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Interviewer: Eoin Dunne

Interviewee: Josie Beck

Venue: 11 Tudor Rose Court , Fan Street

Purpose: Part of the One History, EC1 in the making oral histories.

E: If you don't mind me asking where and when were you born?

J: I was born October 16th 1928 in St Bartholomew's Hospital.

E: Could you tell me a little bit about your childhood.

J: My childhood was basically in Goswell Road in the end of Goswell Road and the top end of Goswell Road in the olden times. My parents came from Clerkenwell and they ended up in, my mother especially ended up in a little turn in off of Old Street called Tilney Court and she played there as a child. She knew the area quite well obviously. We then went to school initially I went to St Peter's and Paul's in Amwell Street and then we went to Compton Street up until the war and then war was declared and we were evacuated with most other children obviously in the area and we came backwards and forwards from various places in the country and when the bombing eased up we came back and when it came back we were off again. That was my childhood it was good Compton Street was a very good School to go to we had boys one side and girls the other, then we progressed on my Mother and my Grandparents as far as I can remember always used Whitecross Street when we lived down in the lower part of Goswell Road, then my Mother used to use Chapel Street in Islington because that Market was nearer to the top end of Goswell Road where we lived but then we all came back to the bottom end of Goswell Road even though we were married my mother moved back and we all used Whitecross Street. It was an amazing place because it was full characters then and up until the last 4 or 5 years it was still full of characters, there were numerous pubs that I can remember in Whitecross Street there was one at the top of Whitecross Street opposite St Luke's Church and it was called The Luke's Head and opposite the church was the sweet shop, I think his name was Wally, and his wife was there donkey's years. I believe that was during the war as well, even after the war there was always something going on down there. At the beginning of the Market next to the pub there was a little shop there next to the pub it's a flower shop now I know it went into a small paint and wallpaper shop and after that it went into a little clothes shop and as I say different things went in there and now it's a flower shop. But one of the things that was great down there and is sorely missed now they had a wonderful bakers down there his name was Michael Quinn he likes to be called and he used to make fantastic crusty bread and rolls and everything was fine he used to work hard until about 3.00 pm in the afternoon he would have been in the local pub with his Guinness's and more often then not came in, in a bit of a mood. Nevertheless he was a great chap and next to there was a sweet and tobacco shop that was there for a number of years and next to that was a butchers a small family of butchers and all these shops are greatly missed now, well they were missed years ago and they are still missed I suppose.

E: Was these all there when you were a child?

J: Yeh and during the war. Because funny enough we are talking about 1938/39 my mother remembers some of these shops being there when she was a child, so there is a lot of people who could say more about the Market then I can, all I know is that when we went past the sweet shop and the butchers and there was something else there then there was St Henry's and another fruit shop and eventually a green grocers and right next to there was the dearest little diary you can ever imagine and it was there for donkeys years and I am sure the lady was as old as the shop and she carried on with her son. Anyway it was a delightful shop and there were similar shops going down and on the other side there was Mitchells the fish mongers and they were there for years and years and they also had another shop up in Central Street by the Leisure Centre there opposite St Luke's but everybody knew everybody you queued up for your fish on Friday and next it was Hall's the butchers that was big butchers and there was another shop opposite another butchers but there were plenty of everything down there, shops without the stalls and you can imagine how busy it was forever, I mean my mother used to tell me things about World War I. There was one chap the Hall Brothers of German origin and they smashed the windows down and you didn't know that after that you used to go to halls because it was the best butchers down there. Everybody has a tale to tell, I mean I was a child down there and there was all these other shops I mean there was a shop down there that used to sell offal, sheep's head, calves liver, tripe all that oh I didn't like it then and I dislike it now and next there was a sweet shop that's been there for years used to sell boiled sweets and everything and that was type of thing that was all down there.

E: If I could just take you back a bit you say your parents came from Clerkenwell? Did they work in the area then?

