



MAKING OUR MARK

The Newsletter of Staffordshire & Shropshire Mark Master Masons

Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank Investiture



Tuesday December 8th 2020 was a happy day for W. Bros Alan Thomas Howls and Maxwell Charles Pipe when they were awarded Grand Rank in the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners. Sadly, there were none of the usual celebrations as Freemasonry was suspended due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Worshipful Brothers Alan Howls and Max Pipe are both dedicated Masons in many Orders and have both served as active Provincial Wardens in the Mark Degree and hold the Rank of PGSD, but it is their contribution to the Royal Ark Mariners that has now been recognised by the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council as worthy of honouring.

W.Bro. Alan Howls was elevated into the Shropshire Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 444 on Thursday 18th November 1994 at the Masonic Hall in Church Stretton. He was the penultimate Brother elevated at Church Stretton during that Lodge's period of exile before it returned home to Shrewsbury in November 1995. He was Worshipful Commander in 2003 and awarded Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in 2008. He has continued to support his Lodge faithfully ever since despite his demanding role as Sub Prior in the Knights Templar for the last seven years.

VW.Bro.Ian CM Smith

W.Bro. Max Pipe got involved with Mark and RAM in Tamworth a short time after he opened his Dental Surgery in Polesworth.

In his own words, he 'was pestered' by two of his patients after finding out that he was already on the Square and was persuaded to join a Staffordshire Lodge, hence St Editha's No 1426 Mark, 'the start of a very enjoyable Masonic journey'.

W Bro Max pipe was initiated into the Old Veseyan Lodge 7924 in the Province of Warwickshire on 23rd Feb 1979, and was the W Master of that Lodge twice in 1990 and 1992

On the 7th November 1983, W Bro Max Pipe, having seen the light, was Advanced into St Editha's Lodge of Mark Master Masons 1426, in the Province of Staffs & Shrops.

He took the Chair as the W Master of St Editha's twice, firstly in 1996 and then again in 2004.

He became a Joining Member of Joseph Whittall Lodge of MMM's 1392 on 21st Jan 2006, Staffs and Shrops Grand Officers Lodge of MMM's on 15th Sept 2011,

The Croft Lodge of Mark Provincial Grand Stewards No 1524 in 2019

W Bro Max was also a Founder of Mancetter Lodge of MMM's 1883, founded in the Province of Warwickshire on 26th May 2007, and was the WM in 2015.

W Bro Max, has held the following Ranks in the Province and Grand Lodge

Prov G Stwd, Prov GSO, Prov GJW

PAGDC and PGSD.

W Bro Max, was Elevated into St Edith's RAM 1426, on 3rd May 1990 and was the W Commander in 2002.

Joined Kenneth Shenton Lodge of RAM 1392 in 2011

Was appointed to Prov RAMGR on 31st Oct 2007, and received his RAMGR in 2020.

Although this is a short history of his Masonic history, W Bro Max is in many other Masonic Orders, holding some very high Offices in these Orders.

As a member of our Province of Staffs and Shrops, we congratulate

W Bro Maxwell Pipe on his preferment to the rank of RAMGR.

W.Bro Bob Sagoo