

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcript

### Interviewee Details

**Name:** Anonymous (by request)

**ID Number:** CM\_015\_Anonymous

**Place of Birth:** Sheffield

**Year / Date of Birth:** May 1926

### Interview Details

**Interviewer:** Hannah Baxter

**Date / Time:** 14/12/2012 11.45

**Place:** Castle Market

**Audio File Nos:** CM\_015\_Anonymous

### Summary

Time	Description
0.32	Born in Shatlock Lane, Sheffield
0.47	The market has changed tremendously
0.50	Use to like the old open markets
1.00	Used to like the pot stall, where a man from Barnsley threw plates into the air
1.29	Lives in Immingham in Lincolnshire now, used to live top of Jenkin Hill
2.00	The road was warm in winter, a fire had travelled underground from the steelworks
2.20	The fire threatened the houses
3.07	Doesn't know if it's still the same because the steelworks have closed down now
3.29	George came to the market with his mother as a child. There was a lot of market trading in those days because it was the cheapest option.
4.00	Sellers had patter and it was like entertainment, attracted a lot of people round their stalls.
4.36	George's mother worked in the market over forty years ago at a stall selling food such as chip butties.
	On a visit to the Northern General to see his wife's mother.
5.50	Not really strange being back in the market, much the same as when he

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcript

6.12	left 40 years ago except stallholders have changed.
7.07	Aunt's house was bombed during the blitz
7.40	Twelve of them ended up living in a two bedroomed house until repairs could be done, had to take it in turn to eat meals
8.36	During the war you accepted things like this.
8.42	Saw a film about air raids in Sheffield on the television. Bombed up to the Wicker Arches.
9.42	People were targeted not the steelworks
10.00	George remembers there used to be a pub called Marples that got bombed during the war
10.13	There were tunnels from the pub to Boar's Head and some people got out through the tunnels

### Transcript

*Hannah:* Please could you state your name, the year you were born, and where you were born.

*Anonymous:* Do you want my full name?

*Hannah:* Yes please.

*Anonymous:* REDACTED

*Hannah:* What year were you born and where were you born?

*Anonymous:* 1926, May 1926.

*Hannah:* In Sheffield?

*Anonymous:* Yes. Shatlock Lane.

*Hannah:* Please could you tell me your thoughts and your memories about the market.

*Anonymous:* About?

*Hannah:* About the market.

*Anonymous:* Well it's changed tremendously. The old – what I used to like was the old open market. One of the things that I used to like as an adult, and as a kid, was to stand at the pot stall. The chap

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcript

there, who came from Barnsley, he used to [unintelligible] and up his arm, he used to entertain the public, chucking plates up. How he didn't break them we never know!

*Hannah:* Do you still shop here now?

*Anonymous:* Pardon?

*Hannah:* Do you shop here now?

*Anonymous:* No, because I don't live in Sheffield.

*Hannah:* Oh right

*Anonymous:* I live in Immingham, in north-east Lincolnshire.

*Hannah:* So you're just visiting today?

*Anonymous:* I moved. We moved from, oh now then what they called – top of Jenkin Hill there. A new estate was built at top of Jenkin Hill, and we moved from there. Now on Jenkin Hill, but at that time the road was warm - in winter you could lay on it, warm. And what had happened, you know the steelworks, you know when the rip ovens out and [unintelligible] and they'd kept alight and travelled underground, and they'd travelled about two or three miles and were reaching our houses, and you'd have to fetch the NCB in to drill down and put concrete in and stop them reaching our houses.

*Hannah:* Wow, that's crazy!

*Anonymous:* [laughs]

*Hannah:* So this – so this morning there wouldn't have been any ice on that road 'cause it was warm?

*Anonymous:* In winter, it could – on the bottom when you come up, I don't know if you know Jenkin Road, it's very steep, and it comes up from the bottom, and you get so far up, and then that's when it changes. You get about half way up and it changes and then it's easier 'cause it's all clear [laughs] with the heat, you can put your hand on it, on the floor, and it's warm.

*Hannah:* Would it be warm?

*Anonymous:* Yeah [laughs]

*Hannah:* [laughs] That's amazing.

*Anonymous:* Whether it's still the same or not I don't know. Because I mean the old works have closed down, and I – I would think, you know, it's burnt itself out now.

*Hannah:* Yeah. So did you come here as a child?

*Anonymous:* I was born in Sheffield.

*Hannah:* Did you come to the market with your – with your mother?

