

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcription

### Interviewee Details

Name: Cath Clements

ID Number: CM\_027\_Clements

Place of Birth: Sheffield

Year / Date of Birth: 1948

### Interview Details

Interviewer: Hannah

Date / Time:

Place: Castle Market

### Transcription

Time		
00:00	Hannah	Please could you state for me what your name is, where you were born and the year you were born in?
	Cath	My name is Cath Clements and I was born in Sheffield in 1948.
00:13	Hannah	Please can you tell me your earliest memory of the market.
	Cath	Of the market, I used to be brought here on Saturdays and I remember the bustle of it and the busyness of it and particularly we had a favourite, my brother and I. which was the pot man he used to sell china and crockery and bang his rolling pin on his table so that everything shuddered and shook and he never broke anything, he just held his china cups and saucers up to a light bulb to show how genuine and delicate they were and that's my main memory of it along with the other bits and bobs we used to find and there was a second hand book stall as well which was really good. It had decent books there.
01:03	Hannah	Do you have a favourite memory?
	Cath	That would be the pot man that I've just described. There was also a pet shop not in the market, but just outside, that obviously children used to visit a in those days he had puppies in cages in the window,

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		which of course they don't do now luckily.
01:25	Hannah	Have you kept coming back to the market as an adult?
	Cath	Yes I have, to support it. The market should be, well historically, it is the heart of the town really
01:37	Hannah	How often do you come?
	Cath	Now, probably every two weeks maybe, yeh.
01:51	Hannah	What sort of things do you buy?
	Cath	I buy things from the haberdashers and its very valiant of that lady to keep going in this, the way it is now on the lower floor. So yes I buy, I always look at the handbags and clothes and bits and bobs. I remember when, if you bought a jumper here you had to wash it as soon as you got it home because smoking was around then. Anyway yes, ust bits and bobs really and I come for the wool and the haberdashery.
02:33	Hannah	Do you think you'll use the new market?
	Cath	Well that remains to be seen, is it going to be a real market or just a place where people can hire, semi-permanent stalls. I'll probably use it but I want to support Sheffield as opposed to Meadowhall etc. And of course it wont be a real market because its not here.
03:04	Hannah	What do you think makes this a real market?
	Cath	Well the history of it being by the Castle, the hub of the village then the town and then it became a market town and so on. All the transport structure was created around it and the market's the very existence of the town really.
03:34	Hannah	So how do you feel about it moving?
	Cath	Terrible, of course, yeh. think its disgraceful how successive Councils have let it decline, put some so called market stalls on the Moor which is really a very upmarket and elegant street to such an extent that newcomers to Sheffield and people who don't really know the city think that is the market and don't come down here because the whole area is run down so much and I really think it's a shame that they've let it run down like this to the stage where they say it's not fit for purpose but of course that's because its been neglected and I'm sure it could be made fit for purpose if they spent money on it instead of this constant striving for prestige projects which don't really serve the people of Sheffield who are the ones standing outside on the bus stop.

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04:45	Hannah	So do you think the historical connection to the Castle is important?
	Cath	Well its important historically but Sheffield's a very radical city historically and we should be proud that we got rid of it. It was just to keep the locals down after all and to establish the Barons etc, that's the origin of it. So its great that its gone and you know, to expose a few ruins, is just no reason to knock down the true part of the city which is the market.
05:25	Hannah	Is there anything else you'd like to comment on?
	Cath	Just huge disappointment and no amount of nostalgia will make up for the hurt that's been done to market traders being promised and promised over the years, some who have died meanwhile as I understand and yeh, I'm not happy with what's happening and I've very little interest in looking at the, what's left of the Castle, however grand it might have been.
	Hannah	Thank you very much.