

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0317F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

Mrs Denise Noble, born 1958
Interviewed June 2016

0317f / Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp.1-2

The family have lived on Rosemede Avenue for 35 years.
It is a mixed community of pre-war houses which have never flooded.
Because of heavy rain on Saturday 5 December they stayed at home.
They heard the weather warnings. The first indication of flooding was of water coming across the nearby fields.
They cleared everything they could upstairs – but this was as a precaution, they did not expect the house to flood – but it did.
All cars were moved off the road and were saved.
Went to bed. The water had left the house by early morning.

Track 2, pp.2-3

Daughter living at Barrow had travel problems on the A590.
The smell was foul in the house so they took all the carpets up immediately.
They were still in shock at this time. Tried to live upstairs, but decided to move to an empty family house on Stonecross Road.

Track 3, pp. 3-4

Stramongate School (where she works) was closed for several days after the flood.
They contacted the insurance company who were very helpful and supportive.
It was agreed her husband (a joiner) would do the work – but this was held up for six months due to an operation. Took the floorboards up and the house was dried out.
Lots of plaster etc. had to come off as the house was old.
At time of interview the house is a shell. It doesn't feel like her home.

Track 4, pp. 4-5

Husband is now starting work on the house – kitchen first.
Lots children at Stramongate School were affected by the flood.
Support was offered by St George's Church as well as help from elsewhere. But this not taken up – they both are too busy.

Track 5, p.5

Daughter has continued to sleep in their house on Rosemede Avenue.

Track 6, pp. 5-6

More on Stramongate School and the impact of the flood on the pupils and their families. Some are still displaced and others are having problems with builders.
They are really pleased that they stayed with their long-term insurance company and that they did not go for a cheaper quotation.
Their insurance company has been very, very good and paid for everything without quibbling. Other people have been less fortunate.