

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcription

### Interviewee Details

**Name:** Steve Bush

**ID Number:** CM\_009\_Bush

**Place of Birth:** Sheffield

**Year / Date of Birth:** 1955

### Interview Details

**Interviewer:** Hannah Baxter

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

**Place:** Castle Market

**Audio File Nos:** CM\_009\_Bush

### Summary

Time	Description
0.24	Playing accident
2.00	First memory of the Rag and Tag Market
2.15	Life at Parson Cross
3.08	Shopping in the market, cup of tea stood up
3.45	Shopping in the market today
4.00	Fish market, smells that attack your senses
5.10	Family stalls, fascination with the meat shops
6.46	Favourite memory, going shopping
8.34	Sallie's on Saturday
9.28	Shopping today, food commodities and cosmetics
10.05	Feels sad when coming to the market now, looking forward to the new market

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# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcription

*Hannah:* Right, please could you say your name? Where you were born and what year you were born in?

*Steve:* Yeah, my name is Steve Bush, and I was born in Parson Cross, Sheffield, in 1955. Parson Cross.

*Hannah:* Parson Cross. Please could you tell me some of your memories of the market?

*Steve:* Yes, sure. My very first memory was when I was about three and a half years old, and it was a sunny day, and I was playing out in the back garden, and I got some toy soldiers and things like that. It was wash-day at home, and my mum was in the kitchen up to her ankles in soapy water washing for all my brothers and sisters who were all at school, and she was also pregnant at the time. And I had a blackboard out in the back garden that I used to chalk pictures on to it. But it wasn't like one of them modern day little plasticky type blackboards, it was made of corrugated iron, and it was about three inches thick, and it weighed half a ton. And for some reason, I'd made a decision to try and move this blackboard from the bottom of the garden to the top of the garden, and because my mum was busy, so I wasn't able to disturb her, so I picked up the blackboard, kind of got it at a right angle, and started walking up the garden with it, and tripped on a brick, and the blackboard fell and landed on my toe, the corner of it landed on the big toe on the right foot, and it still hurts, I can still feel it. And my mum used to tell the story years later, she just heard this enormous scream and then she looked out the window and there was I running up and down the garden going 'Aagh! I broke my toe, I broke my toe!' and running round the wash pole and running back up and down, and eventually when I'd calmed down a bit she came out with a bowl of soapy water and she soaked my foot in the bowl of soapy water, and then a little bit later took me into the house, and I laid on the settee, made me some scrambled eggs on toast and a cup of tea, and I went to sleep, and I woke up just in time for Rag Tag and Bobtail. That's my very earliest memory, that's the, that's the first memory I can grasp on. My parents moved to Parson Cross in the late 1940s, and they met in Sheffield, neither of them were actually from here. During the war my mum was a factory nurse and my dad was a welder and they lived in a house share on Albert Road at Heeley, had four kids there and then moved out to Parson Cross just when my mum was expecting twins, and one of the first wee houses out there, and Parson Cross is a relatively new estate at the time, must have been built just before the war or some was actually built during the war, they had Italian prisoners of war working on the buildings there. And it was a lovely place, garden front and back, indoor toilets, all those kind of modern con things that they'd not had previously. And a bath before that had meant a tin bath in front of the fire, so moving out to Parson Cross at this time was lovely. And there was a couple of major bus routes there, so nearly every weekend I would come into town with my mother and quite often in this very building we would, my mum would do her shopping, buy lots of her fruit here and things like that. And I always remember, whenever she'd finished her shopping we used to go to one of the cafés up on the, up inside the fish market. And have a cup of, well called a cup of tea stood up, because there were no seats we just went to the counter, and so we would have a cup of tea, so my mother would smoke a Woodbine, then we would walk round to Bridge Street before we went back home.

*Hannah:* Do you still come shopping here now?

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcription

*Steve:* Yeah, yeah we, me and my wife come about once a month or so, to get all our fruit and veg here and we usually stock up on meat. And a little bit sad seeing it, cause it's kind of got a bit run down in the last two or three years with the impending move, but yeah, always a great day shopping here, and I love when you go into the fish and meat market, I love the smells and they attack your senses straight away, a little bit overpowering if you're not used to it, but once you get used to it, it's a really good place. And a Four Seasons Fruit and Veg, is the best fruit and veg shop in Sheffield by my mind. And Simmo's, we always go to Simmo's the butcher, I get all us meat from Simmo, and usually I have a ten minute banter chant with him and everything like that and he's great cause he just takes the Mickey out of everybody, and you kind of think well I'm a customer you shouldn't be taking the Mickey out of me, then you realise its Simmo and you start to exchanging banter with him and we've been doing that for last twelve to fifteen years, and it's always good fun.

