

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE



EDITION 166

October 2018

SMITHFIELD 150 **AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY EVENT**

Smithfield Market was totally transformed so that by the morning of Saturday 25th August stages had been built in West Poultry Avenue and Grand Avenue, a fun fair had appeared in West Smithfield, food stalls were in Long Lane, a barbeque in St Bartholomew the Great's Churchyard, a roller disco in the Poultry Market service way and decorations and banners were everywhere.

On Saturday the weather co-operated, people came in numbers and there was a tremendous atmosphere. Unfortunately, the weather was not so kind on Sunday, but there was still plenty to enjoy. We hope that those of you who came had a good time!



The carousel in West Smithfield was a popular attraction

IMAGES FROM SMITHFIELD 150



Hog Roast in St Bartholomew the Great's Churchyard



Bompass and Parr's Gallivanting Gateau kept behind bars on Saturday and let loose, somewhat scarily, on Sunday to move around the Market dispensing sachets of sherbet if you were brave enough to operate the lever!



Helter Skelter in West Smithfield



The Fulham Brass Band opened proceedings on the Smoothfield Stage in West Poultry Avenue on Saturday

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE COMMENT

Normally the summer period at Smithfield is a little quieter and that gives us time to draw breath and get ready for the build up to Christmas. Not this summer though! We were kept busy with preparations for the Smithfield 150 event on 25th and 26th August, but it was well worth it. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the area and all the activities that had been arranged.

There was obvious interest and enthusiasm for the history of the Market and the area as a whole and the City Guides were kept busy. A big thank you again to all those involved from the Culture Mile organisations so ably led by the Director of the Museum of London, Sharon Ament. The transformation that took place from the Thursday beforehand was truly amazing, from the decorations in Grand Avenue, to the stage construction and the fun fair. It was a massive undertaking. The programme of music and events had something for everyone.

Now it is back to business as usual!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

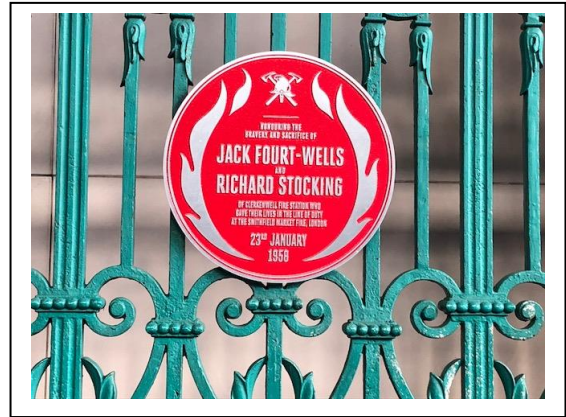
“Look at a book. A book is the right size to be a book. They’re solar-powered. If you drop them, they keep on being a book. You can find your place in microseconds. Books are really good at being books, and no matter what happens, books will survive.”

Douglas Adams, 1952-2001

“Progress is man’s ability to complicate simplicity.”

Thor Heyerdahl, 1914-2002

FIRE BRIGADE MEMORIAL



A small ceremony was held on Wednesday 19th September at which the Fire Brigade Union placed the red plaque commemorating the firefighters who had died in the Poultry Market fire in 1958, Jack Fourt-Wells and Richard Stocking. The plaque can be found on the railings to the left of the War Memorial in Grand Avenue.

GUILDHALL DINNER

A dinner to mark the 150th anniversary of the New Smithfield Market was held in the Old Library at Guildhall on the evening of Thursday 19th July in the presence of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.

As well as representatives from the meat traders at the Market and from the City of London there were several prominent guests with meat industry or trading links including the Argentine Ambassador.

SMITHFIELD 150 LECTURE

As a pre-cursor to the Smithfield 150 event, a lecture on Smithfield and the London Central Markets 1860-1890 was held on Thursday 23rd August in the Great Hall of St Bartholomew’s Hospital.

The speaker was Alex Werner of the Museum of London and he considered the development of Smithfield by reference to two main themes – the development of the railway and of refrigeration. As well as linking the meat market to the rail network, there had been plans to bring fish down by rail from Scotland to a new fish market at the Smithfield site.

