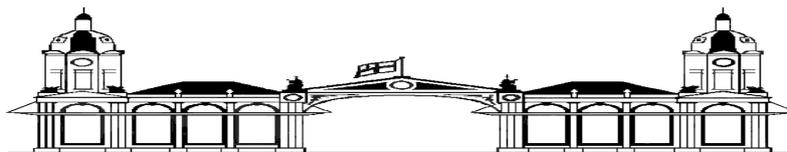


THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE



EDITION 150

OCTOBER 2014

GENERAL MARKET – WHERE NEXT?

The Secretary of State's decision to accept the inspector's recommendation to refuse planning permission to Henderson's for the redevelopment of the General Market, Annex and associated buildings is the latest event in the saga of failed planning applications and inaction. Given that the planning inspector regards the disused buildings as an integral part of the Smithfield site it now seems unlikely that any application including offices can succeed.

Save Britain's Heritage has urged the Secretary of State to start compulsory purchase proceedings for the buildings and the latest news is that, apparently, John McAslan & Partners, the architects for the original Henderson's scheme, have been asked to start work on new retail-led plans. It is to be hoped that agreement on a scheme can be reached quickly so that the buildings can be preserved and brought back into use.

Greg Lawrence CC
Chairman, Smithfield Market Tenants' Association

SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GENERAL MARKET AND ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

In September 2013, following vigorous campaigning by Save Britain's Heritage and the Victorian Society, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local government directed that Henderson Global Investors' planning application for the redevelopment of the General Market, Fish Market and associated buildings be referred to him. A public inquiry was held in February of this year and the inspector's report was published in early July. The inspector recommended that planning permission be refused and the Secretary of State accepted the recommendation. So it is back to the drawing board for these long neglected buildings. Much emphasis was placed in the report on the value of the complex of buildings on the Smithfield site as a whole, as well as the preservation of the market hall in the General Market building. It appears that only a solution that preserves the hall will be acceptable now.

SAFER LORRIES SCHEME

In July 2014, the Mayor of London, Transport for London and London Councils launched a consultation, which ran until 22 September, on the UK's first 'Safer Lorries' scheme. The scheme would mean that lorries without sideguards and safety mirrors would be banned from the London Low Emission Zone. It is thought that the scheme could be introduced early next year. It would operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The aim is to reduce fatalities among cyclists and pedestrians involved in accidents with lorries. Under national legislation, many HGVs are already fitted with safety equipment, but construction lorries, tipper trucks, waste vehicles, cement mixers and certain other forms of HGV have been exempt from having sideguards fitted and HGVs registered before 2000 have been exempt from having extended view mirrors fitted.

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE COMMENT

Smithfield tenants provide employment to hundreds of men and women and are clients of many City services including accountants, bankers, lawyers and so on. Tenants provide the income of many thousands in the meat trade across the United Kingdom. Scotland has spoken. Like it or not, the people voted to stay in the UK. We at Smithfield have likewise made it clear that we wish to remain bonded to the City of London and just as the Scots expect support from Parliament, so we expect total support from the City.

Those without knowledge of how the trade works, who consider the Market to be in the wrong place, are incredibly naive. Without the City/Market historical bond, the days of ordinary hard working people being able to afford rich, succulent red meat will be over.

Smithfield Market could not survive on any other site. The traders rely on the association with the City and the current operation is an exercise in good husbandry. We are pleased to work with the City's team and look forward to a healthy and profitable partnership in the years ahead.

CHURCHILL CORNER

"To you, America" – A Thanksgiving Day Celebration
Royal Albert Hall – 70 years ago

"We have come here tonight to add our celebration to those which are going forward all over the world... Always there has been that desire for thanksgiving, and never, I think, has there been more justification, more compulsive need than now."

"When we see that in three or four years the United States has in sober fact become the greatest military, naval, and air power in the world - that, I say to you in this time of war, is in itself a subject for profound thanksgiving."

