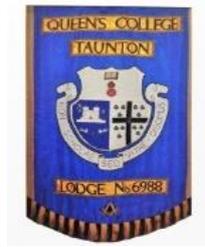


QUEEN'S COLLEGE, TAUNTON LODGE NO.6988 2019 REVIEW



<https://www.queenscollegelodge.co.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/queens6988>

Christmas 2018 Our popular Christmas meeting when, after a brief formal Lodge meeting during which WM Alan Watkins had arranged a canape demonstration for our ladies, our guests were invited to join us to hear Yeovil Freewheelers Chairman, Martin Surrey, tell us the story behind Yeovil branch of 'Blood Bikes' and the free, voluntary service they provide to NHS... and thereby US! After this Alan generously provided a champagne reception followed by a traditional Christmas lunch, a raffle/auction and the singing of a few carols. Little was said but the WM also provided the cheese, port and chocolates for the Ladies.

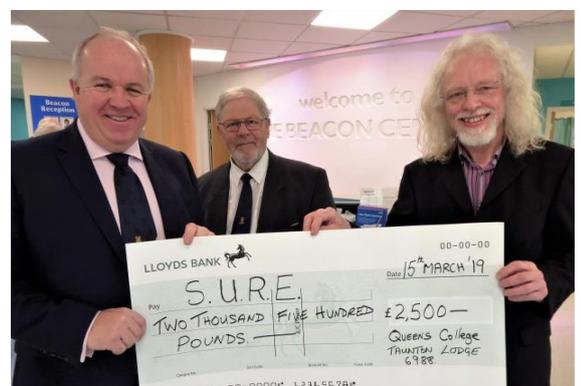


There were 33 brethren in attendance with 62 guests, and the generosity was such that Peter Thomas, Charity Steward, reported over £1,500 raised for charity. The WM presented a cheque for £550 to Yeovil Freewheelers. The balance was added to other money raised during Alan's year to go to Musgrove MRI Scanner Appeal.



Sadly, later in December we learned of the death of Ivor Roberts, at School 1946-52. He had suffered from ill health. A Taunton farmer near Bradford on Tone all his life, he was a staunch Mason (a Grand Officer) who had been a member of several lodges including Queen's (WM 1989 & 2006). Unsurprisingly, the local church was overwhelmed by the number who attended his funeral on 16th January. Ivor leaves his wife, Gill, not in good health herself and adult children, Christopher, Phillip and Susanna.

On his last day as Worshipful Master before our March installation meeting, and with the addition of £500 'match funding' from Province, WM Alan was able to present £2,500 to S.U.R.E. (Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment) at the Beacon Centre, Musgrove. Receiving is Paul Alway, S.U.R.E. Chairman with Charity Steward, Peter Thomas.



Installation March 2019

At Installation we were honoured by the presence of both PGM RW Bro Stuart Hadler and Deputy PGM VW Bro John Winston. An early task for the PGM was to present our lodge with our 5th Ashlar having raised £29,000 (against a target of £25,000) towards the Somerset 2020 Festival. W Bro Jim Wiltshire (centre L), Charity Steward until 2018 stepped aside for personal reasons and W Bro Peter Thomas, current Charity Steward, continues Jim's good work (R) with WM Alan looking on.

The Worshipful Master installed his successor with the established 'Queen's Extended Ritual' with the able assistance of his Officers and placed W Bro Graham Ten Broeke (previously WM in 1998) in to the Chair in the presence of a full Temple.

Below, W Bro Graham is seen being congratulated by W Bro Alan at the conclusion of the ceremony, flanked by Senior Warden W Bro Ray Conneely (extreme left) and Junior Warden W Bro Lindsay Edmunds (right).



Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge April 2019

A number of Queen's Brethren attended the AGM at the Webbington Hotel on 4th April 2019 to witness the Installation of RW Bro David John Medlock as the new Provincial Grand Master of Somerset by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Jonathan Spence.



After the meeting, the Queen's contingent (plus a few others) hastened to The Lamb, Axbridge for refreshments kindly organised by W Bro Mike Kinnersley.



Meeting May 2019. A presentation was made to VW Bro John Winston on the occasion of his retirement as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Somerset. Later, Lodge Secretary, Phil wrote: "I don't know when John joined the Queen's Lodge but it was way back in the mists of time. Since then he has been a very regular attender. He has also been a strong link to the Province. The Lodge is deeply indebted to John for all that he has done for the Lodge but, more importantly, for his friendship and commitment to the Lodge and to its members. Fortunately, John, with his inimitable sense of humour, is not leaving the Lodge and we look forward to many happy years of his company. John's wife, Lin, has also been a stalwart of the Lodge and helps (even organises) at our social events and the Lodge presented her, through John, with a small gift in appreciation."

A presentation of two platters for the alms collection was made to the Lodge by W Bro Graham Ten Broeke. These are quite beautiful, made from ash and turned by Graham himself, designed specifically to stop gift aid envelopes (and cash) from slipping off the edge. It is a wonderful gift and the Lodge is most grateful to Graham for his generosity.



October 2019 meeting:



The meeting opened with the WM welcoming our newest Honorary Member, the RW Provincial Grand Master on his first visit to Queen's since taking office in

April. Also present were RW Stanley Hopkins PPGM and VW John Winston PDPGM. WM Graham proceeded to initiate Richard Brown, a former Queen's parent, in an excellent 1st degree ceremony under the watchful eye of the PGM. At the Festive Board, W Bro Lindsay Edmunds welcomed and proposed the toast to his candidate, Bro Richard, who gave a confident response (right). The evening concluded with W Bro Mike Kinnersley inviting everyone to celebrate the safe birth of his newest granddaughter with a glass of port.





20th October 2019 Somerset Masonic Friendship Association

A lunch at the Taunton County Cricket Ground was attended by a party of 27 from Queen's - the largest single group at the event we had three tables – see how many you can identify!



WM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Readers, at a time when the traditional 'personal message' has been required for completion of this document, our WM Graham, who is usually suave and unflappable, is severely discombobulated at this critical time as in his own words *"we have been turned out of our home by our insurers whilst ground floor damp problems are dealt with – in this we have been told by separate parties that we are unlikely to be back before March!"*

It therefore falls to us, the writer, the editor and the printer (Fred, Phil and Ray) on behalf of our Worshipful Master and his wife, Ginny, to wish you all the happiest of Christmas celebrations with family and friends and a happy, healthy 2020. We wish Graham and Ginny a happy release from their current predicament and a swift return to their native home!

