

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE



EDITION 153

July 2015

CITY GIVING DAY – A DAY WHEN THE CITY UNITES

The Lord Mayor's City Giving Day is on 30th September this year. It is a day on which the City can unite and celebrate the wide range of charitable and community work undertaken by so many working in the Square Mile. Companies and organisations in the City are being encouraged to get involved by registering on the website www.lordmayorsappeal.org/cgd and holding fundraisers, promoting their charitable work or simply making donations.

In addition, companies will be encouraged to showcase their charity and community works in their foyers and reception areas so that their staff and visitors can see what they are doing. The Lord Mayor intends to walk the streets of the City on 30th September to meet the people and organisations engaged in City Giving Day and celebrate their achievements. I would urge Smithfield Market Tenants to join in.

Greg Lawrence CC
Chairman, Smithfield Market Tenants' Association

LORD MAYOR'S ANNUAL VISIT TO SMITHFIELD MARKET

This year's visit to Smithfield by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alan Yarrow, takes place on Tuesday 28th July.

The Mayoral party will tour the Market with the Chairman of the Tenants' Association, Greg Lawrence, and the Market Superintendent, Robert Wilson. Following the tour, the visitors will attend a breakfast hosted by the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association which will be held in Haberdashers' Hall. Some 120 guests are expected to attend, including members of the Court of Common Council, officers of the City of London, representatives of Crossrail and a wide range of other organisations with links to the Market.

EUROPE AND THE CITY

The question of the City's position on the EU referendum was raised at Court of Common Council on 25th June. Polling in the City had been undertaken in 2013 before the general election, but since there would now definitely be a referendum, the emphasis should be on finding out from City businesses what reforms to European rules and regulations would most assist them and their businesses. The results of this exercise could then be used in negotiations to achieve better protection for the UK's financial services, insurance markets and other businesses. Alex Deane made the point that declaring our hand now would undermine the UK's credibility in negotiations. If all the polling indicates that there will be a vote to stay in, there is no incentive for the EU to concede anything.

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE COMMENT

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Alan Yarrow, should be applauded for raising the profile of City Giving Day, this year on 30th September, by promising to walk the streets of the City and meet as many people as he can to hear their inspiring and powerful stories and celebrate their achievements.

On Europe, the question of the UK's continued membership, the referendum and the position of the City of London was raised in questions to Policy Chairman, Mark Boleat. The point was made that the City's focus was too much on the ultimate referendum decision and not enough on what could be achieved in the negotiations beforehand. There was confusion about the role of the Policy Chairman in this matter – who does he speak for – the City, the UK or the Corporation of London? The Chairman seemed uncomfortable with the line of questioning. City voters need clear answers – who speaks for us?

JUPITER LONDON NOCTURNE CYCLE RACING, SMITHFIELD

Thousands of spectators filled the streets around Smithfield Market on the afternoon and evening of Saturday 6th June for a packed programme of cycle racing ranging from folding bikes, penny farthings and Santander Cycle Hire to elite cycle racing with world-class competitors. The climax of the racing were the Schwalbe Elite Women's Criterium, won by Katie Archibald of Pearl Izumi Sports Tours International and the Santini Elite Criterium won by Ed Clancy of JLT Condor. This was the ninth year the event had been held at Smithfield and the first year with a reversed circuit. To avoid interfering with the operations of the Market, work on the circuit and ancillary facilities starts at noon on the day before the races and everything has to be dismantled again by late Sunday afternoon – a feat in itself.

Quote of the Month

"Somebody should tell us, right at the start of our lives, that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit, every minute of every day. Do it! I say. Whatever you want to do, do it now! There are only so many tomorrows."

Pope Paul VI

IN MY OPINION

I was elected to Common Council in 1994 representing the Ward of Tower, and having served on various committees including Finance, Planning & Transportation, Housing, Markets, Culture, Heritage and Libraries in the intervening period, was elected Chairman of the Finance Committee for a five year term in 2011.

