**Oral History Transcription**

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

**Participants:**

Jill Roberts, Archivist

Peggie Roberts, former employee at Le Court

Bill Roberts, former employee at Le Court

**Duration:** 29 minutes 34 seconds

**Location:** Le Court Cheshire Home

**Date of Original Recording:** 17th April 1996

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**Summary of Main Points**

0:26 – Bill and Peggie explain how they first became involved in Leonard Cheshire

3:58 – Peggie talks about the condition of the old house

5:08 – Bill and Peggie discuss notable residents that they remember

8:59 – Bill and Peggie talk about how the home at Le Court was run

11:05 – Bill and Peggie discuss fundraising and the part Leonard Cheshire himself played in it

18:27 – Peggie talks about some of the myths which circulated about Leonard Cheshire homes

20:21 – Bill and Peggie discuss the move to the new house and its official opening

23:46 – Peggie considers some of the changes she witnessed while working at Leonard Cheshire

**Start of Transcription**

0:26 **Jill:** So Bill and Peggy, you were involved with Leonard Cheshire's foundation way back in the early days, the early days of the old house at Le Court, erm, the house that saw Arthur Dykes, the first resident of the foundation. Erm, Bill, can you tell me something about your, the first contact you had with Leonard Cheshire, did you know him from the war, or, what was it made you go to Le Court?

0:52 **Bill:** Well the thing that made me go to Le Court was my [unclear 0:55 to 0:56] National Service, and I'd be ambulance driving, and when I had finished my National Service I thought I would like to take up nursing. So I went to my local employment office and told 'em what I wanted to do, and they said well, Group Captain Cheshire's been here and he wants someone to help him up at Le Court.

1:16 **Jill:** Oh right.

1:17 **Bill:** So they sent me up there, and erm, yeah so I first came in contact with Group Captain Cheshire by erm meeting him at the front door.

1:26 **Jill:** Well he actually opened the door to you did he?

1:27 **Bill:** Well no, the door was already open 'cos it was in June, quite a nice sunny day.

1:33 **Jill:** Well obviously it was the first time you'd actually seen him in the flesh, as it were?

1:37 **Bill:** Oh yes, yes

1:38 **Jill:** And how did he strike you, what was your first impression?

1:40 **Bill:** Erm, well, difficult really because erm, I sort of didn't know, I didn't know what it was all about anyway and err, I didn't know about too much before I knew what it was all about.

1:53 **Jill:** Didn't he explain it to you?

1:55 **Bill:** Well erm, no not really.

1:58 **Jill:** Well what did he say it was about then?

2:00 **Bill:** He just said 'oh well, we're a nursing home, we want some help'. And erm, we had a nursing sister who was upstairs who was actually suffering with erm, well had TB, and she used to run the nursing side from her bed, so the first job he gave me was a great big pile of washing up in the kitchen, and erm... being not one of the staff nurse I didn't know much about it anyway, so he thought that was a good idea.

2:33 **Jill:** A good starting point?

2:34 **Bill:** A good starting point in that way [laughs].

2:38 **Jill:**  What was your, Peggie, Peggie, what was your first, first contact with Leonard Cheshire?

2:44 **Peggie:** Well, I came to Le Court because although my husband had worked here he had a break of service from here and he worked at Little Brook Sanatorium and that's where I met him, and then he came back to Le Court and then I came back and joined him. Erm they were needing staff and I'd gone home to my home in Essex and my husband rang up and said, you know, 'come to Le Court, they need us, they need somebody', so I came erm. Well it was a wonderful old house, erm a beautiful house, with all oak panelling in the dining room areas, sitting room areas, a wonderful staircase, one of these large ones where they used to say a horse and cart could have driven up it it's so wide. And we used to carry all the residents upstairs, because although there was lift, it was, erm, it wasn't a passenger lift and you wound it up by hand, and it weighed so much it was heavier to wind that up by hand than actually carry your residents so you carried everybody upstairs.