*Hannah:* Do you go to any of the same family stalls that you went to as a child with your mother?

*Steve:* No, there are a, I think that Simmonite's where I go to, I think that was a family stall when I used to come as a kid, but I don't really remember the names of the ones we went to as kids. Certainly some of them in, certainly the meat shops, they are in the same place as the ones we used to go as kids. And, I always remember standing watching as a kid, because they, the chopping up of the meat and everything like that was done a bit more in the public eye, back in the 1960s. And I remember a friend of mine, he was a couple of years older than me, and when he left school he got a job at one of the meat stalls upstairs and, a lad called Alan Booth, and when we were about fourteen/fifteen we used to come in and have a chat with him, and we would be taking to him as he's chopping meat, and having a big axe in his hands, and he'd be chopping the legs off pigs and cows and things like that, and his apron was always covered in blood, it looked like Ten Rillington Place on the front of his vest. And I always remember the smells then 'cause they really did, it was almost like an abbatoir, the butcher was upstairs, and the meat came as raw as it could, and they just chopped it to bits in front of your eyes. And the fish, they had massive fish, you don't see the giant fish anymore, but when we used to come as kids they used to have giant fish hanging up all over the place, and the smell of it was, oh, really overpowering, you could almost still smell the sea on these fish. And it really did attack your senses as you walked in there, and also everybody smoked, so the mix of the smells, was meat, fish and cigarette smoke.

*Hannah:* What is your favourite memory of the market?

*Steve:* My favourite memory of the market here was in about 1967-68 when I was just at secondary school and I was starting to think about fashion in a way that I never had done before. And there was a shop in the market here called Harrington's, which is only just disappeared, it was there a couple of years ago, and there was a style of popular jacket at that time called the Harrington, and purely by coincidence Harrington's sold Harrington's and I came in, and I tried two or three on with me mum, tried two or three on, and it was a toss up between a black one and a Prince of Wales check jacket, and I ended up getting the Prince of Wales check, and I thought I looked the bees knees in it. And there was a couple of other shops as well, Bunneys was here - that's B-U-double N-E-Y - and they sold fashion stuff as well, and I remember I bought my first Fred Perry in there, and I still wear Fred Perry's till this day. I bought a Ben

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Transcription

Sherman in there, and I think I'm right in saying that I got my Levis, my first pair of Levis in there as well. So those are my real fondest memories of the market is when I first started thinking about fashion. And the fashionable stuff in the market shops was always a little bit cheaper than it would have been if you'd gone into the other shops for it. So if I bought my Levis in John Lewis's you had to pay an extra 10 shillings for 'em. And I think also I having cups of teas stood up and even now we regularly come in and go to Sallie's on Saturday morning and I'll have a bacon sandwich, and just sit and enjoy talking to people. There is a kind of community to the shopping in the market that doesn't really exist in other types of high street shops. It's a bit reminiscent of the small shopping precincts we used to have in the estates when I was growing up, so for me in Parson Cross there would be markets and shops, and it be all kinds of shops, and if we went there with me mum she knew everybody, she'd spend an hour talking to lots of different people. The shopping used to take much longer than it ought to, and then you had to carry everything home in bags - there was no getting in the car or anything.

*Hannah:* What do you buy when you come here now?

*Steve:* It is mostly just food commodities, fruit and veg, meat and fish, but I also...cosmetics, there's a couple of very good cosmetics stalls on the first floor here, and my wife often buys things like eyebrow tweezers and lipsticks and things like that, and I get cheap aftershaves here.

*Hannah:* And how do you feel about coming here now?

*Steve:* I always feel a little bit sad cause it's been gone run down the last couple of years, and I didn't originally like the idea of the markets moving, I was kind of against that when it was first put out about twelve years ago. And I think one of the problems has been that the move just kept on being delayed and delayed. And for a lot o the stalls here they were like being in limbo, they were told they were moving but nobody knew when. And now that the move is really taking place, and the new markets are being build, I am quite looking forward to see what the new markets will be like and hopefully to continue shopping there with some of the regular people. I don't know if Simmo's and Four Seasons veg are actually moving down there, but hopefully we will see them there.

*Hannah:* Do you have any other stories?

*Steve:* No, I don't think so.

*Hannah:* That's it. Ok. Thank you very much.

*Steve:* You're all right with that?

*Hannah:* Thank you.

*Steve:* Great.

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