The stories of early refrigerated sea transport were fascinating, as was the revelation that the New Zealand landscape had been transformed by the planting of English grass seed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNUAL VISIT TO SMITHFIELD MARKET



From left to right, the Lady Mayoress, Greg Lawrence (Chairman of the SMTA), The Lord Mayor (Alderman Charles Bowman), and Ted Murphy of Channel Meats, presenting the Lord Mayor with a selection of meats

During his year of office, the Lord Mayor of the City of London visits all three of the City's wholesale markets.

So, at 7am on Tuesday 31st July, the Chairman and officers of the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association, as well as the Chairman of Markets Committee, the Market Superintendent and the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection, gathered in Lindsey Street waiting for the Lord Mayor and his party to arrive. He was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Sheriff and Alderman Timothy Hailes and Sheriff and Alderman Neil Redcliffe with their partners.

The party set off along buyers walk, engaging various of the traders in discussion as they went, crossing Grand Avenue into the West Market, where a presentation of meat from the Tenants' Association was made at Channel Meats shop, before the party proceeded into the Poultry Market and finally exiting via the Poultry Market south covered way. From there, it was a short trip to Haberdashers' Hall where guests had been invited to join traders from the Market and the official touring party for a formal, full English breakfast with speeches and toasts.

"Rather fail with honour
than succeed by fraud."

Sophocles, 496-406 BC

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

We reproduce here extracts from the speech of the Chairman of the SMTA, Greg Lawrence, delivered at breakfast at Haberdashers' Hall after the Lord Mayor's annual visit to the Market on 31st July to an audience of around 130 invited guests.

As I am sure many of you will already know, this year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Victorian Market buildings.

We have an account of the opening of the Victorian buildings on 24th November 1868, when Grand Avenue was transformed into a banqueting room seating 1,200 people and the hope was that the new market would bring tolls to the Corporation, cheap meat to the people and fair profits to the salesmen.

Of course, we know that the history of the Market and the area goes back a lot further, to early mediaeval times. The Church of St Bartholomew the Great was founded in 1123, William Wallace was executed here in 1305 and Wat Tyler was killed in 1381 leading the Peasant's Revolt. The great fire did not reach this far and so one of the oldest houses in the City survives in Cloth Fair.

But let us turn to more modern times and try to understand the scale and ambition of the Market project that was completed in 1868. A major factor influencing the design and placement of the buildings was the Metropolitan Railway, the world's first underground railway. It was extended from Farringdon Street to Moorgate in 1865 and linked to the Southern Region via the Snow Hill tunnel in 1866. It therefore made sense to design the new Market on two levels – the basement for delivering carcass meat by rail and the Market at ground level. So Smithfield was linked by rail to all parts of the UK. One might contrast this with the lack of ambition involved in the refurbishment of the 1980s when only one goods lift was incorporated into the design at the very last minute.

Smithfield has seen plenty of activity since 1868. The original Poultry Market building was built in 1870 in the same style as the East and West buildings. The General Market was added in 1879 when it was realised that more space was needed. This was followed by the Annex.

In 1881 a New Zealand entrepreneur made the first transport of frozen lamb from New Zealand and this led to lamb and beef from Australia and South America also being shipped to Smithfield in huge quantities. This in turn led to the building of the large cold storage buildings in Charterhouse Street and West Smithfield – the largest being the Port of London Authority building, completed just before the First World War.

During the First World War, the area came under threat from Zeppelin bombing raids. One such raid in September 1915 dropped the largest bomb to that date of 660 pounds and it exploded on Bartholomew Close destroying houses and killing two men. Bombs also fell in Farringdon Road.

After the First World War there was an increase in regulation and quality control and a large team of meat inspectors was employed by the City of London and housed in a new building in Charterhouse Street.

The Market was closed during the Second World War as the Government didn't want large concentrations of people in buildings that were easily recognisable from the air. In any case, de-centralising of meat stores and rationing stopped any trading. Only small amounts of meat were stored here, but other uses were found for the buildings, including research into the viability of constructing aircraft carriers or floating airstrips out of ice and wood – called pykete after its inventor. This took place in great secrecy behind a screen of artificial animal carcasses.

