the 1700s the Ancient Order of Druids is formed. It was not a specifically religious movement and was open to men only.</p>
<p>In 1964 Ross Nichols (a poet, artist and historian) formed a break away organisation from the Ancient Order of Druids and called it the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids. The Order took a more spiritual direction.</p>
<p>In 1988 Philip Carr-Gomm was asked to lead the Order, and he remains the Chosen Chief to this day.</p>