

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0301F

Kendal Flood December 2015 project interview

Bryan Harper born 1959
Interviewed March 2016

301f/Summary Sheet

Track 1, p.1

Description of the dramatic journey from Manchester to Kendal on the 5 December 2015. Into Kendal via Sedbergh Rd which was badly flooded. Other roads closed.

Track 2, pp.1-3

Mother phoned to tell him that her house on Copperfield Lane had flooded.

Description of his journey by foot from top Sandylands to Fowl Ing Lane in the dark and through the floods. Had to keep turning back and going over higher routes.

On Fowl Ing Lane the water like a tide coming in very fast. Description of the flooding in his mother's house. Checking on neighbours to see they were OK.

No rescue people around. Had to take his mother out on foot and lead her to safety. Residents had no warning of the flood. Some people lost all their possessions.

Track 3, pp.3-4

Phoned relatives. Next day returned to Copperfield Lane (alone). Still difficult to get around the streets due to water. Rescue people on the street by this time.

Description of the inside of the house after the flood. Took photographs - a record.

The Sunday a lovely sunny day. Starting to deal with the insurance company.

Track 4, pp.4-6

The insurance companies were overwhelmed by the numbers needing help.

A neighbour contacted the local MP and things started to get into place.

Details of the contractor helping with his mother's home and those of neighbours.

Reflected on how good her contractor was – some people had bad experiences.

All repairs had to be done to 21st century standards. Mother stayed with him for a few days, then to the Premier Inn. Later got a one-bedroomed flat in centre of town. She was very lucky – some people were unable to find accommodation in Kendal.

Description of how the insurance process and payments work.

Track 5, pp.6-7

Respondent the Group Scout Leader of 1st Kendal Scouts. Scout hut on Little Aynam was flooded. Description of the damage, the repairs, the insurance, etc.

Received wonderful community help for the scout group following the flood.

Track 6, pp.8-9

Respondent also the Treasurer of the Millennium Playing Fields. Their hut was badly flooded. Details of the damage and the very expensive repairs needed.

Also of insurance/ drying out of the hut, etc. Reflection on his community work.