

## Christmas ‘cheers’ from the Cutlers’ Company

BUSINESS is brewing at the Cutlers’ Company where every Freeman is being offered a bottle of Freeman’s Ale, courtesy of the Master Cutler, Professor Bill Speirs, and specialist Sheffield brewer Dave Wickett, founder of the Kelham Island Brewery.

The two met at the revival of the traditional Audit Feast, hosted by Dave at his famous Real Ale pub, the Fat Cat. On that occasion, the Master sampled one or two specially brewed beers and was very impressed – so much so that he placed an order with Dave for a business brew for the Cutlers’ Company.

“Dave represents two of my major themes for the year – innovation and hard work,” said the Master. “He has built his business up from nothing and brews some very good beers into the bargain.”

The Freeman’s Ale is a beer of moderate strength (4.3%). “The Master was very clear that he wanted it to look good and taste good but not to be as strong as those we made for the Audit Feast,” said Dave. “On that occasion the beer was around 7.9% which is serious stuff.”

The labelling took more time to prepare as it had to include a short history of the Company. “We are used to making beers to order and were happy to fulfil this special request. Bill made my task that much easier because he knew exactly what he wanted,” said Dave. “And now that we have done it once, we can produce as much as the Cutlers’ Company requires.”

Editor’s note: for more information please contact George Kilburn at the Cutlers’ Company on 0114 272 8456.