

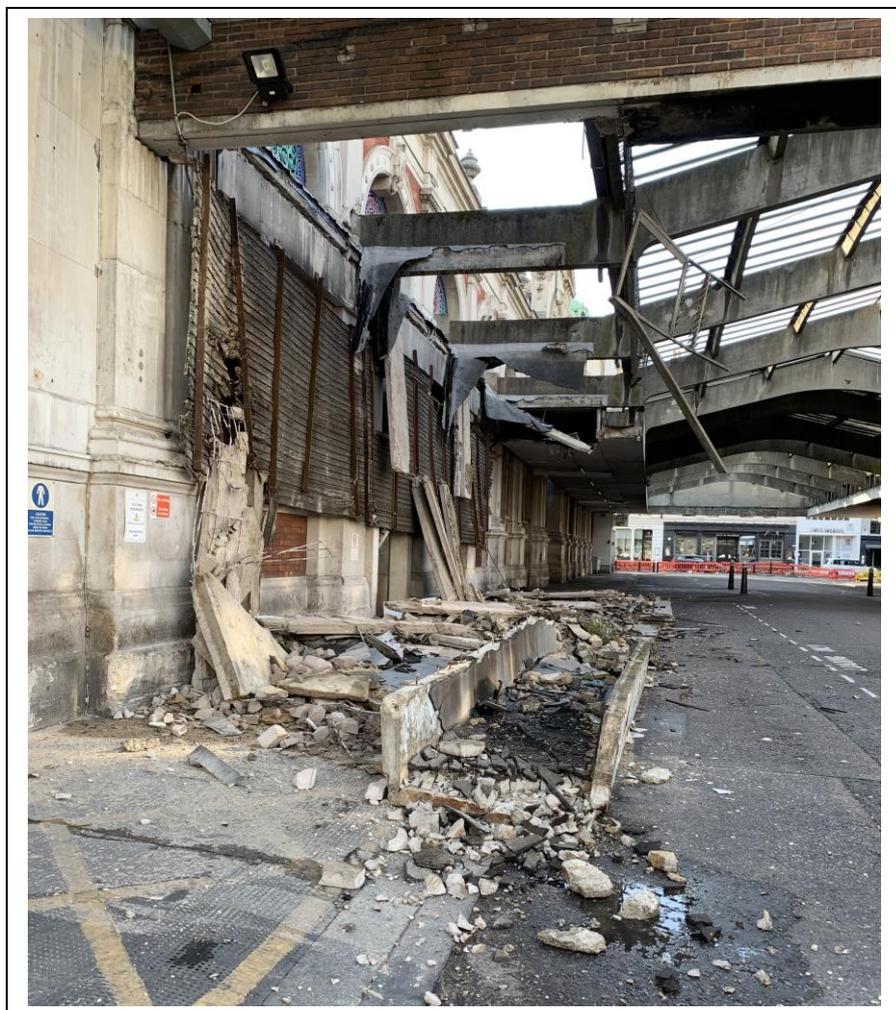
# THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE



**EDITION 171**

**December 2020**

## CANOPY FAILURES AT SMITHFIELD MARKET DELIBERATE NEGLIGENCE?



This picture shows the aftermath of what happened at 11.50am on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August when three sections of the concrete Market canopy and gutter collapsed on the north east corner of East Poultry Avenue which runs between the Poultry Market and the West Market buildings. Fortunately, no one was nearby at the time. Continues on page 2.

**SMITHFIELD GAZETTE 1**

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## **THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE** **COMMENT**

Last year at this time the press was consumed by Brexit and the election campaign. We all thought things were pretty bad then – how much can change in a few months! Covid-19 has certainly taught us a thing or two. Smithfield traders, as key workers, have kept going despite immense difficulties, adapting to the new realities as needed. This has not been helped by failures of the Market canopy in two areas – East Poultry Avenue and the south side of the West Market building – it never rains but it pours, as they say.

However, the building failures were entirely avoidable – they have come about mainly because of the failure of the City of London Corporation to carry out maintenance. We knew in 2013 that the canopy in East Poultry Avenue would have to come down – it was written into the Historic Repairs schedule of our leases, part of the agreement reached in court.

