



## **Ms Sara Drake The Girdlers' Company**



### **Master 2026-27**

After studying law at the University of Cambridge and the College of Law, Sara spent the first phase of her career navigating the media sector with roles in publishing and television. Later, as a writers' agent, she represented well-known novelists, poets, and television presenters. However, once the glamour of international literary and film festivals began to fade, she traded the red carpets for a new professional path.

For many years, Sara has guided major professional institutes through periods of significant change, focussing on how professions drive economic and societal growth. She has led development across diverse sectors, including brand advisory services, the built environment, and construction and in 2015 was appointed Chief Executive of the Association for Project Management. Under her leadership, the organisation was awarded a Royal Charter in 2016 and successfully launched its new Chartered standard in 2018. Most recently, as Chief Executive of the Chartered Governance Institute, she led its work in assuring corporate governance standards and championing the profession's global value.

Sara is an Honorary Fellow of Kingston University and maintains non-executive directorships and trusteeships across the private and charity sectors. She has a particular interest in the funding and governance hurdles faced by small charities working in today's strained volunteering and funding landscape. She is a keen advocate on educational matters, whether of the critical importance of quality and standards in higher education or ensuring that all primary school children should have the opportunity to discover Latin and the Classics.

Sara is married to David, a television producer, with whom she has twin sons and a daughter who is also a Girdler. After years of acting as the chief logistical officer for family hobbies as diverse as Korfball, Tall Ships sailing, choral music, and chess, Sara now has time for her own lifelong interests. She is a passionate reader and gardener, sharing Cicero's views of 2,000 years ago that *"if you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need"* although she has always wondered why he omitted music...

Sara joined the Girdlers Company in 2012 and feels privileged to become its first female Master. As the Company prepares to celebrate its landmark 700th anniversary in early 2027, she looks firmly past the horizon of tradition to focus on its central philanthropic mission. For Sara, this historic milestone is not just a celebration of longevity, but a renewed call to action - driven by the Girdlers' deep commitment to supporting work to increase access to education, improve life chances, and unlock potential.