The Finance Committee plays an important role in the finances of the City of London Corporation. It provides careful stewardship of the City Corporation's funds and controls a number of functions which are of fundamental importance to the City Corporation and the way in which it works. Its principal responsibilities are the development of fiscal and information systems, maintaining overall control of income and expenditure, and ensuring that the City Corporation achieves value for money in all its activities.

The Committee is responsible for setting the annual City's Council Tax, Business Rates Premium and Budgets, and recommending them to the Court of Common Council for approval, and also recommending the annual audited accounts for the various funds and the City of London Pension Scheme to the Court of Common Council for approval.

There are three funds which the City Corporation uses to pay for the work that the committee oversees.

City Fund is probably the most easily recognisable of the three funds as it meets the cost of the City of London's local authority activities. It pays for our local policing, our port health services, our art and cultural work, our environmental, planning and highways services, children, education and adult social care, housing services, courts and central services at Guildhall. It is funded by non-domestic business rates (of which we keep less than 10% of the amount we collect – the balance being redistributed by central government as grants to local councils across the UK), council tax from residents, government grants, and income from our cash balances and property investments.

City's Cash is a combination of funds built up over eight centuries from donations and legacies, which have been invested in property and the stock market. The investment income is used to pay for the support and promotion of the City and its services to greater London and beyond. These services include the work of Smithfield, Billingsgate and Leadenhall Markets, the Lord Mayor in promoting financial services and UK trade overseas, and the management and conservation of over 11,000 acres of open spaces in the London area (including Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath). It also covers our ongoing work in surrounding boroughs and beyond in helping support education, training and employment opportunities for young people.

Bridge House Estates is the third fund and was originally set up through bridge taxes, rent and private bequests to deal with the upkeep of London Bridge. Its investment income now funds the maintenance of the London bridges for which we have responsibility – Tower, London, Southwark, Millennium and Blackfriars Bridges, at no cost to the public. The investments have been managed efficiently over the centuries enabling us to also help charitable causes across Greater London through the City Bridge Trust, which makes grants amounting to around £15m every year from investment income.

I am enjoying my tenure as Chairman of Finance in what has proven to be a challenging and demanding economic background, where often, to do nothing is not an option, and efficiencies have to be made. In my opinion, the responsibilities provide a unique insight into all aspects of the Corporation's activities, and I am grateful for the positive help and support that I receive from both Members and Officers.

Roger Chadwick CC
Chairman of Finance

THE MATTHEWS STORY

Percy James Waby (Jim) had a successful butcher's shop in Wallington. His accountant was Raymond Bloye, they were great friends and built a chain of retail butchers in London and the Home Counties. They purchased Lambull Ltd and then Matthews with fifteen or so shops. Once meat was de-rationed in 1954 the business took off.

Matthews was created by a great meat man and a fine administrator. Jim died suddenly in 1947 but Ray, who visited the cemetery every year, continued. At this time they had some forty-seven shops. Ray's old colleague from the Milk Marketing Board, Norman Buddery, was appointed managing director. From 1950 to the 1970s there was rapid growth aided by the purchase of a public company which enabled Matthews Holdings itself to become a public quoted company.

There was a great mix; Arndale Centres, shopping precincts and high streets. Family shops included Cobbs in Sloane St, Allens in Brompton Rd, Hicks in Old Brompton Rd and Joyce and Matthews opposite Harrods. Market style shops were Goodalls in North End Road Fulham, Bob Eatwells in New Cross, Atlantic Rd Brixton, Powis Market in Woolwich, Berwick St in Soho and Kingston Market. Expansion into the Midlands and Devon followed.

Other companies enhanced Matthews; Henry S Fitter wholesalers and international shippers, Grimditch and Webb Hersham Abattoir, Baldock and Wright Abattoir, Knightsbridge Sausages, Pell St Stepney, Farmers Rd Camberwell, CF Freeman, JT Hart,

Parsons, John Best Surrey and in the early seventies 78% of Boucheries Bernard Paris.

