

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE



EDITION 162

October 2017

DOES THE CITY'S GOVERNMENT REPRESENT THE WORKFORCE?

A question was raised at the 14th September Court of Common Council about the composition of the City's workforce. This followed the recent publication of a City of London jobs leaflet, which makes interesting reading. There are 455,000 workers in the City which is 9% of London's total workforce and 1.33% of the total UK workforce. Three quarters of those employed in the City work in financial, professional and associated business services. The question related to the 32% of the workforce born outside the UK and whether any of the 3% born in 'Antarctica and Oceania' were actually born in Antarctica – apparently not! For completeness, the 32% is composed of 12% born in Europe, 8% in the Middle East and Asia, 5% in Africa, 4% in the Americas and Caribbean and the aforementioned 3%.

Some other interesting statistics are given – the gender split is 61% men and 39% women, 21% are of black, Asian or minority ethnic origin, 62% are under the age of 39 and 66% are educated to degree level.

A further question related to the City's approach to diversity and the Chairman of Policy and Resources outlined the City's policies and procedures supporting its commitment to equality and inclusion as well as the efforts to increase the diversity of the Court. There is a way to go on this. Following the latest elections earlier this year, the Court is made up of 98 men (78%) and 27 women (22%) and there are 9 (7%) of black, Asian or minority ethnic origin.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PETER MARTINELLI MBE

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Peter Martinelli will be held as follows

11.00-11.45am

Thursday 19th October

St Bartholomew the Great

West Smithfield, EC1A 9DS

the service will be followed by a reception in the Cloister.

ALDERMANIC ELECTION RESULTS

In the Ward of Langbourn, Sir David Wootton was elected unopposed at a Wardmote held on 11th September.

By contrast, the Aldermanic election in the Ward of Tower was hotly contested with Nicholas Lyons elected on 91 votes. Marianne Fredericks was second with 61 votes, James Tumbridge, Markets Committee Chairman, was third with 52 votes, Andrew Marsden fourth with 37 votes, Jonathan Hindle fifth with 6 votes and Jonathan Pettigrew sixth with 3 votes.

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE **COMMENT**

The summer holidays are over and the leaves are starting to fall – another year is nearing its end. I am probably not alone in wondering where the time has gone. What have we done with the last several months?

Some things we can point to, such as the replacement of the condenser water system pumps, which do seem to have had a positive impact (fingers crossed!). Other things – the Poultry Market works, for example, are proceeding at a glacial pace.

We are making progress on the 150th anniversary celebrations though – about which I hope to have more to say in the next edition.

Nationally, matters seem to reflect what is going on at Smithfield, with slow progress on the Brexit negotiations – I do hope that our negotiators are more competent than the media seem to think they are! Surely competence is little enough to expect from a conservative government?

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Autumn’s the mellow time.”

“Now Autumn's fire burns slowly along the woods and day by day the dead leaves fall and melt.”

William Allingham, Poet, 1824-1889

IN MY OPINION **A VIEW FROM THE WARD OF** **FARRINGDON WITHOUT**

Six months after the election to the City of London Council may be a good moment to cast a view over the local authority landscape in the Ward. First of all I want to say as a new Councillor how much I have enjoyed meeting the business community and the residents in this area, they are a well-informed and vocal group who are rightly focused on their lives and on improving the services and environment. It should be the function of the Council to enable and encourage those endeavours with as little bureaucratic interference as possible.

This area of the City is undergoing much change: our task is to ensure that the views of the locality are properly understood and transmitted to those implementing such changes. This applies equally to the new Museum site, the Markets and the new transport links. A cultural hub with no links within the local area will not easily work. The news so far is mixed, there has been much good progress on Crossrail: the work on the relationship between the Markets and the Museum is a work in progress. There is the potential for much new business and an influx of many people to the area over the next decade and beyond but it is vital that local views are taken into account. There is one area however where things have not gone well, the new cycle routes and their associated road changes have been implemented with real insensitivity to those in the locality. It is a significant failure principally of TfL but in part also of the City. TfL has shown no genuine interest in the process of consultation and the City has been slow to resist some of their more inappropriate ideas. The Councillors in this Ward are now working hard to improve matters but it is apparent that this will not be an easy task. The aim is to ensure that businesses have ready access to their places of work and residents to their homes. It is a matter of regret that the recent changes have increased congestion, pollution and adversely affected the flow of traffic within the City. It is the responsibility of the Council to reverse these adverse effects and to make the area more acceptable for all its users including pedestrians and cyclists.