"We are joined together, shedding our blood side by side, struggling for the same ideals, and joined together until the triumph of the great causes which we serve has been made manifest."

Winston Churchill

Quote of the Month

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."

TS Eliot

21ST CENTURY ALDERMEN

I have been invited to say something about the role of the Aldermen of the City of London, a tough challenge to manage in no more than 600 words, so here is a condensed version with apologies in advance for the many aspects of the Aldermanic role that I have missed out.

It is a very long time since Aldermen have been responsible for keeping law and order in their Wards or since they have been able to gain a lucrative income from selling licenses and consents. As the result of a very recent change in the procedure for electing Aldermen, it is no longer a requirement that Aldermen serve as Magistrates. Although much has changed over the roughly 800 year period during which Aldermen have been elected to that office in the City, we still have two types of gown to wear, depending upon the occasion (either violet or scarlet) and we are attended at certain ceremonial occasions by our beadles who carry the civic mace (or maces) for each of the 25 City Wards.

The 25 Aldermen today still have a broad range of duties and responsibilities. They are the senior members for each Ward and as such preside at the annual Wardmotes at which voters in the Ward can ask questions of their elected Members. Wardmotes are also the occasion for each Alderman to appoint (usually to re-appoint) a Deputy for the Ward – some larger Wards, including mine (Cripplegate) have two Deputies.

The Aldermen are very useful when a procession is required – processing is one of the first skills a new Alderman must master and in order to emphasise the seriousness of the role and the importance of rapid learning, the newest Alderman leads the procession in (the order is reversed on the way out).

There are more serious and important aspects of the role of the Aldermen. The best understood role is to prepare for higher office. Typically, each year an Alderman will become one of the two Sheriffs elected by the Livery in June and one, elected by the Aldermen from two names decided upon by the Livery late each September, will become the Lord Mayor of London for a year. Lord Mayors may only be elected from among those Aldermen that have served as Sheriff. So, if we want Lord Mayors, we need Aldermen among whom are found people with the right combination of experience and skills to perform a very public role in an exemplary manner.

The high degree of trust and confidence in which Lord Mayors are held has most recently been demonstrated by the appointment of the current Lord Mayor, Fiona Woolf, to chair the inquiry into historic child abuse. This is a very high profile and important role, but I think it will be a tough assignment and the Lord Mayor deserves great credit for taking this on.

As Members of the Court of Common Council, Aldermen participate as members of Committees across the full spread of civic activities. In addition, Aldermen are members of various Trusts and Foundations, especially those connected with education, in a number of instances in an ex officio capacity. As time passes, the number of "good causes" that an Alderman is connected with will usually grow. As it is assumed that most Aldermen will also be leading busy and successful business careers, finding time to manage all of this as well as in many cases significant Livery Company commitments can become a real challenge. The hurly-burly involved is a good training ground for those aspiring to be Lord Mayor in the future.

David Graves, Alderman

THREE NIGHT MARKETS EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL

Earlier this year, the Tenants' Association was asked to give permission for some photography and sketching around the Market for an exhibition covering Smithfield, Billingsgate and New Covent Garden. The results of this work, entitled 'Three Night Markets' and featuring works by artists Xanthe Mosley and Susan Henderson and photographer James Forshall, are on display at City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA in the Cafe and 2nd floor Chamber Lobby on weekdays from 8.30am to 6.00pm until 16th October.

NOTTA LOTTA

Yarrow, drunk as a tea, was once believed to cure flu and heal the wounds of World War I soldiers.

Cows produce 200,000 glasses of milk in one lifetime.

Cracks in glass move at 3,000 miles per hour.

The Milky Way has over one billion stars.

Earth is the only Planet not to be named after a Greek God.

