

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0331F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

Elaine Barrow born 1951
Interviewed July 2016

0331f / Summary Sheet

Track One, pp.1-3

Dale Avenue, where she lives, has never been flooded

Was going to go to Romney's for lunch with friends had to cancel due to water

About 5.30pm – 6.00pm heard trickling water. Lots of activity on the street to prevent houses flooding. Used towels. A chaotic situation.

Rang brother-in-law who didn't believe her at first. Moving items upstairs.

Details of brother-in-law trying to get to her – very difficult. Left his car on high ground. When trying to get to safely both fell and were immersed in water on Shap Road. Description of their journey to Queens Road. Took little stuff.

Christmas parties going on at Dejavu & Wakefield Arms as they walked through town

Track Two, pp. 3-5

On Sunday went back to her house to collect contact lenses and clothing.

Still lots of water around. Slipped on Shap Road and immersed in water again.

Sad stories of pets being drowned or washed away. Friends helped with advice.

Volunteers from Sedbergh did a great job clearing stuff away.

Stayed with Mother on High Sparrowmire – but shortage of space. No internet connection and she is not computer savvy so needed help from brother-in-law.

Dealing with the insurance claim etc.

Track Three, pp. 5-6

Too little space at mother's house so got a holiday cottage outside Kendal. Did not settle and returned to mother's house until her house was ready in May 2016.

Got another car through a friend.

The builders came from Liverpool to fix the house. They did a great job.

She had no time to dither when choosing new tiles, etc. But all worked out well.

Track Four, p. 6

Felt stressed over Christmas 2015. Cried for the first time then began to feel better.

Moved back in to her house on May 1st felt strange for a few weeks then settled.

Track Five, p.7

Needed to use the internet a great deal for insurance claim and many other things.

No internet at mother's house, so drove around Kendal looking for a signal.

Used the library computers for a time, but difficult dealing with personal things when surrounded by strangers.