

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcription

Interviewee Details

Name: Ted Watterson

ID Number: CM_078_Watterson

Place of Birth: Barrow-in-Furness

Year / Date of Birth: 1946

Interview Details

Interviewer: Hannah Baxter

Date / Time:

Place: Castle Market

Transcription

Time		
	Hannah	First of all if you could state what your name is, what year you were born in and whereabouts you were born?
	Ted	Yes. My name is Ted Watterson, I was born in 1946 and I was born near Barrow-in-Furness.
	Hannah	Thank you. What's your earliest memory of the markets?
	Ted	The earliest memory was exploring the Rag and Tag on [?Shoe?] Hill and amongst other things I bought an alarm clock and this alarm clock lasted a long time but also it seemed to go for a long time on one wind-up so to speak. I can remember going out on a Friday morning to work, winding the clock up before I went and then I would come home Sunday night and it would still be ticking so that's rather a long time for an alarm clock that's supposed to be wound up every day and its not that long ago since it finally gave up the ghost so to speak. But I can remember rooting through second hand records, a lot of them were ex juke box records where the centre was removed, the old 45s and then an extra plastic piece was put in so they could be played on an ordinary turntable. So they are some of the things I remember. The narrow alleyways of course between the stalls and the crowds and all the rest of it but that is certainly what I do remember about the Rag and Tag anyway.

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01:30	Hannah	So is that when you were a teenager?
	Ted	Yes, late teens, early twenties and that would be right on that then. And then as far as Sheaf Market goes well I mean I've come here on and off for a long time and one place that did interest me was the tripe stall which has now been gone a while hasn't it and the reason for the interest was because my late mother ran a tripe shop up near Barrow-in-Furness. That was the sort of thing she sold sort of [?thick seed?] honeycombs, cow heels all this kind of thing. There was something called [????] which I think was the cow's udder, I think so. And then of course coming her into the market then seeing a tripe stall. Even though I don't like tripe I had to have a word with the people that were selling it. So we shared a few memories of that and I've still got the Avery scales that she used in the shop and they were different from say the sweet shop scales in this sense that the part of the scale where the tripe was put to be weighed was flat, got a flat plate and there would be a piece of greaseproof paper would go on there and then the tripe would go on that and then you'd weigh it up, wrap it up, wrap it in newspaper of course and then sell it on or pass it on to your customer, so to speak. And these were the days before fridges as well, there was never a fridge there. It was all stored under water yet there was no food poisoning or anything like that. So that's the tripe stall yeh.
03:11	Hannah	So have you kept coming to the Castle Market for your whole, since you were a teenager?
	Ted	Since I've been in Sheffield, yes, since the age of about eighteen, I've popped in and out at different times but I come now more than ever I've come, I would say.
03:27	Hannah	How did you move to Sheffield?
	Ted	Well I trained to be a teacher so I came to college here so I just stayed.
	Hannah	Oh I see.
	Ted	So I've been here ever since.
	Hannah	So you shopped here as a student?
	Ted	Yes, and ever since on and off and in the area of course the Sheaf Market was across the road wasn't it. I remember going in there once and there was only about two stalls in it as it was being wound down so to speak. But I like the Castle Market, I like the good value of the things that you can buy. Cards for instance, birthday cards, I know on some of the stalls they have been 7 for £1 and nobody can grumble at that. The food is always of good quality from the food stalls. The little cafes are good prices and all this kind of thing and in many ways I'm

