



James Newman, Master Cutler, 2009-2010

The Master Cutler's diary - retrospective

Times Past - Week Nine

The Master's busy schedule continued unabated last week, beginning bright and early on Monday morning with the 8.30am Manufacturing Forum meeting at the Cutlers' Hall. Luncheon and the traditional Christmas Tree Festival at Tipton Masonic Hall, hosted by the Sheffield Freemasonry in the Community, followed. More than 20 different charities displayed their trees. The Master and Mistress Cutler were photographed in front of every one of them before returning to the Cutlers' Hall, where the Master met the President of the Sheffield Law Society, Paul Clarke.

Tuesday's formal business began at 2pm with a meeting of Finance Yorkshire, followed by a meeting with Chris Forrest, the head of Barclays Commercial Banking in Yorkshire. This was closely followed by the Business Leaders Group Meeting, before an evening at the University of Sheffield for the 57th Hadfield Memorial lecture at the Octagon Centre.

On Wednesday, the Master and Mistress travelled to London to represent the Cutlers' Company at The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards Installation Banquet at The Mansion House. Following personal Board meetings in London, the Master was back in South Yorkshire for the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards at Ponds Forge and was delighted that so many manufacturing companies won awards that evening.

On the final day of the working week the Master and Mistress Cutler were guests of honour at the Trinity Day Care Trust, Annual Christmas Party at the Salvation Army Citadel, Psalter Lane. In the evening they attended The Mayor of Barnsley's Charity Ball, along with the Immediate Past Master and Mistress, Martin and Elaine Howell.

Times Past - Week Ten

The Master began the week by chairing his first Company meeting at the Cutlers' Hall preceded by an informal lunch for the Members of the Company. Later that day he hosted the Freeman's Annual Dinner attended by a record number of 270 Freemen and Friends of the Company and many guests. The evening is traditionally an informal dinner and networking evening and the Master took this welcome opportunity to catch up with Freemen. Although an informal event with few speeches, the toast to the Company was given by one of the new Freemen, Vince Middleton, and the Master responded by firstly congratulating all concerned with the recent announcement on the new Nuclear Research Centre and to emphasise the importance of the region maintaining its competitiveness in the global economy by embracing the advanced manufacturing processes. He also welcomed all the guests.

Meanwhile, during the same evening, the Mistress Cutler presented trophies at the Sheffield Floral Club demonstration at the City Hall.

On Tuesday, the Master attended a number of business meetings in Birmingham while the Mistress enjoyed the annual Sheffield Cutler Federation of Townswomen's Guilds' Carol Concert at the Victoria Hall, Sheffield.

They both travelled to London on Wednesday for business meetings in the City and in the evening were guests of The Worshipful Company of Cutlers for the Feast of the Boar's Head at the Cutlers' Hall in London, together with the Clerk.

On Thursday, they returned to South Yorkshire in good time to attend the Doncaster Chamber Business Awards 2009, staged at The Dome, where more than 700 people attended a spectacular awards ceremony.

On Friday, the Master was a top table guest at the Yorkshire Business Awards Luncheon in Leeds and was able to meet many key business and political figures from the rest of Yorkshire and to discuss the manufacturing benefits of South Yorkshire.

At the weekend, the Master and Mistress returned to Sheffield and joined the congregation at the St Luke's Hospice Service of Dedication & Remembrance at Sheffield Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, in the company of the Lady Mayoress and the Rt. Hon Nick Clegg, the Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Times Past - Week Eleven

The Master began this pre-Christmas week bright and early on Monday morning with a 7am Business Leaders Group meeting at Sheffield Town Hall.

On Tuesday he had a slightly later start time - 8.30 am at Swinden House, Rotherham for the NAMTEC (National Metals Technology Centre) Advisory Panel meeting. Later that day the Master travelled to London to attend The Worshipful Company of Turners Annual Livery Dinner at the Apothecaries Hall, where he sat next to the main speaker of the evening, Lord Butler, the former Cabinet Secretary to three Prime Ministers and a Lancashire lad.

By noon on Wednesday the Master was back in the city for the Sheffield Club AGM, followed by Christmas Luncheon at Tupton Masonic Hall. Later that evening he was joined by the Mistress Cutler at The Sheffield Royal Society of the Blind's Christmas Social, which was held in Mappin Street, before driving over to Slade Hooton Hall, Rotherham, where they had dinner with the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire and two of the High Court Judges sitting in Sheffield.

