

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0312f

Kendal Flood December 2015 project interview

Kate Holliday, born 1965

Interviewed July 2016

0312f/ Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp.1-2

The family have lived in Queen Katherine Street for 14 years. The houses in their part of the street have never flooded in over 45 years. In November 2015 when there was fear of flooding they were asked to evacuate but decided not to go.

Track 2, pp.2-4

On 5 December took elder daughter to work at Marks & Spencer (M&S). The river was very high. Later drove to Castle Street and the water was onto Aynam Rd. Description of flooding on New Road. Drove up to Oxenholme Station and struggled to get home. Parked her car on high ground (Sunnyside) for safety. Began to lift and move furniture/ possessions upstairs. To Canal Head for Sandbags. Elder daughter upset as unable to leave work early at M&S. Later she went to Sandylands with friend – details for their journey.

Track 3, pp. 4-7

The others stayed in house and ate upstairs. Younger daughter took photos of the flooding in street/ used social media. A policeman called to check on them. A strange feeling in the evening waiting for the water to come into the house. Mountain Rescue people went by checking on people. At 8pm the house flooded. This was a very difficult time as both she and husband were having to apply for jobs. On the Sunday walked around the town and spoke to others about their experiences. Threw stuff away and lost some irreplaceable family items.

Track 4, pp.7-9

More detail on the clean-up. They stayed in the house. Insurance people involved. All cleared items placed into a pile outside the front door. Neighbours divided – some stayed, some left. They wanted to stay but the surveyor persuaded them to leave. Looking for somewhere to live. Found a flat at K Shoe Village. Moved in just before Christmas. A sad Christmas. Kittens in cattery.

Track 5, pp.9-11

Details of the repairs and delays to the house. They still have no idea when they will return at time of interview.

Track 6, p.11

In retrospect this has been a very difficult and traumatic period for the family: the flood and its aftermath, also the worry over jobs. The family are ready to move home.