In 1942 the Poultry Market was damaged by a German bomb and on the 8th of March 1945 the second to last V2 rocket to be targeted on England landed at the junction of Charterhouse Street and Farringdon Road destroying the fish, fruit and vegetable section of the Market and severely damaging Harts Corner and the General Market. It penetrated to the rail tunnels under the building and left a massive crater. At least 110 people were killed and many more injured. Many of the victims were women who had gone to try to buy one of a consignment of rabbits on sale, despite the Market being officially closed. They are remembered on the War Memorial in Grand Avenue.

After the end of the war the Market did not return to normal until the lifting of rationing on 4th July 1954, when it opened at midnight to amazing scenes. It was not to last long, as, within days, a union was formed and called a strike by the end of the week.

Then, of course, there was the Poultry Market fire in January 1958, so movingly remembered by the Fire Brigade Union and representatives from the Market, the City and others in January this year. A red plaque will appear alongside the War Memorial in due course.

On the upside, we have been graced by several visits by members of the Royal Family, notably the late Queen Mother, also known as Bummaree Number 1, who visited in 1968, 1982 and 1986 and on one occasion was memorably serenaded by the workforce singing 'If you were the only girl in the world'.

The Princess Royal visited to re-dedicate the War Memorial in June 2005, a project that Peter Martinelli was much involved in. She visited again in 2011 as

Master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers. And the Prince of Wales visited in 1980.

What of the Market today? We have weathered joining the EU in 1973 which led to the loss of the trading links with the Commonwealth countries, especially New Zealand, Australia and Canada, which had been so important to the Market. In fact, it was thought that the Market would not survive. The shape of global trade is changing before our eyes and it is trade outside Europe that we must encourage.

Then there was the major refurbishment in the late 1980s and early 1990s, including a court case brought by John Brewster in connection with it – the tenants are not afraid of resorting to the law if they believe they are in the right, as the City well knows. I just want to mention here how much the Market owes to Peter Martinelli and John Brewster – we would not be where we are today without their efforts.

Also in the late 1980s and 1990s we had the outbreak of BSE to contend with which led to a ban on the export of British beef to the EU between 1996 and 2006 and longer to some other countries. There were outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in 2001 and 2007, the introduction of the congestion charge, Crossrail works, the unions, you name it. But we are still here, with the highest FSA hygiene ratings ever, because we are adaptable and resilient. The meat trade runs in our veins. Risk is our middle name. We are entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of the UK economy.

The area around us is changing dramatically. From the increase in clubs, bars and restaurants to the building of new residential and commercial premises, Barts Square and Goldman Sachs to name but two, as well as the new Crossrail station and the new Museum of London, this is set to become a major London hub with vastly increased footfall. Smithfield tenants stand ready to take advantage of all the benefits that this will bring.

It is already recognised as one of the cleanest spaces for air quality in the City and a bold vision, such as our Victorian forebears had, should seek to enhance what the area already has to offer.

In this anniversary of the end of the First World War I make no apology for repeating the words on the War Memorial as I did in my speech in 2014 –

'Remember with thanksgiving the true and faithful men who in these years of war went forth from this place for God and the right.'

We value our strong links with the Royal Family and our place in the history of this great city and hope to continue to provide cheap meat to the people as was originally envisaged.

WORLD'S FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHTS

As well as the opening of the Victorian Market buildings in November, 1868 saw London's first experiment with road traffic signals.

London's traffic had become increasingly busy and the north east junction of Parliament Square was particularly chaotic – two MPs had been injured there and a policeman killed – so a signal based on railway signals, designed by a railway signals engineer, JP Knight, was installed there. The signal was six metres tall and operated on a red and green light system visible at night with semaphore arms for daytime. It ran on gas and needed a policeman to operate it.

Initially successful, just three weeks after installation a leaking gas valve led to an explosion which badly injured the operator. The signal was removed immediately.

Modern traffic lights were invented in the USA and the first with three colours were installed in New York in 1918. They appeared in Britain on the St James's Street/Piccadilly junction in 1925.

SIR NICHOLAS YOUNG ON KEITH KILLBY

Sir Nicholas Young, Chairman of the Monte San Martino Trust, wrote the following foreword to Keith Killby's book, *In Combat, Unarmed*.