J: My father went to the war he was in the World War I as a youngster and he came back, my Grandfather lived there and he went to work there and they worked together in some form I think it was building, my father got killed when I was a baby when I was only 6 weeks old in car crash, obviously I don't know he didn't have much of life there anyway his life was in the Army and came out and went to work with his father. My father worked on the corner of Old Street and Goswell Road, there was Lines Corner House at the bottom and on top of that there was this factory called Stevenson's and they used to do embroidery and my mother used to be an embroiderer and they used to make all the badges and everything for the Army and anybody's uniform they used to have these very bold glary badges and she used to do those. After that she got married, I think she still went back there after she got married and I think she may have gone back there after my father got killed I am not sure, I cant ask her now because she is dead, that was that. I moved out of the area I had a lot of contact with 1 or 2 people in the market because the commodities down there, there were so many different commodities that the people could down there and get anything they wanted and at the time I went to work in the market there must have been well over 100 stalls and you couldn't get a stall for love nor money and if one ever went down there lunch time you couldn't get on the pavement.

E: Did you work in the market when you left school?

J: No, no, no I went to School in this area when I came back I worked locally in the tailoring and I had a couple of odd jobs and then I went tailoring but then I went to work at factory in a clothing factory and I worked in the warehouse and I had a senior job there, I worked there for about 20 odd years, they moved up to Camden town and I went with them and then I decided to retire it was early retirement but as soon as I came out of retirement I started up my own business and that's where I used to deal with Whitecross Street with some of the people who used to sell children's wear and what have you down there I used to sell them when I was running the factory in the later years I used to go around buying myself and selling myself, then I had the stalls down in Whitecross Street then I took the shop in Whitecross Street and which I loved we were quite well known down there because of the merchandise that I sold was quite good and the prices were good, so they used to come all over to see me and my second husband had a small printing firm in Tilney Court the same place where my mother used to play as a child which was a bit of coincidence and I had the shop down in Whitecross Street so we used to go home in the evening together more often than not unless he was working extremely late and I used to go home myself.

E: How did you find it going working from a tailoring to starting your own business?

J: Well being in the tailoring firm I was working on the finish garments so I used to execute the orders and check the things when they came and make sure that orders were going out on time. We used to have sales to the public, I was used to meeting people because they used to come into the factory and buy and also I used to meet people at that time the multiple stores used to come in to buy off of us I liked the job and I liked my work and I loved working in the shop because you met so many different characters at the time, 4.00 pm they used to close there maybe before that time it was later I cant remember because when you work in a market so close to the city you got such a variation of people you got the city workers, because that was one of the best markets around they used to come all over. There was a stall there selling very expensive evening wear and there was a shop there selling men's suits or you could get a stall there selling fabrics and materials which was good, you know and curtaining you don't see any of that anywhere now especially down in Whitecross Street. Going back to my shop I suppose gradually and gradually the trade went. I remember that when they opened up Marks and Spencer's in Moorgate and Next and Gap there are still shops down there you know that we were going to lost trade down and some of the big factories and office blocks I think BT might be one down the bottom of Whitecross Street which is close to home because they used to come out in there droves and come into the market well they moved out and someone else moved out it all reflects on the market going down. I was working there for a good year the last year or so and I didn't care if I didn't earn any money for myself at that time because I literally was retired and I had lost my husband a year before and that's how I moved back down here and it was just if I could pay the rents and the overheads, but I found that I couldn't do that because the passing trade had gone and they did say that when I went that was the final nail in the coffin because I was the only one there was from the old school that had tried so hard to keep that market going, I think when I left there was one stall outside the shop on the left and they used to sell teenage wear nice bright things very good price and his name was Steve and opposite was another chap that used to sell shoes for all the youngsters and the office workers whoever and they couldn't make a go of it.

E: They just couldn't compete with the bigger shops?

