

Derek and Audrey Frost describe waking up to the flood in their bungalow on Gorse Way, Jaywick. After realising the danger they were in, they managed to swim out to their roof with their 18 month old son, Michael.

Interviewer: And what's the first thing you can remember about the floods?

Audrey: I woke up to the sound of all this rushing water, it sounded like. And I just sort of tapped Derek, and I said, 'Sounds as though we've got an awful lot of rain coming down.' And with that he said, 'My god', he says, 'it ain't rain' – he said, 'the sea's come over!' He said, 'it's coming in the door!' Anyway he said, 'hurry up and get some clothes on'. Didn't you? And we sat on the bed trying to get clothes on, which was a waste of time weren't it. And he turns round to me and he says, 'I shouldn't bother if I was you, let's get out quick!' Well, we got a few clothes on, but obviously that was really, you know as I say – apart from, really, a waste of time.

Derek: Yeah we were in the bungalow, and of course the water was right up above the gutters, you know, up above the eaves. We were under the water. And it was gushing in through letterboxes and keyholes and up through the floor. What made it hard to get out was that the lino was floating. And so you'd have to lift your leg up high and push it down to make your way across the room. And the door what we had to get out of, the door opened outwards, so you couldn't undo the door. Maybe just as well, 'cos it would've probably got knocked over with a gush of water. So I had to smash the window out and we had to climb out through the window-

Audrey: You left me there!

Derek: Yeah well we had an eighteenth months old – Michael – then, and I took him out first. Swam out and left him up on the roof, and went back for Audrey.

The interview with Derek and Audrey Frost was recorded in 1988 by the Clacton and District Local History Society [[SA 16/759/1](#)]