

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0322F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

Wendy Dawson, born 1972

Interviewed June 2016

0322f / Summary Sheet

Track 1, p.1

The family have lived on Sandylands roads for 16 years. It is a lovely community, especially the Methodist Church. She loves living there.

Track 2, pp.1-2

Wendy was at work at Spar (Sandylands Road) on the morning of the flood. In the afternoon they heard that streets in the area were flooded. Problems on Sandylands Road with traffic causing waves, flooding gardens. Garden flooded and they had to move their hounds from their run into the house. Watched the water rise on Sandylands Road. Not worried about house flooding. Didn't move any furniture. When the water came in it was very quick and they had to get upstairs quickly. Used a vacuum cleaner to try to suck up water.

Track 3, p.3

Stayed upstairs. Son was frightened but they were OK. Slept with the dogs. Spent the night watching the street. Saw rescue vehicles passing by. By 5.30am water was out of the house, but not the street. The Methodist Church offered help.

Track 4, pp.3-5

Her parents came to get them in the morning and took them to Hallgarth. Description of the rescue. Came back to the house later in the day. The smell was very bad – description of this and the damage caused. Rang insurers on the Monday. Very helpful. They cleaned their house. All this was done very quickly. Cleaned and cleaned to try to get rid of the smell. Driers came in quickly but the house took a long time to dry out.

Track 5, pp.5-6

Stayed with parents for one month. During this time cleared the garden and rebuilt the dog run. Moved into a caravan in the garden on New Year's Eve. Lived there until they moved back into the house in March 2016. Wanted to be on site to supervise the work. They were the first people in the area to move back. Very quiet in the street. Families were very supportive. Also the Methodist Church & meals by 'Romneys'.

Track 6, pp.6-7

They took the insurance money and organised the builders, etc., themselves. Father in the building trade so able to call in favours to get people in. They lived in the caravan in the daytime and slept in the bedrooms. This was important for their son. Still outside work to be done at time of interview.

Track 7, p.7

Their employers (Spar & Jewsons) were very helpful – time off and pay.

Track 8, pp.7-8

More on their employers and the help they gave. She feels they were so lucky with everything and she now has a lovely home. But it was stressful.