3:49 **Jill:** Not, not just one person to one resident, I mean it must...

3:52 **Peggie:** No there were two, I mean you'd have two people and you'd pick them up top and tail and you'd carry them up the stairs.

3:58 **Jill:** Was the old house, I mean I've always thought of the old house as being really... decrepit and dilapidated and erm... was that the impression you got when you went into the front door?

4:08 **Peggie:** Erm, no, I don't know I didn't get that impression at all no, you just felt it was a... stately Victorian home, erm I mean not terribly well furnished obviously because there wasn't the means to furnish it. But erm, very inconvenient to work in because erm, I mean upstairs the floor level wasn't level all the way you went round a corridor and you went down a stair and so it was inconvenience, and then the bathroom that we used for the residents doubled up as erm, sister's office. So you had the bathroom in the corner with a screen round it, and sister sitting at her desk! In the, in the room, so that was quite something yes, yes.

4:53 **Jill:** So, we're not talking about leaking roofs and er cracks in the wall...

4:58 **Peggie:** Well we may have had some cracks in the wall, but not leaking roofs, certainly not no, it was the foundations that subsided yes.

5:04 **Jill:** It was the foundations that forced the move was it?

5:07 **Peggie:** That's right yes.

5:08 **Jill:** Right, right. Arthur Dykes, a famous, famous, man in the, in the history of the foundation, the first resident erm, with hindsight. Did you meet him Bill, or?

5:20 **Bill:**  No, no. I think he must have just died about what... seven or eight months before I came, but I think he died in 48.

5:34 **Jill:** Yes, he did, I think, in the August I think was it?

5:37 **Bill:** August 1948, I came in 49. His name was still alive; you know?

5:43 **Jill:** Yes, his fame, yeah, yeah. What about the other, second famous resident Granny... can't remember her surname... Wilks?

5:51 **Bill:** There's Granny Wilks, but the oldest one was Granny Haynes.

5:56 **Jill:** I think it was Granny Haynes, I remember yes. What was she like?

5:59 **Bill:** Erm... [laughs] Well, she was quite a nice old... lady, but you know, she used to say a few naughty things to you.

6:11**Jill:** Did she? [laughs] Was she the one that G.C used to make peel the potatoes?

6:15 **Bill:**Erm, well you could have done just before I came but you know... I remember being on night duty one night because we had, we had no electricity, we had paraffin lamps and candles... and erm, no heating, except these little coal fires, provided you didn't run out of coal.

6:37 **Jill:** And what about hot water?

6:38 **Bill:** Erm well we had an old boiler downstairs which connects to the kitchen, and that was the only thing we had but you had to keep stoking that up or else you didn't get any hot water you see so anybody did that [laughs].

6:51 **Jill:**  So this night you remember?

6:53 **Bill:** And erm... I was I was actually dead scared you know on my own up there just running round with a candle and a paraffin lamp, and I heard this 'thump. thump', and I thought 'oh that frightened me that did' then I heard it again and again so I managed to pick up the courage to get a paraffin lamp, go to the store and it was in this room see, and it was Granny Haynes, about two o'clock in the morning, she felt cold, so she got up, went to this old fire, and tried to put lumps of coal onto it and she kept dropping it. Course when I went and saw her with this paraffin lamp she's absolutely coated with black dust [laughs].

7:39 **Jill:**  So you had to have a bath?

7:40 **Bill:** I had to wash her, put her back into bed.

7:43 **Jill:** What what, what was the matter with Granny Haynes? Was she?

7:47 **Peggie:**  Elderly

7:48 **Bill:**  Elderly. Elderly, yeah, yeah.

7:50: **Jill:** And what, were there any other residents that must have been, how many residents were there when you moved in?

7:55**Bill:**Erm, I'd say I think there was round about 30 of 'em.

8:00 **Jill:** That many? Goodness me. And how many staff, Peggie, were.. was?

8:06 **Peggie:** Well, I can't really remember staff numbers.