On Thursday, the Master attended an Honorary Doctorate Ceremony and Dinner for David Brailsford CBE, British Cycling's Performance Director, at Sheffield Hallam University. Prior to this the Master attended a meeting at the Cutlers' Hall with Martin Davies OBE, chair of Emmaus, the homeless charity.

His meeting to discuss the Cutlers' Feast on Friday morning was followed by a visit to St Luke's Hospice, accompanied by the Mistress Cutler. Later that day the Master returned to the Cutlers' Hall for a meeting to discuss his 60th birthday party in February at the Hall.

The Mistress went on to the Christmas meeting of the Inner Wheel Club – the largest women's voluntary service organisation in the world, promoting friendship and understanding.

On Sunday the Master and Mistress Cutler were guests at the 106 (WR) Field Squadron's (V) Annual Christmas Cocktail party at the Bailey Barracks, Sheffield. The weather intervened and having only just made it back through the snow into the middle of Sheffield from the

barracks at Greenhill, The Lord Mayor of Sheffield's Civic Carol Service at the Victoria Hall Methodist Church, due to be held in the evening, was cancelled.

Times Past - Week Twelve

The Master and Mistress spent this week celebrating Christmas with family and friends in Guernsey.

Times Past - Week Thirteen

The Master had a meeting with the two Wardens to discuss a number of Company matters, catching up on paperwork and household duties and spent the New Year at home with his family and friends.

Times Past – Week Fourteen

Amid the snow and ice, the Master resumed his official duties this week. However, the appalling weather meant he had to cancel his Made in Sheffield meeting at the Durham Duplex and his visit to Arkote on Sheffield Parkway where quality steel products are made. On Thursday morning he met the CEO of Pro-Sheffield at the Cutlers' Hall, followed by the launch of the Lord Mayor of Sheffield's Memorial Appeal at the Town Hall with David Blunkett. Later that day he attended a meeting with Past Master, Gordon Bridge, and Faith Douglas of the RBS Bank, the founders of the Master Cutler's Challenge, in order to discuss the Challenge for this year.

In the evening, he was a guest at the Clubs for Young People Charity Dinner at Baldwin's Omega, raising money for the Clubs which do so much for the youth of the city. The event, which was co-hosted by the Rotary Club of Abbeydale, was a great success with the Master outbidding the audience to win a Real Madrid shirt signed by Cristiano Ronaldo, helping to raise some much needed funds for this good cause.

Times Past – Week Fifteen

The Master was again delayed by the snow and ice and his meeting with Nigel Tomlinson, Sheffield Chamber's chief executive had to be postponed.

On Tuesday he attended a busy round of meetings at the Cutler's Hall – a Hall's Committee meeting followed by the Strategy Steering Group. In the afternoon he met John Hayward of Chesterfield Cylinder before returning to the city to see John Palmer, Sheffield Hallam University's Director of Communications and Public Affairs, to discuss his and the Company's role in 'Redefining the City'.

The Master attended the Local Manufacturing Dinner at the Leopold Hotel on Wednesday evening, organised by the publishers of 'The Manufacturer'. Company Member Charles Turner and Freeman, Chris Reay, Kevin Parkin, Graham Honeyman, Peter Birtles and Martin Wood among others were also present.

On Thursday morning, he chaired the Finance Yorkshire Board meeting in Leeds and in the evening was one of a very few South Yorkshire businessmen to attend the Bank of England's New Year reception.

The day began early on Friday with an 8.30am meeting of the Sheffield Chamber at the Crucible Theatre, followed by The University of Sheffield's Winter Degree Congregations

where Past Master David Stone and Freeman Neville Piele received Honorary Degrees from the University. After luncheon at the Octagon Centre, the Master was present at the unveiling of a portrait of Sir Peter Middleton, Chancellor of the University of Sheffield.

Times Past – Week Sixteen

The Master began the week by meeting the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, Professor Keith Burnett, to discuss how the Master and the Company could work with the University in promoting the ARMC and manufacturing skills in the region. The Mistress Cutler, meanwhile, attended the Sheffield Cutler Federation of Townswomen's Guilds Meeting at the Quaker Meeting House, Sheffield.

In the evening the Master addressed members of The Rotary Club of Sheffield at their dinner held at Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield on the very topical subject of Non Executive Directors, which was well received by the Members.

By 8am on Wednesday the Master was at the Advanced Manufacturing Park, for the Insider Yorkshire Manufacturing breakfast as a panellist before returning to the Cutlers' Hall for a morning PR meeting and the train to London for business meetings.

