

Queen's College Taunton Lodge – Another year for the WM and another celebration of 50 years for a long lost brother

The March (installation) meeting was a simple Proclamation of the WM to continue in the chair for another year. That meant the infamous Queen's Inner Workings are postponed (giving the WM time to learn for the next big one when a new WM will be installed in 2027).



The main event of the day, was the presentation by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Barry Palmer (who was ably escorted by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Nathan Henders) to one of the elders of the lodge. W. Bro. Barry was honoured, as we were all, to experience the presentation of a 50th Anniversary to honour for W Bro John Edward Parker (OQ 1940-50).



It was a delight to see a lively 93 year old John again after a lengthy absence owing to ill health, chauffeured and chaperoned from his home in Surrey by his daughter, Zoe. After the formal presentation, W. Bro John recalled his happy years at Queen's where he was a talented sportsman. He recounted a remarkable story that in 1944, his parents came to Queen's for Speech Day intending to take him home with them that same day. He persuaded them to stay over. That night, Ilford, where they lived, was struck by a V1 rocket which landed on their street wrecking several houses including theirs. Their delay might well have saved their lives while, miraculously, the piano below, was the only artifact to survive intact, later presented by him to School in 2014.



As always the lodge and especially the visitors were extremely generous for the WM's charity which remains Somerset Sight, indeed, a vote was taken to pass £7000 to this most worthy charity from the masonic year 2025/26 (with Province matching assisting to reach this monumental amount).



[Somerset Sight – Working with people who lack sight, not vision](#)

The lodge then retired for more excellent subsistence at the hands of the caterers, led wonderfully by Karen at Taunton Masonic Hall.

As always huge thanks for organising and executing the day go to W. Bro. Geoff Perrin for his tireless insistence to get the bar orders in and to our Secretary, W. Bro. Lindsey Edmunds for suggesting dining utilising round tables, which actually was rather interesting and provided a new dynamic.