

Interviewee Details

Name: Michael J. Staniforth

ID Number: CM_003_Staniforth

Place of Birth:

Year / Date of Birth: 1949

Interview Details

Interviewer: Torri Crapper

Date / Time: 10/12/2012 13:51

Place: Castle Market

Audio File Nos: CM_003_Staniforth

Summary

Time	Description
0.10	Market in 1950s
1.25	Taking rags to the Rag and Tag Market
2.25	Pet shop and scales at Rag and Tag
2.48	Rock Tavern, Dixon Lane
3.27	Collecting fat and bones at the abattoir
4.08	Market will be missed
4.32	Partner's memories
5.46	Castle ruins and Mary Queen of Scots

Transcript

Torri: So, if I could just get you to say your name and date of birth and what you are in Sheffield Market today doing?

Michael: I'm Michael J Staniforth, born 1949.

Torri: Yep.

Michael: Grew up as like a 50s kid you know, so I remember the markets and town - this area - from that. Coming in, I think that with a lot of case mums brought the kids into town like they do now and remember seeing Dixon Lane, literally hundreds and hundreds of people on Dixon Lane, and fruit sellers, and it seemed to be a more of a vibrant, packed place, you know people shopping.

Same as round the market area on Castle Street, Haymarket and people had hats on and ties and suits you don't a – like this, like I am now!

Torri: [laughs]

Michael: Not a suit but dunno seemed to be a - I think it's a nostalgic thing really everybody comes remembers it nostalgically.

Torri: What's your favourite memory?

Michael: My relation, sorry, next door neighbour used to sell curtains in the market and I'd be about and my brother worked for him selling curtains and materials. And we'd mess about as you did when you're little kids - scramble about underneath the stalls and things like that and taking rags to the - that's why they call it rag market –rags, you could weigh them in and get money for them, for a few coppers. We tend, we tended to wet them with water so they were more weight but obviously the man he say now you know, knew what we'd done like, he says go take them back and bring them back dry, things like that. And the pet shop, think it was Oggleys, and the lady with the weighing machine, use to - a lot of people probably mention that - you could get weighed for a penny, and just generally things like that.

And then going in the pub when I first started to drink 18 year old, well I'll have been 17, in the pub on Dixon Lane, there's the bottom one, the one call the Rock Tavern, which is gone now, but the buildings still there, they used to call it the Rock Tavern. I remember seeing a nice roaring fire in the winter, you know, as I say, everybody, the men always wore a suit or a nick hat, a trilby, always dressed smart, and it were good times, good remembrances.

Coming up to the santas, I used to collect fat and bones, for the hide and skin which was on the abattoir on Cricketing Road. And you'd go round with a weighing - small little weighing scale - and collect their fat and bones what which were waste and weigh them and you'd sort of write it down whatever the weight was, give them a ticket, to be copied underneath - you know the old photo stab way blue copies - that was the hide and skin. I think going back, it's going to be missed but you've got to look forward, seeing the new one coming onto the Moor, but I think it'll be missed basically. I think it's just different times now, aren't they?

Torri: Do you shop here regularly?

Michael: Yeah I come down with my partner, 20 years. She used to come down with her mum. We used to go to school together but met up in the early 90s and the rest is history. But I think it's like that with a lot of families, they come down with their mums or grams. Like she comes from the Park Area off Talbot Street and she told me her remembrances of coming down from Gambol Street and straight into the market which was cross road on, cross from there, and going into old market which was the Rag and Tag - you could get in on the Commercial Street side, and of course there was this side - different entrances - and there was the newer market which came adjoining this, which you could get from the Park Square but that was just 60s, 70s build and that's gone, and now it's this, the one here. Hopefully they're gunna reveal the castle ruins underneath. Cos, they say, or there probably is, a lot of is still you know to be discovered.

Torri: Is that what you hope they do?

Michael: Yeah yeah. There is the little entrance, don't know whether you've been to it at the other side, you can go down there like. But apparently from this area going back to 1500s 1600 there was an avenue of trees which led right to the Manor Lodge. We talk about tunnels that Mary Queen of Scots came in but more than likely she came by horseback with, under guard, from the Sheffield Castle and just an avenue of trees which led to the Manor Lodge, I don't know if you've been up there, yeah, and that was all the Park Area, that's the reason why they call this the Park, down this towards this way. So that's about it I think up to now,

Torri: Thank you very much, that's amazing.