The City's reputation in relation to the maintenance of its buildings is in tatters. Several important and historic buildings in its care are in a lamentable state – The Old Bailey among them. A previous public enquiry regarding the redevelopment of the General Market concluded that the City should not be able to profit from a policy of deliberate neglect. It seems that something catastrophic has to happen before any action is taken. When will they ever learn? Who is responsible for this debacle?

## **CHRISTMAS OPENING**

Details of Christmas opening times for the Market are on page 5 of this Gazette. If you plan to visit the Market in the run up to Christmas you should note that special parking and travel arrangements will be in place around the Market from 10pm until 8am on

Thursday/Friday 17/18 December

Sunday/Monday 20/21 December

Monday/Tuesday 21/22 December

Tuesday/Wednesday 22/23 December

Wednesday/Thursday 23/24 December

Full information can be found on the [www.smithfieldmarket.com](http://www.smithfieldmarket.com) website.

## **CANOPY FAILURE** **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

As a consequence of the 15<sup>th</sup> August collapse, East Poultry Avenue was immediately closed to both road and pedestrian traffic and apart from the re-opening of the pavement on the Poultry Market side, so it has remained ever since. Following assessment of the rest of the canopy, further sections of concrete and gutter were removed and currently testing is taking place on the rest of the structure with a view to the road re-opening in late November. The state of the concrete canopy was not totally unknown – the 2013 lease agreement listed its removal as part of the historic works programme.

The impact on Market operations and on traffic flows in the area has been severe and if that were not bad enough on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October a glass panel in the canopy on the south side of the West Market failed – again, fortunately, no one was injured. Since then a further two panels have failed in the same area. This has meant the fencing off of the whole side of the building and also taping off the rest of the glass canopy around the Market while the cause is investigated.

In the meantime a 'crash' deck is being installed under the section where the failures have occurred so that the loading bays can be brought back into use. Netting is also to be installed all around the two buildings with the glass canopies so that there will be full access to the pavements and loading bays in time for the busy Christmas trading period.

This sequence of events has generated many questions in committee meetings. In particular, the Audit and Risk Management Committee was disturbed that the incidents had not immediately been reported to the Committee Chair, his deputies or to the risk division of the Chamberlain's department. At Alderman Ian Luder's suggestion, this failure was to be raised formally in writing with the Town Clerk asking him to remind Chief Officers of their obligations in this respect.

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end."

John Lennon, 1940-1980  
*Singer-songwriter*

# **IN MEMORIAM**

## **DEREK WILLIAM BERRY**

**17 SEPTEMBER 1949 – 10 AUGUST 2020**



Smithfield Market Tenants' Association  
Council member from 2012  
Deputy Chairman 2015-2018  
Honorary President from July 2019

Derroll William Berry, known as 'Del' or 'Derek', was born in Wapping on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1949, the only child of Elaine and Tim Berry. Sadly, Derek's father died when Derek was just three months old. Derek's mother became ill and so Derek was brought up by an Aunt and Uncle. He was baptised at St Patrick's Roman Catholic church in Wapping and received his early education at the church school.

On leaving school at the age of 17, Derek took a position as a quantity surveyor but left after a year as he found it boring. At this time, W Weddel and Company, a subsidiary of Union International, meat importers and wholesalers, was recruiting young trainees, all of whom were to attend courses at the Smithfield College under the watchful eye of Fred Mallion, past master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers.

Derek proved to be an exemplary pupil and in 1970, on completion of his final examination, was awarded the Institute of Meat Gold Medal in recognition of his achievements. As a Weddel trainee, Derek visited abattoirs, cold stores, tanneries and the London docks gaining a sound grounding in the meat industry. In the

early 1980s he managed the Weddel Smithfield Market shops. The trade was changing rapidly. Weddel had acquired Swift and Company and decided to withdraw from Smithfield.

Derek was approached by Towers Thompson and spent ten happy years with them before returning to Smithfield to join J. F Edwards & Son where he subsequently became managing director in 2018. During his time back on the Market he played a significant and influential role with the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association being elected to Council in 2012 and serving as Deputy Chairman from 2015 until his retirement in 2018. In 2019 he was elected to the honorary role of Association President.

