

## ROYAL LODGE No 643 CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

The Royal Lodge No 643 celebrated its 150th Anniversary on Tuesday 18th October 2005, when it was honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, Richard Anderson accompanied by his Deputy, Jeffrey Gillyon, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, John Trout and several members of the Provincial team.

Ninety six members and guests from thirty six lodges filled the lodge room to capacity to witness a moving ceremony, during which Bro David Edward Baker, the senior member of the Lodge, gave a short history of the lodge and recounted some of his reminiscences during his 50 years' membership.

Seated in the centre of the lodge, the Provincial Grand Master recounted many events in Bro Baker's masonic and private life, and the latter responded by retailing some of his memories- many of them full of humour- which their listeners thoroughly enjoyed. The Provincial Grand Master then presented Bro Baker with a certificate of fifty years of service to Freemasonry, and a lapel badge to commemorate his dedication.

At the anniversary dinner, everyone present was given a lapel badge commemorating this auspicious occasion, and several present signed a tribute in vellum to Bro Baker, which the WM then presented to him.

During the dinner, the Lodge 2006 Festival Representative, Bro Stephen Douglas-Hogg presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £1,000 as a donation to the Festival.

Following his response to the Visitors' Toast, Bro Tony Rhoden, Master of Portus Felix Lodge No 6712 presented Bro Robin Carter, Master of the Royal Lodge with an engraved plaque as a tribute to its mother lodge, and thanked the lodge for its formation.

It was an evening which will be remembered for many years to come – the presence of the RW Provincial Grand Master and other Rulers, a moving ceremony, excellent cuisine, good companionship – it was a fitting tribute to a dedicated Mason, the end of a long chapter in the Lodge's history, and the beginning of another era in its life.