The Smithfield Gazette invites tenants, staff and others to forward information regarding personal news and events for inclusion in the Gazette. Your stories are of great interest to your colleagues and will go unnoticed without your input. Who's getting married? Is there a new baby? Are you looking for sponsorship for a charity event? Let us know by email smta.smithfield@btconnect.com, telephone 020 7248 3151, or by mail to 225 Central Markets, London, EC1A 9LH.

LIGHTS OUT, 4TH AUGUST 2014

"The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." These words were spoken by Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, on the eve of Britain's entry into the First World War one hundred years ago. As part of the commemorations, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport initiated the 'Lights Out' project which encouraged the turning out of lights in buildings across the UK between 10pm and 11pm on 4th August.

To turn out the lights at Smithfield Market for an hour at effectively the beginning of the Market's working day was not thought practicable, so, instead, a short ceremony was held at the War Memorial in Grand Avenue starting at 9.45pm and culminating in the symbolic turning out of lights in Grand Avenue at 10.00pm with the lighting of candles.

The ceremony was conducted by the Reverend Katherine Rumens, Rector of St Giles Cripplegate, with readings from the bible and of poems, taken from the Westminster Abbey service, by Paul Spooner, Operations Manager at Smithfield and Lis Batteson of the Tenants' Association.

The atmospheric and moving ceremony was attended by some sixty or more people – a mixture of Market workers, local residents and passers-by.

LORD MAYOR'S VISIT TO SMITHFIELD MARKET 17TH JULY 2014

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf, and her party, was welcomed for the annual visit to Smithfield Market on 17th July. The official party was taken on a tour of the Market, conducted by Greg Lawrence, Chairman, and John Absalom, Deputy Chairman, of the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association and at the end of the tour the Lord Mayor and the Lord Mayor's Consort were presented with a selection of poultry at PJ Martinelli Ltd. After the tour, the official party and invited guests were entertained to breakfast at Butchers' Hall.

A celebrity is one who is known to many persons he is glad he doesn't know.

Lord Byron

CHRISTMAS TRAFFIC PLAN FOR SMITHFIELD MARKET

Over the past few years, the Market has become steadily busier at Christmas. This has resulted occasionally in gridlock, involving all the immediately surrounding roads and spilling over to outside the Market. To try to improve matters, a plan has been devised that will operate on the three or four busiest nights of trading in the run-up to Christmas. Provisionally the dates are

18/19 December 2014 (Thursday/Friday)

21/22 December 2014 (Sunday/Monday)

22/23 December 2014 (Monday/Tuesday)

23/24 December 2014 (Tuesday/Wednesday)

and the operating times from 10pm until 8am. The intention is to keep all non-Market traffic out of the area during those times and to regulate access for Market traffic by designating entry and exit points for different classes of vehicles, as follows (all references relate to the plan below)

1 – LONG LANE

No entry for HGVs. Access for private cars, taxis and LGVs. Road closed eastbound and parking bays suspended. Holding area for smaller vehicles. Private cars will be routed to the car park.

2 – WEST SMITHFIELD

No entry for private cars, taxis and LGVs. Access for HGVs only. Rotunda area is a stacking area for LGVs and private cars. Between Farringdon Street and East Poultry Avenue possible stacking area for HGVs.

3 – SMITHFIELD STREET

Exit for all vehicles. Parking suspended, use as overflow stacking area.

4 – CHARTERHOUSE STREET

Access for HGVs and LGVs only. Exit for private cars, taxis and LGVs.

5 – EAST POULTRY AVENUE

Controlled access only for HGVs, LGVs and taxis.

6 – ST JOHN STREET

Exit for all classes of vehicle. Entry point for private cars, taxis and LGVs if Long Lane is full.

7 – CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE

Exit only for all vehicles.

8 – CARTHUSIAN STREET

No entry for all vehicles.

