

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0311f

Kendal Flood December 2015 project interview

Bob & Sally O'Neil,
born 1975 & 1980
Interviewed May 2016

0311f/ Summary Sheet

Track 1, p.1

Have lived in the house on corner of Castle/ Ann Street since 2002. Has a business in Wildman Street. The people here have a strong sense of community.

Has old photos showing floods around the house, but no flooding for many years.

Preparations for the 'nearly' flood in November 2015.

Track 2, pp. 1-2

First indications of flooding in morning of 5th December at the Wildman St premises.

Moved equipment and put up sandbags there. Collected sandbags for the house.

In the afternoon the water got closer to the house, so moved things upstairs.

Social media kept them informed of developments.

The business premises flooded by this time. Left home to stay with friends.

Track 3, pp. 2-3

Next day came back to the house. Flood water had gone, but had been 12" high.

Neighbouring houses had also flooded. Wildman St still flooded.

Track 4, pp. 3-5

Sally and daughter went to stay with parents. Bob stayed at home to deal with insurance, etc.

Lots of media in the area in the first few days. Then all went quiet.

Went to help clear out houses in Sandylands. Not everyone was insured.

Dealing with the insurance companies.

They were offered a holiday let in Ambleside. Moved in shortly after the flood.

Commuting from Ambleside to Kendal.

Track 5, pp. 5-7

Moved back home in April 2016. One of the first families to move back in the area.

This is May and things are starting to get back to normal. Pub is now open.

They realise how fortunate they have been – others less fortunate.

This has always been a good place to live – and now the community is even stronger. People have been strong and resourceful.

Had already planned to move to a larger house in Kendal but will keep the business in Wildman Street, despite the risk of further flooding.