

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0342F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

Laura Wilson born 1985
Interviewed September 2016

0342F Summary Sheet

Track One, pp.1-2

At work in a Kendal bookshop on the day of the flood. They heard that roads were being closed. Sent people from out of town home. The shop closed at lunchtime. She went home. Thought of going to help at Sandylands Methodist Church (SMC) – but decided it was not safe. Felt guilty for not helping afterwards.

Walked around Kendal on Sunday morning. A bizarre experience with half the town damaged and flooded and the rest going on as normal.

Went to volunteer at SMC. Describes what was happening there and what she did. But unable to give much time to this as she was working full-time.

She was offered a job as a community worker at SMC and accepted this.

Track Two, pp.2-3

Started work at the Encouragement Cabin (SMC) in February 2016. This was a flood recovery centre in a Portakabin with drop-in area and office space.

Since February 2016 she has been the Office Administrator. Provides a description of what she has done over the past seven months there and how the facility has provided help for people.

A description of the various events hosted by SMC over the past few months.

Track Three, pp.3-5

She is proud of the way Kendal came together after the flood. Describes the help given by local people and those further afield.

There is a much stronger sense of community in Sandylands now than previously. She describes the help other churches have provided during the year, including St Georges and the Roman Catholic Church. Both offered meals and support.

The churches in Kendal did an amazing job and showed how relevant they can be. Many people came to the churches – not only Christians. Their help was appreciated by many people.

It is good that the town came together and that the churches played an important role in the flood recovery process.