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcript

*Anonymous:* Yes, oh yes. They always used to come to market. I mean there was a lot of – there was a lot of market trading in those days, because, you know, it was the cheapest living standard, you know, what they could afford.

*Hannah:* So what do you remember about coming in then?

*Anonymous:* Well it was all open of course with stalls with covers over. But when you used to get the sellers, with their patter, there was always a crowd round. Certain stalls you couldn't get to cos there was always crowd round because of the patter. More like an entertainment thing.

*Hannah:* So, do you remember anything about the smell?

*Anonymous:* About?

*Hannah:* The smells.

*Anonymous:* Smells? I can't say I do.

*Hannah:* No? And your mother worked here? Can you tell me a bit about what she did?

*Anonymous:* She worked in this market up here, yeah. Um, how many years would that be? That would be over 40 years ago.

*Hannah:* What stall did she work on?

*Anonymous:* You know where the men's toilets are, in the [unintelligible] that counter there. It's now with chairs and tables outside, uh inside it, but it used to just a stall. But it served out with your chip butties and things like that [laughs]

*Hannah:* Ok. Did you ever get to go for a chip butty?

*Anonymous:* Oh yes, yeah. 'Cause I mean, we used to come and visit, as well, when –where we are now. We still used to go to that stall, and have a drink and that there with the people still working there before she died.

*Hannah:* How do you feel coming in here today?

*Anonymous:* Well I'm on a visit actually. I'm going to the Northern General to see my wife's mother. My wife can't get because she's not able to walk, so I've come today and I'm going up there to see her today.

*Hannah:* Is it strange coming back in the market, or –

*Anonymous:* Not really. The market hasn't changed such a [unintelligible] the market hasn't changed. I mean, stall holders slightly but the structure just the same as when we left. We left, I'm thinking here, about 40 years ago. My memory's terrible! I used to have a brilliant memory at one time!

*Hannah:* Are there any other stories you'd like

*Anonymous:* Pardon?

*Hannah:* Are there any other stories you'd like to tell me?

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcript

*Anonymous:* No, I think the only thing, story, where – when - when we – during the blitz, we – our house was ok, we were alright, but my aunt's house was on the next road, called Myrtle Road [unintelligible] we're down here and they're up there, and their house got it. And her sister who lived in the centre of the city, her place got hit, and we had then about, what, twelve of us living in a two bedroomed house! [laughs] Until they could get some repairs done.

*Hannah:* Gosh. How long were all twelve of you together?

*Anonymous:* Oh we all got on alright

*Hannah:* You did ok?

*Anonymous:* Yeah, take – you take your turn eating your meals [unintelligible] you know, oh ay up, we all – we had air raid shelters.

*Hannah:* Did you have brothers and sisters?

*Anonymous:* No, I was the only one.

*Hannah:* So was it strange going from being an only one to having your house full with another family as well? Was it strange going from being you - your mum and your dad to then having another family in the house?

*Anonymous:* Well during the war you just accepted

*Hannah:* It was just what you did

*Anonymous:* Things got accepted. I mean, it happened and that were it. I saw a film, er on the television, and it was about air raid on Sheffield, and the raid was deliberate against the people, and it shown you that the Germans had a code [unintelligible] and this was the line they followed. And this was why I could never understand, until I saw this film, when they came on the Thursday, they stopped at the Wicker Arches, and when they came on the Sunday, they started from the Wicker Arches the other way. And it was because they'd got a code they followed, and it was like two lines, two black lines that directed to the targets. They weren't bothered about the steel industries, because the steel industries couldn't work if they killed the people. So that's what they [unintelligible] they went for the people not the industries.

*Hannah:* It's very sad, very sad.

*Anonymous:* Well Marples, do you know Marples, you don't know them do you? They – Marples used to - you know the square at the top there, well on the corner there used to be a pub called Marples, and 700 people got killed.

*Hannah:* In one - one night?

*Anonymous:* Yeah, and from there, also from there, there was a tunnel underneath there, went right under Spital Hill, down to the bottom, to the er, what do they call it, the bottom, pub at the bottom, Boar's Head, I think it were Boar's Head, and you could walk right through under there.

*Hannah:* So did people hide in the tunnels?

*Anonymous:* Some got – went that way, went down, you know, who - if they were trapped under, you know, trapped under and not been killed, they – one or two got out [laughs]

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History Transcript

*Hannah:* Well thank you very much for talking to me.

*Anonymous:* That's alright for you?

*Hannah:* That's great, thank you very much.