



I've never been one to shy away from difficult decisions and having worked at H. Smith Food Group plc for 28 years, it's time for me to stand down/step aside/ jump ship/push the ejector seat button. To put it simply, I've decided to retire! I can already hear the cheering from various parts of the industry (including some staff at H. Smith). No tears please!

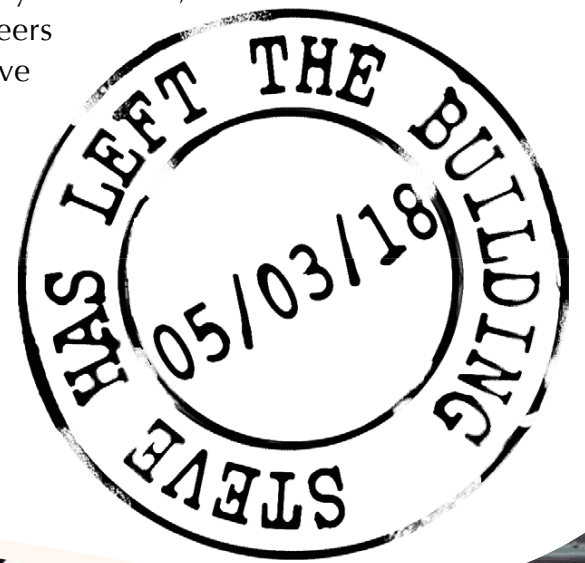
It's hard to believe that I've been working with Chris for that length of time and I really do not know where the time has gone. What I do know is that we have come a long way since it was just the two of us in a tiny portakabin in a farmer's field near Chelmsford. It has been a privilege to have been part of the journey from these humble beginnings to our own, purpose-built facility at Rainham.

All good things have to come to an end and I've decided that now is my time to move on to the next phase of my life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have met along the way. Some, I hope, will remain friends and stay in touch, and please do remember,

I've only retired! I plan to follow the path taken by many of our youngsters these days and spend a year out travelling - the only difference being, I shall be paying for it myself and not relying on the Bank of Mum and Dad! Just a little side note - if on your travels you happen to spot a white haired old boy on a racing bike - give him space and a wave. It may just be me!

Many people have asked what will I miss most about working at H. Smith and to be honest I didn't need long to think about this - it's hearing the call of 'Steve' emanating from Chris' office...

See you around,
Cheers
Steve



H. Smith Food Group plc

