

LOCAL LONDON

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Smithfield campaigners put case for saving general market

A MAJOR exhibition is launched today to help decide the future of the historic Smithfield Market buildings prior to the opening of a planning inquiry next month.

The main issue of the inquiry will be the demolition of the general market building and redevelopment.

The proposed scheme, by developers Thornfield Properties, has a massive flat-fronted steel and glass building, designed by architects KPF at 43 Farringdon Street.

The City Corporation approved

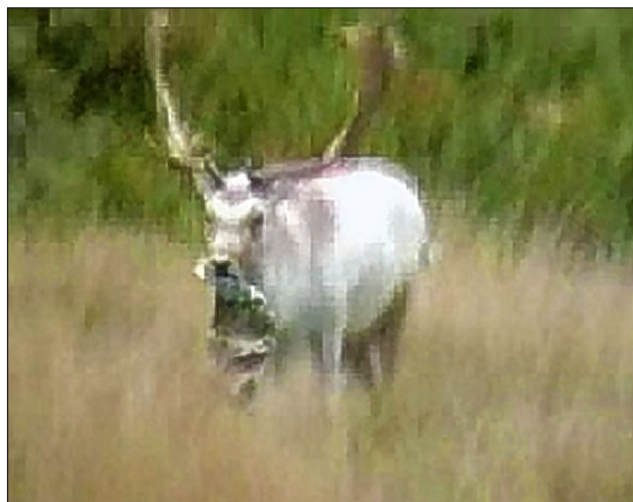
the scheme last May. At the inquiry, English Heritage will argue that the demolition of the general market building would damage the conservation area irreparably.

The exhibition of English Heritage's alternative ideas for the market is at The Gallery, 75 Cowcross Street, Farringdon.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: PAGE 12 ►

SEE PICTURES OF HISTORIC SMITHFIELD ►

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Bite-size: a white fallow buck carries off a new-born fawn in Bushy Park

Late fawn bucks the trend in Bushey

COULD this be more proof that our seasons are increasingly out of kilter?

A white fallow buck was spotted in Bushy Park last week with a new-born fawn.

Normally fallow deer give birth in May or June.

Experts at the Wildlife Trust expressed surprise at what they called "a very late birth".

Valerie English, a web entrepreneur from Hanworth, was walking through the park just over a week ago when she

captured the scene on film.

"I couldn't believe it when he picked up the fawn," she said. "I have never seen a buck as white as this one."

"He looked so mystical against the autumn colour."

"He picked the baby up with both legs in his mouth — you can see the fawn wriggling — then let him down gently back on to the grass."

TO VIEW VIDEO ►

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ON THIS DAY — 9 OCTOBER

1940: A German blitz destroys the altar of St Paul's Cathedral and leaves much of the rest of London in flames.

1959: Prime Minister Harold Macmillan leads the Conservatives to a third successive election victory with a huge majority.

1967: Argentinian guerrilla fighter Che

Guevara is captured in Bolivia and shot.

1975: A man is killed and at least 20 people injured in an IRA bomb attack near Green Park Tube.

1997: The campaign to ban landmines, championed by Diana, Princess of Wales, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Hunt for Latin lover's brides

BRIDES who received a dowry left by a 19th century Italian romantic have been invited to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the bequest.

Pasquale Favale, whose wife was from London, left 18,000 lira to the City Corporation for "poor, honest, young women, natives of the City of London, aged 16 to 25".

Each modern-day recipient now gets an average £100 to contribute to the cake or table decorations.

The City is looking for recipients who received the dowry more than 10 years ago. Brides should contact Mary Dolphin or Sarah Roberts in the town clerk's office on 0207 332 1427.

■ MIDDLE schools in the capital are set to be abolished despite protests from parents and staff.

Harrow plans to close the only remaining schools catering for children aged eight to 12, even though the system has proved effective. The council says it is worried too many pupils are going to school outside the borough as soon as they reach Year 7. But supporters of the schools say they provide young adolescents with the opportunity to grow at their own pace. Sue Kennedy, chairman of the National Middle Schools Forum, said: "I cannot see the logic in it whatsoever."

But Harrow councillor Christine Bednell said: "We need to ensure that our schools are able to make as much progress in all aspects of achievement and school life as possible."



■ THE Apple shop in Regent Street says it has served the company's 10 millionth customer. Student Michal Reviro, 25, was given a computer and an iPod. "I was browsing," she said. Regent Street is becoming a hi-tech centre — Nokia is to move into the old Dickins and Jones store.

■ OXFORD STREET'S Christmas lights this year will promote new Disney children's film, Enchanted.

The official switch-on at John Lewis will be performed by a star whose identity will be revealed on the night.

Family activities will be held in Oxford Street all day and the evening's entertainment will include a live stage show, starting at 5pm.

The mile-long canopy of lights has LED bulbs, using 75 per cent less energy, and all the West End Christmas illuminations — Bond Street, Oxford Street and Regent Street — are carbon offset.

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www.oxfordstreet.co.uk

john bray

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