As the new Vice-Chairman of the Streets and Walkways and Open Spaces Committees I aim to bring a joined-up approach to both these areas of the City’s life. The streets are themselves open spaces, there should be more opportunity for the planting of trees, for the movement of pedestrians while still allowing the free flow of traffic. Diesel vehicles should be excluded from a City landscape such as this and electric vehicles should become the norm. All in all there is much to do, the Ward has an excellent group of Councillors who represent the Markets, the residents and the other professionals including the law. They are fully engaged on behalf of their electorate and we are keen both to hear the views of the electorate and to meet with them as often as possible. I look forward to hearing from as many as possible in the coming months.

Oliver Sells QC, CC

THE CHARTERHOUSE

The historic Charterhouse complex, a stone's throw from Smithfield Market, has been living the nation's history since 1348.

In January 2017, in partnership with the Museum of London, the Charterhouse opened a museum to tell the fascinating history of this little known gem. The official opening was conducted by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and has since welcomed over 21,000 visitors from the local area and beyond. The history of the site begins in 1348 when the Black Death swept through London, estimated to have killed half of the population. The land was leased as an overflow burial ground from the Priory of St Bartholomew by Sir Walter Manny, a Knight at the court of King Edward III.

In 1371 Sir Walter built a Carthusian monastery on the site, one of several others in the country but granted a special status as a result of its London location. It became renowned as a place of religious learning, and Sir Thomas More studied here in the 16th century. In 1535 the Prior of the London Charterhouse, John Houghton, was hung drawn and quartered at Tyburn, following his and other monks' refusal to sign the Act of Supremacy which affirmed King Henry VIII's position as Supreme Head of the Church in England. Prior Houghton's shoulder was nailed to the gate of the Charterhouse as a warning to those who remained.



Master's Court © Lawrence Watson

Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the land passed through the ownership of a succession of prominent Tudor nobles. The stone of the monastery complex was used to build a grand Tudor mansion, where Queen Elizabeth I stayed for five nights on her accession to the throne.

In 1611 the Charterhouse was purchased by Thomas Sutton, the richest commoner in the country, who founded Sutton's Hospital in Charterhouse. The aims of this charitable foundation were to provide a home and care for a community of elderly people (the Brothers) and schooling for poor scholars, which it has

been doing ever since. Notable schoolboys include John Wesley, William Makepeace Thackeray and Robert Baden-Powell, all of whom are commemorated by plaques in the public areas of the museum.

Having suffered extensive damage during the Blitz, the site was faithfully restored by local architects, Seely and Paget in the 1950s.

The Charterhouse welcomes visitors, see below for details.

Museum

The museum and historic chapel are free to visit. Open from 11am Tuesday to Sunday, with last admittance at 4.45pm.

Tours

There are daily tours of the historic site which offer the opportunity to explore the grand Tudor interiors of the Great Hall and Great Chamber, the atmospheric remains of the medieval cloister and the charming courtyards full of tales about those who have been associated with the site over the past 700 years.

Gift shop

The museum gift shop stocks a range of books, souvenirs and bespoke gifts to suit every age and pocket.

Coffee House

The coffee house, Thackeray's at the Charterhouse, situated next door to the museum at number 14 Charterhouse Square, offers a delicious range of homemade food and artisan coffee.

Events

The Charterhouse runs a programme of special events throughout the year. See the website for details.