Matthews kept a family business feel despite being a large retail chain. A depot in St Johns Lane, Smithfield, was opened in the 1970s and Smithfield Market became the most important ingredient in their success, without which it would not have been able to develop rapidly into the flexible retail chain it became.

The decision to build a factory at Thamesmead to service shops, amalgamating Knightsbridge manufacture, boning lines, primal cuts, vac packed extensive refrigeration delivered by fridge trucks proved a bad one. Matthews had to get back to Smithfield fast. Smithfield traders welcomed them and Matthews were back on speed.

In the mid 1960's Matthews bought CF Freeman and their young buyer, Tony Miserotti, joined them. Tony and Paul Waby hit it off straight away, working in an atmosphere of fun and responsibility. Matthews was led by Eric Davies, a tremendous man, larger than life, tough military style; all the young buyers respected him. Miserotti and Paul thought the world of Eric Davies, a truly legendary figure.

After becoming a director, Paul became deputy to Eric Davies and invited Tony to be his deputy. Paul trusted him completely and was delighted when Tony continued as purchasing director after Paul left the company. They remained the greatest of friends. Their sons were born on the same day thirty years ago come the 24th January 2016 and they are best friends as well. Smithfield Market, take a bow!

This piece is based on information provided by Paul Waby. Matthews is one of the major post-war retail butchers' groups included in a list compiled by meat industry historian Norman Finimore. Meat was not de-rationed until 1954 and supermarkets were yet to come. High streets were still affordable and butchers' shops able to thrive.

THE MANSION HOUSE

The superb stained glass windows in the Egyptian Room, the style of which was in fact Roman, were created by Alexander Gibbs in 1868, the same year that Smithfield Market opened its new buildings. The upper part of the City window (the east window) shows the death of Wat Tyler, who was killed at Smithfield in 1381 by the then Lord Mayor William Walworth during the peasants revolt.

The Royal window shows King John signing the Magna Carta and Queen Elizabeth's procession from the City to Westminster by water. The windows suffered damage during the blitz, were stored and replaced after the war. They were damaged again by the Bishopsgate bomb in 1993 but can now be seen again in their original condition.

THE CHIEF COMMONER WILLIAM HARRY DOVE OBE JP

Deputy Billy Dove was elected Chief Commoner on 23rd April 2015, St George's Day, which was very fitting. He is a life member of the Royal Society of St George. Winston Churchill was Vice President in 1933 and said: "There is a forgotten, nay almost forbidden word, which means more to me than any other. That word is ENGLAND."

Smithfield met Billy Dove sixty years later, in 1993, when the SMTA put up a candidate for Billingsgate Ward. The election took place in Toynbee Hall and our Mr Douglas Eland, without any committed voters, but with natural charm, braved the ordeal with eloquence and skill. Douglas became sword bearer for what became the fight to ensure Smithfield could speak for itself and survive its enemies. All workers at Smithfield owe him a debt. His courage helped Smithfield to finally gain seats in other Wards despite the City using dubious tactics to disqualify some of the Market's successful candidates.

Billy Dove won that election and proved a wonderful contributor to the work of the City. His career as a teacher, as a charity administrator at the Attlee Foundation and as clerk to the trustees of the Housing the Homeless Central Fund has been outstanding. The list of his committee work for the City of London is staggering. His other related interests are equally so. The City is fortunate indeed to have acquired a Chief Commoner of such knowledge and ability and Smithfield Market is delighted to join with others to congratulate him and wish him well for his year of office.

BUTCHER OR KNIGHT? WHO'S BURIED HERE?

