



Queen's College Taunton Lodge 6988 – 2015 Review



December 2014



The end of a very busy and a most successful year for our Master, Richard Teague. At our December meeting we received the Travelling Trowel (left), a symbol of friendship and togetherness, from St Dunstan's Lodge, 7973, Glastonbury (*we, in turn, passed it on to Admiral Blake Lodge 4692 at their January 2015 meeting.*) The meeting was followed by the traditional and now very well known Christmas lunch (centre) attended by 97 members, partners and guests including the Provincial Grand Master. A total of £2,000 was raised for 'Go Commando', a Taunton based military charity supporting all Royal Marines both serving and former, and their families (right).

March

To Grand Lodge Above - John Elford, 'Mr Queen's College', had been ill for some time and had had to give up his commitment to the Lodge a few years back. His funeral was incredibly moving for those who had known John and was attended by a large number of Lodge members and Old Queenians. He will be very long remembered.



At our March meeting Philip Jubb (centre) was installed as Master of the Lodge by outgoing Master Richard Teague (right). Philip was previously Master in 1999.



Treasurer Mike Rees displays the new Lodge tie, designed to be worn by all members, some of whom are not old boys of the school and therefore not eligible to wear the old school tie.

April

To Grand Lodge Above - very sadly we said goodbye to our inspirational Secretary, David Sargison. David was a much respected and incredibly hardworking Secretary who had guided and developed the Lodge through some good, and some challenging times. We miss him greatly.



On a brighter note the 'terrible twinset' of Mike Kinnersley (left, as if you didn't recognise him!) and Lionel Frewin (right – and him!!) were promoted to PPrSGW and PProvJGW respectively at the Annual Provincial meeting. Our wonderfully generous hotelier from the Isles of Scilly, Robert Francis (centre) received his first appointment as PPrAGDC. Not to be outdone, Honorary Member John Winston was installed as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Somerset! Very many congratulations to them all. 14 members of Queen's attended to support, hosting a further 19 guests at our popular pre-meeting lunch in the Royal Hotel.

May

The Lodge website is launched www.queenscollegelodge.co.uk by Richard Baker and Colin Mortimore – very well done both.



And then the biggy! This month we celebrated the 65th Anniversary of the Lodge. The regular Lodge meeting was followed by a highly successful Ladies Charity Lunch held at Oake Manor Golf Club. Visitors included Brethren and Ladies from Lanzarote,



Portugal and Guernsey. 97 members, partners and guests dined. During the meal Ian Gibson (picture previous page left) received his certificate for completing 50 years in Masonry from DPGM John Winston whilst Brenda proudly looked on. By the end of the day an incredible sum of £3,500 was raised for charity and a presentation was made to the Musgrove Leukaemic Group Somerset at the lunch (picture previous page right). MLGS was set up in 1978 to improve the facilities at Musgrove Park Hospital and around Somerset for leukaemia and lymphoma patients and their families.

To make up the numbers SW Jim Virjee (second from left) gathered the family for the anniversary celebrations

June



Our Treasurer Mike Rees (left), accompanied by his wife, Chris, took the best wishes of the Lodge on a fraternal visit to Prince Alfred Lodge 233, Somerset, Bermuda, meeting up with two resident Old Queenians John Ryall and Doug Roberts, Lodge Secretary and Asst Secretary.



July-August-September

The closed season for Queen's, except for the DC, Andy Rodgers, who has our October meeting to think about!



Peter Thomas was really looking forward to October when he could be back behind the bar. Peter is a stalwart of the Lodge, has been manning the bar for goodness knows how many years, and we would be lost without him. Very many thanks Peter.

A September highlight - Wales beat England in the RWC, much to the delight of the WM.

Also in September we joined the technological revolution and went twittering – read all about it @queens6988.

October



In what turned out to be a very happy meeting, Geoffrey Browne was presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate and thus becomes a certified Freemason (read that any way you like!). DPGM John Winston presented the Lodge with its 3rd Ashlar to mark its ongoing commitment to the 2020 Festival. And PPrDGM Ray Guthrie gave a thought-provoking talk entitled "Freemasonry – fit for purpose?"



To Grand Lodge Above - time sadly for another farewell, this time to Ken Lowe, an Honorary Member of the Lodge. Ken was a great supporter of the Lodge; funding the printing of our new ritual books being just one example of his generosity.

Christmas Message from our Worshipful Master, Philip Jubb

It has been a wonderful year (albeit tinged with some sadness) from a happy Installation in March, through a fantastic 65th Anniversary meeting in May, a very interesting talk from the Past Deputy PGM in October, to now in December our very first meeting at which we have opened our doors to ladies and non-Masonic guests - I hope that this will prove a great success.

The generosity of our members and guests has been the highlight of the year, as a result of which we have donated £2,000 to 'Go Commando', £570 to Cancer Research UK, £3,500 to Musgrove Leukaemic Group Somerset and £300 to the School. In addition we received our 3rd Ashlar in recognition of committing £17,300 to the Province of Somerset 2020 Festival. Not bad for a small Lodge! My thanks go not only to those who donated and bought auction lots for our Christmas 2014 and our 65th Anniversary meetings but also to all those members who gave prizes for the various raffles and heads and tails - and then, along with our guests, purchased tickets to win them back again! Also my thanks go to Jim Wiltshire, our Charity Steward, who works incredibly hard to make us all dig deep, as well as producing some excellent photographs.

With space on the page fast disappearing, Elizabeth and I wish every one of you a very happy Christmas and a New Year that brings you much joy and friendship.