Contact Information

The Charterhouse
Charterhouse Square
London
EC1M 6AN

Telephone: 020 3818 8873

Email: tours@thecharterhouse.org

Website: <http://www.thecharterhouse.org/visit-us/>



Master's Court ©The Charterhouse

ACE OF HEARTS

Tuesday 5th December 1967 is a bright winter's day and I'm shutting up shop when I am tagged by Doc Murphy, looking resplendent in a freshly starched white coat and rakish bow tie, who wishes me to accompany him on a sortie that will further my education in the social arena. Doc, whose real name is Seamus Murphy, has no qualifications whatsoever but earns his title on account of spending two years at medical school in Dublin before being expelled after being caught in flagrante with the wife of his tutor and fleeing to London where he eventually pitches up at Smithfield and becomes a first rate offal salesman. Like most Irish men Doc is endowed with the gift of the gab and is a very hard man to say no to and protesting his invitation is a waste of my breath so I don a clean white coat and fall in step.

So here we are walking towards Bart's Hospital, which is only a drive and a wedge from the market, and when we go through the entrance of same we blend in quite nicely with croakers going hither and thither wearing white coats and even bow ties so Doc nods them hello to maintain our cover. We make our way to the garden area which is where some of the staff, and especially the nurses, take their break to enjoy a snack or a smoke or both and the bonus is they all wear name tags, which makes for an easy opener. Doc surveys the scene and lights on a pretty young thing called Nurse Flynn who is munching a sandwich while engrossed in a newspaper. Then Doc goes into his routine as follows: "Nurse Flynn" Doc says "please forgive my boldness but I cannot help but notice you are engrossed in this morning's headlines regarding the breakthrough heart transplant surgery performed by Dr Christian Barnard. I am also a heart specialist and will be giving a lecture on this very subject later today. However the condition of my own heart is giving me cause for concern since it beats so wildly at the sight of your beautiful face. Will you ease my suffering by giving me your phone number so that we might meet again sometime soon?" Nurse Flynn is evidently flattered by this attention from a heart specialist and without further ado outs with her pen and writes her number on the breast pocket of Doc's coat and even signs off with her name plus two kisses which is a sure sign she is hooked. They then exchange sad farewells and Doc and I make our way back to the market.

As we part company I express my concerns to Doc about his cavalier attitude to the truth in stalking his prey and he replies as follows: "My dear boy" Doc says "success in the mating game is best achieved by triggering the imagination without lying. Any magician will tell you that his most potent weapon is misdirection and I simply apply that in social situations. Now I must away as I am due at Smithfield College where I am today's guest speaker on the subject of hearts and other organs in the offal family".

I do not see Doc for a few days when I bump into him at breakfast and enquire, discretely, of his progress with Nurse Flynn. In hushed tones Doc replies as follows: "A gentlemen will never kiss and tell but suffice it to say we enjoyed a late supper last night after which we repair to my flat where I carry out a thorough examination and I'm pleased to say Nurse Flynn passes with flying colours".

Nomad

It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.

Leonardo da Vinci

100 YEARS AGO - 1917

- 15 Oct Dutch dancer, Mata Hari, executed by firing squad for spying for Germany
- 17 Oct First British bombings of Germany in WWI
- 21 Oct First Americans see action on the front line at Sommervillier in WWI
- 6 Nov Bolshevik revolution begins with the bombardment of the Winter Palace
- 7 Nov Britain captures Gaza, Palestine, from the Turks
- 20 Nov First successful use of tanks in battle by the British at Cambrai
- 6 Dec Finland declares itself a republic, following the Ukraine on 20 Nov
- 15 Dec An armistice is reached between the new Russian Bolshevik government and the Central Powers
- 16 Dec Arthur C Clarke, author of 2001: A Space Odyssey is born in Minehead

THE CITY'S NEW CULTURE MILE

Culture Mile is the new name for what has been called the Cultural Hub for the last few months. It is intended to join up the cultural and creative offerings in the north west of the City - the Barbican, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London. It stretches from Farringdon to Moorgate and encompasses the new Museum of London site at the west end of Smithfield as well as the proposed Centre for Music to be built at the Museum of London's current site.

