

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0343

Kendal Flood Project Interview

Rachel Paszczuk born 1969
Interviewed September 2016

0343f Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp. 1-2

Runs a business called 'Blinds by Design' off Appleby Road. Own their own premises.

The business is very important to her and her husband. They work there together. December is a very busy time, and were very busy before the flood of 2015. Expected to fulfil all the orders by Christmas. Did not expect to be affected by a flood.

Left work and travelled home to Old Hutton. Notified of the flooding and tried to get back to Kendal – but unable to get there. Turned round and stayed at home.

Track 2, pp.2

On the Sunday went to Kendal describes the journey and Sandylands. Husband walked to their premises. Everything was ruined – very upset.

Went home and helped a friend whose home had flooded in Beckfoot.

Track 3, pp. 2-6

By Monday the water had gone from the premises and they had lots of offers of help. Cleared out. Skips, etc. No electricity for a week – made things difficult.

No telephone. Unable to contact customers – many of these had also been flooded. Insurance. Examples of problems people faced. Got out all the Christmas orders on time.

They decided to use only local businesses for the work – this is still ongoing.

Problems with insurers as a business owner – large flood excesses.

Computer system was flooded and all records lost. They faced many problems.

Description of the very smelly water and of rats after the flood.

Discusses the situation of some customers who lost personal items.

Some are back in their homes, others not.

Track 4, pp. 6-8

Reflections of the flood and its aftermath.

The majority of people have been supportive and helpful to those people who have been flooded – but a small proportion unsympathetic to their plight, in both private homes and businesses.

Concerned about another flood and the cost of insurance in the future.

Insurance companies have had a different attitude to business owners than private homes. Large insurance premiums will be a problem for business owners – some will go out of business.

Their business premises are their pension – but will be difficult to sell after the flood.