He was always very generous with his time and became heavily involved in the setting up of a Smithfield Apprentice Scheme as well as attending many meetings and contributing ideas in preparation for the Smithfield 150 celebrations in 2018. If someone contacted the SMTA office with an odd enquiry (Ostrich feathers?) – Derek was your man. He was also always willing to conduct early morning tours of the Market, generally finishing with breakfast at the nearby Hope or Fox and Anchor.

Outside work, his other great passion was Arsenal FC where he could become uncharacteristically vociferous should a pass be misdirected or a goal opportunity wasted.

Derek's life partner was Joan. They grew up on the same street and were devoted to each other. They enjoyed visits to restaurants, pubs and livery events, particularly the Lord Mayor's Show followed by lunch at Butchers' Hall which was always a great favourite.

Derek was admitted to the Livery in 2000 having been proposed by Dennis Clark and seconded by Ted Price CC. He was elected to Court in 2012. Through his trade contacts he gave unstinting support to a number of Providitors as they sought to find donors and sponsors to contribute meat to a Court lunch.

Derek's major contribution to the WCB was in the field of charity, education and fundraising. By nature he was generous and charitable and truly fulfilled his promise to put something back into the trade which had given him so much.

It comes as little surprise that Joan was overwhelmed with over 200 letters and cards of condolence, each letter describing Derek as a true gentleman. His generosity of spirit and sense of humour are sadly missed.

*Based, with thanks, on the eulogy given by Ian Kelly at Derek's funeral on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020.*

**AN AUSTRALIAN STALL**  
**ARTICLE FROM THE SYDNEY DAILY**  
**TELEGRAPH, 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1922**

This week an all-Australian meat stall, leased to FJ Walker Ltd, the meat exporters, Sydney, was opened in the Smithfield Market, London. It is regarded by trade interests as marking a most important step forward in the sale of Australian meat in Britain. It is very rarely that a meat stall in the Smithfield Market becomes vacant. Recently it was resolved to convert the old Tower Tavern into a meat stall, and tenders were called. FJ Walker Ltd tendered, and enlisted the assistance of the Prime Minister, Mr WM Hughes, who supported the tender, pointing out that it would be of special value to the Australian meat industry to secure such a stall. FJ Walker's tender was accepted, and no money was spared in fitting the stall up.

Mr Walker was advised by cable yesterday that the opening sales were a complete success, about 580 quarters of Australian beef and 500 carcasses of Australian mutton being sold. Included in the beef sold were considerable quantities on account of New South Wales stockowners.

The stall is intended for the display of Australian meat. It is said to be the first established in Smithfield by a wholly Australian company with Australian capital. Retail butchers purchase at it.

"It takes Australian meat," Mr FJ Walker points out, "one step nearer the British consumer. We are prepared to handle meat in it on behalf of other Australian export companies, and, if they so wish, Australian stockowners, we acting as agents. Of course, meat that we have bought ourselves will be sold in it."

The cellars underneath the stall have been fitted up with cold storage, and already have a capacity of 10,000 carcasses, which, it is hoped, will be extended to 60,000 carcasses.

Mr Edmund Jowett MHR, who recently returned from Britain, after investigating the meat trade on behalf of producers, recommended that, if possible, stalls should be secured in Smithfield for the display of Australian meat. In this way, he held, Australian meat would get a splendid advertisement, and one middleman, the speculator, would be cut out.

It has been a long-standing complaint that much of the best Australian meat shipped to England has been sold by speculators and others as anything but Australian, and that consequently Australia has suffered. This stall will help to preserve the identity of Australian meat.

*National Library of Australia*

**CITY OF LONDON –**  
**GHOST TOWN?**

Road closures and pavement widening for increased cycling and walking may have looked sensible back in the Spring but in the light of what has been happening in the City now just look ridiculous. It is a ghost town.

Where is the vision that will be needed to breathe life back into the corpse? Instead the City Corporation seems to be pervaded with negativity. We need ideas and plans from the elected members and Aldermen for the post-lockdown City and help for the shops, restaurants and small businesses located there. Reopening the roads would be a good start.

**SQUIRELING IT AWAY - £380M**  
**MORE IN THE BANK**

Covid might have taken the wind out of many company balance sheets this year but not the City of London. Another fantastic performance across the three main funds produced a net gain of £248.6 million for a rainy day and a further post-audit gain of £131.6 million on the market recovery for its non-property investments. Maybe supporting SMEs would be a good use of this bonanza?

