



Chairman's notes

Well, Christmas has crept up on us. I'm very pleased that Billingsgate will be open on the Monday before Christmas. I just wish that the coastal markets would be open on the Monday and Tuesday as well. A lot of boats seem to tie up a week before Christmas. It seems they don't understand what we are trying to do. All the fishmongers I know would like to be able to give their customers the very freshest fish possible for their Christmas orders.

As I write there is a repeat of that dreadful BBC 'documentary' about Billingsgate. I suppose they would class it as light entertainment. I would class it as a very negative insight into our market. Where is the balanced view? Where is all the gleaming, glistening fish and the market traders proud of all their beautiful produce?

Maybe one day the BBC will come back and show some of the world class fish and the passionate people that our market has to offer!

I wish you all a prosperous trade in the run up to Christmas and hope you get a chance to relax for a few days.

Best wishes,
Rex Goldsmith.



Lord Mayor's Show

For the first time for many years the new Lord Mayor, Alan Yarrow, is a Court member of the Fishmongers' Company. He became the 687th Lord Mayor in November and, as a consequence, the Company entered a spectacular float into the Lord Mayor's show this year.

The float which took the form of a large silver scaled fish which shimmered its way through the streets of the City of London was considered by many to be the star of the parade.

It was preceded by the clerk, Colin Boag, dressed as a penguin and three members of the staff dressed in fish outfits all riding segways. Following the float were members from the various organisations supported by the Company, including members of the fisheries team.

Prior to the main parade the Lord Mayor headed a small flotilla of traditional barges and small boats on the river aboard the *Gloriana* which was built for the queen's diamond jubilee pageant.

The weather for the day was kind with the predicted rain holding off ensuring that the estimated half a million spectators enjoyed the entire spectacle.

Historically, the Fishmongers' Company has had Lord Mayors in their ranks but possibly the most famous member of the Fishmongers' Company to be Lord Mayor was Sir William Walworth who in 1381 slew Watt Tyler in the peasants rebellion. Supposedly, Watt Tyler, threatened the life of the young King Richard when the peasant army met that of the king's at Smithfield. A beautiful carved statue of William Walworth and the dagger with which he performed the dastardly deed can be seen at Fishmongers' Hall. The current Lord Mayor is not expected to undertake such drastic actions, during his year of office but he will give around 800 speeches and spend upwards of 100 days abroad visiting at least 25 countries promoting trade with the City and the UK.

