

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0306F

Kendal Flood December 2015 project interview

Joan Wilson, born 1947
Interviewed May 2016

306f / Summary Sheet

Track 1, p1.

Respondent has lived in yard off Wildman Street for many years.
Details of the houses and cellar.

Track 2, pp.1-2.

Her yard is a good place to live, very neighbourly.
No flooding in November storm, but the ground was soaked.

Track 3, pp.2-4.

Description of a walk from her yard to the town centre on the morning of 5 December. The Gooseholme area was already flooded.
The yard started to fill with water.
Kendal Mountain Rescue people called to see her.
Not worried about flooding in her home as this up several high steps. Cellar flooded.
Description of a journey from home to Back Lane to help an elderly lady whose house had flooded. Water was too high to get her out.
Went for help. Firemen came to assist.
Description of a difficult journey through very deep water in the Castle Street area.
She was put in a police van and taken to the Town Hall Reception Centre.

Track 4, pp.4-5.

Details of the scene at the Town Hall Reception Centre and how the centre was organised.
Left later in the evening to stay with a friend on High Fellside.

Track 5, pp.5-7

Went home on the Sunday morning. Water was mostly gone.
She had moved her car before the flood, so this was OK.
Description of the damage done in the cellar. Drying out the cellar, getting electricity back on. Bought new appliances. Notes how helpful people were.

Track 6, pp.7-8

Reflected on how well organised the Town Hall Reception Centre was.
Comments on the offers of help, the people and shops and other businesses in the town offering assistance.
Details of flooding at the Castle Street Centre.
Her thoughts on dredging the river and the flooding of Stock Beck.