J: With the big shops and also the loss of the passing trade, because the more factories moved out the less people came up and some of the people had shops next door but one to me there used to be a little man, George and the little shop he had there was Avanti he used to sell really smart menswear and shoes and Italian stuff. At that time it was the real McCoy. That went and that was taken over by, I think they tried to make it a coffee shop and that didn't work and then something else. Within in a matter of a few years and at one stage I think we were down to 5 stalls out of 100 odd.

E: When was this sorry?

J: I am talking about 5 years ago; I have been here 5 years. When I left there, on a busy day which was on a Friday, if we had a dozen stalls if and I say that because I don't want to make it worse then it was, if we had a dozen stalls you would be lucky but I know there wasn't. So that was the finish of the Market but I did try and we tried so hard, I was the Treasury on the committee of the Whitecross Traders Association and the traders got so disillusioned with what was going on and they didn't come to the meetings only 4 or 5 of us went. I can't really tell how many people were here, I can't really tell it doesn't say how many people there. Only a handful the butchers moved from the corner and he went further down tothe Hall Butchers that was a very good little butchers but he had to up and went.

E: Originally you didn't work on Whitecross Street, you came to the area and then you got a stall and then you got a shop in the street how did it kind of come that you got a stall and then how did you progress from a stall to a shop?

J: Well first of all I used to supply 1 or 2 of the traders in Whitecross Street when I was working with the merchandiser we used to produce and when I retired and I went to help my son he had a public house at the time to do his books and do a bit of catering there, and then I decided that all my friends used to keep phoning me up business people who were in the trade and I used to like the environment of the market one day someone phoned me up and asked me I remember this quite well, would I like to buy some children's dresses and I said well I will come up and have a look and I decided there and then that I was going to go into the Market.

E: When was that, that you decided to go into the market?

J: You are asking me 1994 no before that I was in the shop from 1991 and I was about 3 years down so 1988.

E: that was when you first got a stall in the Market?

J: Yeh I would think.

E: Was it hard to get a stall in the market?

J: Yeh I had to sublet off of my friends there I shouldn't say that because it wasn't really permissible, Safeway's at the bottom of the market opposite there was a little shop, it used to be a little haberdashery shop selling knitting wool and whatever and the lady wanted to move out and I rented off of her and it was quite a nice little shop very small but I liked but there was a bit of a rogue of a landlord I had been there a couple of years or a bit more and one of the other traders, a couple of them down there told me that the landlord had been taking his wife and his children into the shop over the weekend when I wasn't there and you can guess what he was coming out with . When I heard this on 2 or 3 occasions I confronted him and I didn't believe him at all because he was well known to be a rouge so I just said I don't want a shop anymore I didn't know where I was going because I had loads of stuff in there, there was a woman up the road called Doreen and she had quite a few shops out there and she had this little shed it was brick built it was an off room from the back of the house and it had a toilet in there, that was a bonus and so I made that into an old storage place we decorated it up, I wonder if its still there it must have been years and years ago because the roof went up to a point now that I am thinking there must have been a fire that was a funnel up the top there because there was nothing on top there was only a ground floor property thing. I had a telephone put in there that's when I started sharing a couple of stalls and then managed to get 2 or 3 stalls down there and then chap opposite the green grocers in Whitecross Street this very day now, he had taken over the shop and he didn't have a clue, he was a very nice chap and I asked him one day if I could some boxes in there to store I said only temporary and after a few weeks he asked me if I wanted to share the shop with him because he couldn't afford to pay the overheads because he wasn't used to the trade and then he was only there a year or 2 and I was left. We had a real mixture of people we had a bit Jewish clientele because they used to come down from Stanford Hill and Golders Green because they knew I had sold some pretty good merchandise. There was a notice out in there, then we had the Jubilee party down there and then we had another for the children and that was good because there was lady there named Doreen Dunford and she was very, very good and she used to organize all these things and they used to have old fashioned music and carousel and bands and singing it was really great down there and the pubs was doing a roaring trade. Coming back to the pubs there was one at the top of Whitecross Street which was called The Luke's Head and then there was another pub coming down on the left which is now called, I forget what its called now its a new name but it was called the Spread Eagle before that and before that it was another name but there was a pub there and then you went down a little further and there was another pub called the Drum and Monkey which is now the Youth Club there do you know the one? That used to be a pub did you know? Someone else told you that, and then down a bit further there were 2 shops down on the corner of Roscoe Street there was The Green Man and Still and I suppose in the last 4 years or 5 years that's now closed as a pub. Then there was the other pub which is still there Two Birds.

