

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0305F

Kendal Flood project Interview

Female, name withheld, born 1931
Interviewed April 2016

305F/ Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp.1-3

Lived on Aynam Rd for 13 years. No flooding on their part of the street in many years
Details of the measures taken by rescue services for the 'nearly' flood in November 2015. The flood-related fatal accident near the footbridge on Aynam Road.

Description of the events of Saturday 5 December. Rescue services were involved.

Details of a walk into town in the afternoon when she could see the water rising.

She was well prepared moving possessions in the basement.

Got candles ready. Went to bed

Description of the damage done to her basement and possessions by the flood.

On the Sunday neighbours brought pumps in and made contact with her local plumber to have repairs done to the central heating boiler.

The insurance company was very good and dealt with things quickly.

Everyone was very helpful, including people she didn't know.

Track 2, pp.3-4

More on her contact with the rescue services on the Saturday. Was woken up in the middle of the night by a policeman in her bedroom, checking to see she was safe.

Details of a walk to her car and a drive to Valley Drive on the Sunday morning.

She notes how helpful everyone was in the days that followed the flood. She had many offers of help from various groups.

Track 3, pp.4-5

Local plumber got her central heating working very quickly. Went away for Christmas
Talks about her insurance company.

The benefits of using local businesses.

Track 4, pp5-7

Details of how the basement was 'flood proofed'. She followed ALL advice from the insurance company. Talks about some of the possessions that were ruined.

Her sons came up to help clear materials from the house. This was very helpful.

Track 5, p.7

Reflects on the flooding in Kendal and elsewhere.

Fears for the future with climate change and the pressures on the housing stock, with much new housing built on flood plains.

More locally, concerned for the damage done to the local economy by the flood.