Work is underway to try to give the Culture Mile a cohesive identity by improving the environment and urban realm with better signage, green spaces, lighting and art installations. During the summer there have been a number of Culture Mile related 'pop-ups', some of which are in the Smithfield Market area, see below.

One major objective is to transform Beech Street. Currently it is thought to be an unwelcoming environment particularly for cyclists and pedestrians. Plans include improving air quality, introducing retail units and giving better access to existing cultural venues.

GIANT KIERAN

Covering the facade of the Red House and attracting much attention is a large photograph of Kieran White who has recently completed an apprenticeship at PJ Martinelli Ltd. This is part of the first of a series of photographic commissions on hoardings around the new Museum of London site in West Smithfield. The photographs are by Vicky Grout, a leading photographer of the London grime scene, and all are of Londoners working in the area. More images can be seen in Farringdon Street.

INSTALLATION IN SMITHFIELD ROTUNDA GARDEN

Anyone passing by the entrance to the Rotunda Garden at Smithfield cannot fail to have noticed the addition of some new bright and colourful elements. These will be in place until October. It is the work of Morag Myerscough and Luke Morgan and the symbols used on the pavilion inside the Garden represent the sun for joy and flowers for peace. At the entrance to the Garden patterns developed with local schools have been used.

The installation is part of a wider project called Joy and Peace with joy being depicted along Silk Street.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? CLOTH FAIR

Cloth Fair and Street are where the stalls of the clothiers and drapers were sited during the annual St Bartholomew's Fair. St Bartholomew's Priory, of which the church of St Bartholomew the Great remains, had the right to hold an annual fair at Smithfield and cloth was one of the main commodities traded there. The Fair ran from 1133 until 1855 on or around 24th August each year inside the Priory precincts.

It grew to be a major international event and by the 17th century covered four parishes and included all manner of entertainments of the time – prize-fighters, musicians, wire walkers, acrobats, puppets and wild animals. The Fair was suppressed by the City in 1855 for encouraging debauchery and disorder.

Cloth Fair contains the oldest residential property in London at numbers 41 and 42. It was built between 1597 and 1614 and is the only house in the City of London to have survived the Great Fire in 1666. It is believed that this was because it was sheltered by the Priory walls.

A SMITHFIELD BARGAIN?

So there I was, watching an amateur production of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's 'The Rivals' (written in 1775) at the Bridewell Theatre, when my ears pricked up as Lydia Languish declared '.....to find myself made a mere Smithfield bargain of at last!' You can deduce the meaning from the context – Lydia doesn't want to be married for her fortune alone – but how did Smithfield get in on the act?

It appears that the original meaning of a Smithfield bargain was a transaction in which the buyer was fooled, as Smithfield was well known for its sharp practices at the time. The term also came to be used to describe marriages contracted solely for monetary gain, where women were effectively bought and sold as if they were cattle at Smithfield Market.

This is not the same as the wife selling that also went on at Smithfield and at many other markets across England, which practice existed from the late seventeenth century as a ritualised public auction. It should be remembered though that until the Marriage Act of 1753, a formal ceremony of marriage was not a legal requirement and marriages were not registered.

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

Margaret Thatcher

THE CITY'S OPEN SPACES – EPPING FOREST

The City of London manages around 200 parks and gardens in the Square Mile as well as several outside, such as Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park, West Ham Park, Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common and City Commons. These were largely acquired to prevent the disappearance of public open spaces in the late 1870s when new suburbs were being built. In 1878 two Acts of Parliament were passed granting the City the right to acquire Epping Forest and land within 25 miles of the City for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. This inspired the later development of green belts around cities. In this article, we are going to look specifically at Epping Forest.

