

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcription

Interviewee Details

Name: Gail Morrison

ID Number: CM_025_Morrison

Place of Birth

Year / Date of Birth 3/9/58

Interview Details

Interviewer:

Date / Time:

Place: Castle Market

Transcription

| Time | | |
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| 00:06 | Helen | Okay could you tell me your name, your date of birth and where you were born please? |
| | Gail | I'm Gail Morrison and my date of birth's 3/9/58 and I was born in Sheffield. |
| | Helen | Can you tell me how long you've been coming to the market Gail? |
| | Gail | As long as I can remember. I remember it when it were old Rag and Tag and before they built the Sheaf Market then they built the Sheaf Market then they pulled that down and put traders and things out. But it were a lovely atmosphere in Rag and Tag, everybody was shouting their wares and you know things like that and I remember being a little girl Mum bringing me down [???] and a little old lady sat in the entrance there with a weighing chair, I think it were a whole penny to get weighed Every weekend my mum used to come down and bring me down just to sit in chair. I loved that and when they all moved into the Sheaf Market it weren't the same it were nice but it just weren't the same. |
| 01:16 | Helen | What are your first memories of the Castle Market when this place opened. |

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| | Gail | Oh God. |
| 1:28 | Helen | What days did you used to come here? |
| | Gail | Probably weekends. |
| 1:37 | Helen | Right, was it busy? |
| | Gail | Oh yes it was a lot, lot busier, a lot busier. I can remember you used to have to more or less fight your way through. Not like it is now, topsy turvy, you didn't used to be able to get through. |
| 1:54 | Helen | And what kind of things were people buying, what kind of things did you buy. |
| | Gail | Well I were only a child then you know, when it were really busy I were only a child so I used to come with my mum like and my dad. You remember in top corner there used to be an old pie and pea stall, a pie and pea shop. I remember my mum used to take me there as well, used to go in Rag and Tag and then we used to come in here and we used to have us dinner in pie and pea shop but that's gone now an' all, aye. Its probably my earliest memory going in pie and pea shop |
| 2:33 | Helen | And you've continued to come though throughout your childhood and your adolescence? |
| | Gail | Yeh, yeh. Brooks' Tea Rooms, I remember that vividly going in there for pie and peas, yeh, it were lovely in there. |
| 02:49 | Helen | Can you remember any characters, any particular people that stuck in your memory? |
| | Gail | Not really, cos I was only like a young girl and I wasn't really interested in anybody but as times gone on.there's been a lot of different people in, different stall holders, they've moved round market, you know from one stall to other. |
| 03:20 | Helen | What changes have you seen, the main changes? |
| | Gail | In what way? |
| | Helen | In maybe the stalls, the things people are selling, in the atmosphere? |
| | Gail | A lot more foreigners have come in, not mean to be rude but a lot more foreigners have come in and they seemed to have got better stalls than somebody who's been here, you know, quite a while, Roy's Babywear come in the market from the Sheaf, she was told to get one upstairs but the babywear upstairs [????????????] as the one down here so things like that you know. It seems to be a lot of, a lot more foreign folk |

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| | | coming in. 4:15 one guy Roy Tissington, awe years and years and years he's been here, left now, can't do it any more, he were an old man when I used to work for him as a girl, on fish stall upstairs, on Tissingtons. |
| 04: | Helen | So you used to work on the fish stall. |
| | Gail | He owned it. |
| | Helen | Ah but did you used to work on the fish stall |
| | Gail | I did yeh.as a girl, when I first left school, that was one of my first jobs. He was old then. He seemed to be an old man then when I were a girl when I left school at sixteen. I remember him quite well, yeh. His son's got it now. Its not the same. Its just not the same fish, he used to sell fish, fish and eggs that were his specialty. He used to see to the fish and he said 'you see to the eggs'. But now he's put all sorts on, its just not the same, yeh you could go to Tissingtons and know that you were getting top quality fish, you know what I mean, but not now. |
| 05:34 | Helen | So did you like working on the fish stall. |
| | Gail | It were alright actually, well it must have been because I went back years before, you know years after. The only thing with him he was very strict, he didn't like you talking, he didn't like you talking to each other. Like just serve your customers and get 'em gone, like other people want serving you know. At that time when I were a girl, it was very busy so you didn't have time to talk, you know what I mean it was like one after the other it were really busy. Then when I come back years later they were just stood, you know business had gone down cos people just not having as much money. |
| 06:26 | Helen | Can you remember any of the stalls around you, cos you were on the fish stall, were there fish stalls next to you, anything in front of you? |
| | Gail | No I can't. Probably Wateralls that sold like the pork pies and things like that. That's about the only one when I was a little girl, you know its changed such a lot. Wateralls been here such a long time. |
| 07:06 | Helen | And nowadays you come to the market about two or three times a week, is that right, and what kind of things do you buy here now? |
| | Gail | You see it depends what I'm buying on the day, what we are having to eat on the day, you know. Its usually fresh veg, fresh fruit and veg er, I only use one butcher now, I get everything I need from him. Meatwise I get everything from him. He has different offers on you know???? that's alright, I'll try some of them, you know something good that he'd put on. He had some lovely steak pies on, my family like steak pies. I |

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| | | buy them a lot. It depends what I come down for on that particular day. Today I need a lot of things, sometimes I only need a few things, you know what I mean. I need bread, eggs you know the basics, so... |
| 08:10 | Helen | So you prefer to come here rather than go to the supermarket? |
| | Gail | Oh yeh, yeh, because you've got a smile, they serve you and they've got time for you, you know what I mean. I think last week or week before, when we come me and my friend, we were on about, he were on about going down market, down Moor, and he said he wasn't going, he's finding a butcher's shop and I wanted something he hadn't got it "Oh I'm not coming here no more, well we're not telling you, we're going", you know, things like that, you know what I mean. But they've got time to talk to you and |
| 09:02 | Helen | Yes, lovely. What do you think about the move? What do you think about the move to the Moor. |
| | Gail | I don't think it'll work. My own opinion is its not going to work. A lot of these stalls aren't going down there anyway so you're not going to get your friendly faces there. It will be all new people and its going to be a lot of, I personally think is going to be a lot of horrible [??developers??.no disrespect to them but in my opinion I don't think it will work. |
| 09:40 | Helen | So you will keep coming here until |
| | Gail | No, I'd rather it stops here, than have to go all the way down the Moor. |
| | Helen | Have you got far to go, do you live? |
| | Gail | My bus would drop me off right at bottom but its just, I don't know, its things that you use round here, you've got like your B&M, you've got your Wilkinsons, you've got the Savers, you've got the big Jack Fultons, you've got Co-op, you've got Post Office. Now Argos, not things that are [??] Whereas down the Moor you haven't got a Co-op, you haven't got a Post Office, you've got Boots but its more expensive, you haven't got a Wilkinsons, you haven't got a B&M. There's a lot of things down the Moor that you haven't got, you haven't got your Argos no more. There's a lot of things that you're going to have to come back down here for. If you need anything from Wilkinsons you've got to get it from Wilkinson's so you've got to come back down here anyway. Whereas if you're in this area you can just walk up to Wilkinsons. |
| 10:59 | Helen | And you're going to meet a friend here so you come here socially as well. |

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| | Gail | Yes, yes |
| 11:05 | Helen | Yes, yes, have you seen familiar faces here over last few, recent weeks you've been coming, do you meet up with your friends regularly? |
| | Gail | Yes, we meet every other day for coffee. Four days that I come down and I meet friends. |
| | Helen | Right so its a nice social place. Okay |