E: So all these were there when you started on the market? When you started on the market was it still a really busy market? What kind of other stalls were there what was sold on the market?

J: Yeh, like I said before you could get everything you had fish stalls you had clothing you had 2 stalls where they used to sell groceries very cheap. There used to be umpteen fruit stalls, there

was a sweet stall. Fry's was very, very good fruit one stall was all vegetables they were right next to each other and the other stall was all fruit they had children clothes and that including me when I had the stall and a friend of mine she had children's wear. A different type of children's wear than what I did, shoe stalls as I mentioned. Everything there would be electrical things there would be second hand things there would be fellas coming down who didn't have a stall and they used to sell there merchandise off the floor they used to go and buy job lots and sell them for £3 all selling it cheap, Christmas time obviously there was all the fruit the stalls had the Christmas tree and wreaths and the stalls that sold all the Christmas Decorations and they were all bright and shiny. Flower stalls you know selling flowers and plants. At the corner of Roscoe Street the other side of where Peter has his fruit stall now there used to be Marge and Annie and they used to sell plants and they had been there for years and years and lovely plants and bushes and shrubs and people used to come all over to buy from them.

E: You remember the market when you were a child living in the area did it change a lot from when you knew it before to when you started working was there a change in the stalls that were there and how busy it was?

J: No I can honestly say there has never been much there on a Saturday anyway and all the time I was working in the market it was never open on Saturday because they all relied at that time. Prior to the war I couldn't say I can't remember if that was a Saturday market, but Whitecross Street was always, always busy, you have to bear in mind the Whitecross and around there is a very residential area and everyone used to use Whitecross Street. On a Saturday or Sunday and they prefer to go up to Chapel Street and they had a Woolworths up there and Sainsbury's and things like that we didn't have done there, so you would have trip up there and do that. During the week most people liked the butchers that was there and used that and people at that time was very hard pushed for money so to pay a penny to catch a bus or a tram to go up to Chapel Street was a lot of money so they would shop locally if they could. As you get older you spread out a bit or you go down to the West End you could get all that you wanted in Whitecross. I remember it must have been 1995 maybe, I would stay it was still solid from top to bottom. Stalls all the way down from the top all the way down to Fortune Street and you could say either side that was solid; you could not get through that market and even to walk on the pavement was a bit of a job. You had a nice shop on the corner which is now an Italian coffee place on the corner of Banner Street and opposite is another Italian place but they used to be a really nice Knitting they used knitting wool and crocheting and everything and they had been there for years and now coming back to me. Then she went and then there was man there and moved there and then was a pet shop not so much live animals it was all fishing and pet food and opposite there, this is going back before the war and during the war and after the war, Mrs Farrington used to sell second hand bric – a-brac; if it was there now it would earn a fortune because all those years ago, and in Banner Street, it wasn't a garage but one would say a garage, it was big storage place and it had big doors and you would open the doors it was full over everything she used to go our buying deceased stuff it was absolutely packed if you wanted anything go down to Mrs Farrington and Sadie, they were characters of the market. Bill Mitchell the fishmonger there was Hall the Butchers and Mrs Farrington and where now my shop is, I remember that used to be.

E: Do you remember shop number?

J: 122 Whitecross Street. Years ago on the corner there used to be a very, very old grocery shop and when I say old it was really old and they used to sell bread. Is that right, I will have to ask Gladys, I send you around to talk to Gladys and her husband because they live on top of the market more than me. It was the filthiest, dirtiest shop but everybody used to love the bread especially on Sunday I think they were German. Next to that there was Tom the Green Grocer in the front he had a few potatoes, cabbages and out the back it was coal it was a coal shop as well. So that was the market as I remember.

