

Oral History recording of Kim Lambert in October 2011 for Little Ouse Headwaters Project: a summary

Kim was born in Walthamstow East London in her grandmother's house. She started school in Witchford, then moved to Tiptree and went to school there. She later moved to Hepworth before moving briefly in Botesdale whilst waiting for their house to be built in South Lopham. Aged 10 she moved to S. Lopham and went to that school for the last year. Her family name was Targrass, quite unusual.

She has 2 sisters, both have moved to this area one lives in Thrandeston and the other Barford.

Her father was employed by Thermos and they set up a factory in Thetford which is when they moved to Norfolk. He was the Manufacturing Superintendent. Her mother did not have a job out of the house.

The Lopham primary school had 19 children and 2 teachers when she was there. After she went to Diss secondary modern till she was 16 years old as the age had just been extended. After school Kim went to work in what became Baxters in Thetford. She then met and married a farmer in Garboldisham. They met in the house where they still live now. He is Brian Lambert. They have been married for 33 years and have 2 sons.

In South Lopham her father had a very large garden and grew their vegetables and had a greenhouse.

The games she recalls playing were hopscotch and skipping at primary school.

Kim thinks her childhood was more free than nowadays and they could go off scrumping apples and such things.

Celebrations she remembers were the Queen's Jubilee when there was a party and band playing and a football match between Lopham and Garboldisham teams which was very memorable as her father was playing for one and her husband against him for the other team.

Farming she remembers walking in a field (a grind circle) in Hepworth when her father told her to look out behind her and she saw a herd of cattle approaching her and she ran fast to a 5 bar gate which she cleared swiftly before they reached her.

She helped with the harvest by driving the tractor with bales. They used to have a dairy herd but when there was no money in milk they changed to raising suckler herd. She used to help with the birth of the calves. This surprised local people that a Londoner could do these things.

In her time the changes she has seen include the fields getting bigger, though hedgerows haven't changed.

She helped her mother to collect fruits and nuts to make preserves and she made them herself but not now. Crab apples were made into jelly being strained through tights and blackberries made into jams and did some pickling too.

Garboldisham primary school does use the woodlands for forest school activities like building dens and collecting bark and wood.

Rabbits the farm is overrun by them and muntjac deer.

Her Dad used to make horseradish sauce which was too strong for Brian when he sniffed it.

Kim and Brian tried making own wines eg elder flower, elder berry, beetroot and any berries, but most were vial only elder flower was good. Ginger beer was tried and when maturing in hallway the bottles exploded so that was first and last attempt. Made some chutneys, but no pickling.

Changes to the land happened when they built a dam on the Flats/meadows to hold water back. But the dam broke and they were going to build another further upstream. However there was torrential rain which flooded the heathlands and animals were saved. They never built the new dam down river. Depth of flood 1 foot to 18 inches and lasted for about three weeks leaving the land boggy.

Kim works at Garboldisham Primary school and has good links with Little Ouse Headwaters Project and nearby Bromscot common where the children carry out experiments and find wildlife which is exciting for them.

She has 2 sons and hopes that one of them will take on the farm. Kim enjoys the country ways.

Afterthought: Kim felt it was hard for country people to think that she, a Londoner, could calve and carry out other farming duties but she proved them wrong. She was the only Londoner in Garboldisham and was not expected to be successful at farming.