

Queen's College Taunton Lodge No. 6988 2014 Review

Christmas Message from the Worshipful Master

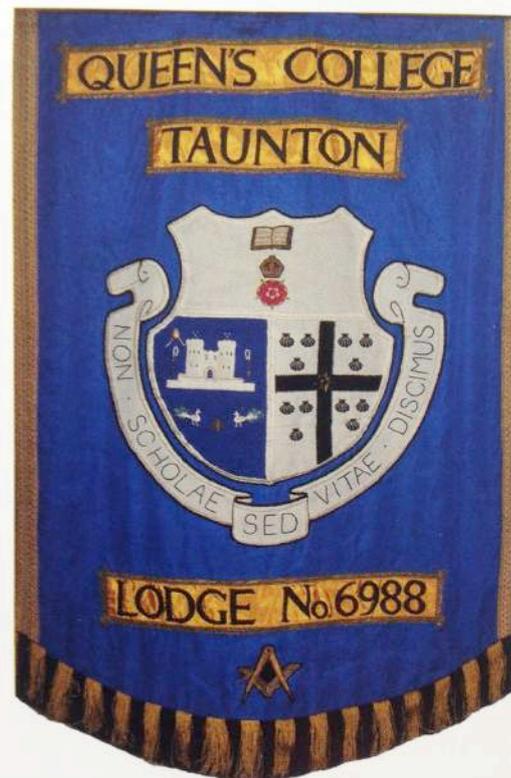
I was delighted to become Master of Queen's in March of this year. Although I am not an Old Boy of the School, I have many friends that are and I have attended Queen's lodge meetings over the years. I have always been made very welcome and have been drawn closer into the camaraderie of the group since I was invited to join officially in 2011. It is now a real privilege to lead this fine lodge in 2014.

I think that we have had a really good year so far. We have welcomed three new members, enjoyed three meetings, including a sell-out Installation meeting, hosted a number of social occasions for our members, partners and guests, undertaken an overseas visit, maintained good contacts with the School and those in the Masonic community in Taunton and the wider Province of Somerset and raised a commendable amount of money for various charities.

Freemasonry in Somerset is over 200 years old. Next year, Queen's will be celebrating its 65th anniversary. We have some wonderful traditions but, like any organisation, we need to be prepared to change and adapt to demonstrate that we have a worthwhile and relevant offering for today's world. I believe that Freemasonry should aim to be a secular, fraternal organisation that brings together men of good standing and similar values who enjoy each other's company and a fulfilling and rewarding pastime and way of life and contribute towards the well-being of their local community and society. As you know, we, like all other lodges in the Province, are in the process of putting together a 5-year plan to assure our future growth and success. I encourage you all to participate in this process over the coming months.

I very much hope that you enjoy today's occasion and take the opportunity to renew some old friendships and make some new ones.

Finally, my wife, Di, joins me in wishing you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.



Meet our new Worshipful Master

Richard Teague was elected and installed as Master of Queen's in March 2014. Richard lives in Taunton with his wife, Dianne. They have a one-year old granddaughter.

Richard has a Master of Science Degree, is a Chartered Engineer and was elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Energy in 1986. He has travelled and lectured all over the world on combustion and industrial fan technologies, presented technical papers at conferences and delivered new technology lectures to many leading companies, including Shell, BP, Texaco and British Gas.

Richard wrote and published a book on Art Deco pottery in 2000 and is now planning a children's book.

He retired two and a half years ago from owning and managing one of the UK's largest industrial fan companies. He has enjoyed a number of holidays since retiring including a visit to India and several cruises.



Richard was initiated into Freemasonry in February 1994. He joined the Somerset Farmers' Lodge in 2002, became its Master in 2008 and served as Secretary from 2009 to 2014. He joined Queen's in January 2011, after being a regular visitor since 2003. He is also a member of Perpetual Friendship Chapter and Rose Croix Alfred Chapter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Three new members, Geoffrey Browne, Ray Conneely, Alan Watkins
- Four well-attended meetings
- Richard Teague elected and installed as Master
- Philip Jubb and Jim Virjee invested as Senior and Junior Wardens
- £4,200 donated to non-Masonic charities
- £8,400 raised for the Freemasons' Grand Charity
- Fraternal visit to Guernsey by eleven members/friends and partners
- Lodge Twitter account set up
- Two prizes awarded at Senior School Speech Day to a boy and girl who excelled in community service activities during the year
- Michael Fielding celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry and is elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge



New Boys in 2014

The Lodge has been very pleased to welcome three new members during the past year, Alan Watkins, Geoffrey Browne and Ray Conneely. Here Geoffrey and Ray give their early impressions of Queen's:

"I remember my first Queen's Lodge meeting that I attended by the warm and hospitable welcome that the members afforded me. It was not just my contemporaries from my school days but by all the members present, who were all ages including some who had just left Queen's. Above all, I noticed a genuine sense of commitment and pride in the Lodge. I look forward to a happy and long association with the Lodge." [Geoffrey Browne]

"When I first visited Queen's several years ago, I didn't know what to expect. It was the first time that I had visited the Taunton temple and so everything was new to me and I wondered if I should have declined the invitation! Any misgivings were soon dispelled as I entered the building and was greeted by one member after another making me feel so welcome. This feeling of friendship and welcome never waned and I started to attend nearly every meeting through the Masonic year. I felt proud to be associated with the Lodge and when the opportunity arose to join no second thought was required. Now finally a member, I am looking forward to taking an active part in the ceremonies and Lodge business." [Ray Conneely]

Mike Kinnersley, the Lodge Almoner, writes:

My role is to keep in touch with Lodge members, especially those who for various reasons are unable to attend our meetings, and to provide support to those members and their families who are ill or otherwise in difficult circumstances. This usually involves numerous phone calls, the occasional home visit and sending bunches of flowers and get well and birthday cards. I am also able in special circumstances to call on the Lodge's financial resources and those of the four Masonic charities.

This year, we have had our fair share of illness and hospitalisations. We are delighted that Tom Denley is looking so well these days after battling cancer for a number of years. Tom Ware is on the mend after the vicious and unprovoked attack on him at home earlier this year. Geoffrey Dolling and David Sargison are

recovering well after their recent operations. We wish all those who are still unwell and undergoing treatment a speedy and full recovery.

I was particularly pleased this year to send Ken Lowe, one of our Honorary Members, a birthday card on behalf of the Lodge in celebration of his 91st birthday.

We shall again be remembering our Lodge widows this Christmas by sending them the usual supply of M & S vouchers to provide a little extra at this time of year.

Jim Wiltshire, the Lodge Charity Steward, writes:

My role is to champion all forms of charitable activity within the Lodge and in particular to initiate and lead our fundraising efforts and to make those efforts as tax efficient as possible.

This year, we have donated over £4,200 to non-Masonic charities, including:

- £2,148 to the Children's Hospice South West (Wraxall)
- £700 to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance
- £320 to Cancer Research UK
- £1,065 to the Flood Recovery Fund, set up by Somerset Freemasons to support the victims of flooding across the Somerset Levels last winter. The Fund raised over £220,000 in total.

In addition, the Lodge donated a further £8,400 to the Province of Somerset's 2020 Festival Fund in support of the Freemasons' Grand Charity. To date, we have contributed £14,270, 57% of our target to raise by 2020.

At our Christmas lunch this year, we shall be raising funds for GO COMMANDO, an organisation that we have supported in the past that works closely with the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund and was originally formed to support 40 Commando base at the Norton Manor Camp to provide services and support to make life a little easier for Royal Marines and their families.

One of the photographs below shows our presentation to the Children's Hospice South West (CHSW)

CHSW is a registered charity that provides palliative, respite, end-of-life and bereavement care for life limited children and their families in the South West. Mike Kinnersley, last year's Master, decided that all monies raised at our Christmas lunch held in December 2013 should be donated to this fantastic charity. A matched funding grant was also obtained from the Province of Somerset. The photograph shows Mike, accompanied by David Maddern and Jim Wiltshire, the Provincial and Lodge Charity Stewards respectively, presenting a cheque to Kylie Gallagher, CHSW Community Fundraiser.



The second photograph shows our presentation to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Richard Teague, our Master in 2014, decided that the charity collection at his Installation meeting in March should go to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. The presentation, delayed until the summer took

place on the front steps of Queen's. The photograph shows Richard, accompanied by Jim Wiltshire and Geoffrey Dolling, presenting a cheque to Debbie Birtwhistle, the Air Ambulance Fundraising Coordinator.



