

## Dan Coyle's security blanket

I was born and bred in the best city in the world - well, it is to me - Sheffield in Yorkshire.

The city had a heartbeat years ago. It had a thriving cutlery industry, and every knife and fork you used had 'made in Sheffield' stamped on it. It made you proud.

It's where the famous Hendersons relish, far better than Worcestershire sauce! to put on your pies, is made. And Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United were big names in football once upon a time though sadly not so much now. It's also the home of pop stars such as Joe Cocker, Def Leppard, Human League and many more.

Sheffield is a beautiful city with some wonderful architecture though the centre has become a bit of a ghost town because of the big out-of-town shopping centres. But there is still that buzz when you walk down Fargate or the Moor precincts and the Winter Garden at the back of the Town Hall remains an oasis where you can relax with a cup of coffee. Then, who could miss The Crucible Theatre forever linked with the World Snooker Championships.

I lived in the inner city in Crosspool, a stone's throw from the Peak District. In school holidays we would pack up some banana sandwiches, an apple and a bottle of fizzy pop, usually Tizer, and as a treat some Bassett's jelly babies, which are still made in Sheffield. Then we'd walk up to the famous Stanage Pole landmark via the old Roman road.

Those were wonderful halcyon summer days of staying out till dusk with no one to bother you.

Then as we grew up we discovered beer and women and it was into the bright lights of Sheffield city centre and the club scene. Places like the rock pub Wapentake, Rebels, Fiesta, Josephines, and the legendary Cairo Jax. The Crazy Daisy was my haunt; I even worked on the door in the mid to late '70s .

This all faded into the ether with the growing responsibilities of a family but I still remember growing up in Sheffield with great fondness. The city was like an old security blanket protecting us from the outside world. It's the place that made me who I am. Thank you Sheffield.