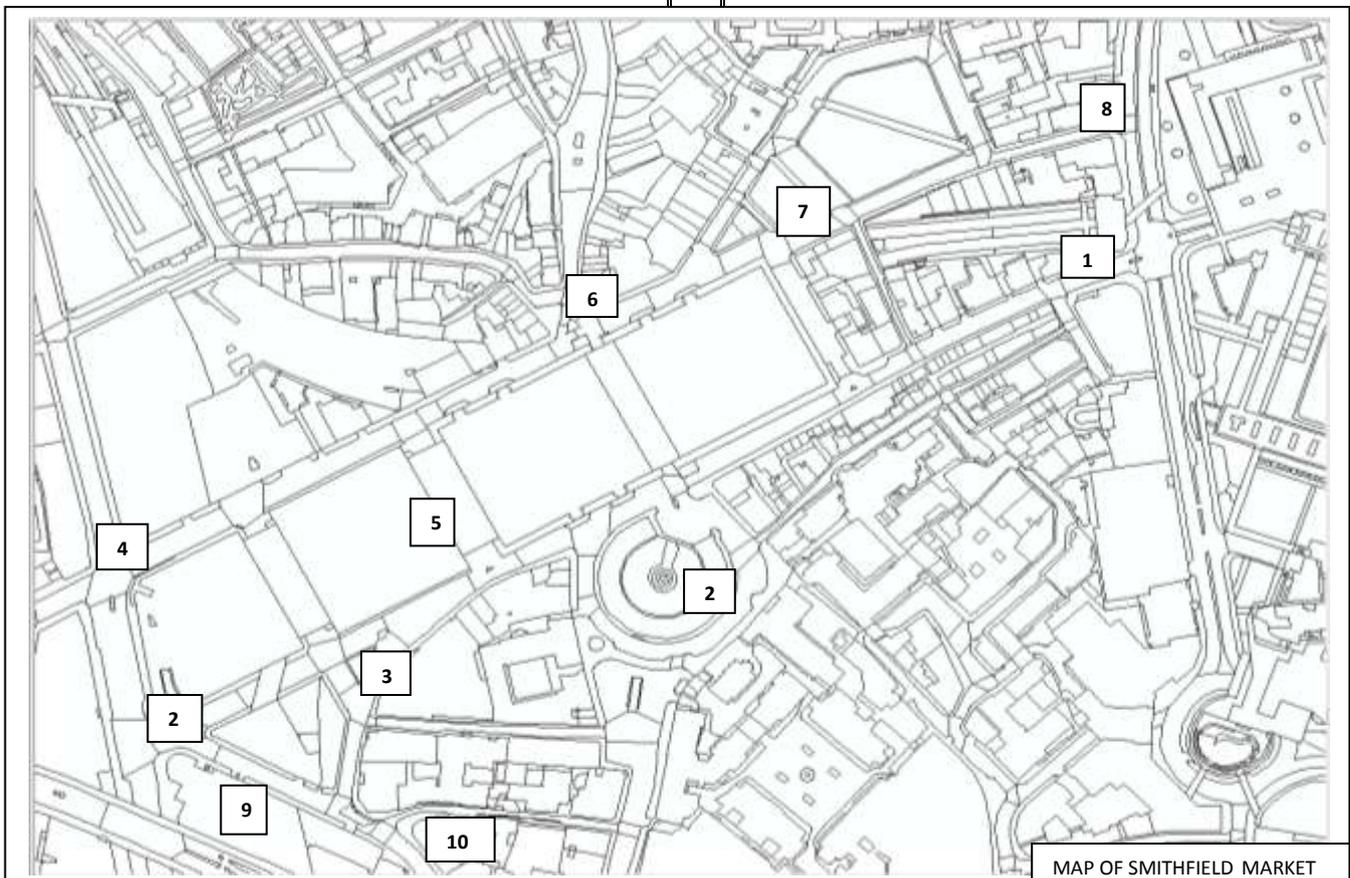
9 – SNOW HILL BETWEEN SMITHFIELD STREET AND FARRINGDON STREET

Exit for all vehicles and overflow stacking for HGVs.

