**Oral History Transcription – Barry – Chipstead Lake**

**Rewind – Leonard Cheshire Disability, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund**

**Filmed** – 2016

**Start of transcription**

[Barry]

00:00:11 - I've been in a wheelchair all my life, really. Which is... It sometimes gets me down, but I can't let it get to me. I can't let it get to me because I do things... I do more things now than if I... I go out more, I go home when I want, I can have my friends over.

00:00:38 - They come and see me if they want to come over to see me or I can go down the pub and see them down there. But, yeah, I've got quite a good... I've got quite a good... Like... My life is... Um... My life is good, really.

[Text on screen: Do you have any hobbies?]

00:01:00

My hobbies are football… bikes… and tigers.

00:01:14 - I left here a couple of... Well, I left here a year ago to kind of live nearer to my mum, but it didn't work out. The home didn't work out very well so... When I went over there, I went over there to be nearer to my mum, but it didn't work out very well, so...

00:01:37 - When they had the space to come down here, I asked to come back again 'cause I know everyone down here. I know the residents,

I know the staff, so it's quite nice to be back where you've got loads of friends around.

[Text on screen: What are the staff like at Chipstead Lake?]

00:02:11 - The staff here are really good, because they look after you really, really well. They look after you better. They look after you a lot more. They do look after you. You can go out with them.

00:02:28 - They'll take you out, you can go out with them down to the pub if you want or just go walk around the lake or... Yeah, I've got a couple of friends that are staff which... I've got a couple of friends here now that are staff and when I first came there was some but they left. Now I get on with, like, all the staff. There's not one member of the staff I don't get on with.

I get on well with everyone.

[Text on screen: When did you move to Chipstead Lake?]

00:03:08 - I moved in here in 1983. I moved in here and it was... We've got 23 now. We used to have 20 residents, but now we've gone up to 23 plus a flat as well.

[Text on screen: Do you have any special memories of events at Chipstead Lake?]

00:03:34 - Sports days. We had a couple of sport days where people come in and do stuff. We have a wheelchair races down the car park and we go around. But yeah, it's quite... Because I've been here for years, I've got... I know everything that goes on around here normally.

00:04:08 - That's why, every time they get a new resident, the staff always say to me "Can you make sure that they're... "Not look after them, but just make them welcome?" 'Cause I know what it's like when you first come. When you first come here it's quite... When you don't know anyone, it's quite scary.

[Text on screen: How has assistive technology changed here?]

00:04:46 - We never used to have any hoists when I first came. 'Cause people used to just... The staff used to just stand me up, transfer me over to my bed or transfer me over to my chair by standing me up.

00:05:04 - Now, the health and safety come in, they gotta use hoists now, and that is taking away part of your independence 'cause you're not used to using hoists.

00:05:23 - I can do most things myself, really.

[Text on screen: Do you have any other memories of your time here?]

00:05:30 - When I did leave, they were like really... They were really quite... They did a leaving party for me. All my friends turned up in the pub to say goodbye to me and it was just so hard. It was just... Such a hard thing to do.

00:05:50 - But I'm glad I did it now 'cause it made me realise that it's not always... The grass isn't always greener on the other side.

00:06:00 - You've got to leave here to appreciate it more.

**End of transcription**