"Keith is something of an enigma. A conscientious objector, who joined the SAS; a man afraid of heights and prone to chronic seasickness, who became a parachutist and a sailor; a man with a taste for hard bargaining in the meat trade, who went out of his way to see the best in everyone in the brutal context of war....With typical modesty, and wry self-deprecating humour, Keith reveals bravery in the face of crushing fear; compassion towards friend and foe alike; stubborn adherence to the values of fairness, open-heartedness and integrity; and a delight in puncturing egos and inflated authority, as he tells the story of a kind, peace-loving man, in combat unarmed, in fortitude unsurpassed."

Keith Killby's book is available via the Monte San Martino Trust at www.msmtrust.org.uk

KEITH KILLBY 1916-2018

Keith Killby died on 7th September 2018 at the age of 102. He restarted the family business, PW & JK Killby Ltd, at Smithfield Market in 1954 after rationing came to an end. The business is one of the historic names at Smithfield, dating back to 1792, before the Victorian Market was built. He was the last Killby to work at Smithfield. Keith had requested that there be no funeral, but there will be a celebration of his life in due course. We reproduce here, with thanks, his obituary from the Monte San Martino Trust website.



Keith Killby's achievements, during a life of 102 years, were many and varied. A man of principle, with an iron will and a singularly individualistic outlook, he was at different times a soldier fighting unarmed, a proponent of European unity and a hard-headed businessman. All three identities then coalesced when he formed the Monte San Martino Trust in 1989, born out of his vision to nurture peace between former warring enemies and the desire to "give something back" to the brave Italian subsistence farmers, the contadini, who had protected escaping prisoners of war in Italy after the Armistice in September 1943.

It was a vision that he pursued doggedly and successfully during the last 30 years of his life, and although it should not crowd out the record of his earlier achievements, it was entirely appropriate that Keith should die, in his London flat, at the very moment that 90 supporters of the Trust were raising Three Cheers to him at a celebration in Fontanellato, near Parma, to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Armistice and the escape of 600 prisoners from the town's PG49 Camp.

The events and interests of Keith's earlier life gave him the ammunition for this vision. Born in Sydenham, south London, Keith came from a family of Smithfield butchers, and he spent a couple of years in his early-20s learning the meat trade in New Zealand, often on horseback. At the outset of the Second World War, determined to serve as a non-combatant given that he was a conscientious objector, he was assigned to the Medical Corps, which did not carry arms. Already, inspired by his pacificism, he had written a pamphlet entitled *Peace – what then?*

He was despatched to North Africa, with the 150th Field Ambulance Unit attached to the 50th Division. At a later stage, he volunteered as a medical orderly with the SAS. Captured during a raid in Sardinia, he was sent to the Italian mainland but was able to escape from the camp at Servigliano, in the north-east region the Marche, after the Armistice. He fell into German hands on a few occasions and was eventually sent to a camp at Moosburg in Bavaria, where he gave his first talk on European federalism.

After being liberated from his final PoW camp, in Silesia, Keith devoted the immediate post-war years to advocating European unity, giving talks and becoming secretary of the Federal Union. From 1954 onwards he resurrected the family business and became a regular visitor in his holidays to the Marche, forming close friendships with people in and around Monte San Martino, which is near Servigliano. It had been at the hamlet of Barchetta, the day after his escape, that he had first experienced the generosity of the contadini, when a woman named Maria Levi waded barefoot across a river to bring him a pot of pasta balanced on her head.

Friendships that he made, such as with Antonio Millozzi who was working for the local authority, and the Barchetta family who had sheltered him during the war, proved to be crucial. Thanks to money raised locally, it was made possible for a young man from Monte San Martino to travel to London for a kidney transplant and it was in the wake of this that the Trust was founded. If opportunities could be created for young people from different countries to get to know each other, Keith reasoned, then he would not only be "giving something back", he would be furthering the cause of peace and understanding between peoples.

