

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcript

### Interviewee Details

**Name:** Michelle Simmons

**ID Number:** CM\_032\_Simmons

**Place of Birth:** Sheffield

**Year / Date of Birth:**

### Interview Details

**Interviewer:** Helen Finnerty

**Date / Time:** 10:29, 23/03/2013

**Place:** Sharon's Café, Castle Market

### Summary

Time	Description
0:00	Working in the café
0:47	Move to new market on the Moor
1:57	Other traders
2:26	What does Sharon's serve?
2:49	Regular customers
3:44	Why is the café called Sharon's?

### Transcript

*Helen:* Can you tell me your full name?

*Michelle:* Michelle Simmons

*Helen:* OK, and you're from Sheffield?

*Michelle:* Yeah

*Helen:* And today's date is 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013. So how long have you been working on the market?

*Michelle:* 8 years

*Helen:* Right, and what kind of trade have you been doing?

*Michelle:* Breads and café.

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*Helen:* Right, and how's business at the moment?

*Michelle:* What today or in general?

*Helen:* In general.

*Michelle:* It's not as busy as the market used to be.

*Helen:* Right.

*Michelle:* But we're still busy here.

*Helen:* Right, yeah, yeah. So what was it like before then?

*Michelle:* Friday's and Saturday's you couldn't breathe in here at one time. Now it's just

[Interruption –customer]

*Helen:* So what are you going to do about the move? Are you going to go to the Moor or?

*Michelle:* Yeah, yeah we are going there. We are quite looking forward to going there

*Helen:* Right

*Michelle:* Have a nice warm place to work.

[Interruption – customer]

*Helen:* So what do you think are the main advantages about moving there?

*Michelle:* I don't think there's any real advantages, apart from being warm, I don't think there'll be like a market atmosphere up there.

*Helen:* Right, yeah.

*Michelle:* You won't get all the banter and everything, all of that will go out the window, I think it's gonna be like Meadowhall, no atmosphere and things like that.

*Helen:* And do you know lots of the other traders?

*Michelle:* Yeah.

*Helen:* Do you have good working relationships with them? Have the traders changed a lot over the last few years?

*Michelle:* Yeah, I mean there's a lot that's still here that's been here years, but there's a lot that come in. I mean we had one that opened just up the bottom here didn't we the other week and she stayed open for about a week and then went again!

*Helen:* Right, come and go.

*Michelle:* So people think they can come and open a stall and it'll be busy but it's not.

*Helen:* Yeah, so what's your busiest times then?

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*Michelle:* Friday's and Saturday's normally

*Helen:* And what do people come for? Do they come for a full meal or?

*Michelle:* Hot food, we don't do full meals as such we do breakfasts and sandwiches and things like that but we don't do pie and chips and we don't do a full meal like that just snacks really

*Helen:* And what about your customers, do you have any special favourites?

*Michelle:* Oh yes, yeah we've got us favourites. We've got a lot of regular customers, mostly in the late mornings they're all regulars and in the afternoons you just get odd ones popping in that's not been before

*Helen:* Do you think they'll follow you when you go to the Moor?

*Michelle:* Yeah cos they're always asking if we're going down.

*Helen:* Yeah

*Michelle:* But in new market you haven't got your own seating area, it's like a communal seating area for all the takeaways that's there. So I've heard, I ain't seen it. [To other lady working in café - Have you seen it? No.]

*Helen:* So there's a guy here that's been coming here for years you said. Are most of your customers older or different age groups?

*Michelle:* Yeah, most of them are older.

*Helen:* Yeah it's important for them isn't it? To have somewhere to go.

*Michelle:* They've been here before even Celia who owns it come

*Helen:* Well who's Sharon then?

*Michelle:* Sharon's, she's one of the people who opened it at first, it's had quite a few owners since Sharon but they've just kept the name. People know it as Sharon's caf.

*Helen:* Right, so now Celia owns the place?

*Michelle:* Yeah, she's on her way to Scotland to get married today

*Helen:* If she can get there in the snow [This was recorded on a very snowy day!]

*Michelle:* Yeah, she's on her way there

*Helen:* Wow what a day to have your wedding on. Well it'll be very picturesque anyway if she gets there. Right OK, that's great, thank you so much, thank you.