Some thoughts from Richard Baker, the Lodge Information Officer:

Initially, my role was acting as a post box for Province, cascading memos on to Brethren. But we have a need to communicate regularly with those attending meetings infrequently and photos of as many of our activities as possible form an excellent record. This is an ideal way for Queen's Lodge to be seen through Old Queenians Newsletters, the OQs website, the Provincial website and the Provincial magazine, Compass and most recently through the medium of our Twitter account @queens6988.

We also need to maximise our use of these different media channels to maintain a high profile generally so that we can contact and then attract new members to our organisation.

Geoffrey Dolling, Chairman of the Taunton Masonic Centre and Queen's Director representative on the Board reports:

This has been a busy year for the Centre. The major project has been a complete redecoration and refurbishment of the Dining Room including new carpets and curtains. The display of Past Masters' photographs is being rationalised and updated.

We will turn our attention next year to a major investment in our kitchen facilities and equipment. After extensive discussions, the proposed sale of our adjacent property (No 20 The Crescent) did not materialise during the year and the Board has recently decided to "moth ball" the project for the time being.

The initial five-year loan programme to fund building improvements came to an end in November and new long-term financial arrangements have been agreed with the various lodges. The Centre's finances are in good shape.

I hope that all members and visitors agree that the Centre looks so much better than it did five years ago – but there are still many things to do!!

Queen's members on their travels again

Queen's tradition of an annual overseas visit took eleven members/friends and partners to Guernsey in mid-May this year to make a fraternal visit to Victor Carey Lodge No 6892 which meets in a recently built Masonic Centre in St Martin's – the only one on the island! This was the mother lodge of a former Queen's member, Guy Blampied, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Guernsey and Alderney.

The group all stayed in an excellent hotel in St Martin's and enjoyed good walking in glorious weather, trips around the island and visits to Sark and Herm. Lobster and crab were in abundance throughout the visit, accompanied by ample quantities of beer and wine.

We enjoyed a well-conducted lodge meeting in the presence of the current Provincial Grand Master of Guernsey & Alderney, whilst the ladies were entertained to a short talk on the history of Freemasonry on the island. A sumptuous dinner followed with the usual speeches, including ones by Mike Kinnersley and David Sargison who presented the very young Master of the lodge with a 3D glass replica of Queen's College.

Unfortunately, the visit had a serious downside – Dianne Teague, the wife of our Master, fell heavily on our visit to Herm and broke her leg and ankle. She was well looked after by the medics on Guernsey and fortunately returned safely to the UK for an operation and subsequent recuperation.

All participants have commented on the marvellous companionship and friendship that they enjoyed during the visit – and keep asking, where are we going next?

The photographs below show the visiting party in formal and more relaxed dress.





From Lisbon to Lincoln

Queen's members have made three fraternal visits over recent years to Lancaster Lodge No 9413 meeting in Cascais where we have always been warmly received and royally entertained.

This summer, an old friend of Queen's and a past master of Lancaster Lodge living in Cascais and a member of Witham Lodge No 297, meeting in Lincoln decided to travel with two others in his 100 year old Model T Ford the 2,000 km from Lisbon to Lincoln (via Great Queen Street) with a view to raising £10,000 for Prostate Cancer.



Richard Baker and David Sargison and their wives made a "long weekend" of the occasion travelling to Lincoln to support Larry. The Saturday "welcome home" and lodge meeting were followed on the Sunday with a garden party in the magnificent grounds of Larry's home in Horncastle where his collection of vintage and veteran cars were on display and £1,600 was raised towards the 2014 Lincolnshire Provincial Festival.

A most enjoyable weekend in glorious weather - supporting a worthy cause and a very generous mason.

The photograph below shows Richard and Heather Baker and David and Jan Sargison – with the car!

The Lodge and the Province

The Lodge was well represented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Province of Somerset in Weston-super-Mare in April. Lunch was enjoyed at the nearby Royal Hotel before the afternoon proceedings. Michael Fielding, Andy Humphries, David Sargison and Richard Teague all received Provincial promotions. A slightly smaller delegation attended the Provincial Biennial Church at Wells Cathedral a few days later.