On Thursday evening The Master and Mistress travelled to the Armourers' Hall in London to attend the Worshipful Company of Armourers & Brasiers Dinner, accompanied by the Clerk to the Company, Peter Gardner.

On Friday, following a meeting at Sheffield Hallam University, the Master met Past Master, Gordon Bridge, RBS Bank's Faith Douglas and fundraisers from Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice to discuss the launch and programme for the 2010 Master Cutler's Challenge.

By Saturday evening both Master and Mistress were back in Sheffield as guests of the Caledonian Society of Sheffield at the Burns Dinner and Dance, The Sheffield Park Hotel, where the Master proposed the toast to the Society and its President.

Times Past – Week Seventeen

The Master began the week chairing the monthly Manufacturing Forum Meeting at the Cutlers' Hall. He then spent some time with the candidates for the Clerk's position and afterwards attended a buffet luncheon following which a new Clerk was chosen by the Selection Committee.

In the afternoon he travelled to London to attend the Worshipful Company of Founders' dinner at the Founders' Hall, where he was placed between the Master and Nigel Turnbull, of the Turnbull Committee on Risk.

On Tuesday he attended a Board Meeting followed by luncheon at the Cutlers' Hall and then further meetings at Sheffield Hallam University, where the Master has taken on the role of Acting Chair of the Governors. In the evening he attended the first ever dinner of the South Yorkshire Association of Business Angels at the Leopold Hotel.

There was an early start for the Master on Wednesday when he attended an 8.20am meeting at the Advance Manufacturing Park in Rotherham to discuss with a number of other manufacturing organisations, closer ties, coordination and the possible forming of a South Yorkshire Manufacturing Alliance.

On Thursday the Master was in London for Board meetings but on Friday was again at the Cutlers' Hall, this time attending a successful luncheon with the Friends of the Company.

On Saturday he attended the Sabbath Service at the Sheffield & District Reform Jewish Congregation at the Whirlow Grange Conference Centre. They were celebrating their 21st birthday and the Master spoke after lunch to the congregation and other distinguished guests including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

The following day both the Master and Mistress Cutler attended the Sheffield Jewish Congregation Hospital Sunday Service at Kingfield Synagogue, conducted by the Master's Chaplain, Rabbi Golomb, The Master spoke about the state of the economy and industry in the region at the tea which followed the service which was attended by more than 160 people and representatives from other faiths and the medical and caring professions and administrators.

Times Past – Week Eighteen

This week proved to be quieter than most for the Master, in terms of official engagements, at least.

Tuesday evening's dinner at the Stationers' Hall in London for the Stationers and Newspaper Makers, was the Master's first formal function of the week.

That was followed on Thursday evening by The Worshipful Company of Skinners dinner at Skinners' Hall, again in London.

By Friday the Master had returned to Sheffield. In the evening he attended the Sheffield & District Law Society Annual Dinner and the Cutlers' Hall.

Times Past – Week Nineteen

The Master began a very busy week with a meeting of the Finance Committee at the Cutlers' Hall, followed by a meeting at Fusion IP, chaired by Past Master Doug Liversidge, who commercialise the intellectual property of the University of Sheffield.

In the evening the Master and Mistress travelled with the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Immediate Past Master, the Clerk and respective spouses to attend the annual joint dinner at Oulton Hall near Leeds, with the Governor and other officers of the Merchant Adventurers of York, with whom the Company has close links.

On Tuesday the Master was finally able to make his much delayed visit to Arkote Ltd, run by Peter Stringer, a Freeman. The bad weather led to the previous cancellation. He was shown round the factory just off the Parkway. Arkote is a world leader in specialist knives for the tobacco industry. While there the Master met Peter Oxspring, Arkote's Finance Director, who is being proposed as a Freeman of the Company.

Later that day the Master chaired the Board meeting of Governors at Sheffield Hallam University.

Following Board meetings in London, on Wednesday evening the Master attended, at the invitation of the Master of the Worshipful Company of Engineers, the 2010 Bridge Lecture at City University of London on Crossrail.

By Thursday morning he was back in Sheffield in time for a photo call at the Sheffield Eye, with the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, before welcoming four new Freeman to the Cutlers' Company. In the evening he attended the Yorkshire & Humber Chinese New Year Awards Dinner at Sheffield United Football Club, Bramall Lane.

On Friday morning the Master had an early start by speaking at an 8am Pro Sheffield Breakfast event at Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield, followed by a meeting with Helen West, CEO of Business Link Yorkshire in Barnsley.

Times Past – Week Twenty

Being half term week, the Master's engagements were fewer than normal.