10 – SNOW HILL BETWEEN HOLBORN VIADUCT AND SMITHFIELD STREET

Stacking area for HGVs.

Details will be circulated widely via the City of London's traffic bulletins, Twitter feeds, TfL resources, the SMTA website and leaflets will be handed out at the Market.



CITY OF LONDON CHIEF OFFICERS – THE REMEMBRANCER

Paul Double is the present Remembrancer and his role is to act as a conduit between The Lord Mayor and the City and the Sovereign and Parliament. He is also the City's Ceremonial Officer and Chief of Protocol. His office has three separate functions, parliamentary, ceremonial and private events. First, to protect the interests of the City in Parliament, second to arrange for high profile visitors to be welcomed, and third to organise the hiring of the Guildhall for private functions. Mr Double was a Barrister and served in government prior to joining the City. Sometimes critics feel he is over cautious in giving interviews etc, but in reality he is a man of enormous charm always reticent to appear brash in any way.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

Court of Common Council meets at Guildhall on a regular basis and is open to the public. If you gain your living from Smithfield Market you would be neglectful indeed if you did not attend at least one meeting to see for yourself how local government operates in our great City. Before you enter Guildhall pay a visit to the wonderful church of St Lawrence Jewry Next Guildhall where the Vicar, Canon David Parrott, may be around to greet you. The delightful laminated card he has produced to show Times of Prayer is backed with Psalm 121:1 -

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

HOLBORN VIADUCT

Smithfield Tenants, customers, passers-by and those so verbal on the future of the General Market have ignored the example of Victorian architecture, vision and sense of future requirements at the very point of the current debate.

The Holborn Viaduct was the most ambitious scheme of the nineteenth century. Reports at the time said "architectural details were handled superbly well, especially where the cast iron arches meet the granite columns above exquisite gilded metal capitals that begin to herald Art-Nouveau forms".

The opening of the Viaduct by Queen Victoria was a splendid occasion, the Queen's Carriage stopped for a moment before the Viaduct Bridge where she saw Smithfield Market gorgeously decorated with flags and streamers. Holborn Viaduct has now been recognised as the world's first flyover.

ABERDEEN ANGUS BEEF

The original Aberdeen-Angus was first bred at the beginning of the 19th century in northeast Scotland. Today the cattle are bred in South Africa, South America, Canada and the USA. Nowadays most of these cattle are cross-bred and pure-bred Aberdeen Angus beef production is very small. To be classed as Aberdeen-Angus the minimum specification is that the animal has been "sired by a pedigree, registered, Aberdeen-Angus"

Experts claim that the distinctive "marbling" of the fat makes Aberdeen-Angus beef unique, as the fat drains off when the beef is cooked. "The further you are from Angus genetics the less likely that marbling". To achieve that, cattle are fed on grass, rather than cereal animal-feed. Grass fed cattle are much higher in omega-3s; conjugated linoleic acids, which are healthy and much higher in grass-fed beef.

"The succulence adds to the flavour, which adds to the taste".

Not eating meat is a decision, eating meat
is an instinct.

Denis Leary

VIEW FROM A CATERING BUTCHER

It seemed that much of the UK breathed a sigh of relief this week when Scotland made the decision not to break up the union that has lasted so long with so many benefits to all of us.

Although it would be wise for all of us to look at the pure or global picture it is human nature to consider how such actions would affect us. As a catering butcher I have looked north of the border (yes it has always been there) to business with beef producers who for generations have produced beef which, at its best, is second to none in the world.

Indeed, although it is hard to believe, their forefathers walked their cattle to Smithfield Market. The relationships built over many years are precious to me and, although impossible to quantify, Scotland becoming a new nation would have been bound to have had some effect on these relationships. So I, for one, rejoice in the fact that the family which is the United Kingdom remains just that ...united.

