

BOWLAND PROCLAIMS NEW CHAMPION



On 2 October 2019, a new Chief Steward of the Forest of Bowland was installed in a ceremony attended by more than 100 guests at Browsholme Hall in the heart of the Forest of Bowland.

The installation took place on the occasion of the Lord of Bowland's 9th Annual Lecture <https://www.forestofbowland.com/what-bowland-without-its-trees>

Mike Pugh, chair of Champion Bowland www.championbowland.org.uk, and a proud resident of Abbeystead, is the 21st Chief Steward of the Forest since 1650. Formerly known as Master Foresters, Mike's predecessors included 16 knights of the realm, a duke and an earl; he succeeds Clitheroe land agent Michael Parkinson who has served William, 16th Lord of Bowland, since 2009.

After being 'dubbed' by Bowbearer of the Forest Robert Parker with his ceremonial wand of office, Mike Pugh said: "It is a huge honour to take up the office of Chief Steward. I am grateful to the Lord of Bowland for inviting me to join his team in the Forest".

William, 16th Lord of Bowland said: “Mike represents the very best of Bowland. His appointment brings together Champion Bowland, which provides grants for local projects in the Forest, with one of the Forest’s most ancient offices. This unique combination of old and new will make Mike Pugh an outstanding champion for Bowland”.