

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 308F

Kendal Flood 2015 project interview

Judy Malkin, born 1946 & Chris Malkin, born 1942
Interviewed April 2016

308F/ Summary sheet

Track 1, p.1

They have lived in Queen Katherine Street for 47 years. A good place to live: children play out; street parties. Children playing with Green Goddesses in firemen's strike.

Track 2, pp.1-4

Houses here had flooded before the Flood Relief Scheme in the 1970s. The river has come partway up the street on since they moved in, but not in the houses.

Details of the November 2015 'nearly flood'. They were asked to leave their home, but didn't. In the end there was no flood.

The night before Storm Desmond they had friends to stay. Next day (5 December) – description of the rain and river rising during the day. Crook Morris party in Parish Hall was cancelled. Moved their cars. Friends could not leave Kendal. Description of the water coming up. Moving furniture upstairs.

Track 3, pp.4-6

Description of journey to Gillinggate, trying to avoid the floods. On return the water had entered the house from underneath. Description of houses on street.

Left to spend the night at Gillinggate.

Next morning returned to find the water had gone from the house, leaving silt behind. Started clearing the house and cleaning up after the flood. Thought it would be OK. Had electricity and appliances working so remained in the house until end of January

Track 4, pp.-6-8

The week after the flood visits from loss adjustor & surveyor. Hired a builder. But even in April no work started. Builder is busy and have not yet got 'stripped out' certificate. Talk about the emotional impact the house being flooded has had on them. Moved to rented house on Castle Estate at end January 2016. Still there in April. Lucky they could find place in Kendal. How they feel when visiting their house.

Track 5, pp.8-9

Description of Queen Katherine Street after the flood: skips, piles of furniture, etc. Lights out, houses empty. But it created a good community spirit.

Track 6, pp.9-11

Discussion on de-cluttering. Made an unsuccessful application to the Cumbria Community Fund. Later reapplied and were successful. Wonder whether they should have stayed in the house. Still in rented accommodation several months later.

Track 7, p.11

Community support: BT engineers volunteered to put their lines back on, also young girls offered to help, plus the help of friends. All this much appreciated.