Peter Allen

Chairman, National Association of Catering Butchers

ADA LOVELACE ENCHANTRESS OF NUMBERS

Take a stroll through St James's Square, wander to the north side and find on the wall of a building the Blue Plaque that says Ada, Countess of Lovelace lived here. Ada was the very beginning of the Computer age. Her incredible perception of how computing could operate was 200 years ahead of modern technology.

One of the most remarkable women of her time but largely forgotten in our time, Ada was born in 1815 and died in 1852, aged 36, the same age as her father Lord Byron, when he died in 1824 of a fever in Missolonghi after taking up the cause of Greek separatism from the Ottoman Empire.

Ada was a month old when Byron left England. He never saw her again and she never knew him. Despite Byron's scandalous activities he never forgot her and she features in his world famous Childe Harold poetry. Her mother, bitter about Byron, was concerned to insure Ada's imaginative brain would not sink to Byron's excesses, even concerned she may have inherited some form of mental instability. Ada was not allowed to see any portrait of her father until her twentieth birthday.

Byron was revitalised financially when his "Childe Harold" was published and caused a literary sensation. He soon spent the money but never wavered in his love for the daughter he had seen so little of. Childe Harold's Pilgrimage Canto 111 is essentially a travelogue, Childe meant a young male aristocrat, and here we find Ada as his muse. "Is thy face like thy mothers my fair child, ADA! sole daughter of my house and heart? When last I saw thy young blue eyes they smiled. And then we parted...."

Ada grew up under the grip of her mother but she had a brilliant mind; she tackled the principle of air flight 100 years before the Wright Brothers were born. She was full of wonderful ideas with an incredible grasp of mathematics, calculus, Euclid, algebra and so on. Ada was allowed to educate herself under a series of world class tutors. At the age of 17 she met the great mathematician Charles Babbage and became enthralled with his work on his "Difference Engine" which he saw as a calculator using thousands of cogs, gears and spindles at enormous cost. The Government gave him financial aid but the machine was never finished.

Babbage asked Ada to translate Italian mathematician Luigi Menabrea's (a future prime Minister of Italy) memoir on Babbage's next Engine, the "Analytical Engine". This time Babbage was unable to convince Prime Minister Peel to give any financial help after an acrimonious meeting but whilst Babbage continued his work, once again the machine was never finished.

Ada's notes on her translation, which took her nine months to complete, are longer than the memoir itself. In her notes she describes an algorithm for the Analytical Engine, now considered the first algorithm designed for a computer. Ada Lovelace was indeed the first programmer.

THE BANK OF HAPPINESS

All aboard. Your mind is a junction with trains of thought arriving and departing pausing only to replenish. Be sure of your destination because that's where your train will take you. Where are you going? You're going to join the bank. What will you find when you get there? Whatever you search for. No guarantee the seat will be comfy, but even if you have to stand, the trip will be worth it.

Jostling with sometimes hostile fellow travellers, stand tall, knowing there is no other mind like yours. How do you control this extraordinary power? You do it by allowing the genius you were born with to command. You are in the driving seat. The future is yours. You are in charge of your own destiny. Don't waste precious time with doubts fed by lack of confidence.

Believe in your ability, the fuel that powers the train. Here is the golden rule for drivers which must be obeyed - what you give, you receive. Give your kindness, warmth, patience, respect and love. Give without selfishness and benefit from the greatest investment you will ever make. Join the Bank of Happiness today.

RED MEAT - TEDDY AND B12

Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt became the youngest ever President of the US following the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901. His exploits in the battle of San Juan Heights made him a war hero. He was nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honour. The honour was finally awarded to him by President Bill Clinton 100 years later.

Twenty-five years ago an American doctor used the following phrase to remember the names of all the B Vitamins. "Teddy Roosevelt Never Painted Pyramids Blue in Fancy Clothes" It contains the first letter of all the B Vitamins.

