

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 302F

Kendal Flood December 2015 project interview

Frances Bowers born 1964
Interviewed March 2016

302F Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp.1-3

Lives in Stockbeck off Appleby Road. One of three houses in very quiet area. Never flooded in 20 years living there.

Aware of water on Longpool & Wildman St, but didn't think their home would flood. Friend's car got stuck in Sandylands in afternoon, surprised at the amount of water there. Water first got into basement at 6pm and kept rising until in living room (to 4 feet). All came from underneath – not through doors.

Moved possessions upstairs. At a hot meal upstairs and planned to sleep there. At 9pm a policeman told them to leave as quickly as possible.

Track 2, pp.3-4

Left house in a hurry. Cat left upstairs with food and litter tray. Daughter (12) frightened when outside – water very high. Waded through water along Appleby Rd. Description of the walk in the water. Emergency services in the area. Went over Victoria Bridge to go to Town Hall.

Track 3, pp.4-5

Very strange: very quiet on east side of river, on west side just a normal Saturday night. A different world – weird. Many people at the Town Hall offering help: food, drinks, spare rooms, etc. daughter very tired needed to sleep.

Offered rooms at the Globe Hotel. Too noisy. Visitors offered their room at the Premier Inn – which they took. Very kind.

Track 4, pp6-7

On the Sunday went to in-laws at Levens and returned to house in late afternoon. Description of roads and flooding in Lyth Valley. Still water in house. Doors blocked. Everything covered in mud. Stayed with in-laws overnight. Both cars OK.

Track 5, pp. 7-8

Insurance company very good helped with removals, clearance etc. Difficulty getting white goods removed. Stayed with in-laws then got a short-term let in Levens. In January moved to a larger flat in Levens. They have two cars so able to travel easily.

Track 6, pp8-10

Have not had to use community services – insured and have family locally. Expect to be back in house in summer. Visit house each day. Daughter found it frightening but also exciting. She is fine.

Track 7, p.10

Given a week off work to clean up. Finds it helpful to talk about the experience.

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