**MUSEUM OF LONDON**  
**GRANTED PLANNING**  
**PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE**

A virtual meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee of the City of London on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 considered the Museum of London's application for the empty General Market and Annexe buildings as well as the still occupied Poultry Market building at Smithfield. Farringdon Without Ward Councillor William Upton QC argued strongly that the application was premature, but 'in principle' planning permission was granted. We now understand, however, that the Capital Buildings Committee decided at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November to withdraw its support for the Poultry Market element of the scheme. The Poultry Market has not been confirmed as being surplus to requirement by Markets Committee.

The Smithfield Market tenants have made it clear to the City that they see their long term future in remaining at Smithfield and that therefore the vacant units in the Poultry Market should be let to meat trading tenants immediately.

"The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane."

*Marcus Aurelius, Emperor of Rome 161-180*



**The Smithfield Gazette**  
wishes all its readers  
**Season's Greetings**  
and  
**Very Best Wishes for 2021**

**Smithfield Meat Market**

turkey · poultry · game · pork · lamb · beef · offal  
sausages · bacon · other provisions · halal

*open to the trade and the public all year round  
Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays from 2am to 8am*

**Christmas Trading Hours**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 1am to 9am**  
**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December – 1am to 8am**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 1am to 9am**

*The Market will be closed on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January and open on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December. Normal opening resumes from 4<sup>th</sup> January.*

**[www.smithfieldmarket.com](http://www.smithfieldmarket.com)**

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### B J Meats Ltd

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Fax: 020 7236 7824

### James Burden Ltd

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Fax: 020 7489 8403

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29 West Market Building  
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Fax: 020 7236 2411

40 West Market Building  
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www.jamesaburden.co.uk  
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### Central Meat (Smithfield) Ltd

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www.centralmeat.uk  
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### Channel Meats Ltd

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Fax: 020 7329 0337  
E: channelmeats@aol.com

### D.P. Meats (Alford & Ford Ltd)

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Fax: 020 7236 4173  
www.dpmeats.co.uk  
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### Denton Bros. (Smithfield)

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E: admin@dentonbros.co.uk

### J. F. Edwards (Smithfield) Ltd

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Fax: 020 7248 4359  
www.jfedwards.uk.com  
E: info@jfedwards.uk.com  
and shops 28, 207 & 208

### Finclass Ltd

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### G & E Meats Ltd

36 West Market Building  
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Fax: 020 7329 3993  
www.gemeats.uk  
E: info@gemeats.uk

### Icefront Ltd t/a Gordon Meats

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Fax: 020 7489 9382  
E: sales@icefront.co.uk

### Tom Hixson of Smithfield

38 West Market Building  
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www.tomhixson.co.uk  
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and shop 221

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### PW & JK Killby Ltd

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### G. Lawrence Wholesale Meat Co. Ltd

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### Longcroft & Old Ltd

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### Market Provisions (Smithfield) Ltd

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### Edward Price & Partners Ltd

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### Reeve & Co. Ltd

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Fax: 020 7236 4032  
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### Rhonda Meats Ltd

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### Peter Thompson Group Ltd

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### Vixelli

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### William Warman & Guttridge Ltd

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and shop 6, 8 & 10

## **THE CHARTERHOUSE UNVEILS A REPRODUCTION OF THE ELIZABETH I 'SIEVE' PORTRAIT**



The Charterhouse has unveiled a special newly-commissioned addition to its Great Chamber – a fine copy of Quentin Metsys the Younger's portrait of Elizabeth I painted by the artist and painting conservator Ying Yang. It now hangs on the end wall of the newly refurbished Great Chamber, where Elizabeth I herself was frequently a guest, alongside the Charterhouse's original and recently restored stored portrait collection.

The original painting (dated around 1583), now in the Pinacoteca Nazionale in Siena, depicts the *Virgin Queen* holding a sieve – a symbol of chastity, and also of wisdom and discernment. Ying Yang spent some time studying the portrait in Siena to analyse the painting style, materials, pigments and varnishes used and capture the way it had aged. The frame for the portrait was also specially commissioned and created by Peter Schade, the Head of Framing at the National Gallery, London.