The Master began his official round of engagements on Wednesday evening by attending The Army Presentation Team Reception & Briefing at the University of Sheffield Octagon Centre where a number of senior Army personnel gave the audience an insight into the many things the modern Army is doing for communities both at home and abroad as well as the key issues surrounding the war in Afghanistan.

On Thursday evening he attended the gala performance of An Enemy of the People which marked the re-opening of the Crucible Theatre after an extensive £15m refurbishment. Officials from Yorkshire Forward, the Arts Council and the Sheffield City Council, who had all supported the refurbishment, all spoke of Sheffield's long and well established history in culture, theatre and the arts.

Times Past – Week Twenty-one

At the beginning of a busy week the Master chaired the South Yorkshire Manufacturing Forum meeting at the Cutlers' Hall. He then travelled to London for a private dinner and Board meetings on Tuesday.

On Tuesday evening the Mistress joined the Master in London where they were guests at The Worshipful Company of Launderers' 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Guildhall.

The following evening the Master attended The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers City Dinner at the Ironmongers' Hall in the Company of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London. The Master of the Ironmongers spoke passionately about manufacturing and the necessity for it to be given as much prominence as financial services if the country was to get out of its economic mess.

Following Board meetings all day in London, the Master returned north on Thursday evening and by Friday afternoon was in Sheffield with the Mistress for a visit to Freeman College at Butcher and Sterling Works where they were treated to a tour of the craft workshops and a number of demonstrations by the students of some of the old metal crafts for which the City is well known.

The Master and Mistress rounded off their week of engagements on Saturday evening when they attended the Sheffield & District Cambrian Society's St David's Day Dinner at Tipton Masonic Hall.

Times Past – Week Twenty-two

On Tuesday, both the Master and Mistress visited St Luke's Hospice, Ecclesall for the second time where they met many of the day patients and the Mistress was treated to a hand wax massage.

The Master attended The University of Sheffield Annual Meeting of the Court at the Octagon Centre on Wednesday morning and then left for two days of Board meetings in Birmingham.

On Friday, he was guest speaker at the Society of Chartered Accountants Annual Dinner at the Cutlers' Hall, which was attended by more than 400 people. The Master proposed the toast to the Institute which was responded to by the Institute President, Martin Hagen, who coincidentally was an articled clerk at PKF in Sheffield at the same time as the Master. To mark the Master's appointment as Master Cutler and as a Chartered Accountant, the President of the Sheffield Society presented him with an engraved port decanter which came as a pleasant but complete surprise to the Master.

Times Past – Week Twenty-three

The Master began what proved to be a very busy week with an 11am meeting at the Advanced Manufacturing Park to discuss the formation of a South Yorkshire Manufacturing Alliance. This was followed by an interview with Bob Rae of the Sheffield Star regarding Finance Yorkshire and the Master Cutler's Challenge.

Later in the day, the Master had a further meeting regarding the Manufacturing Forum and another with the Business Leaders' Group. Monday was rounded off by the Master and Mistress entertaining Sir Alasdair MacDuff, the presiding High Court Judge and alumnus of Ecclesfield Grammar School; the High Sherriff, her husband and a number of other guests to dinner at the Cutlers' Hall,

Tuesday began early with a 7.30am Sheffield Business Advisor Panel meeting at the Town Hall, followed by a Grass Roots Grants meeting at the Cutlers' Hall and visit to South Yorkshire Police accompanied by the Mistress Cutler. Later that evening they attended the Sheffield University Officer Training Corps' Lord Lieutenant's Certificate presentation at the Somme Barracks, Sheffield.

On Wednesday the Master travelled to London to attend the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers' Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall, a hall built in the same decade as the Cutlers' Hall with very similar architecture and interior decoration.

By Thursday he had returned to Sheffield in time for various meetings at Sheffield Hallam University. In between he had his blood pressure taken at the World Kidney Day tent outside the City Hall (despite everything it was well below normal) and also attended the Big/Small trade event at the City Hall and spoke to many on the stands at the show. That evening, whilst the Master attended the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce President's Annual Dinner at the Cutlers' Hall, the Mistress saw Croft House Operatic Society's performance of Fiddler on the Roof at the Lyceum Theatre.

Early on Friday morning, the Master chaired the launch event in Leeds for the new venture capital fund for Yorkshire, Finance Yorkshire, and shared the platform with the Rt Hon Rosie Winterton, Minister for the Regions, and Terry Hodgkinson, Chairman of Yorkshire Forward. More than 350 people attended.

