

## KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0329F

Kendal Flood project Interview

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Clerk to the Trustees, Kendal Almshouse Charity  
Interview recorded June 2016

### 0329F Summary Sheet

This interview is concerned with the Kendal Almshouse Charity (KAC) and its houses on Aynam Road which were flooded in December 2015.

#### Track 1, pp.1-3

At work in Kendal on December 5<sup>th</sup>. One of the last cars to drive along Aynam Road. His brother-in-law was flooded in Mint Street. Unable to get to his house on Sunday. The KAC houses on Aynam Road had been flooded. He visited the residents on the Monday on behalf of the trustees and got their stories of the flooding event. They are a very resilient group of people and had coped well. Most of them had local family support (KAC residents have to have local connections). Detailed description of how the water came in. They had moved upstairs on Saturday. These houses were built well above the road to prevent flooding. Began to provide assistance and got contractors in straightaway. Started work on the insurance claim. Most residents wished to stay in their houses. Some residents moved downstairs.

#### Track 2, pp.3-4

The residents were very well supported by the local community and their families. Had a visit from the National Director of the National Association of Almshouses. Insurers sent inspectors to look at the houses. Inspected via the void underneath. Set up facilities for drying out the houses. Kept the residents informed.

#### Track 3, pp.4-6

Not all residents had their possessions insured. This is very expensive by the river. After several weeks it was clear the residents would have to move out – despite wishing to stay. Some found their own accommodation – for others the KAC helped. All had left by mid-February 2016. The next phase was to get a building surveyor in to survey the properties. A schedule for repair and renovation put in place.

#### Track 3, pp.6-7

Talks of the costs involved in putting these houses back into order and the difficulties this involves for KAC and funding. They are in touch with various organisations for assistance. The KAC has reserves but this for all 41 properties. So they are having to be cautious. A sub-committee set up to deal with this. They hope that residents will be back in their homes by Autumn 2016.