After the dissolution of the Carthusian monastery, the Charterhouse became a grand Tudor mansion, where Elizabeth I was a frequent guest after she stayed there in preparation for her coronation in 1559. In 1611, with a legacy bestowed by Thomas Sutton, the richest commoner in England at the time, the Charterhouse became a school for poor boys and an almshouse, which it remains to this day.

## **CITY WELLBEING CENTRE**

A new centre has opened offering counselling and psychotherapy for workers and residents in the City of London and neighbouring boroughs. The City of London has commissioned Tavistock Relationships, a non-profit organisation, to provide services such as individual counselling and psychotherapy, couple psychotherapy, group therapy, psychosexual therapy, help for separated and divorced couples, parenting interventions, short term interventions for those affected by lockdown and support for couples living together with dementia. Help with drug and alcohol abuse and work issues is also available. Services are offered on the basis of what the individual or couple can afford. Currently all services are being offered online, but they hope to return to face-to-face in time.

Randall Anderson, Chairman of the City of London Corporation's Community and Children's Services Committee said: "Supporting good mental health among our residents and workers is a key priority for the City Corporation. The availability and speed of access to some NHS mental health services can be limited and some services – such as psychotherapy – are rarely available. City residents and workers struggling with mental ill-health will benefit greatly from this new service with new quick and effective access to professional advice and treatment."

75-77 Middlesex Street, E1 7DA Tel 020 7380 1960

<https://CityWellbeingCentre.org>

[appointments@tavistockrelationships.org](mailto:appointments@tavistockrelationships.org)

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

Lord Lisvane's review of the Corporate Governance arrangements of the City Corporation was published in September. On 'The way forward: principles', the report states that "Above all, the Corporation must set itself to maintain and support the promotion of those highest standards, and its Members need to be fully engaged in this endeavour." The report notes that Freemasonry was raised as an issue a number of times in the context of diversity and 'below the radar' influences on committee appointments, allocation of chairs and other decisions. The report does not comment on these points but notes that recommendations are made on increased transparency.

## **HELICAL/BARTS SQUARE**

In April Helical announced that they had exchanged contracts on the sale of 90 Bartholomew Close to La Francaise Real Estate Partners International. The price of £48.5m reflects an initial yield of 3.92% (£1,594 per sq ft capital value). The six floor building provides 24,013 sq ft of office space as well as a 6,414 sq ft restaurant, occupied by the award-winning LINO, behind the retained Victorian façade.

## EVENTS AT THE CHARTERHOUSE

View a virtual tour of the newly refurbished Great Chamber via the following link

<https://thecharterhouse.org/explore-the-charterhouse/the-great-chamber/>

**The Thomas Sutton Lecture – Eric Parry RA:  
Boundaries in time, place and material**

26<sup>th</sup> November, 7-8pm

This will be an online presentation by the architect responsible for opening up the Charterhouse to the public and follows on from last year's lecture. It will focus on the intentions for the 'Revealing the Charterhouse' project, both social and architectural. Places can be booked via the link below and on payment of a donation.

<https://thecharterhouse.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/31295?catID=30753&>

**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@smithfieldmarket.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion** - the existing central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be expanded out to the North Circular Road (A406) and South Circular Road (A205) to create a single large zone from 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The North and South Circular Roads are not included in the zone. To check if a vehicle meets the emission standards go to <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle-35896>

**Direct Action Everywhere** – a group of around thirty activists turned up unannounced at the Market early on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Some of them entered buyer's walk with cameras, megaphones and banners and were swiftly ushered out by a combination of Smithfield traders and Market police.

Footage made it onto various social media channels which generated many comments supporting the Market and its traders.

In addition, the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association received the following letter

### **American Butcher Sends Best Wishes!**

I just read about what the crazed "animal rights activists" tried to do at your market the other day and wanted to say good on you for standing up for yourselves and our trade. I'm a butcher myself from rural Tennessee (about an hour outside of Memphis) and I love the way you guys weren't afraid to stand up and take action to protect the honour of our trade.

Have a good day!

Sincerely

Elliott Eddings

## CHRISTMAS QUOTE

"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white'."

*Bing Crosby, 1903-1977  
American Singer*