He then returned to London for an appointment with Garry Wilson of the investment company Endless LLP, followed by dinner with the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, at Clothworkers' Hall, returning to Yorkshire on Saturday morning.

Times Past – Week Twenty-four

The Master began his official duties this week with the Senior Wardens' dinner on Monday evening.

The following morning he chaired the South Yorkshire launch of Finance Yorkshire at the Cutlers' Hall – an event attended by more than 300 people.

After a day in London on Wednesday and Board meetings on Thursday morning, he met Stephen Sly from DLA Piper at the Hall on Thursday afternoon. This was followed by a very successful launch of the Master Cutler's Challenge which was overseen by both the Master and Mistress Cutler. More than 125 people attended, representing over 50 companies which have joined the Challenge which this year is being run by and for the benefit of Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice in Dinnington. The Master's charities and the Cutlers Hall Preservation Trust will also benefit from the fund-raising.

Westfield Health are again the main sponsors of the Challenge. Companies are given £50 each and asked to turn it into substantial sums for the charity by using innovation, creative ideas and teamwork involving staff, customers and suppliers. Demon Wheelers, a local based events business, provided free entertainment for the evening. Using three perspex spheres, similar to the Crystal Maze television programme, they asked contestants from each company to enter the spheres to collect as much fake money as possible. The winner was given a £500 voucher to spend with Demon Wheelers on their fund raising events for the charity.

On Friday, the Master attended a meeting with executives from The Royal Bank of Scotland and on Saturday evening the Master and Mistress Cutler were guests at the Soroptimist International Sheffield 82nd Annual Dinner.

On Sunday, they attended the South Yorkshire Legal Service at Sheffield Cathedral followed by luncheon with the High Sheriff at the Cutlers' Hall. That evening, they enjoyed the David Clover Festival of Singing at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield.

Times Past – Week Twenty-five

The Master and Mistress Cutler's official engagements this week began on Monday with the Valedictory Luncheon for the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire at the Cutlers' Hall. In the evening, the Master attended the Members' dinner with other Members of the Company and their guests.

On Tuesday morning he was up bright and early, this time for the Manufacturing Forum meeting in Rotherham, which was followed later that day by luncheon with the Master and Clerk of The Worshipful Company of Armourers & Brasiers together with the Clerk to the Company and the Mistress Cutler.

In the afternoon the Master and Clerk of the Armourers visited Sheffield Hallam University where they were met by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Philip Jones and presented with a silver bookmark. A tour of the Faculty of Art, Computing, Engineering and Science then followed together with a visit to the world famous Materials Engineering Research Institute (MERI) at the University. That evening both Masters attended and presented prizes at the Joint Awards 2010 presentation ceremony.

Later in the evening the Master drove to York to join the Mistress at a dinner held in honour of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany at The Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York.

On Wednesday the Master travelled to London for The Worshipful Company of Drapers Livery Dinner at Drapers' Hall.

Times Past – Week Twenty-eight

This week the Master and Mistress Cutler returned to their formal duties after their Easter break in St Lucia.

On Thursday morning the Master chaired the Company meeting followed by lunch at the Cutlers' Hall. In the evening he was a guest at the British Metallurgical Plant Constructors' Association Annual Dinner, again at the Hall. The Master spoke about the importance of manufacturing in the future success of the economy and the contribution made by the Members of the Association were going to be whichever Government was in office.

The weekend visit to Zurich was unfortunately cancelled due to the volcanic ash grounding all aircraft out and into the UK.

Times Past – Week Twenty-nine

The Master began this very busy week with a visit to Doncaster for the Showcasing Innovation in Manufacturing event at Cooper Lighting, where he spoke about the importance of innovation in manufacturing.

In the evening, he attended a civic reception, hosted by The Lord Mayor of Sheffield for the Sheffield Business Community at the Town Hall, where he responded on behalf of all the guests in thanking the Lord Mayor and the Council for their interest and inter-reaction with business.

On Wednesday afternoon the Mistress attended the Sheffield Cutler Federation of Townswomen's Guilds' annual luncheon at Tapton Hall. That evening the Master was in London for The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers Court & Livery dinner at the Clothworkers' Hall.

By Thursday he had returned to Sheffield for the BSSA forum and luncheon at the Cutlers' Hall and later that evening he attended The Big Challenge Award Presentation Dinner at the Holiday Inn, Royal Victoria Hotel.