An 1898 coffin inscribed "Sir Roger Charles Doughty Tichborne" retains a secret - was the corpse that of the named knight or that of a butcher named Arthur Orton of Wapping - the "Tichborne Claimant" who lived during his trial at 14 Harley Gardens? Sir Roger disappeared in 1854, presumed dead at sea, but his mother wouldn't accept it and advertised for information. In 1866 an Australian from Wagga Wagga said he was Sir Roger even though he was 20 stone and did not speak French whilst Sir Roger was slender and spoke fluent French, but there was a distinct facial resemblance.

Lady Tichborne embraced him as her long-lost son. To prevent the claimant from getting the inheritance the family went to law and thus began the most sensational trial of the Victorian age. The Court ruled for the family, the claimant was jailed for 14 years of which he served 10. He tried to make a living as a celebrity but died in poverty in 1898 still claiming to be Sir Roger. However, and most strangely, when he died the family allowed the name "Sir Roger Charles Doughty Tichborne" to be inscribed on his coffin.

THOMAS FORD, 125 YEARS

Thomas Ford is currently celebrating its 125th year in the business. You may know them as the family run, butchers sundries suppliers at Thomas Ford House opposite Smithfield Meat Market in the City of London. It all began in a yard near Bartholomew Close where Thomas Ford and his wife started selling the fore and hind quarter ends of hessian sacks and stockinette cloth used to cover meat as it was transported to Smithfield Market. It continued its expansion when it acquired meat trucks under Thomas Ford's nephews Ben and Harry, reaching their height in 1939 with a fleet of 160. Sadly the war closed Smithfield's market and it did not reopen until meat was decontrolled in 1946. Ben passed away only a few weeks before the market reopened and Harry had died in 1941. Business returned however when Ben's son Ron and Harry's son Bill, both in the armed forces, returned to reopen their father's shop. Expansion continued with Ron's mum joining along with her sister Win in the 1950s. In 1965 Ron's son Stephen joined him at the age of 16 and the two worked together making the company grow, offering butchers more innovative sundries. Then in 1989 Ron and his wife Joan retired leaving Steve in charge. Steve currently owns and runs the business along with his son Ashley, who joined the fold in February 2013. And so the company will continue to be in safe family hands.

Thomas Ford has seen many changes in the market from newspaper offcuts through to polythene bags. These days it caters for a butcher's every need from award winning sausage mixes to boning knives, mincers and meat slicers to paper bags. More impressively, and probably what has been keeping them going all these years, is the ability to change with the times and to understand and solve the challenges of butchers, by working closely alongside them. They know their trade well and this has come from the years of experience passed down through the different generations. Many might say that what the industry has gained in low prices and speed, it's lost in customer service. This is why, even more so today, Thomas Ford believes in service with a smile. It's only with a family run business that you really notice the difference in the way they look after each individual butcher in London and the Home Counties. They're open at 4am along with the market and the remaining butchers that still come to the Smithfield Meat Market, they have a 24 hour text line service, and are just putting the finishing touches to their website – and there's more to come. Of course, they have the efficiency, range and price compatibility of everyone else, but their business is just a little more personal for them.

Thomas Ford Ltd
Supplying butchers since 1890

THE NAZI WHO GOT AWAY WITH IT

The date: 2 May 1945. The Location: Oberammergau in the Bavarian Alps, where the cream of Germany's rocket engineers are under the protection of the SS.

Allied troops are advancing across Germany. Wernher von Braun, the leader of the scientists, is determined to organise his surrender to US troops. He sends his brother Magnus out on his bicycle to find the US 44th Infantry. Magnus approaches a soldier, calling out in broken English: "My name is Magnus von Braun. My brother invented the V-2. We want to surrender."

Wernher von Braun was a Nazi war criminal. Unlike some of his compatriots he never had to hide out in South America. His prompt action in Oberammergau meant that he would live a well-paid long public life in the US. Don't believe all the US post-war propaganda about him being a talented but non-political rocket scientist. He joined the Nazi Party in 1937 after bullying his way to the top position in German rocket research. He joined the SS and was promoted every year. He sported a swastika lapel badge and was photographed in full SS uniform with Himmler, his boss.

