

## KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0345F

Kendal Flood Project interview

Maggie Goldstraw born 1953  
Interviewed September 2016

0345f/ Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp. 1-4

She has lived in the same house in Castle Street for many years.

Describes the community before and after the flood.

Took dogs for their walk on the day of the flood. River was very high.

Later the water started to come in the house. Began to move things upstairs.

The water was very deep in Castle Street that evening. Stayed upstairs all night.

The water reached the third step of the ground floor. Basement was heavily flooded.

She moved out with the dogs for two nights, but partner stayed in the house.

Looters were active in the area after the flood.

Dogs were taken to kennels. They 'camped' in the upstairs rooms for several months

They threw a great deal of stuff away as advised.

Track 2, pp. 4-7

Dealing with loss adjusters/ insurance company etc. Dehumidifiers put in.

Problems with contractors sent by insurance co. They were unable/ unwilling to replaster the house using the original materials.

Engaged a local plasterer and paid the extra money themselves.

Details of more problems/ arguments with the insurance co. and with builders.

She was very pro-active and refused to accept what they said. Her chartered surveyor brother was very helpful giving her advice throughout, but it still did not go smoothly. In the end they got what they wanted but there are still some problems to be resolved. One local workman suffered stress-related health problems.

Track 3, pp. 8-9

She has used the community support centres at St Georges Church and the Roman Catholic Church (and was still doing so at time of interview). They have been very important to her. It is good to talk to other people about what happened.

She has also used AgeUK, Sandylands Methodist Church and the Flood Relief Centre in the shopping centre for support.

Description of the old horsehair plaster and her efforts to have it replaced as before. It has been a real struggle and they have had to pay some costs themselves.

Track 4, pp. 9-10

Her house is c. 200 years old. Previously the cellar has flooded but not the house.

There has been less flooding in the area since the Flood Relief Scheme in the 1970s. She has found it difficult to find people to do up old houses correctly. She wishes to keep her home 'old' with its quirks and inconsistencies.

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