



Broad Street

The City's Markets by John Scott CC, Chairman of the Markets Committee

It is a great honour when your colleagues elect you to chair one of the City Corporation's committees and in 2016 I am in my second year as Chairman of the Markets Committee. When the City hosted the Inclusive Capitalism event at Guildhall in 2014, with luminaries such as President Clinton, the high-flying financiers all assumed that I was responsible for all the financial markets in the City. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and did not mention meat, fish, fruit or veg once!

While the City of London Corporation may be the world's oldest continuous municipal democracy, our wholesale food markets have been around for a great deal longer. There was a fish market on the site of the old Billingsgate Market as far back as 400BC while live meat was being traded at Smithfield in the early Middle Ages and Spitalfields, the youngest of our markets, was granted a Royal Charter by King Charles II. In those days it was said that you could smell your way from Monument to Billingsgate and even the very word 'Billingsgate' entered the English language, meaning a scolding, impudent, slut, while Smithfield was a place of execution alongside the slaughter of livestock.



*Old Smithfield Market in 1855 from a lithograph published by W. Hodsdon**

The sites of our markets, especially Billingsgate and Smithfield, have undergone many changes over the centuries which have accelerated in the past 200 years. The old dock at Billingsgate was replaced by a new market building in 1850, then enlarged by Sir Horace Jones in 1877 and, after relocating to Canary Wharf, the historic building became a conference centre.

With only two undeveloped sites at Canary Wharf, and with the market located immediately adjacent to a Crossrail Station, it may not be long before there is yet another move eastwards.



*A view of Billingsgate Market in 1808 from an aquatint by Augustus Pugin**

Smithfield Market was a live animal market until 1855 when the disruption caused by flocks and herds, as well as by the odd loose bull, caused the livestock market to be relocated to Islington. The new carcass market was completed in 1868, again to the designs of the City Corporation's architect, Sir Horace Jones, and it is these buildings which are so familiar to us today and which still house the wholesale meat market. For how long it will be feasible to bring refrigerated articulated meat lorries into central London is a moot point and, with Crossrail so nearby, the pressure may be on to extend the retail business during the day to cater for the thousands passing by on a daily basis, a change which will be accelerated by the proposed move of the Museum of London to the old General Market site to the west of the Central Market.

We may think of the City more as a centre for financial services but our wholesale markets are huge businesses in their own right – Billingsgate is the largest inland fish market in the UK, trading about 22,000 tonnes of fish each year, valued at some £200 million. Spitalfields has more traders, and more fork-lift trucks, than any other UK wholesale market operating under a

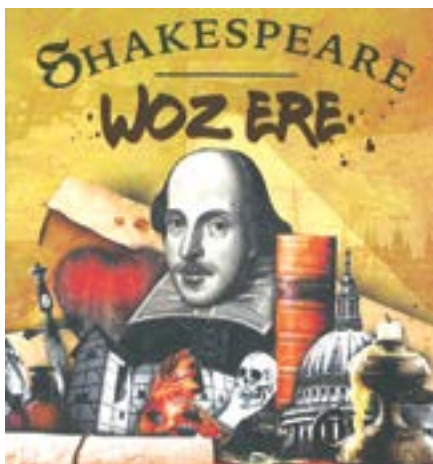
single roof and turns over 700,000 tonnes of fruit and vegetables each year with a value exceeding £700 million. Smithfield may seem quiet when you walk past during the day but come 2am and it is a hive of activity with overhead tracks unloading carcasses while the rest of the population sleeps, or in that part of London, goes clubbing. In the late 1990s £70 million was spent on refurbishment to enable the market to meet the latest food hygiene standards and to function as an approved 'cutting plant' for the 120,000 tonnes of meat that pass through each year valued at £450 million.

London is changing constantly and the City's wholesale markets will continue to evolve with the passage of time.

Leadenhall Market and Old Spitalfields are already populated by retail outlets and restaurants. Crossrail and the new Museum of London will transform the area around Smithfield while traffic and pollution may well have an impact upon how and where large quantities of fresh produce are transported. Billingsgate market may only have moved to its present location just over 30 years ago but already it is dwarfed by the surrounding towering office blocks and, with a Crossrail station immediately adjacent, alternative uses for this site will have to be considered. The City Corporation has commissioned a strategic review so that our markets remain fit for the future, whatever that holds, in consultation with our suppliers, merchants, customers and the multiplicity of stakeholders with an interest in their continuing prosperity.

Our markets may cater predominantly for the wholesale trade but the retail customer is welcomed also at Billingsgate and Smithfield and, with many products now priced individually, the process is much easier than in the past. An early morning visit to our markets is an experience not to be missed and if you don't know one fish from another then the Billingsgate Seafood Training School will introduce you to a whole new world.

Bard to the bone



2016 is a big year for anniversaries in the City. Along with The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and plans to mark the 350th

anniversary of the Great Fire, there is also the little matter of a whole series of events commemorating 400 years since Shakespeare's death.

Where better to celebrate the Bard's life than in London where he lived and worked and where you can still walk down streets which he passed along himself?

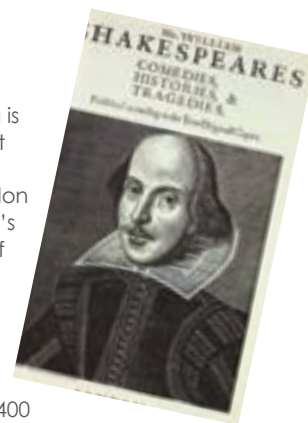
This ward newsletters is scheduled for distribution before the end of March so you might just catch the last few days of Shakespeare and London at the City of London Heritage Gallery. You will see the rarely-displayed deed for a property in Blackfriars which Shakespeare bought in 1613 (one of only six surviving documents to carry his signature) and Guildhall Library's First Folio.

