

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0327F

Kendal Flood December 2015 project interview

Mike Healey born 1963
Interview recorded June 1916

327F/ Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp.1-2

Lives on Shap Road and works at Furmanite - also on Shap Road.

Was at work on Saturday 5 December. It rained heavily all morning.

Left to help daughter whose home (close to the river) was flooding (off Shap Road)

The river had burst its banks. Moved daughter to his house and returned to work.

Describes the water levels in the Mintsfeet area. At 4.00 in the afternoon the flooding was so bad they locked up and left work.

The cellar in his home flooded later in the evening.

The water stopped rising at 3.00 on the Sunday morning.

Returned to his daughter's home on the Sunday. It had been badly flooded.

The area around Furmanite was still heavily flooded.

Returned to work on Monday 7 December.

There was a scene of devastation in the workshop.

Track 2, pp.2-4

His home insurers were very good and the cellar is now back in use.

His daughter did not return to her rented home but stayed with relatives. She has now bought her own home.

He notes that he has lived in this part of Kendal for many years and never seen flooding like this. It was a surreal experience.

He remembers cars floating down Shap Road.

People whose homes had flooded stayed at the Duke of Cumberland overnight as there was nowhere else to go.

Track 3, p.4

There were traffic problems with road closures in the months that followed the flood.

It took some time to get the workshop at Furmanite back into working order.

By July 2016 the workshop is virtually back to normal.