

## Valentia Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 623 - Centenary Meeting



The Valentia Lodge of MMM No. 623 celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Wednesday 27th October 2010 at Wellington College, Crowthorne, where the Lodge was originally founded. The Wellington Hotel that stood in the grounds of the college, was where the Lodge used to dine and meet. It was demolished in the sixties, so the Centenary meeting was held in the Driver Room, the Lodge room of the Old Wellingtonians Lodge. They kindly allowed Valentia Lodge the use of some of their equipment, although the implements of the Mark degree were transported from the Wokingham Centre.

The Lodge room was swelled with the presence of some 98 Brethren and their guests, the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Peter James Sands, VW Bro Nicholas John Murzell, Deputy Provincial Grand Master the Provincial Wardens and the rest of the Provincial Officers of the year. Also present were the Provincial Grand Masters from Hampshire and Isle of Wight (RW Bro John Prizeman), Oxfordshire (RW Bro Richard Slade) and West Lancashire (Peter Connolly).



A special dispensation for the meeting was obtained and this, along with the minutes of the Consecration meeting were read by the Provincial Grand Secretary – W Bro Richard Olliver.

Bro Anthony Thomas gave a shorten version of the Lodge history and the Oration was presented by VW Bro Dr Keith Tilling, Provincial Grand Chaplain, in his usual entertaining manner.



The ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner and all the Brethren of Valentia Lodge were proud to receive their Centenary Jewels from the Provincial Grand Master.



Towards the end of the meeting the Provincial Grand Master requested that W Bro Tim Dummer, Secretary of Valentia Lodge, was presented to him. The Provincial Grand Master informed W Bro Tim that for his hard work in organising the meeting and for his stirring work at the Wokingham Centre he was promoting him with immediate effect to Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden. This well deserved promotion was greeted with acclaim by all those present.



With the ceremony and work in the Temple being completed the Worshipful Master, Members, Distinguished Brethren and guests retired to Great School for drinks followed by a white table Banquet in the Old Hall. The menu being as close to the original menu of 1910 conjured up days of bygone years and was very pleasant.