

Nigel was born in the coal mining village of Blackhall Colliery, East Durham on 16th March 1964

He was educated locally and went on to A-level studies at New College Durham. He continued his education at the University of Portsmouth (then Portsmouth Polytechnic) where he gained his Masters Degree in Civil Engineering in 1988.

He worked in Australia, London, Dubai, and Indonesia until his return to the UK in 1998 where along with one of his five brothers, started Wearside Civil Engineering Ltd, also known under the trading name of A19 Pools & Spas. The company specialises in the construction of swimming pools.

He has been married to Claire (also a civil engineer) since 1997 and has two daughters Rachel and Rebecca.

Rachel studied Civil Engineering at Kings College Cambridge and is currently employed by a Civil Engineering Consultancy in that City.

She is a goalkeeper for a local woman's football club and is currently head coach of Cambridge University Volleyball team. As well as playing volleyball she is also a nationally qualified referee.

Rebecca is a trainee aircraft mechanic and is currently stationed with the Rapid Reaction Tornado Squadron at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire. She spent 4 years in the England volleyball squad and now plays her volleyball for the RAF team.

Nigel initiated into Rowland Burdon Lodge at Castle Eden in 2000 and served as their Worshipful Master in 2007. He joined Rowland Burdon Chapter in 2004 and served as first Principal in 2011. He received Provincial honours 2014 when appointed to the Rank of Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and was subsequently promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer. Nigel was then appointed as Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2016 a post he held until 2020.

In the Royal Arch Nigel was appointed as Past Provincial Grand Scribe N in 2015 and promoted to Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2022.

Nigel's hobbies include following his daughter's professional and sporting careers, work, and freemasonry. He also has a Private Pilot Licence and flies a 4-seater Piper Cherokee aircraft out of Fishburn airfield all around the UK and near continent.