

## **FRANK WELLS**

### **Personal History**

Frank was born in Corve street Ludlow in 1927, his father and mother moved to The Butchers shop in the Square in Clun in 1928, so that was his home through his primary school and Grammar school education, He trained as a mechanic and joined the Army in 1946 after taking his exams. He rose through the ranks, reaching the rank of Leading Artisan Staff Sergeant, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) he was posted to Acre in Palestine and was 2nd in charge of 52nd Observation Regiment and was responsible for arranging the evacuation of Tanks and other vehicles ready for the end of the Mandate in 1948. He then moved to Tripolitania now Libya. When he was demobbed, he came home and went into his father's butchers business and married Violet in 1949. They had three children Francis, who is now a world leading Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeon and specialises in Mitral valve Repair at Papworth Hospital Cambridge, Rosamond, who is now a specialist in Maritime litigation in Hong Kong and Charmian, who is Deputy Managing Director of Diamond BioPharm Ltd Regulatory Consultants

Sadly, his wife Violet contracted Multiple Sclerosis in 1963 which got progressively worse. During all this time Frank had been involved in Choir Bell ringing, Chairman of the South Butcher's association and Chairman of the Parish council. As you will appreciate, with Frank living in and being involved in a lovely Rural Community, he has been involved in many other activities, however, one of his present interests has been scanning old black and white photographs from the late 1890s, burning them onto disc and giving shows locally. He has raised quite a considerable sum for local charities and organised Coffee mornings for the Senior Citizens. Unfortunately his wife Violet died in 2002. Purely by Chance he made contact with one of his old school pals Winifred, from his primary and secondary school days, whom he had not met or spoken to for 54 years, who had also had a similar experience to his own and she also had lost her husband, they got on so well that they were married in 2005.

### **Masonic History**

Frank was initiated into Freemasonry on April 18<sup>th</sup> 1950, advancing to a Master Mason on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1952. He served as Master of the Lodge during the years 1965-66.

Frank also served as Organist and ADC of the lodge for many years

He received his first Active Provincial rank of Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and was invested by the then PGM, the Lord Forrester of Willey in 1968.

He was promoted to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden on July 13<sup>th</sup> 1985.

Frank joined The Holy Royal Arch in Venables Chapter 611, meeting in Ludlow in 1971, serving as it's MEZ in 1981.

He received the Provincial rank of Grand Sword Bearer in 1984.

Due to Frank's wife's debilitating illness he was unable to maintain an active role in the Lodge for a number of years, however he returned a few years ago and has re-establish himself as a very popular and well respected member of the Lodge. His experience and knowledge have been of tremendous support to all the Brethren and we were all able to witness the Provincial Grand Master James McAllister Hodgson presenting him with his 60 years certificate in freemasonry at the Teme Lodge Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011.