

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0313f

Kendal Flood Project Interview

Leone (R1) & Adam (R2) Edwards

Born 1979 & 1972

Interviewed May 2016

0313f/ Summary Sheet, page 1

Track 1, pp. 1-3

They live on Drover's Drive. Their house was not flooded, but neighbours were.

Volunteered to help at Sandylands Methodist Church (SMC) when a call went out on the day of the flood. Knocked on doors to see people were safe. The water was very deep. Flooded neighbours taken into their home.

Phoned 999 for an emergency rescue.

Emergency services were unable to cope on the day. No support for the community in Sandylands area, so it was community self-help that people relied on.

Track 2, pp. 3-4

Social media and the part it played during and after the flood. Gave good advice.

SMC used social media to organise help and support. Some people would not leave their homes. There was no help from outside agencies – the community was left to fend for itself. This now being seen as a model for the future. A fantastic community

Track 3, pp. 4-6

SMC. This was the centre for support for the Sandylands area during and after the flood. A Centre of Excellence and being cited as a model for the future.

Not possible to get to the emergency centres and roads/ bridges blocked.

This needs to be addressed for the future. SMC was an important part of the local community pre-flood, but now much more.

Details of the help provides to people in the Encouragement Cabin at SMC and the voluntary work still being done, including moving people back to their homes.

Track 4, pp.6-7

Some people were not insured and needed extra help. Volunteers made welfare checks to see that people had what they needed. Helped them apply for grants.

Story of a lady who collected and delivered hundreds of children's Christmas presents. Events held for children at the Brewery Arts Centre before Christmas 2015.

Some people did not ask for help for several months – tried to manage on their own.

Some stayed in their home (upstairs) as they did not wish to leave the area.

(see overleaf)

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Track 5, pp. 8-9

The volunteers are still doing welfare checks and helping people apply for grants. There have been problems with people applying for equipment as they have to pay large sums up-front themselves. Some requests for grants have been rejected. There are a lot of issues related to grants and who is able to get them. Leone belongs to the Flood Action Group for North East Kendal. They are discussing this and other issues. Many people have lost their paperwork in the flood and this makes it difficult to apply for a grant. Also she is involved in planning for future emergency events – not just floods. The emergency services were not prepared for an event of this size – so there is a need to improve for the future. There was no warning of flooding on 5 December 2015.

Track 6, p. 9

The Kendal Emergency Response and Residents' Association.

Track 7, pp. 9-10

Local farmers came to help on Sandylands on the Sunday after the flood. They brought their machinery and were able to help pump water out of houses, etc. On the day of the flood people drove through Sandylands through the flood water and caused problems with bow waves flooding houses.