

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcript

Interviewee Details

Name: Malcolm Walker

ID Number: CM_018_Walker

Place of Birth: Sheffield

Year / Date of Birth: 01/01/1946

Interview Details

Interviewer: Hannah Baxter

Date / Time: 18/02/2013 12:24

Place: Castle Market

Subjects: Building the market, views on the move

Audio Files: CM_018_Walker

Transcript

Hannah: Okay. So please could you state your name, the place you were born and the year you were born in?

Malcolm: Malcolm Walker, I was born in Sheffield. I was born on 1st January '46.

Hannah: Please could you tell me about your job building the market?

Malcolm: I was electrician, it were brilliant, it was a lovely job, a lot of people worked on it. It were like chaos when it was due to be open because it wasn't really ready. So if you'd got a shoe stall and he wanted his stall open he'd offer you some shoes to do his stall before everybody else. It were good, really good, lovely, thriving, thriving. It's gradually gone down, because I think, neglect from the council not doing as it should have done and kept it up to date and that's why it's like it is now because it's not been brought up to date. Had it been brought up to date it wouldn't be moved, because it's lovely down here, I love it down here. It were nice to work on, yeah, 12 month we were working on this. Really good.

Hannah: [Plastic bag rustling noises] I'll just ask you to put your bag down cos it will be rustling on the thing!

Malcolm: Oh sorry!

1.24 *Hannah:* How long was the job?

Malcolm: This job? It took about 3 years to build, yeah, but you obviously got foundations first and structural work and then you get the electricians and bits and pieces, well we came in when that was ready and from this market I went up to the Parkway market, they started building that, the wholesale market, and even that's gone now, that's pulled down. It's just ridiculous. This is ridiculous moving this, so sad, so sad.

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1.58 Hannah: Was it one of your first jobs?

Malcolm: No it wasn't one of me first jobs. The Company I worked for we worked on hospitals and everything but this was quite - It were a really big job I was here 12 month and I really enjoyed every minute of it. Working long hours to get it ready. Obviously This took over from the old Rag and Tag, they pulled that down and moved into here. It were like something, well you know, 8th wonder of world when it was opened, never seen owt like it and people loved it and I still think they do now. Speaking the truth, that's why I come down. And a lot more.

Hannah: So how was this market different to markets that had been here in the past?

Malcolm: The only difference is that this is enclosed whereas the Rag and Tag was open. But the Rag and Tag had atmosphere, a lot of people there on the stalls, Maceys pet store, the weigh scales on the front with the lady who worked em and weighed you. Joe Edwards, Joe moved here then he moved from here to Barnsley, did a lot of work for Joe, then he went from here to Barnsley but then he finished altogether. Joe died and his brother took over. He's gone now, Joe Edwards the pot man. A lot of character, a lot of character in these markets, a lot of character.

3.32 Hannah: So have you always shopped here since it opened?

Malcolm: Yeah, oh yeah. Always come down here. Yeah.

Hannah: What sort of things do you buy when you come down?

Malcolm: Everything! Meat, fish, bread, vegetables, clothes, cotton from next door, everything. Cos, it accommodates everything doesn't it? There's everything you want, everything you want. Like I say, over the years it has deteriorated and I used to go to Doncaster market as well. It was absolutely brilliant. But they kept theirs up to standard. That's what they should have done here, keep it up to standard and it wouldn't have deteriorated. And it wouldn't be like it is now. That is a problem. Empty. Lack of maintenance, bring it up to date so

Hannah: What do you think of the new market?

Malcolm: Not a great deal, white elephant, white elephant. You won't get many people go down there; it's too far to walk. And it's alright saying they'll put buses on, they won't count that. People will not get on a bus and go down there when they can just get off outside and walk straight in. They're not going to do it. They won't do it. I shan't go and I've come here all my life.

4.50 Hannah: So is it just location that you think is wrong?

Malcolm: It's location of course, but like I said, this is like a monument to Sheffield. If anybody says Castle Market yeah, everybody knows where Castle Market is. Now if you go to someone Moor Market, what market? They'll think little stalls on the moor itself, not a big market. And it won't have the same character. THIS has got character. That won't have.

Hannah: Where do you think character comes from?

Malcolm: The character comes from the people that use it. In years gone by, like me working on it, my mother used it, her mother used it, my old man used it and his mum used it. It's got character, history, memories. That's what it's all about. What will that have down there? Only expensive food whereas some of us can't afford it. That's all it's going to have. Nothing else. No memories. People walk in and walk out here. I came down here to get this and I've been in here an hour, I could buy

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this in 5 minutes and walk out but you don't I walk round. It's nice to walk round it, noisy. That's what markets are about. But I won't go, I won't use it.

6.06 Hannah: Would you prefer to use the market rather than a supermarket?

Malcolm: Ooh yeah, ooh yeah

Hannah: Why's that?

Malcolm: I don't like supermarkets. Too expensive. Too expensive. There's no character, there's no friendliness, not like here. I mean I've known quite a few stall holders over the years, you don't get that in supermarkets. Just push and rush, that's all it is. Get your stuff, go to till and out you go. There's no chat, there's nothing. None whatsoever.

Hannah: Do you go to the same trader every the time? Or do you vary where you go?

Malcolm: It depends. I mean, I look round all the meats and if I think that looks better than that I'll buy that. I know all the stallholders so it in't a problem. I go to same place for me bread cos I think it's fantastic. Me meat, I ferret about. A friend of mine used to have a stall here, Peter, but he moved out cos he could see what were happening The new market and he went to Chesterfield.

7.10 Hannah: Do you have a favourite memory of the market?

Malcolm: Of this place? Only by working here. It's to say to people "I worked on that". When they pull it down, it'll be a sad day when they pull it down, a really sad day, for Sheffield and the people who use it. Terrible. To move it down there. It's way out of order, way out of order. And I don't think there's been no consultation between the council and the Sheffield public to see where they want it. They've not considered the people, like old people that get on the tram. No consideration. If you walk round the market now you see up there it's full of old people. How are they going to get down to market?. how are they going to carry full bags. If they walk out front door there's bus stop – 2 minutes to the bus. No it's no consideration at all from the council towards the people of Sheffield regarding markets. This one here.

Hannah: Okay.

Malcolm: Okay?

Hannah: Thank you very much

Malcolm: That all right?

Hannah: Thank you