

## KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0338f

Kendal Flood project interview

Marion Kearney, born 1954

Interviewed August 2016

Volunteer at Roman Catholic Church Flood Relief Centre providing hot meals in the Months after the flood

0338f/ Summary Sheet

Track 1, page 1

Provides a description of her journey through Kendal on Sunday 6 December – noticing how bad the flooding had been.

Track 2, pp.1-2

Details of how the 'Flood Relief Centre' (FRC) which was set up at the Catholic Church in Kendal in the wake of the flood. They have provided dinners two evenings a week from December 2016 to the time of interview. This to complement the lunches provided on the other three weekdays at St George's Church.

Details of how the FRC has worked and developed over the months.

Interactions with different people as a volunteer at the FRC.

Money brought to the church by a group Muslims from London. They had raised the money themselves to buy toys and gifts for those affected by the flood.

They prayed in the Parish Centre.

RFC member purchased gifts and delivered them to those in need.

Track 3, pp.2-5

Details and stories (anonymised) of the people who have used the FRC over the months. Some very sad stories. Volunteers helped people to get support.

Even in August 2016 there are 10-14 regulars come for dinner.

They are currently wondering what to do in the future in terms of community support.

Various people have used the FRC – including men of the road. It is open for all those in need. The guests help and support each other.

The flood has changed people's attitudes. She has got to know many new people.

Track 4, p.5

More on the needs of people using the FRC. People have been helped and supported in various ways. The free meals have been a real help to poorer people.

Track 5, p.6

Most people who have used the FRC are not normally Catholics or even religious.

The people volunteering at the FRC have discovered new values.

Track 6, p.6

The FRC has been able to offer support to their guests.

Those volunteering have possibly benefitted most.

She has gained many new friends as a result of her involvement – people she sees regularly.

NB: Copyright of this interview is held by Kendal Oral History Group