



## The Company of Cutlers' Forfeit Feast, 2018

The Forfeit Feast was held on 27 July at the end of what had been one of the longest heatwaves in history. As has now become traditional, the Lord Mayor of London was invited as the principal guest speaker and he along with the Lady Mayoress, and the Sheriffs with consort spent a day in the City Region to see something of what we do here.

This started with a working lunch including a briefing from 25 businesses in Sheffield varying from Manufacturing through legal, banking and accountancy to the Arts and Culture Sector. The Lord Mayor described this as amongst the most inspiring and upbeat briefings he had heard during his 38 weeks in office.

A factory visit to AES Seal followed with a briefing and tour hosted by Managing Director Chris Rea. This proved a great hit with the Mayoral party who very much appreciated the drive, passion and innovation which has clearly been crucial to the success and rapid growth of the business.

The afternoon's activities then concluded with a Question and Answer Session in the Master's Foyer.

The Forfeit Feast took its normal form but sadly, the Mistress Cutler Mrs Janet Cooke was unable to attend as she was recovering from an operation. The Master alone therefore greeted everyone as they entered the Silver Vestibule. A superb dinner was followed by speeches by the Master Cutler and the Lord Mayor of London. The Master welcomed the Lord Mayor and his party saying that he knew that he was completing a tour of Northern Cities and that he clearly had left the best until last. He said how happy he was to have had the opportunity to show off something of the city. He then explained a little of the history of the Forfeit Feast before presenting the Lord Mayor with a cheque for his charities and with a silver penknife engraved with his signature. Finally, he toasted the Guests.

The Lord Mayor in replying thanked the Master Cutler for his very generous hospitality to both him and the Mayoral party. He emphasised how valuable they had found the visit and agreed that they had "left the best until last". He thanked the Master for his kind gift and donation before continuing by talking about his theme for the year which is the business of trust. He said that the public lost trust in business during the financial crisis a decade ago and that this needed to be restored. He accepted that trust is lost in an instant but takes years to rebuild but made clear that he was passionate about it. He then presented a gift to both the Clerk and the Master before asking those present to toast The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire.

After the speeches, the Musical entertainment was provided by the Worsborough Brass Band. They produced 15 minutes of rousing music which had people standing, swaying in time to it and clapping at the appropriate moments. The penultimate piece was a post horn gallop which was played so well that most of those from London commented that it was the best

they had ever heard. The finale was Elgar's pomp and circumstance which provoked a response which would not have been out of place at the "Proms". All agreed that it was a superb performance and a fitting end to a wonderful evening.