Strangely I've been coming across memories of Braun on a number of visits all over the world. His is a fascinating story of how, if you have the right skills, experience and political allies, you can get away with mass murder. I first became interested in the man and his story when I visited his office, drawing office and workshop at Peenemunde on eastern Germany's Baltic Coast some years ago.

It was here that Braun first developed the V-1 buzz-bombs that terrified Londoners and also the V-2 rockets that were so fast and so silent that Londoners didn't have time to be terrified and were killed in their hundreds. Today in reunified Germany those offices and workshops have been swept away along with, the authorities hope, all memories of Braun and his Nazi plans for world domination by rocket.

On another later holiday I visited Cape Canaveral, now renamed Cape Kennedy, the US's main rocket base on the east coast of Florida, where Braun was set up directly after the war, not as a war criminal but feted, given US citizenship, a good government salary and equipped with an office, drawing office and workshop built as an exact copy of the ones he had used in Peenemunde.

Braun's V2 terror weapon — V for vergeltung, the German word for revenge — would become the basis for US space rockets, military intercontinental ballistic missiles and eventually the Apollo moon landing.

Today it's hard to believe the US embarrassment at the Soviet Union's early space achievements. The USSR launched the first artificial satellite, Sputnik, in

1957. The first dog to fly in space, Laika took off the same year. In 1959 a Soviet probe hit the moon. The first man in space was Yuri Gagarin, who flew in 1961. In 1965 the first woman in space was Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. That year too cosmonaut Alexei Leonov was the first to walk in space outside a space craft.

A recent survey by a US magazine showed that the vast majority of US citizens believed that their country achieved all those notable space firsts. The US, it seemed, would forgive Braun and his Nazi rocket team anything if they could get the US back into the space race and develop more deadly weapons.

Last summer in France we visited a wonderful museum just outside St Omer on the road from Calais. La Coupole is a huge man-made dome hidden in the French countryside. It's been secret and unseen since 1943 until just a year or two ago. It was dug on the orders of Braun, by 500 Soviet slave prisoners working in horrific conditions, as an assembly factory and launching spot for V-1 and V-2 rockets.

Only recently open to the public, the museum is also a tribute to the French resistance fighters — many of them French communists who played such an important part in the eventual defeat of the Nazis.

Unlike most of his Nazi co-criminals who were hung at Nuremburg, Braun died in 1977 — a rich and famous man much admired in the US.

I think we should simply remember him as the Nazi war criminal who tried to rain death, destruction and mass murder on London, but never crushed our spirit.

Peter Frost

Reproduced from the Morning Star

THE GIRL WHO GOT AWAY WITH IT

Joan Reichardt fell in love with a Canadian soldier and became a war bride. This is an excerpt from her letter to the Nelson Star.

"I was working in London, on Farringdon Street - the V1 doodle bugs and the V2 rockets kept coming. Towards the end of March a V2 Rocket hit Smithfield Market, very close to where I worked. My boss saved my life that day! There was a stall in the market selling sausages, much better than those we usually got from our local butcher. Those sausages would sometimes explode when being cooked! The joke was they had so much bread in them you weren't sure whether to use mustard or jam. People in the office would order sausages and one of us would be sent to queue for them. It was my turn, but my boss had work I had to finish, so someone else went. That poor girl was killed, along with about 130 others!"

8TH MARCH 1945 **V2 ROCKET HITS SMITHFIELD**

At 11.30am on 8th March 1945 a V2 rocket hit Smithfield Market buildings on the corner of Charterhouse Street and Farringdon Road. The rocket penetrated to the rail tunnels under the building and the subsequent explosion was heard across London.

The buildings collapsed into the tunnels below leaving a massive crater. The Market was busy at the time with market workers and customers. 110 people were killed and many more seriously injured, including many women and children.