Vitamin B1=Thiamine, B2=Riboflavin, B3=Niacin
B5=Pantothenic acid, B6=Pyridoxine, B7=Biotin
B8=Inositol, B9=Folic acid, B12=Cyanocobalamin.

B vitamins are your best protection against heart attack and stroke and more powerful than any drug. B vitamins are water soluble which means you find them in the meat of animal protein and the best source is red meat the only real dietary source of B12, which is vital for heart health.

Inadequate meat consumption leads to low levels of B12 and high homocystine levels, increasing risk of heart death. Protein, especially red meat, is the best source of coenzyme Q10, potentially the most important single nutrient for heart health.

DIARY OF THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918 – PART 4

June 1918

- 6th US 3rd Division captures Bouresches and south part of Belleau Wood
- 9th Germans launch fourth Spring offensive, Battle of the Matz, in French sector
- 15th Italians prevail against Austro-Hungarian forces at Battle of Piave

July 1918

- 6th US President Woodrow Wilson agrees to US intervention in Siberia
- 15th Final phase of great German Spring push, Second Battle of Marne, begins
- 16/17th Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and children are murdered by the Bolsheviks
- 18th Allies counterattack against German forces

August 1918

- 3rd Allied intervention begins at Vladivostok
- 8th Haig directs start of successful Amiens offensive, forcing all German troops back to the Hindenburg Line; Ludendorff calls it a "black day" for German army

September 1918

- 12th US forces clear the St-Mihiel salient, greatest air assault of the war launched by the US
- 19th Start of British offensive in Palestine, the Battle of Megiddo
- 26th Battle of the Vardar pits Serb, Czech, Italian, French and British forces against Bulgarians
- 26th Meuse-Argonne offensive opens; the final Franco-American offensive of the war
- 27th to 17th Oct - Haig's forces storm Hindenburg Line, breaking through at several points
- 28th to 14th Oct - Belgian troops attack at Ypres
- 29th Bulgaria concludes armistice negotiations

October 1918

- 3/4th Germany and Austria send peace notes to US President Woodrow Wilson requesting an armistice
- 17th to 11th November - British advance to the Sambre and Scheldt rivers, taking many German prisoners
- 21st Germany ceases unrestricted submarine warfare
- 27th Erich Ludendorff resigns
- 30th Turkey concludes an armistice with the Allies

November 1918

- 3rd German fleet mutinies at Kiel; Trieste falls to the Allies; Austria-Hungary concludes an armistice
- 7-11th Germany negotiates an armistice with the Allies in Ferdinand Foch's railway carriage headquarters at Compiègne
- 9th Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates
- 10th Kaiser Wilhelm II flees to Holland; German Republic is founded
- 11th Armistice day; fighting ceases at 11am

JOHN McCRAE IN FLANDERS FIELDS

Lieutenant Colonel John Alexander McCrae wrote the well known poem 'In Flanders Fields' in 1915. Born on 30 November 1872 in Canada, he was a poet, physician, author and Lieutenant Colonel of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War.

He graduated from medical school in Toronto in 1898 and worked at Toronto General Hospital and then Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Further hospital appointments as a pathologist followed until he set up his own practice in 1905. He served in the artillery during the Second Boer War and on his return was appointed professor of pathology at the University of Vermont, where he taught until 1911.

When Britain declared war on Germany at the beginning of the First World War, Canada, a dominion of the British Empire, was also at war. McCrae was appointed as a field surgeon in the Canadian Artillery and was in charge of a field hospital during the second Battle of Ypres in 1915. It is thought that he wrote the poem after the death of his friend and former student Lieutenant Alexis Helmer in the battle.

