

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0321F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

'Barbara', name and date of birth withheld

Interviewed May 2016

0321f / Summary Sheet

Track One, p.1

Home on Castle Crescent. Evacuated daughter to parents
Noise of River so loud she had to shout for her neighbour to hear her
Left house and to get to car - water was three feet deep.
Parked car on Thorny Hills

Track Two, pp.1-3

Daughter's father wanted to go back to house, tried to stop him
Lifeboat on Sedbergh Road
He got as far as the junction between Castle Street, Castle Grove & Sedbergh Road
Stayed overnight with parents
Her street was being shown on TV News
Went back the following morning – the area in front of the house was like a lake
Water had got to a foot high in house

Track Three, pp. 3-4

Searched round Estate Agents for accommodation, could not believe she was going to be out of her house for six months.
Rang Estate Agent re flats in K Village, already taken.
Lady had given backward on a flat in the same complex.
She took it just as the woman came back having changed her mind
Got keys for flat the following Saturday
At the time of the interview work had not started on repairing the house

Track Four, pp. 4-5

Problems with builders (detailed account - a bad experience)

Track Five, pp.5-7

Problems with Job Seekers and Sickness Benefit
Rude officials in Benefit Offices, also some kind and helpful ones
Very long benefit forms to fill in, she was helped by a volunteer

Track Six, pp.7-8

Hysterical news reporting
Daughter required counselling. School very helpful