

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0328F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

R1 – Natalie Webster, born 1988

R2 - Dan Nokes, born 1987

Interviewed June 2016

0328f Summary Sheet, page one

Track 1, p. 1

The couple have lived in Ann Street for nearly two years.

Local people had mentioned that the street had flooded in the distant past.

Ann street is a nice place to live with a good community spirit.

Track 2, pp.1-4

Dan was at work at Morrisons on the day of the flood. Natalie was away in Liverpool. Natalie heard about the flooding in Kendal via social media and phoned Dan.

Dan went home and water was already moving up the street.

Some people were bailing out their homes. Never thought it would get to their house.

As the day wore on the flooding got worse. He tried to stop in coming in, impossible.

Water got deeper in the house and he moved some items upstairs.

He was unable to move heavy items as he was on his own.

Everyone in the street was panicking. He left the house when it reached his waist.

The house has only one door so water was trapped inside and couldn't get out.

They had got sandbags in November for the 'nearly' flood.

No one thought it would flood in December.

Natalie was unable to get back to Kendal – roads flooded. She stayed on the phone to Dan during the afternoon/ evening. Description of her journey back to Kendal on Sunday morning. It was a scene of devastation.

Went to their home to find the neighbours all helping each other.

Dan left the house on the Saturday night.

Their cars were saved – but many people lost theirs. Cars were floating in Ann Street

People were kayaking in Ann Street on the Sunday morning.

Track 3, pp.4-9

Dan describes his journey on the Saturday night after he left the house.

Some people stayed in their homes, but the water was filthy and unhealthy.

A fire engine was stuck in Ann Street – due to rocks in the water.

The couple lost possessions, but their home was rented so they lost less than those owning their own home. They received lots of community and family support.

The community has been great. Lots of help offered in the weeks after the flood.

Morrisons (where they both work) have provided a great deal of community support to the people of the town. They put Natalie and Dan in a B&B for a month.

Went home for one night only and became ill with fumes from the water.

Clearing up was very difficult without electricity – but people on the street fantastic.

Talking about the after-effects of the flood for all those flooded, including businesses.

Ann Street was like a war zone in the weeks after the flood.

There were problems with looting in the street, but most people were great.

(continued on next page)

0328f Summary Sheet, page two

Track 4, pp.9-11

The couple think that Kendal is a stronger community because of the flood. Their landlord owned several flooded properties and was unable to get their house into a habitable state. They stayed in various B&Bs for several months. They tried the Council for a house, but nothing was available. They managed to find a new house on top Sandylands (Impact Housing). A description of Christmas in a B&B. They think that even after six months the town is not back to normal. It was hard to find rented accommodation in the months following the flood. Some people had to move out of town.

Track 5, pp. 11-12

Natalie is a Community Champion with Morrisons and deals with charities as part of her job. She gives more details of the community support provided by Morrisons in the aftermath of the flood. Some customers and staff slept in the store on the night of the flood.