

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 303F

Kendal Flood 2015 project interview

Chris Base born 1980
Interviewed March 2016

303F Summary Sheet

Track 1, p.1

Works for SLDC. They have an Emergency Team (he is not a member). On day of the flood watched the river rise from his window at home. Aynam Rd flooded. Got a call from SLDC asking if he could help out at an Evacuation Centre as members of the team were trapped outside Kendal. Called into Town Hall Reception Centre at ten o'clock in the evening.

Track 2, p.1-2

Description of the scene at Town Hall reception Centre: reception desk, people milling around, others bringing in donations. The old Tourist Information Room used for storing clothes & bedding. Main room upstairs set out for sleeping. Kitchen was full of food. Chairs and tables set out downstairs. A coach party stranded there. He manned the reception desk and helped people clothes, etc. Went to get more food from Tesco's store (opposite Town Hall). Able to take what he needed. Shop stayed open all night. Story of a distressed lady and her dog.

Track 3, p.2-3

Police out checking rural areas – many cars stuck with people inside. They were brought to the two reception centres (Town Hall & Leisure Centre) Emergency services there – St John Ambulance and other ambulance workers, firemen close by. Adult Social Care people there to help those needing special help. They given priority for accommodation. People offered rooms as well as hotels. A big problem at Brettargh Holt roundabout areas – 40 cars stuck. People taken out by boat.

Track 4, p.4

Next day returned at six o'clock in evening. The emergency centres stayed open 24 hours on both Saturday and Sunday. Few people there by Sunday night. Sorted out donations of clothing. Spare food taken to Kendal Food Bank. Went home to bed on Monday morning and slept.

Track 5, pp.4-5

Talks about the November flood alert when the river came up but did not flood. He wonder if this led to people being caught unawares. But given the unprecedented nature of the flood it would be difficult to do much more than was done. No one died – only property destroyed.