

# RICHARD HUISH LODGE 8518 – NEWSLETTER 27 (SEPTEMBER 2018)

## Queensman Lodge 2964

On the same day as the Royal Wedding in May, a (an?) historic Masonic meeting also took place. The Grand Temple at Freemason's Hall saw a double Initiation ceremony with two holders of the Victoria Cross initiated into this military Lodge which is based on Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. An audience of around 1,000 watched Bro. Johnson Beharry VC and Bro. Daniel Keighran VC undergo their joint initiation. Those present were very aware that they were witnessing an historic event that will probably never be repeated again in Freemasonry.



I had the pleasure to be present, together with W Bros Jack Leeming, Chris Partridge and Roger Bailey. We met up with the Lodge's friends Bros Rich Mooney (who delivered a first class Junior Warden's charge) and Graeme Monks, as well as W Bro Ron Baker. And I have to say that hearing the massed voices of 1,000 Masons singing "Jerusalem" is an emotional moment... After the ceremony, many of those present headed across the road for a quick pint at The Hercules Pillars followed by Festive Board for around 600 diners (we were table # 54!) at The Connaught Rooms, literally next door to Freemasons' Hall. A wonderful and memorable weekend!

## Taunton Flower Show

A big 'thank you' to all those Brethren ( Bro Kris from RHL ) who gave up their time and energy to assist W Bro Pete Russell in the Gazebo (and me in the car park) at Taunton Flower Show. If we didn't awaken the interest of any new members at least we made the good folk of Taunton more aware of our presence.



## The Masonic Fishing Charity



Oh yes there is! This charity has recently formed a branch in Somerset and is looking for volunteers to help as anglers, administrators and committee members to make this enterprise work. The charity's aim is "bringing an interactive fishing experience to those with special needs" Thousands of disadvantaged youngsters have benefited since its inception in 2002. Their web site is [www.mtsfc.org.uk](http://www.mtsfc.org.uk) and W Bro Peter Kyle would be very pleased to hear from you if you think you can get involved here. Email him on [peterkyle@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:peterkyle@tiscali.co.uk). Membership of the charity is open to all ~ Masons and non-Masons; anglers and non-anglers.

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## In the cause of charity

Having met our financial obligations to the several years of R & M work at Taunton Masonic Hall, we have now been able to get back on track with our charitable work, supporting local small charities. During the close season, we have been able to make donations to two local charities, and a third is in the pipeline.

Conquest Centre - our WM was able to present a cheque for £315 to Bro James Holyday and Jessica Thresher of Conquest Centre.

Brambles Nursery - Later during the summer break, W Bro Ian presented another cheque, this time to Brambles Nursery, which was set up to support families of Royal Marines based in Norton Manor camp. This is Ian with Amy & Laura, plus Poppy waving the cheque for £200 from the Lodge.

Musgrove Park Hospital - And finally, a very successful Ladies Night at Oake Manor Golf Club saw £600 raised to support the Neonatal unit at Musgrove, where we will be financing the purchase of a specialist oxygen monitor for the unit. Well-done to our Charity Steward team for the organising...!



## Taunton Masonic Hall Co

- ❖ The lease for our new tenant in No 20 took effect from 1st May 2018 to Beaux Health & Beauty.
- ❖ The Board aim to make a suitable cupboard available for the storage of donated regalia, and W Bro Mark Coray will manage it. Any proceeds will be either donated to charity or re-invested in the Hall.
- ❖ Mistakes in the spelling of some names on the Honours Boards will be corrected soon. Some Honours Boards need additional "wings".
- ❖ Investigations regarding the complicated question of disabled access are on-going.
- ❖ The summer recess saw a conversation between the Board and our caterer regarding the poor condition of the cooker. The purchase of a fully commercial cooker, capable of cooking more meals in a shorter time, at a cost of £10,000 or thereabouts was approved.
- ❖ The Treasurer's report estimated a breakeven situation for the y/e 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. He pointed out that the annual dues from lodges, etc had been reduced and that there would be no change for 2019.

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