Epping Forest has existed as a forested area for over 3,000 years. The name was first recorded in the seventeenth century, before that it was called Waltham Forest. 'Forest Law' dates back to the twelfth century when it was introduced to preserve the king's right to hunt there – commoners were able to collect wood and food and to graze animals, but not to hunt. It is believed that Henry VIII and Elizabeth I may have hunted in the forest, but there is no actual evidence. Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, a grade II* listed building in Chingford dates back to the Tudor period.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, some of the forest was enclosed to form estates from mediaeval manor houses – including Wanstead Park and Copped Hall. However, there were disputes between the landowners and the commoners as this restricted the commoners' access to the original forest and the Epping Forest Act of 1878 was passed to stop further enclosures and the consequent reduction in the forest. At this point, Epping Forest ceased to be a royal forest and came under the management of the City of London. The Crown's right to venison was terminated, as was pollarding, but grazing rights continued. The City as Conservators were charged with keeping Epping Forest unenclosed and unbuilt on as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the people. Lopping Hall in Loughton was built as a community building in compensation for the loss of lopping rights.

Queen Victoria visited Chingford on 6th May 1882 to dedicate the forest. When train lines were extended to Loughton and Chingford, the forest was put in reach of the East End of London. Thousands of Londoners would visit at weekends for games, donkey rides and fortune telling. As part of the Temperance movement, a number of 'retreats' were opened, serving non-alcoholic refreshments, in competition with the beer tents also in the forest. Butler's Retreat is the last of these to survive. Originally a nineteenth century barn, it was converted into a tea room. It was

refurbished and re-opened as a cafe by the City in 2012.

Epping Forest bears the scars of WWII. Many of the lakes and ponds are the remnants of bomb craters. As part of the country's defences, anti-aircraft guns were installed and air raid shelters were built. Anti-tank trenches were also dug. Barrage balloons were tethered at Wanstead Flats and there was a camp for troops at Aldersbrook and a prisoner of war camp near Jubilee Pond. There is also evidence that the golf courses were ploughed up to grow food.

Today, the City maintains the Forest from its 'City Cash' funds – its private funds. It is operated as a charitable trust.

BIG HOUSE CHARITY EVENT IN THE ROTUNDA CAR PARK

From 9th October until 3rd December the west side of the upper floor of the Market car park will be unavailable for parking. This area is being given to the Big House Charity which designs workshops around the needs of young people, mainly helping care leavers confront multiple issues and breaking destructive cycles. They work with them on areas such as budgeting, nutrition, mental health and healthy relationships and they provide a safe space for the young people to explore their feelings through a combination of drama counselling and intensive support. The car park will be used for a theatre production. The City has provided statistics to show that the loss of these spaces can be accommodated. Additional signage is to be put in place to assist car park users to safely navigate between floors, if necessary.

THE HANDLEBARDS – A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE

This summer's events in Charterhouse Square included two performances of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by the HandleBards. The HandleBards are a group of four actors who tour around the country (and internationally) by bicycle performing at a variety of venues using only what they can transport by bike. This leads to some interesting innovations and a great deal of ingenuity on the actors' parts. MSND was performed by the all male group (there is also a female group). Due to their limited numbers, audience members were enrolled to play various parts as required – most memorably two of the fairies, Peaseblossom and 'Tim'! Described as beautifully bonkers, despite the atrocious weather on 12th September, a good time was had by all.

LONDINIUM FESTIVAL EVENTS TO 29TH OCTOBER

The City of London is built on the original Roman settlement of Londinium. Founded in around 50AD the settlement grew to become a major road hub and port and the commercial centre of Roman Britain. This remained the case until the fifth century, when it was abandoned. 2,000 years on, The City of London is celebrating its Roman history with a series of events.

BLOOD RITE

Blue Boy Entertainment and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama present a spectacular digitally animated new outdoor dance show. Set on the site of London's Roman amphitheatre, an explosive fusion of urban dance, music and video projection will transform the facades of Guildhall Yard.

20th-21st October 2017
Guildhall Yard, EC2V 5AE
Throughout the evening between 6.30pm and 10pm (shows last 20 minutes)
FREE – no booking required, just turn up

The Guildhall Art Gallery and the Roman Amphitheatre will be open until 10.30pm

Food and drink will be available.

DARK EARTH

Under the pavements and around the foundations of the City's offices lies a layer of Dark Earth: the debris from the burning, collapse and decay of Roman buildings. This is the sound of a civilisation teetering on the edge of its downfall. Powered by wiretapper, Dark Earth is an audio curiosity delving into the City's ancient secrets.

