

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcript

Interviewee Details

Name: Anthony James Foulds

ID Number: CM_006_Foulds

Place of Birth: Unknown

Year / Date of Birth: 1936

Interview Details

Interviewer: Helen Finnerty

Date / Time: 11/12/2012 12:53

Place: Castle Market

Audio Files: CM_006_Foulds

Transcript:

Helen: OK then so I'm here today on the 11th of December

Anthony: Anthony James Foulds

Helen: OK Anthony James Foulds. So Anthony would you mind telling me when you were born?

Anthony: 1936

Helen: OK and have you travelled far today?

Anthony: I live up near Beauchief Abbey [Inaudible]

Helen: Right OK and have you been coming to the market [Inaudible]

Anthony: Since 1956

Helen: Right OK, can you tell me about your first memories of the market?

Anthony: My first memories of the market were - they used to have a couple of characters. One of them was called Russian Edna and another one was the Duke of Darnall. He was dumb, he was a mute. He used to walk about town with spats. And Russian Edna worked on market down Dixon Lane, which is the first little lane outside here. And they lived together and she was murdered and he never got over it [Inaudible] I used to come down here and I had a lot of mates who worked in t' market at the time but they worked in Castle Market and I remember the pub on the corner of Marples getting bombed. There's a lot of dead people still under there. They said they couldn't get to 'em.

Helen: What changes have you seen?

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcript

Anthony: Ooh what changes have I seen? Up at the top at the town hall there used to be a big fountain and on Saturday nights when all young 'uns would go dancing they used to take a packet of washing powder and put it in the fountain so it was all bubbles and I think that's one of the reasons they did away with it! And there were also the hole in the road

Helen: Oh yes I've heard about that

Anthony: Well why they ever did away with that I'll never know [Inaudible] It used to be smashing, everyone used to meet there, everyone for the different places they were going.

Helen: Did you have a favourite stall here or a favourite place you would buy things?

Anthony: No, no it's changed so much now because then [Inaudible] you could just come in and do your shopping, we used to come in to meet a friend, you stand at the top of the stairs and we used to meet in the morning and chat and then we'd all go our own way about half past twelve. Yeah, well we've been coming in here, me - like I say - since 1953

Helen: And why do you think people used to come to the market a lot?

Anthony: Social, it was nearly always, it wasn't so much buying, everybody used to meet, everybody used to meet, like they do now, if you walk outside you'll see different little knots together, you know five or six people, it's been here that long. But that's what it were [Inaudible] but when the other market was up, which is now the car park, of course it was really busy. Now it's dead. It's dying. And when the new one opens, I don't know if anyone will turn out. We shalln't cos all it's going to be is a mini Meadowhall, it's not going to be a market like a rag and tag, it's just an ordinary market like Chesterfield's got. So a lot of people [Inaudible]

Helen: What do you remember about the Rag and Tag market?

Anthony: Oh the Rag and Tag was brilliant, that was a proper market, everything was outdoors there used to be another figure, I can't remember his name now, he used to sell cups and teapots and plates and he used to do all sorts

Helen: Oh yes I think I've heard of this guy, can you remember his name?

Anthony: Oh he was brilliant. We used to stand watching fascinated watching him and she used to do all sorts of things with these plates and the saucers and yeah it was brilliant, yeah.

Helen: I've heard about them, someone else has told me about him

Anthony: Yeah and these were a sort of stalls that you'd gather around them and watch. They'd spit on apples and shine them up. Oh it were brilliant.

Helen: What kind of things could you buy here in the market?

Anthony: You could buy literally anything birds, animals [Inaudible] textiles - the only lady left that does anything like that is the one next door.

Helen: Oh this lady here? [Possibly Sewrite on Lower Ground Floor]

Anthony: Yes, she sold all that sort of stuff but they'd be plenty of that at that time, curtains, tailors [Inaudible] you could buy, you could walk in a shop and buy a pair of trousers and he'd take them up

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcript

for you there and then, you know, if they were too long you'd have a walk around and he'd done it. He'd turn them up.

Helen: Where do you do your shopping now?

Anthony: Still here, as I say I know a lot of them now, you know so. There's a shop [Inaudible]. They know you. We've got a cafe upstairs that we all use [Inaudible] People like me that have always been here. We're alright. [Inaudible] Your friend is more interested in history. My hobby is history of Sheffield. I know literally everything that there is to know about Sheffield, you know. He's going on about Manor Lodge there. Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned there. Now a lot of people think it was the castle, well it wasn't, it was the Manor Lodge. That's where she was imprisoned. 14 years.

Helen: That's a long time isn't it? Right

Anthony: And then of course they took her to Fotheringay where she were executed.

Helen: That was 14 years in total? That's a lot isn't it?

Anthony: Yeah, yeah. She spent so many years here and of course the lady of the manor was Bess of Hardwick and she used to spend time at Chatsworth House

Helen: So you spend a lot of time looking into history?

Anthony: I know all the Lords and the Manors going right back to the Saxon times.

Helen: And this is where all the family have always lived?

Anthony: Yes, always.

Helen: You mentioned before that you were a dee-dah?

Anthony: You see if you go into Winter Gardens they've got books on Yorkshire, [Inaudible] they never say thee and thy, it's always been dee and dhy.

Helen: Dee and dhy.

Anthony: Always dee's

Helen: Okay. Right.

Anthony: And that's what they used to call Sheffield of course, dee-dahs.

Helen: Okay well that's a new one for us. Wow. Alright, Tony that's been fantastic.

Anthony: Okay.

Helen: Thank you so much.

Anthony: That's alright. That's okay. Thanks a lot.