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		sorry its moving. I know that the place is rather dilapidated and messy but I think that adds to the whole atmosphere to be honest. I think its got to be a bit stark and in an old building that's dropping to bits it has its own atmosphere. That's what I feel.
04:38	Hannah	Its very true. You mentioned cafes, do you have a cafe that you particularly go to?
	Ted	Well I like the Solar Fountain, but I like them all. They all have something nice about them I think.
	Hannah	So you vary where you go to?
	Ted	Oh yes I do, I think its nice to share the custom round a bit and give everybody a share of it as a matter
05:00	Hannah	So you do the same with the other stalls as well, you don't have a particular one you go to?
	Ted	Oh yes, yes I'll share things out. Yes I think there all worth patronising, I think.
	Hannah	It sounds very fair.
	Ted	Well I try to you know, all the stallholders have got to make their livings as you would say and I think its right to give everybody a chance, I think so.
05:26	Hannah	What sort of things do you buy?
	Ted	What do I buy? Well amongst other things I like meat pies. I go to one particular stall for those. I like cooked chicken which is makes a good nutritious meal, there's a particular stall I go to for that or there's two, I go to for that. There's one of them where the chickens are cooked on the premises which I think is particularly good. Birthday cards and cards and things like that, fruit, vegetables, a couple of household things that I might need and in general things that I, I usually come here first and see what there is. I like [?????] and read the newspapers. There's someone provides newspapers as well, you know, things like that.
06:13	Hannah	Great. Do you have a favourite memory?
	Ted	I don't think I can latch on to one particular one. It's all an amalgam of nice memories really you know, lump the whole thing together. I think the tripe stall was particularly good though. I would say that was good because we could share that particular specialism with those people who worked at the stall and I was in Barnsley Market some time ago

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		and I found a tripe stall there. And another thing as well is that a lot of the stall holders were very very friendly and there's a lot of them I know even if I'm not going to buy anything they'll say 'hello' as I go by and I think that's another good thing about the market that one comes in and gets to know people and the stall holders, I feel, do reach out to people as well. As you pass by they say 'hello, how are you' kind of thing. There were some I know by name, some I don't and have a laugh and generally enjoy the nice feel about the place. For me anyway that's how I find it.
07:28	Hannah	What do you think about it closing in the {?????}
	Ted	Well I'm a little bit sad about that because as I say, I think the dilapidated nature of the place adds to it. I believe it just adds to the general atmosphere. I do know that some of the stall holders are not going down there so some of them are going to be missed, some of them have moved on now of course and some of those are missed. I think with the new market we'll just have to wait and see. See how it goes but I shall certainly miss coming here because I think as I say it has its own atmosphere, its own feel about the place, its one on its own, I think. For me anyway.
08:18	Hannah	Is there anything else you'd like to say.
	Ted	Let me just think, see whether I can think of any other As I say I miss the stalls that aren't going down, I'll miss the location of them because its, I mean there's all the busyness and bustle, the bustle of the buses all pulling up outside and trams further up and there's the other shops that are in the area that are good value: the 99p shop, B&M Bargains, Wilkinsons, all these kinds of places. There's a good size amalgam of good value shops in the whole area and I think that the market itself going, I think we're going to lose something, that's what I feel. And also there's the heritage of the market because its been on this site for a long time hasn't it, how many years is it, its a few hundred isn't it?
09:06	Hannah	About 700 probably, cos there's a castle 700 years ago, so its probably always been a market.
	Ted	700, so its going to be moving from an historical site, a traditional site, if you remember when I first came here seeing the [? burger barber's pole?], there's still the remains of that there anyway you know and I think that its, for me, I'm going to miss it. I'll go to the new one but whether it'll be like this or not I think is another question. Perhaps one other little memory I might add, one of the things I'm into is orchestral classical music and there was a famous pianist and his name was Jorge Bolet and he came to the City Hall once and performed a big

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		<p>concert but I never knew how to pronounce his name. Well I was in one of the cafes downstairs and I was eating a meat and potato pie dinner which was very nice, and two men came in, they sat near my table and we got chatting. Now this pianist he came from Cuba and these two people I was talking to were of Cuban origin and I said, 'Where do you come from' and they said 'Oh Cuba, Castro's place you know'. I said 'Did you know one of the most famous pianists in the world came from Cuba' and the answer I got was 'No'. I said well there was, I said 'he's dead now this pianist' and I said 'I don't know how to pronounce his name. So I wrote it down and they taught me how to pronounce it and the name means George of course but it's spelt J-O-R-G-E and they say you pronounce it 'Horhay' you've got to really roll the 'R' to say it correctly so that's stayed with me ever since.</p>
11:03	Hannah	That's a lovely story.
	Ted	It was nice to learn how to pronounce this man's name correctly really. Just a chance meeting and I think this is always the thing about the market there is always the chance, like today, who knows who or what one's going to meet here. So that's another little memory now which was in the recesses of my mind but its come to the fore so to speak, you know.
	Hannah	Its wonderful.
	Ted	Its fine.
	Hannah	Thank you.