To access this immersive experience you will need a smart phone, a pair of headphones and a coat. On the morning of the event, you will be told where to meet and be taken through the streets and down into the basement; into the Dark Earth.

22nd-29th October 2017

Email darkearth@cityoflondon.gov.uk to register your interest and be kept up to date with details

TRAUMA

In the surrounds of the Roman Amphitheatre (accessed via the Guildhall Art Gallery), view a Roman skull uncovered during excavations of the Walbrook Stream. Dating to around 150AD, the skull shows

evidence of substantial head trauma around death, leading archaeologists to believe that it may have belonged to a gladiator. The exhibition looks at representations of gladiators in Londinium and imagines what life may have been like for early visitors to the Amphitheatre.

Until 29th October 2017
London's Roman Amphitheatre, Guildhall Art Gallery, EC2V 5AE
Mon-Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun noon – 4pm
Admission FREE

LONDON MITHRAEUM

The Temple of Mithras, originally constructed around 240AD, was discovered in 1954 during the excavation of a WWII bomb site. More than 400,000 people visited the site over a two week period.

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE returns the temple to the site of its discovery, beneath Bloomberg's new European headquarters. Descend seven metres below the modern street level to explore the ancient temple through an immersive experience.

Opens in October
London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE
12 Walbrook, EC4N 8BN
Admission FREE
www.londonmithraeum.com

"Zebra crossings have produced a peculiar new type of mentality in an increasing number of people. This has its new correlated freedom: THE RIGHT TO ZEBRA-CROSS. If Freud were still alive he would certainly be able to define this new psychological trait, this zebra-complex. For those afflicted, life is simply a huge zebra-crossing: as soon as they step into the arena they expect all movement to come to a standstill and give way to them. In very bad cases the patient expects people to watch him admiringly and wave to him with friendly smiles."

George Mikes
from 'How To Be A Brit'

NEWS IN BRIEF

Congratulations to Harriet and Steve Brame on the birth of Berry Grace on 28 June, a sister for Herbie. Harriet is currently on maternity leave from the SMTA office.

Geoff Gillo FCA, CMILT succeeded Stuart Thompson in September as Master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers. He qualified initially as a chartered accountant and then moved into logistics and the meat industry.

Kevin Gray, a long-time Smithfield shopman who worked at Rhonda Meats Ltd, died in September.

LETTERS

As a member of the public and avid reader of the Smithfield Gazette, I have been using the market monthly since 2001, purely for myself and a few friends. The quality, variety and prices simply cannot be beaten by the large supermarket meat departments – I will not insult you ladies and gentlemen by referring to them as butchers! And, of course, the banter – you never get that in a supermarket!

I work quite locally on shift work, so will normally nip to the market in my break. Over the years there has been what appears to be a very sad decline in the market area. As a Londoner and a market user I would dearly love to see a resurgence of this fabulous and historic place. And so I just wanted to thank you all, as some of London's unseen army of workers, for keeping alive the traditions of both the market and London and providing me and my family with almost every meal I've eaten in the last seventeen years. Long may you continue!

Les Edwards

Thank you, Les, for your kind words. In my reply to him I explained that a major refurbishment of the Poultry Market is due to start shortly and that the Museum of London is due to move to the currently empty buildings at West Smithfield. This should go a long way to reviving the area.

Editor

DIARY

18 Oct SMTA Council
22 Nov SMTA Council
29 Nov Markets Committee

SMITHFIELD MARKET APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Various employers at Smithfield Market are looking to employ apprentices to start work as cutters or salesmen

Mainly night shifts, at
Smithfield Market, London EC1A 9LH

All skills and training provided free. Ideal for candidates aged 18 or over. Existing Market workers may be eligible to join the scheme

Starting pay will be £280 per week rising quickly to £320 assuming good progress through the training. This is based on a 35 hour week.

Contact **020 7332 3918** for more information

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

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