Also in Guildhall Art Gallery (of which the Heritage Gallery is part) is Visscher Redrawn: 1616-2016. Claes Jansz. Visscher's

1616 engraving is one of the most recognisable images of London in Shakespeare's day and one of the few visual records of the City before so much of it was swept away in the Great Fire. 400 years on, artist Robin Reynolds repeats the exercise with his version of modern London displayed alongside the original.

In addition there is a host of theatrical productions, special events, music, walks and talks across the City that offer something for everyone.

cityoflondon.gov.uk/shakespeare400



Spread the word – register your interest

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY!**

**CITY
VOTE
2017**

As if 2016 wasn't a big enough year for the City, next March will see City-wide elections taking place to elect councillors to the City Corporation's main governing body.

As usual, registration forms will be going out later this year to residents and businesses and other organisations that are eligible to appoint voters. Most residents will know that the City Corporation is their local council and why they should vote but for City firms and other organisations the reason is not as clear given that workers will also vote in local elections where they live.

The City Corporation is planning a series of activities to promote next year's elections and the importance of City workers being registered. And we are also asking

both residents and those firms already on the electoral register to help spread the word.

Many people who come into the City may actually spend more time here, including commuting time, than they do at home. What happens in the City affects them, so we want to make sure that people know they may be eligible to register to vote in City ward elections, and to persuade them to do so.

In the first instance we are asking them to simply let us know that they are interested in being involved by sending us an email with their name and the name of their firm or organisation. That way when registration forms are sent out we know we are reaching the right people.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityvote17

Birthday beacons



To help celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday, on 21 April community groups, organisations or individuals in the City are invited to take part in a nation-wide beacon tribute. This follows the huge success of the last major beacon celebration for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The UK has a long tradition of celebrating Royal jubilees, weddings, coronations and special birthdays with the lighting of beacons – on top of mountains, churches and castle battlements, on town and village greens, farms, country parks and estates, and along the beaches surrounding our shores. And the City of London is no exception.

If you or your community group would like to participate in this national celebration, The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons group has put together a guide to taking part online.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/beacons



Yard Sale

Guildhall Yard regularly hosts a lunch market with more than 20 stalls serving up mouth-watering dishes from around the world.

The date of the next market is Thursday 21 April, 12 noon – 2.30pm, so why not ditch the usual sarnie and join us for a feast of proper Greek wraps, Jamaican jerk chicken, cracking Korean dumplings and more.

Time for dessert? There are also plenty of sweet treats, including gourmet brownies and decadent doughnuts.

Find us at Guildhall Yard
EC2V 5AE

[cityoflondon.gov.uk/
guildhallmarkets](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhallmarkets)

Aldgate update



If you haven't noticed already, big changes are currently underway at Aldgate.

The Aldgate Area project aims to:

- create two new public spaces for events, leisure and play
- improve pedestrian routes and connections
- enhance safety for road users
- improve cycling routes
- introduce more greenery
- improve lighting

Changes to the traffic layout will be completed this spring and the finished project will provide new pedestrian crossing points and allow easier navigation of bus services. Pedestrian subway entrances have been removed so that street trees and wider footways can be introduced. The centrepiece of the scheme is Aldgate Square, a large public space uniting two heritage listed buildings: Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and the St Botolph without Aldgate Church.

You can sign up for the weekly Aldgate e-bulletin, which details work being undertaken by the City Corporation and find additional information about the project at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatearea.



Broad Street

Who We Are



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Committee Appointments:
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Port Health & Environmental Services
City of London Freeman's School
Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Chairman)
Education Board



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Education Board
The Honourable the Irish Society
Finance
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Committee Appointments:
Markets (Chairman)
Culture, Heritage & Libraries
Guildhall School of Music & Drama
Museum of London
Gresham (Cityside)

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CONTACT US

To write to any of your Members, to let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter by email in future, or to inform us if you wish to be taken off the distribution list write c/o

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We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Monastic Calm and Purity at Austin Friars by Alderman Michael Mainelli

From February till September 2015 Austin Friars converted from a traffic alley to a pedestrianised public realm with vehicle access for residents. From October 2015 till April 2016 the City of London Corporation has enacted an experimental traffic order to see how far pedestrianisation can go.

The principal impact of the order is a timed restriction for vehicles, excluding the disabled, between 11:00 and 16:00 from Monday till Friday. The closure has now been in place for a quarter of a year and to date no significant problems have been reported on site. Pedestrians definitely use the additional carriageway space during the restricted hours and the area is clearly a much more attractive and comfortable pedestrian environment.

In addition, the City of London Road Safety team undertook a road safety audit in December 2015. The team noted that whilst there is a potential issue of conflict between pedestrians and vehicles in certain locations, particularly on the corners at the southern end of the



Austin Friars – a new look

street, this is not considered to be a safety problem due to the low speeds that vehicles travel in this street.

As part of the experimental traffic order cameras were set up in a number of locations on Austin Friars to monitor

vehicle movements and the levels of compliance within Austin Friars. This data will also be utilised to establish the relative impact on air quality, another concern of your members. It may not yet be monastic calm and purity, but Broad Street Ward has come a long way swiftly.