The idea of granting one-month bursaries to young Italians to study at language schools in the UK also met with an enthusiastic response in Britain from former prisoners of war. A number of them helped him establish the Trust. Altogether, there had been about 80,000 Allied prisoners in camps in Italy, most of them captured in North Africa. After the Armistice the Germans moved swiftly to put prisoners on trains to Germany. Accounts vary but approximately 30,000 went on the run before their camps were taken over, in an attempt to reach Allied Lines. A considerable number of these were recaptured but both those who succeeded, and those who did not, were profoundly grateful to the contadini in the mountains for hiding them away from the Germans and the Fascists.

The Trust took as its logo the image of St Martin, who shared his cloak with a beggar – an image symbolic of the farmers' acts of spontaneous generosity in sharing with the escapers what little they themselves had.

Antonio Millozzi became the Trust's long-serving representative in Italy, responsible for recruiting the

students. By the time of Keith's death about 600 students had benefited from the bursaries, all funded by donations to the Trust which was staffed by volunteers conscripted by Keith.

Many of the young Italians who received awards were descendants of families who had helped PoWs, although this was not a condition. Coming from rural areas in regions where camps had been concentrated, such as Emilia-Romagna, the Marche and the Abruzzo, a bursary was often their first opportunity to travel outside the UK. Keith quickly established strong links with two language schools in Britain, at Wheatley, near Oxford, and at Tottenham Court Road, London, and he himself frequently entertained students at his own home. He insisted that Trust volunteers should meet students at their incoming airports.

Keith also encouraged veterans to write up their memoirs and gradually established, in his back bedroom, a trove of valuable accounts, which will continue to be of great service to family and academic researchers. The Trust also supported Freedom Trails along escape routes in Italy.

MSMT received encouragement from both British and Italian authorities and Keith himself was awarded the honour of an OBE in 2001 and Cavaliere Ufficiale in 2003 by Britain and Italy respectively. He was also made an honorary citizen of Monte San Martino. His autobiography, *In Combat, Unarmed*, was published in 2013.

In the final years of a very long life, Keith stepped back from day-to-day administration of the Trust but continued to keep a close eye on it and watched it grow from strength to strength, as the children and grand-children of prisoners sought not only to discover more about the experiences of the often reticent veterans, but to connect with the families of their Italian saviours.

More information can be found on the Trust's website www.msmtrust.org.uk. Below is a picture of Keith pointing to where escaping prisoners made a hole in the wall of Servigliano PoW camp.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Vegan restaurant, **Flipside**, opened in Cowcross Street on 28th September.

Sandra Shevey, **London Street Markets Walk**, has produced a thirty minute DVD featuring Smithfield Market. DVDs and tour bookings (3 markets, 3 hours) at sandra_shevey@yahoo.com.

OBITUARIES

Charles Pateman, known at the Market as Chinese Charlie, has died. He worked at Smithfield until January 2018 when he was forced to retire due to ill health at the age of 83. He is believed to have been one of the longest serving porters with a career of 63 years. His funeral was held on 21st September at St Mary's Church, Chigwell.

Billy Dowry has died. His funeral was held on 21st September.

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 info@smithfieldmarket.com telephone 020 7248 3151 or by mail to 225 Central Markets, London, EC1A 9LH

GAZETTE BY EMAIL

If you would prefer to receive the Gazette by email, please email us to request this at info@smithfieldmarket.com

DIARY

17 Oct SMTA Council
7 Nov Markets Committee
21 Nov SMTA Council

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 up to £350 per week, based on a 35 hour week

Contact **020 7332 3918** or email Catherine.Hughes@cityoflondon.gov.uk for more information

EVENTS AT THE CHARTERHOUSE

Peace of Mind

A series of word and music soundscapes to calm the mind and enrich the soul, curated by singer and teacher Deborah Hudson and Robin Isherwood, Preacher at the Charterhouse.

All at 1pm to 1.30pm in the Charterhouse Chapel on
10th October – Summer becomes autumn
14th November – Longing becomes peace
11th December – From shadow to light
(free with a suggested donation)

First Ever Christmas Fair

13th November, 11am -7pm, entry £3

Come and join the Brothers (residents) and staff of this magical site steeped in history, as we open the doors to the public for a day of festive shopping and Christmas fun, including mulled wine, a Santa's Grotto, Christmas carols, arts and crafts and much more.