On Friday morning, the Master attended a number of meetings at the Cutlers' Hall followed by a Freemans' luncheon which was also attended by the Mistress and almost 100 Freeman and their guests.

On Saturday evening, the Master and Mistress were guests at the Company of Merchants of the Staple of England dinner at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, where the main speakers were the founders of 'Help for Heroes' Charity, Bryn and Emma Parry, the latter sitting next to the Master at dinner.

Times Past – Week Thirty

The Master began his official duties this week on Tuesday with a Manufacturing Forum Meeting at Doncaster Sheffield Airport and afterwards attended a seminar to support the airport owners, Peel, who were introducing Easyjet which has just started flying to a number of destinations from the airport.

This was followed by a visit to the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice at North Anston with the Mistress. Bluebell Wood is the lead and organising charity for the Master Cutler's Challenge this year.

He then returned to Sheffield for a meeting at the Hall to finalise the seating plan for the Cutlers' Feast whilst the Mistress had a meeting to organise the flowers and finalise the menu for the same event.

That evening the Master and Mistress attended the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield's Civic Reception and Dinner at the Town Hall, with the other three Mayors in South Yorkshire, the Lord Lieutenant, the current and previous High Sheriff and respective partners.

On Wednesday he attended a CBI lunch in Leeds. The following day the Mistress visited the Sheffield Floral Club before attending the Annual Luncheon at Baldwin's Omega. After a day in London, both the Master and Mistress were guests of the Children and Young Peoples' Directorate at their 'Celebration of Success' at the City Hall.

On Friday morning, the Master was again in London. He visited Gavyn Davies, the Principal Speaker at the Cutlers' Feast, to brief him on the event before he, together with the Clerk, went to

Goldsmiths' Hall, London for the Trial of the Pyx – an annual ceremony dating back to 1282, to report that newly minted coins conform to the required standard. The Assay Master, Ashley Carson and Past Master, Christopher Jewitt, the Chairman of the Guardians of the Sheffield Assay Office, were also in attendance.

On Sunday, both the Master and Mistress, along with many other Past Masters and Mistresses, the two Wardens and other local dignitaries, attended a lunch given by Past Master, Tim Reed, at Hassop Hall.

Times Past – Week Thirty-one

This week the Master began his official duties on Wednesday evening when he attended the Worshipful Company of Brewers' Court Dinner at the Brewers' Hall in London, together with the Clerk.

Very early on Thursday morning, he returned to the north, travelling to Leeds for a meeting of Finance Yorkshire followed by a judging session for the Business Desk.com Master's Awards.

The following morning, the Master officially opened and presented prizes at the Sheffield Schools Young Artists Competition run by the Rotary Club of Abbeydale while the Mistress was a guest at the Sheffield Women's lecture held at St Paul's Mercure Hotel in the city.

On Saturday morning, the Mistress was at The Mall in Barnsley for a photo shoot for Jeanie Jeans, a competitor in the Master Cutler's Challenge. In the afternoon, both the Master and Mistress attended the St John's Ambulance competition in Chapeltown, presided over by Michael and James Frampton, both Friends of the Company. The Master spoke on how important the work of the St John's Ambulance was to the community and the Mistress presented the trophies and prizes to the winners.

In the evening, both the Master and Mistress travelled to Harrogate for the annual Candle Lighters' Ball.

Times Past – Week Thirty-two

This week for the Master began at 8.30am on Monday morning with a meeting of South Yorkshire Manufacturing Alliance at the Advanced Manufacturing Park.

On Tuesday he hosted a press luncheon at the Hall for Yorkshire's radio and business journalists, in the company of the Clerk and his successor, as well as Freeman Charles Turner and Craig McKay.

Thursday was spent preparing for the annual Cutlers' Feast. That evening the 374th Cutlers' Feast took place at the Hall attended by several hundred invited guests including representatives from other Livery Companies, the City and many business and professional organisations. Unfortunately, the Senior Warden, Bill Speirs, had been taken ill earlier in the week and was unable to attend, so the Master gave both the main business speech and the toast to the guests.

Gavyn Davies, the economist and former Chairman of the BBC, made the main toast of the evening to 'The Manufacturing Industries of Hallamshire' and Professor, Lord Winston, Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University, responded in his usual witty and charming way on behalf of the guests.

On Friday, the Master, Mistress and the Clerk accompanied some of the Company's guests for a tour of Sheffield Hallam University followed by luncheon.

On Saturday the Master and Mistress concluded their busy week at the Nabarro LLP Annual Charity Ball at Baldwin's Omega in aid of The MacMillan Cancer Trust.