

Title: Danter, Clair_ Interview_ Complete
Creators: Rick & Julia Goldsmith
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Location: Hereford Town
Source: Catcher Media Social CIC
Interviewee: Clair Danter (speaker, female)
Interviewer: Julia Goldsmith (speaker, female)
Camera & Sound: Richard Goldsmith (male)
Producer: Julia Goldsmith
Language: English

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Video Format: MPEG-4
Bit rate: 22.20 mbits/s
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Aspect ratio: 16:9
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Audio Format: AAC
Audio Sampling rate: 48 kHz
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Audio Bit rate: 256 kb/s
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Transcript

JG: Do you know why the Fair is always held in May after the Bank Holiday?

CD: Yeah, the Fair is held on a particular date because it is chartered on that date so therefore it can only take place on that date. So,, wherese Hereford follows the Bank Holday May Day Monday, so the it follows Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and that's it, it's set on them dates.

JG: So tell me a bit about your life growing up... tell us a bit about your family.

CD: Yeah, my family, we come from Bedfordshire more or less. That's where my farther come from and we travelled round, like, Cambridge, Luton and Bedfored and in theose areas, you know, and that's where I grew up, and my mother came from the Midlands so through the winter months we would go back to the Midlands to spend time with my other side of the family, you know, and that's where I went to school also: in the Midlands.

JG: So how did you meet James, then?

CD: Er (laugh) I met James at Nottingham Goose Fair. We used to – the Showmen had their own sort of private get-togethers if you like, so Nottingham was the biggest and greatest Fair for all the Showmen at one time, so we would all congregate there and they would put on – I think we used to have three parties – and that's where I met James.

JG: So what's the Dodgems like as a ride to run? Are they still one of the hot favourites?

CD: I would say so – the most popular. It's a different ride every time you particpte in it –it's a different ride and the parents can also take the children on, children can enjoy with the parents – it's a good all round famiuly ride – the most traditional one I'd say, apart from the Carousel.

JG: Can you just tell us about the Dodgems?

CD: yeah, the Dodgems is probably one of the most popular rides, because it's an all round family favourite, and every time you ride the Dodgem, it's a different ride, you know, so I would say that's – yeah – apart from the Carousel, the most traditional.

JG: So you were telling use, you think the Hereford Fair is one of the oldest Fairs.

CD: Yeah, I would say so yeah – almost 900 year old, so it's got to be one of the oldest Fairs in the land I would say – most definitely.

JG: So why do you think it's – do you think it's important that we're kind of discovering the hertiage of it and looking back into the past and the future – why do you think that's important?

CD: Yeah I definitely think this is very important, we need to hold onto all our heritage, whichever form that comes in, and all our history as best we can. We really do need to hold onto that – I mean England, the UK in general, is full of history and that is one of our best assets, I believe.

JG: And what do you think people's perception is of the Fair now, is it still a...

CD: I'd say it's a bit mixed these days, I mean – we try our best and we hope that we do as good a job as we possibly can and we – you know – everybody's happy – but it's hard to please everybody isn't it – whatever the situation, but we'll do our best, you know, and if there's any problems we'll do our best to iron them out and make it right, you know.

JG: What would you say to people who say: 'oh well its all very well but move it out of town'?

CD: I would say, that's a big mistake – as a big a mistake as it could ever possibly be – because, when its in the town, it creates an atmosphere that you can't create in a field out of the town, you just can't. You have people live in the town, you people come into the town and you just can't create that magical atmosphere that a town centre has – you know – and it just would not be the same, it would be a big mistake, because it is part of the heritage and the history of Hereford and the further away we get from that history, the older it gets, the more important it becomes and we must hold onto it with both hands, as tight as we can.

JG: That's great, I'll just ask you one more question about – you told me about the cinema coming can you tell me...

CD: Oh yeah, the cinema...I think they were called Bioscopes, that's what they used to call them, it was called Bioscopes and they were the very first cinemas. So they would, what they would do, they would come to into Hereford the week before and they would film people going about their daily businesses, in and out of the shops, throught the town – and then once the Fair was set up, they would then put on the big screen and they would create

a show – they would set up a big stall really – and it would be what we would call as show. So then they would get everybody in and the people would pay to watch themselevs on the big screen, because that was the – there was no film in them days and there were no cinemas, so they all thought they was movie stars really – you know – so it was quite good!

JG: Can you just tell us a bit, you know, for those who don't know, because the Fair kind of seems to magically appear and disappear – can you just tell us a bit about how it's set up and how it's changed over the years?

CD: Well, years ago, er, things would be packed onto lorries and trucks, and most of the equipment was done by manual labour, erm so – and that was very very hard. But as time's gone on and – you know – we've introduced hydrollics and winches, and folding equipment up is a lot more advanced now than it ever so... So, say one ride in particular, the Freak Out, would come on one semi-trailer and that would all fold out – it's like the best Transformers money can buy – that's basically the only way you can describe them. Erm , so , and you know – that's basically the way that it has gone which is a lot better these days for us, 'cos we don't have to rely on so much manual labour – you know – and it's less strenuous on you body and – you know – it's a lot better, a hell of a lot better now.