E: It was busy until the mid 90s and then it declined because of the passing trade.

J: I would say later, probably it was going down but you could still earn a good living up until 2000 if you had good things to sell.

E: So it petered out then. If you go down on a Thursday or Friday it's still busy but it's all food stalls.

J: No it can't compare the only one who is there is Peter the fruit stall he must be there 30 odd years now, he must be the only one I can think of now. Nothing is like it was Whitecross Street was a village everybody knew everybody you used to go down in the mornings and you see the same people going to get a paper or a loaf bread I am just going up to get my rolls he used to open at 7.00 am in the morning because he used to bake all-night in the bakers and he used to make the most beautiful jam donuts and everyone would go and get them. Then you would see them running to the butchers or going to get the veg before they go to work or mothers taking their kids to school. Now it's not like that, obviously because the shops aren't there. They go Waitrose or Somerfield's and they buy all what they want at the weekend and they get a loaf of bread or two loaves and put them in freezer or perhaps they only have one loaf that last them 4 or 5 days because you can buy a loaf that lasts a week now. Whereas if you didn't eat it on the same day you had to make a bread pudding. I been up to bakers and purposefully asked him if has stale bread so you can make a good bread pudding did you know that?

E: Yeh my mum does.

J: Not only that people still used to make cakes and that and every now and again they would be nice before the war most people cooked everything whether it was cakes or meat everything, now as you know they can't be bothered if they can go and buy a cake for £2 why are they going to bothered baking it for. It's different and when we say going up the cafe, they used to call them coffee shops I never knew why, there was coffee shops in Goswell Road in fact there was a coffee shop where the EC1 NDC office was not the new one know the one in Goswell Road this end just by Gee Street, Bastwick Street. There used to be a coffee shop there because we used to live Dallington Street, this coffee shop I will always remember it had little cubicles like a table and then wood and a seat and the seats were fixtures like pews like booths. They used to say look what's on the menu today and they used to have Steak and Kidney Pie, Rice and Custard,

Jam Rolly Polly. Mum used to send us sometimes over there, oh Mum they have Jam Rolly Polly and we used to ask them take away then and you had to not beg but he was doing you a favour. It was beautiful.

E: This was when you lived in Goswell Road?

J: Yeh when I was still at school.

E: Can I ask you a bit about when you left Goswell Road; you say you lived in Camden?

J: The firm moved to Camden.

E: Where did you live when they moved to Camden did you live in this area always.

J: I moved out in the 70's I suppose I moved then to Muswell Hill essentially and I moved from there to Hampstead Garden Suburbs.

E: Where did you live when you worked in the market?

J: Up there.

E: So you used to come down every day? How did you find that?

J: I came down with my husband because he worked in Old Street so we came down by car I didn't like the travelling home. When I worked at Camden town I didn't drive and I had quite a good job so they put on a driver for me to take me home or I would take a cab home, so I was fortunate. Where we were was awkward to get where I lived. Sometimes if my husband wasn't there to take me home I would get on the tube at Old Street and go to East Finchley and then I had to get another bus and walk. All and all I really enjoyed my life although I was well past retirement I mean I was 78 I only give the shop up 2 years ago so I was 77/78. If I could have carried on I would have done but it just got that you couldn't but I do love environment of the market.

E: Why did you choose to move back to this area?

J: I knew the area very well and my husband died and where I lived was very rural and as I say it was quite a way to the bus stop and also to the station and the house was much too big for me, so I sold up and bought this place and moved back, I was still going to the shop when I came back here for a couple of years before it all closed up. Also there is so much and I could be here all day and it might not be the slightest bit of interest to you, in Whitecross Street at the top Garrett Street that used to be the Whitbred Stables in there, I remember going in there because we used to know Irish Jim the farrier and he used to take us in there with the horses and all that was lovely. Of course he used to go in the local pub to have a pint and one day he got me some tickets to go to Buckingham Place Mews where they keep all the horses for Christmas to take some children and I took 4 children with me. We went over there and the Queen was there and

she gave out all these presents and we saw the gold coach and everything especially for the children with everything done properly there with the Reindeers and everything in the snow Jimmy the Horse we used to call him.

