

The Master Girdler



James Neil Maitland

(Elected and installed on 27th July 2017)

Date of Birth: 12th April 1962.

Home: Colchester, Essex.

Family: James is married to Julie, who is also in the UK wine trade (marketing wines from the southern hemisphere). They have two grown-up sons living in London - Alastair, who works in the Department for Education, and Robin, a manager at Step Forward (an apprenticeship provider to school-leavers). James' father Neil was Master in 1979 and his grandfather Kenneth in 1947 & 1948. Two uncles have also been Master.

Education: Maidwell Hall, Wellington College and the University of Exeter.

Career: His life as a chemical engineer started with wine-making in Sussex (the long-forgotten 1984 vintage). However this career was short-lived, and James became a wine merchant in July 1985. Following 20 years with Lay & Wheeler in Colchester, he joined Seckford Wines in Suffolk in 2005, where he continues to specialise in looking after clients with particular interest in wines that need time to develop in the cellar. This career has allowed an opportunity to travel to the vineyards of Europe, California, South Africa and New Zealand.

Interests: Regular interests include gardening, walking, theatre & cinema, cooking, wine and golf. Watching Essex & England cricket and horse racing at Newmarket are also much enjoyed. A past chairman and president of Colchester Round Table, being involved with its fund-raising and charity work for more than 20 years, he continues to support the Emergency Night Shelter in Colchester and the Ormiston Trust (operating throughout East Anglia & beyond).