In June 1915 McCrae was tasked with setting up No 3 Canadian General Hospital near Boulogne. He died there on 28 January 1918 of pneumonia and is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of Wimereux Cemetery, a few miles from Boulogne.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae, 1915

NEWS IN BRIEF

War Requiem Concert for Veterans Aid – Benjamin Britten's War Requiem will be performed at the Royal Albert Hall by the Royal Choral Society at 3.30pm on Remembrance Sunday 9 November, to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War I. Funds raised from the concert will go to Veterans Aid, a charity providing support to ex-service men and women in crisis. Tickets for the concert are available from the Royal Albert Hall Box Office on 0845 401 5045, www.royalalberthall.com.

John Absalom, Deputy Chairman of the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association, participated in an episode of 'The Kitchen Cabinet' a Radio 4 programme hosted by Jay Rayner. It was recorded at the Museum of London and broadcast on Saturday 30 August.

Norman Finnimore, meat historian, would like to hear from readers if they have any trade photos or information. He can be contacted by email norman.finnimore@yahoo.com. His latest images can be found at www.flickr.com/photos/32200120@N08

Congratulations to Harriet Bowley in the SMTA office on her marriage to Steve Brame on Saturday 20 September.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE

Established in 1894, the Society is the premier patriotic society of England. Membership provides the opportunity to take part in the Society's determination to honour England and Englishness and to celebrate the English nation and its achievements. More information is available as follows

Web – www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com

Email – info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com

Telephone – 020 3225 5011

GAZETTE BY EMAIL

If you would prefer to receive the Gazette by email, please email us to request this at smta.smithfield@btconnect.com

DIARY

22 Oct SMTA Council Meeting
8 Nov The Lord Mayor's Show
19 Nov SMTA Council Meeting
26 Nov Markets Committee

TAIL PIECE

Many believe a Freeman can herd sheep over London Bridge but that is not the case. We are taught to count these sheep to get to sleep. It is said that Mary's little lamb, on becoming a sheep, was served in a dingy restaurant in the Old Kent Road where it proved to be as tough as the final journey along that road to Smithfield Market. Then there is Dolly, delivered by cloning experts, one of whom, Ian Wilmut, is quoted as saying "Dolly is derived from a mammary gland cell and we couldn't think of a more impressive pair of glands than Dolly Parton's".

Sheep equals mutton which foreign immigrants devour in preference to lamb because of their superiority in the art of cooking the cheapest cuts. These thrifty chefs regularly descend upon Smithfield to boost the mutton trade and ensure lamb does not become more exalted than Scotch steak. The US Ambassador Matthew Barzun complains in the Tatler of being fed too much lamb, poor him. In the USA half the population have never tried it. Annual consumption is 0.4 kg, poor things. In the UK annual lamb consumption is 4.7kg, way behind Greece at 12.8kg and Mongolia with a massive 45.1kg.

Hearty eaters, despite the need to trim the waist, often crave a pan fried steak prepared by an artist with oil and a touch of red wine served with smooth butter-cream potatoes, glistening green peas gathered by those TV advert experts and a fine glass of true bliss. Chicken rules the catering world because it can be incorporated into almost every recipe but chicken has nothing like the benefits of red meat which contains B12 and far greater levels of iron and zinc as well as having a balanced level of saturated and monounsaturated fats with only a small level of polyunsaturated fat. Leave out red meat at your peril.

Some swear by pork; if you ever face death by firing squad, on the eve of execution given a choice, plump for a meal of "suckling pig" and go to the next world with a truly happy experience. It's the way back for vegetarians. Christmas is coming; notwithstanding the annual attempt by TV Chefs to push the goose, we all eat turkey; and why not? How many turkeys would have lived without us including it in our celebrations?

People worldwide benefit from consuming this amiable creature in recollection of a man the faithful believe was the saviour of the world. He certainly was the best salesman turkey producers could ever have engaged. Herod who slaughtered the innocent, never stooped to the method of his departure. Butchers would never treat their animals in this way.

When you sit down to the traditional feast, observe the turkey decked in all its finery, star of the show, and say a prayer for me.

I would be pleased if you could remember that.

Yours as ever,

Fred