E: You say you went into the stables what were the stables like inside was it incredibly busy?

J: No because the time we went there wasn't all that many horses in there probably about 10 I can't remember off hand. They used to have the Greys there might have been more but I think they had another stable in Chiswell Street. The breweries in there I think there might have been some along there as well. They used to fetch the horses out, when the transport was motorised instead of the horse drawn carts, then it was motorised these horses only came out for show day or any exhibitions or sometimes for things like that. They had them for a number of years until, it wasn't like 50 years ago, it was probably more like 30 years ago. Do you know what year it was?

E: I know the brewery stopped in the mid 60's so I guess they might have kept some on past that.

J: Whitbreds should have memorabilia from the market. The fish and chip shop in the market, it was different then, people and they used to do the frying at the back then, they used to get all sorts they used to have all pictures on the wall Gilbert Harding he was one of the big radio people. Used to have a lot of celebrities go in there and they had all these pictures. Halls the butchers he used to have pictures of the market like it was in the early 1900s where there was the old fashioned stalls and that and I know he had them. He actually now works in the butchers Crosby's down in Smithfield Market he might be able to tell you what happened to those pictures, his name was Mark.

E: You grew up and then you moved you away and then worked in the area and then lived here again have you noticed apart from the market the area like changes in the area?

J: Yes of course first of all the St Luke's church was the church where the majority of people got married, christened whatever there was a lot of activity regarding the church whether it was youth club, brownies, all those sorts of this. I have never seen a child around here in a brownie uniform or a girl guides one so has it changed in that respect then yes. Obviously Whitecross Street was always full of people born and bred in the area and the flats went down from father to son, mother to daughter so it was kept in and the children grew up in the area. Probably the war did make a bit of different because some people moved away new flats were being built and Finsbury at one time before it merged in with Islington was the richest borough and didn't owe anybody a penny, they were in credit, but that didn't last long once it went over to Islington I can assure you. It was basically all white people, of course at that time there was a the ethnic minorities we didn't have enough coloured people and foreign people so that's where there was an influx come in from Islington and also there was various people came from the British Empire that came here and you can see it now, where there was a few there is more and more. Has it changed yes. I can count on my hands the people that are still there that I know were there

years ago. Most of them have not moved out they have passed on upstairs. There was Morefields School that was built - that's the one they have closed down recently.

E: Do you think there is community here now? Not like there used to be?

