

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcription

Interviewee Details

Name: Rea

ID Number: CM_073_Rea

Place of Birth

Year / Date of Birth

Interview Details

Interviewer: Thomas

Date / Time:

Place: Castle Market

Transcription

Time		
	Thomas	Your fondest memory?
	Rea	My fondest memory will be, my strongest memory would be the sounds because you come in and there's so many different voices and the clatter and people selling vegetables and talking to each other. But my fondest memory I think is my visit to the haberdashery stall down, I'm not sure whether its in the very basement or the very top but its like an Aladdin's cave. I've never seen anything look so beautiful. You don't see haberdashers very often now all the embroidery threads and the ribbons and that takes me back, back to my childhood.
00:47	Thomas	It sounds very nice. Do you think its a good thing that Castle Market's going to move and the castle's going to be excavated or do you think it should stay here.
	Rea	I would like to see the Castle liberated from its dungeon because at the moment the only bit you can see is down in the cellar, locked away. I would like it to see daylight and I'd like us to be able to see it. I think it's sad to lose all the memories to people who like to come back to the stories about children but I can also see that a new market could be fantastic because I've been to markets abroad and I'm especially thinking of Toronto market and then in Sydney in Australia and they're clean and modern and beautiful and full of wonderful things and busy. So I think its part of change isn't it. So I think, yes, I think its a good

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		thing.
02:02	Thomas	How long have you been coming to Castle Market?
	Rea	Well I've only lived in Sheffield about eight years and I have been into the market about once or twice when I first came but I suppose that what happens is that you just nip into your local supermarket now. So that's changed the way I shop but I really then started coming back when I was working in the offices above. So first of all to visit people when I worked elsewhere and then it was a long time trying to find my way in on my way to the offices without getting lost but then I was based here for about a year and that was really interesting.
02:48	Thomas	And did you like working here?
	Rea	Yes, I thought it was good cos you were, not only was it a new experience because I was on the bus route in the town centre and there was a sense of life going on around you but it meant that in your lunchtime you could pop down and everything was here. The only trouble was we never really had time to have a lunchtime so I didn't ever do the shopping that I thought I would do.
03:32	Thomas	Do you live in Sheffield at the moment?
	Rea	I live on the edge of Sheffield I live at Wincobank and Wincobank's just above Meadowhall on the hill, where there's a hill fort so I suppose I also can just walk down the hill to Meadowhall which is like your modern market isn't it so that again is what's change down habits but I have a sentimental place for the market because it reminds me of all the covered markets I went to as a child, not here in Sheffield, everywhere else. It's part of our whole history as a nation.
04:12	Thomas	So would you say that markets make up quite a lot of your childhood memories?
	Rea	Well yes, they were special. I grew up in Wimbledon and we had a Broadway, there were shops there but we didn't have a market so I visited the market when I went to stay with my grandma in Market Harborough, they had a market. I went to the market when I went up to London to Whitechapel and street markets in London and then I lived in Leeds for a while. That had a fantastic covered market. So it was definitely a different experience, it was something special for me.
04:56	Thomas	Would you say that its easy to get to Castle Market from where you live now?
	Rea	Its really easy and that's the nice thing, I can get on a bus and get off a bus and I don't have to think about the parking. Apart from the fact that

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		you then have to think about what you carry home and how far you have to walk from the bus stop the other end it makes it a different experience to driving up to the supermarket, when you are all hot and bothered unloading the car. Its a different shopping experience and I think we've lost that a little bit.
05:40	Thomas	Would you prefer to be able to shop in a market like that you have to travel there or have a local supermarket that you could easily get to?
	Rea	I think what I'd really like, if we could sustain it, are more local shops because I've seen in London for instance you get a lot more small shops along roads that people walk to. My daughter lives in Liverpool and they can walk to their shops. So I personally, I think there is a place for a market, a weekly market or something like that but I would like to see more small shops and less supermarkets.
06:40	Thomas	Did you ever have a favourite stall on the market?
	Rea	I always go straight to the bric-a brac type stalls. I like to see what's there. I suppose its antiequey stalls. The vegetables are always a bit of a mystery to me because I'm not always quite sure when you've got six vegetable stalls next to each other how you figure out which one is best, and similarly there are avenues of meat shops I don't quite understand. But I like the little places that are different and second-hand stalls and plant stalls so
07:35	Thomas	Which stall in the market would you say offers the most, offers the most versatile range of what you can buy.
	Rea	I suppose its being in the middle isn't it cos you can walk across and you can get everything from clothes to pigs' heads and the different smells, you get the fresh smells from the vegetables and then the greasy spoon cafe smells. I think that puts me off actually, I don't think I like, I like my bacon sandwiches but I don't like the smell of it so I think that puts me off the market a bit.
08:20	Thomas	Is there anything you think that maybe the market managers could do to make it better or do you think its nice as it is?
	Rea	I think it helps if you could find your way around so there is some sort of map so you knew where things were and just signs. Because its fun exploring but its not so much fun if you're in a hurry.
09:17	Thomas	Do you think the stalls offer enough versatility in your range. Do you think the meat stall offers enough products for you to choose from or is it often a lot of the same thing?

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	Rea	I always get the impression that you have a lot of similar stalls offering very similar things and I guess somewhere in there if you, that's why I always feel that I don't quite understand it because I feel I should know which stall is the better one or different or you know. I suppose people get used to build a relationship with the vendors but yes my first impression is you get, apart from those very different stalls, you get a lot of the same. And maybe there's not as much in the grocery department here as you would find in the supermarket, so you end up going to the supermarket for the odd things and then you buy everything else there because its quicker. There's something about variety, variety is important and that's why I like the haberdashers stall you see because the only place you find haberdashers now is in the big department store and even then its very samey and everything is pre-packed but the haberdashers stall and I like the fabric stall as well because they're all different, they sell a different sort of thing.
11:11	Thomas	Have you ever bought something at the market. and what would you say is your best buy was?
	Rea	I bought some fabric here to make cushions and I thought that was a really good bargain and it was nice and shiny so it was good cos the woman who owned the shop had got time to show me the different things and talk about it and advise me and I came away feeling really good and excited and I then went home. Unfortunately didn't make the cushion I intended to but I felt good about it so its still sitting there waiting for me to do it.
	Thomas	Thank you for that and thank you for all your help