

And the 'doubles' continued, for on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, at an Emergency (quite literally, read on)r was that Extraordinary) Meeting, the brethren of Queen's College, Taunton Lodge no 6988 gathered with a healthy number of visitors at the Taunton Masonic Centre to raise two recently passed Fellow Crafts to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

This being an Emergency Meeting, the dispensation was read out and the business of the afternoon immediately set upon.

We were honoured to be in the presence of a large number of dark blues, some of whom took part in the ceremony. Amongst them RW Bro Stuart Hadler, PPGM and VW Bro John Winston, PDPGM and the very recently promoted (as was) WBro Barry Palmer, APGM Designate. We really were privileged to see the past, present and future Provincial representatives, not only attending but also *mucking in*. Thank you so much Sirs.



The ceremony of raising begun in a vengeance, all going so well until the lights were erased. *It wasn't like this in the practice* said all the Queen's team never seeing it so dark, but the quality of the ritual shone through proving preparation is key to make the ceremonies a success. After restoring their personal comforts, the candidates were privileged to receive a magnificent rendition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree tracing board – so magnificent that newly raised Bro Charlie White quite literally collapsed with the content. After a short spell of wondering whether it was the hip flask contents or the contents of the ritual, WBro Jim Virjee continued with the Tracing Board to much thanks from the candidates and the brethren alike.

Indeed, towards the end both candidates were upright, Bro Charlie smiling in delirium and Bro Fraser still shellshocked from seeing his fellow candidate partake in the ceremony just a little bit too much, however, both somewhat unaware of the privilege they had just received.



With it being an Emergency Meeting, we were able to retire to the festive board on time (quite a rarity for Queen's ritual to allow that) and we enjoyed a wonderful festive board hosted by Hayley and the catering team from Taunton Masonic Centre. Bro's Charlie and Fraser were certainly happy to have a drink in their hand.



A superb number of 49 brethren dined during which the charity steward accompanied by a number of *heavies* ensured we collected a generous sum of over £900 (including gift aid) which will go to the Master's chosen charity of St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton. Thanks to all the visitors and the members who made this a unique and memorable day.

And with two consecutive doubles over, we all need a break and will return in October for a *single* first degree – well we have to make sure it is *his* day after all.