The only memorial of the event is the few words on the Smithfield Market War Memorial in Grand Avenue where the words "men, women and children of Smithfield who lost their lives in conflict since the Great War" were added following a campaign led by the SMTA to update the memorial, which was then unveiled by the Princess Royal at a ceremony on 15 June 2005.

THE RIB EYE STEAK

The rib eye steak is one of the most popular cuts of beef and lends itself to seeing off vegetarians. Your butcher must be consulted to ensure steaks are cut from the finest steer - don't accept less. To serve 4 you need two 8 to 12oz rib eye steaks cut half inch thick.

REALLY OLD-FASHIONED **MARINATED RIB EYE RECIPE**

Time 20 minutes Yield 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

½ bottle rich, full-bodied red wine, preferably Amarone
2 tablespoons sugar
6 whole cloves
½ teaspoon grated nutmeg
½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon orange zest
2x 8 to 12 ounce rib eye steaks, about ½ inch thick
salt & pepper

PREPARATION

Combine wine and sugar in a large pot and bring to boil; lower heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and orange zest, and remove pan from heat to cool. Put steaks in a large baking dish and pour marinade over them. Marinate steaks in refrigerator for at least several hours and up to three days. Take steaks out of the marinade, season with salt and pepper, and cook them in a very hot skillet, about 2 minutes each side for medium rare. (You can grill or broil them if you prefer.) Slice the meat about 1/4-inch thick and serve.

JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM was the Labour Party's anthem when Churchill was soundly defeated in the 1945 General Election. Churchill must have believed he would step up to receive the reward of the people he led to victory but was shocked to be thrown out by the Labour Party led by Clement Attlee, who had adopted JERUSALEM as his campaign anthem.

JERUSALEM is the word for paradise as in heaven but it led millions of Crusaders to death from starvation, pestilence, and attacks from the citizens of countries they marched through on their journeys.

JERUSALEM is a poem written in 1804 by William Blake, who admired Napoleon, was tried and acquitted for treason during the Napoleonic Wars and was one of the greatest of English poets. It is based on biblical themes that talk of a "second coming".

JERUSALEM the poem was virtually forgotten until 1916 when England was reeling at the appalling numbers of its soldiers being slaughtered in the Great War. The Poet Laureate, Robert Bridges, asked Sir Hubert Parry to set it to music to give renewed confidence to continue to fight whatever the cost.

JERUSALEM inspired King George V who preferred it to "God Save the King" but the poem is concerned only with England. JERUSALEM is used at major sports events, was sung at the wedding of Prince William and still is the climactic moment of the Last Night of the Proms.

JERUSALEM asks four questions:

1. And did those feet 2. And was the holy Lamb
3. And did the Countenance Divine 4. And was
Jerusalem. You answer as you may, but the most
debated words are "Among these dark Satanic Mills"?

JERUSALEM was written as the industrial revolution was underway and the invention of the steam engine allowed Samuel Wyatt and John Rennie to build the Albion Flour Mills in Southwark which threatened small millers and forced some to slave within it. Some believe the Albany Mills were burnt down in an act of arson.

JERUSALEM talks of "dark Satanic Mills" and most believe Blake is referring to the Industrial revolution and the end of the way of life of small artisans. Some, however, think that Blake was referring to the major churches of his time and the way people were used as serfs by those wealthy enough to dominate and control them.

JERUSALEM remains the campaign song for patriots and may prove to be an anthem for those who come forward to live and die for ENGLAND.

JERUSALEM – THE POEM

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green:
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On England's pleasant pastures seen!

And did the Countenance Divine,
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among these dark Satanic Mills?

Bring me my Bow of burning gold:
Bring me my arrows of desire:
Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold!
Bring me my Chariot of fire!

I will not cease from Mental Fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand:
Till we have built Jerusalem,
In England's green and pleasant Land.

