

**WBro ANDY RODGERS PGM's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
Initiated in to Queen's College, Taunton, Lodge No. 6988, MAY 1971, aged 30.**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate was presented to WBro Andy by Assistant PGM WBro Richard Winter who, quite rightly, invited Andy's long-suffering wife, Chris to join him. It has been evident over the years that Chris has given Andy every support throughout his masonic 'career'.



WBro Winter noted that WBro Andy first became Worshipful Master in 1981, ten years after initiation. He took on the challenging mantle of Charity Steward from 1985 to 2007, spearheading the Queen's Lodge fund-raising for two Provincial Festivals! He became Master for a second time in 2008. In March 2011, WBro Andy became Director

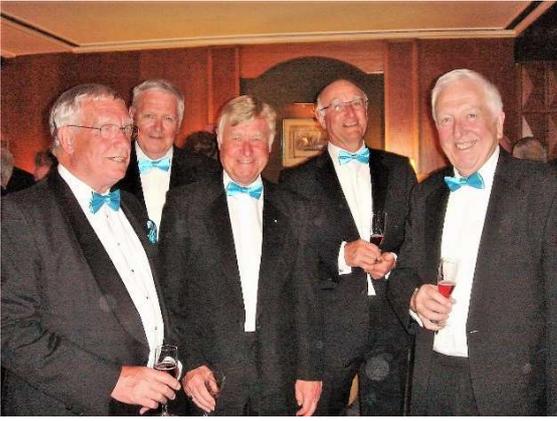
of Ceremonies until 2019. He received his first Provincial Appointment in 1987 to PPrJGD with two subsequent promotions to a well-deserved PPrSGW in 2017. All this information is, of course, well documented.

But there is much more to Andy's masonic commitment than the formal side. Despite the distance of 85 miles from his home in Cheltenham to Taunton, there can be very few rehearsals which he has missed, even going back to the early days of meeting at a pub in Station Road, Taunton and later when we used to meet at the late WBro Eric Small's flat in High Street under Preceptor the late WBro Jack Tigg, often with two rehearsals to a meeting.

Over the years he has been a staunch supporter of Federation of School Lodges (FSL) annual meetings held throughout the UK; an important social occasion for catching up with old friends. When it was our turn to host the Federation AGM in 2000, Andy attended FSL committee meetings at Wolverhampton to report on our preparations.

Since 2005, Queen's Lodge has particularly enjoyed the social aspect of 10 Fraternal Visits overseas (if you call 3 visits to Godolphin Lodge on the Isles of Scilly 'overseas'!). Andy and Chris haven't missed any of them! I am reminded that on one occasion having enjoyed an excellent lunch at a hostelry on an 'Off Island', Andy fell asleep at the table while his companions crept away. (Sorry, no photo!). Through the good offices of Mike Kinnersley, we visited a lodge at Versailles – a fabulous Mansion; the French masonic ceremony was quite extraordinary! We spent an afternoon with Andy and Chris on their narrow boat which they brought up the Seine, mooring at a nearby basin. The ladies stayed while the men foraged for refreshment!

But he can 'scrub up' quite well as seen on one of our visits to Cascais, Portugal! (What has happened to the return visit you were organizing, Andy?!)  
Over the years, Andy and Chris have been enthusiastic supporters of masonic social occasions generally. There was a visit to Bristol to support the Provincial Dragon Boat Racing Team – yellow.



They've travelled down to Taunton to support two very successful St George's Day charitable celebrations organized by the lodges meeting at our Taunton Masonic Centre. Dress code required

the wearing of something red. Responsibilities were allocated and on the first occasion Andy was required to serenade Chris.

On the second he decided just to relax and put his feet up!  
(This framed photo was also presented to Andy at our Christmas lunch as a memento!)



Back on the water on a masonic visit to the Grand Lodge of Sweden, Stockholm, in 2016.



Yes, Andy certainly enters in to the spirit of these social occasions! *Over the years I have no doubt that his commitment to charity has been just as enthusiastic – that we shall never know!*

*Urgently wanted: more 30 year olds of similar calibre!*

*RBB.*