The Lodge participated in the Province's Travelling Trowel programme during the year. We received the Trowel from Wellington School, Somerset No 7230 last Christmas and a delegation from Queen's delivered it on to Quantock Lodge No 4446 on 5 March 2014.

50 NOT OUT TO MICHAEL

Michael Fielding celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry this year and was also elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

Michael who was proposed as a member of Queen's by his father, Ralph Fielding, back in 1963 became Master of the Lodge in 1975. He subsequently served as the Lodge Almoner for 19 years until 2006.

The photograph shows Michael receiving his 50th Anniversary Certificate from John Winston, Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Somerset.



The Lodge and the School

Graham Ten Broeke finished his busy and highly successful two years as President of the Old Queenian's Association in November.

David Sargison stepped down in March as a Trustee and Chairman of the Queen's College Foundation after twelve years.

The Lodge again provided two prizes at the Senior School Speech Day in July to a boy and girl who excelled in community service activities during the year.

Richard Baker and David Sargison and their wives joined an OQ/Staff/Parents trip to the Ypres Salient in September. 541 OQs served in the armed forces in the Great War - sixty-seven of them died and their names are listed on the memorial board in the entrance to the School as "The Glorious Dead" - 58 were less than 30 years old when they died (including 10 teenagers). The visiting School party visited the Menin Gate and a number of Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries and planted Remembrance Crosses at a number of OQ graves including one for Rev Clifford Hugh Reed at Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery who died on 7 June 1917, aged 28.

Many Lodge members have attended OQ events during the year, including a recent fantastic lunch at the Riverside Restaurant in West Bay, Bridport, Dorset, owned by OQ, Arthur Watson.

Happy Birthday Queen's

Queen's will be celebrating its 65th anniversary in 2015. The Lodge was established in July 1950 by 21 "Founders" – all OQs who were also active members of the Old Queenians Association and some were members of the School's Board of Governors. In its early days, the Lodge met in London, Cardiff (depending on the international rugby union fixture list) and Taunton. From 1955 to 2003, the Lodge met at the School and then changed its venue to the Taunton Masonic Centre.

The Lodge will celebrate this anniversary with a special meeting on Saturday 9 May 2015, followed by lunch at the School, to which partners and other guests will be invited.

It is hoped to publish an updated Lodge History to coincide with the anniversary and to introduce a new Lodge Tie.

Dates for your 2015 Diary

Tuesday 27 January – Lodge Visit to Admiral Blake Lodge No 4692, Bridgwater – Delivery of Travelling Trowel

Tuesday 3 March – Lodge of Rehearsal (Installation Meeting), followed by our annual “end of year” dinner at the Taunton Masonic Centre, starting at 5.30 p.m.

Saturday 21 March – Lodge Installation Meeting, starting at 3.30 p.m.

Thursday 2 April – Provincial Annual Meeting, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare

Saturday 9 May – Lodge (65th Anniversary) Meeting (starting at 11.00 a.m.), followed by lunch at the School.

STOP PRESS – RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT

2015 PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Very many congratulations to the following members who will receive a first Provincial appointment or promotion at next year’s Provincial Annual Meeting on Thursday 2 April 2015:

First Appointment – W Bro Robert Francis – Past Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies

Promotion – W Bro Mike Kinnersley – Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden

Promotion – W Bro Lionel Frewin – Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden

About Queen’s

Queen’s was founded in 1950 as the English Masonic Lodge associated with Queen’s College Taunton. It has extended its original criteria for membership in recent years from past pupils only to include parents, staff, governors and all friends of this wonderful educational establishment based in the southwest of the country.

The Lodge meets four times a year on a Saturday, in March, May, October and December, alternatively in the afternoon (followed by dinner) and in the morning (followed by lunch). Ladies and other non-Masonic guests are invited to the two lunches, usually held at the School in May and at the Taunton Masonic Centre in December with a traditional Christmas lunch.

CONTACT POINTS (2014/2015):

Master – Richard Teague (richardteague9180@btinternet.com)

Secretary – David Sargison (davidsargison@hotmail.com)

Almoner – Mike Kinnersley (mikekinnersley@aol.com)

Charity Steward – Jim Wiltshire (jim@thewiltshires.org)

Information Officer – Richard Baker (thebakers.bovey@virgin.net)