By William Blake 1757–1827

SALUTE TO THE RAF

Nearly five years ago, on Tuesday 7th Sept 2010, the Bishop of London gave the following blessing at St Paul's to end the salute to the RAF WWII veterans.

"Go forward into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always."

"Never be afraid to try something new.
Remember, amateurs built the ark,
professionals built the Titanic."

unknown author

"Those who dance are considered insane by
those who can't hear the music."

George Carlin

SMITHFIELD MARKET APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

20 vacancies

for apprentices to start work as cutters or
salesmen, mainly night shifts, at
Smithfield Market

All skills and training provided free

Pay – £240 per week

Contact **020 7332 1212** for more information

Ideal for candidates aged 18 or over

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most
fragile things, but just look what they can
do when they stick together."

Vesta M Kelly

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE

Incorporated by Royal Charter
Patron – Her Majesty The Queen

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

Full UK Individual Membership costs £25 a year and full UK Joint Membership is £35 a year. Other membership categories are available.

GAZETTE BY EMAIL

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NEWS IN BRIEF

London Bombings, Magna Carta and the Battle of Waterloo commemorated - a new exhibition, running from 6 June until 1 October in the City of London Heritage Gallery in the Guildhall Art Gallery will be displaying poems, pictures and notes left at the 7/7 memorial gardens in London as well as a book of condolence to commemorate the London bombings. Also on display will be the City's 1297 Magna Carta and an illuminated scroll of thanks presented to the Duke of Wellington following his victory at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Congratulations to Harriet and Steve Brame on the birth of Herbie Brame on 26 June. Harriet is currently on maternity leave from the SMTA office.

TED PRICE

We remember with affection Ted Price, who died recently. Ted started work at Smithfield shortly after rationing ended in 1954. He was part-owner of Edward Price and Partners and was active in the Tenants' Association having been vice chairman and then chairman of the Poultry Section for a number of years. He also served on Court of Common Council as a Member for Farringdon Without and was a member of the Worshipful Company of Butchers.

The Smithfield Gazette invites tenants, staff and others to forward items for inclusion in the Gazette. These could be personal or company news and events or anything else you might care to write about. 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

DIARY

22 Jul SMTA Council Meeting
22 Jul Markets Committee
23 Sep SMTA Council Meeting
30 Sep Markets Committee
21 Oct SMTA Council Meeting
18 Nov SMTA Council Meeting
30 Nov Markets Committee

TAIL PIECE

Is Smithfield Market an endangered species? Life is too short to waste it on bores who continue to attack the Market even though it is a proven example of all things vital to our economy, health, wealth and safety and is a major bond with the City of London.

Smithfield Market understands the importance of bankers and the need to encourage them to remain in the City. Smithfield tenants by their entrepreneurial skills, with the aid of their bankers, provide the very jobs for managers, salesmen, cashiers, drivers, clerical workers and accountants which were highlighted in the general election as essential to the United Kingdom's future.

We must stand firm to ensure our unique trading place continues to operate on this site. If the Market was forced to move, it would no longer exist, it would dissolve like a shaken spider's web and its departure would diminish the lives of so many dedicated workers.

The land that runs down from the Barbican on which Smithfield is built is part of the original area granted by government for the sole purpose of the meat trade and indeed not to be used except for that purpose alone. It has always been known as the "Smithfield Island Site" and has fought to maintain its rightful heritage.

I ask you to liken our island site to Shakespeare's words of Richard II describing England

This sceptred Isle.....built by Nature against infection.....this little world, this precious stone.....this blessed plot.....

This is our "blessed plot" and as we are aware of envious critics anxious to steal our rightful home it may well be that we are an endangered species and therefore welcome support as given to lions and butterflies. Your support will help this bastion of living history, our "precious stone", to continue to function and survive.

I would be pleased if you could remember that.

Yours as ever,

Fred