J: No. One of the things is there was all these pubs- not that I went in these pubs, we did go up to the Spread Eagle you will find out the name it's got a modern name now. This was after the war everybody used to go in Friday and Saturday to the pubs and the men used to go in Sunday lunch, some men still do apparently. When you think of it now whereas they could only afford to go out Friday nights, pay night, and used to take their wives out Saturday all again it was down to finance and what you could afford. Now its different we have credit cards and everything else the youngsters go out and have a drink when they want to. Times have changed everything has changed that is an area that was very special to the people who lived down there because it was there home town it was their village and you get this all over London little pockets of places and you to Islington to Chapel Street area because all the stall holders knew one another and invariably they lived in the area and this is what happened. Once the market broke up down there then the terms of being in the village went because it wasn't a meeting place anymore, even when I have been down the shop and we have a really lovely day the sun shinning and towards 2.30pm they would start packing up and they would say do you fancy a shandy or do you want half a beer, I used to have a wall outside and we used to sit there and thoroughly enjoy this beer because we had worked hard and we would enjoy. I have heard more swear words down there when I realised I suppose everybody swears now days some of them can be a bit near the knuckle but it's a laugh the way they say it and we did have some really good fun. One day there you used to be some fly pictures outside the shop on the corner there and they called me out and said look and there was rat and it was walking very slowly on this canopy of the shop opposite oh my god oh right, I don't know what happened to it then and I came back I was serving in the shop. My daughter came in and one of the chaps came in from outside and I was this side of the counter not that she said lift your feet up its by your feet and the bloody rat was down there I run out of the shop and the guy on the corner two of them came in and they killed it and they said it was half dead anyway and then everyone was saying you have rats in your shop. My shop was right opposite Peter's fruit stall it's an art thing now, they used to have a wall round there. I mean that's only a little thing I mean we had some laughs down there, when I was on the committee I wish I had kept all the papers there was loads of people down there. I did try for a long while before it broke up to ask Islington Council if they could reduce the licensing fee and all the other ideas I came up with and the licensing fee was so much and there was no trade. What they didn't understand loads of shops closed and what the Council didn't understand well they did understand whether there was anything they could do, nothing was done. People giving up the shop they were losing all of there rates and the stall holders started to fall away because there was no trade and its a vicious circle and it goes round and I spent allot of time trying and I was on the steering committee for EC1 NDC. I think I put some decent suggestions and told them what would be viable and I said you will never get Whitecross Street back the way that it was ever because of all the new shops the Primark's and the other ones that open the cheap market and I don't know how the shops down there that sell food survive with all the takeaways on the stalls when you think the rents and rates they have to pay. There rates are probably more then what it is for a stall how they continue? The reason why

that markets doing alright as a food place is because there is a variation of types of food there is all different nationalities go down there and they get the food that they want and apparently most of it if its Jamaican or whatever its good food so they come back. But the top end okay as far as I know there is a little pet store that comes 3 or 4 times a week, a girl there with her children's clothing I can't see that working out but let's hope it does. Thursday and Friday up there I think there is a chappy at the top end that sells scarves, men caps and gloves and a couple with necklaces jewellery but that all and they are not out everyday, what could they do to fetch it back I don't know I have often thought. Now with the recession, the only way it could come back who wants to be in the retail trade is to open a stall because they cant afford a shop and perhaps someone somewhere along the line they can sort out some storage you see the difference is if you have a shop you have storage and you don't need to have a car, van or whatever and it can be pretty awkward.

E: Thank you very much for talking to me.

J: St Luke's church obviously it's a landmark it was a beautiful church owned by Dud Brothers and they wouldn't pull it down even though it was blasted during the war and they made good and now it's the LSO which funny enough it was on the Songs of Praise on Sunday it came from there. Another bonus around here I think is the Barbican its not used that much by people who live in Whitecross Street it is used by people who live in the Barbican and people who live out the area because I know that they do come down there. Since I came down here I do a lot of volunteer work and I do it because I have to occupy my time and I do look after the people here at times and I take them sometimes to the Barbican to see a matinee and I put on stuff here whether it's cream teas or whatever and I also arrange to take them out for the day. I can occupy myself here because I can walk alright, but on saying that the Barbican has been good for Whitecross Street because without that being here it would have been a ghost town. Then after the war they built Golden Lane Estate and that's been up 50 years this year, they used to use the market but there is few that use it because a lot of them how expensive Waitrose is and a lot of them go elsewhere they go to Somerfield's. We are fortunate to have a yellow bus that's free now and that takes them up to Sainsbury's up Chapel Street.

E: I suppose people shop for convenience now rather than using the market?

J: If you go in Waitrose Saturday after 1.00 pm, empty market and you can't park a car down there until after 1:00pm. You go in there Sundays it's absolutely packed and people are working all week and you see the young couples like in there 30s and all that and do there weekly shop. Its people that have money can afford to use it. I still use it all the time but recently I have looked twice at what I am spending in there and I am buying elsewhere because of the price if the quality was any different I would say I will keep to Waitrose because its better and I will pay, but its not so, sometimes even Mark's and Spencer is better. Sometimes I ask them for funding if I take them out for the day.

E: Thank you very much.