8:07 **Bill:** In my days there was one, two, three... about six. Of course we had erm... downstairs you see we had a lot of mobile... sort of convalescent TB patients that are roaming about.

8:22**Peggie:** In the peacock room. Big curtains with peacocks [unclear 8:25 to 8:27] And it was called the peacock room where the TB patient people were.

8:33 **Jill:** So, they didn't need quite so much attention then as the..

8:35 **Bill:** No, no.

8:37 **Jill:** Right

8:38 **Peggie:** But I mean the men's ward downstairs, how many were there, about ten men in that room downstairs. In one room, in one large downstairs room about ten men.

8:48 **Bill:**  And the bathroom there was just err... a bath stuck in a outside conservatory out in the back yard, and it was freezing in the winter.

8:59 **Jill:**  I bet it was. Where did these people come from? Because, there couldn't have been any sort of formal application procedure or vetting procedure or anything, where did they come from, who paid for them, where did they get the money from, how was it run?

9:15 **Peggie:**  Well I'm not sure but if you see Frances Jeram, Francis will be the person who'll be able to tell you all the things about finance and erm how the residents actually came to come here because this was her thing. So I think she's the person to be able to tell you that.

9:30 **Bill:**  I think she had a contact, I think she worked at St Thomas' Hospital I think before she came here, and I think you know she had a contact there somewhere.

9:40 **Jill:** So Frances Jeram, who was the almoner at that time, erm, had been there, she was there already when you arrived so she was very much there from the beginning then?

9:47 **Peggie:** Oh yes.

9:50 **Bill:**  I think she must have come in, sort of late 49, I remember about September time, what I can remember anyway.

10:00 **Jill:**  And, and what... thinking about Leonard Cheshire himself at this time, what do you think his aims were, I mean it must have been so difficult to look after disabled people under those circumstances, did he worry, he must have had crises for instance? Where did your money come from? Was Leonard Cheshire worried about these crises, or?

10: 20 **Bill:** No, he didn't appear to be at all, I mean, I think he just hoped...

10:26 **Peggie:** Hoped and prayed that everything would just... come together somehow, yes.

10:33**Bill:** I think the local tradesmen were quite good, you know? 'Cos we used to get a lot of our groceries and that from the little stores, and they were very good, a lot of the bread used to come from the local as well. The only problem I had, right in the early days was that I had to go down to, err, the village at Liss and get some paraffin and the chap says to me 'when you pay for last week's I'll give you some more'! [laughs] After a talk, like, we got some, you know.

11:05 **Jill:**  So, where did the money come from? And, did you raise funds? You had a fete?

11:12 **Peggie:** We had a fete, in the old, when we were still in the old house that we had that first fete didn't we? Yes, we had a terrible thunderstorm in the middle of it. Dreadful, yes!

11:25 **Jill:** And, but did you, was was Leonard Cheshire erm did he like the idea of raising funds... locally, or was he quite shy of publicity?

11:38 **Bill:** I think he was quite shy of publicity, because he just didn't want publicity at all.

11:44 **Peggie:** He was a very humble man, this is the impression I had of him, he was a very humble... with a wonderful sense of humour.

11:54 **Jill:** Can you think of any instances of his sense of humour, or?

11:59**Peggie:** Not back in the early days, no, I mean I had quite a lot of contact with him in the latter years of his life, when he wasn't so well and he was staying at Laundry Cottage, he used to ring me up, and I used to go up, and also when his father the professor was there you see I used to often go up, the professor would ring up and say 'oh Peggie come up and see me I'm not well or I've hurt my hand or I've done something' and I'd pop up and see him and erm...have a drink with him in the evening and that was quite a business with the professor in the evening because they live in Laundry Cottage, which is just up the lane. It was two tiny cottages made into one... and erm the professor was a man who had a routine with everything.

12:42 **Jill:**Just explain for the tape the professor is Leonard Cheshire's father.

12:45 **Peggie:**  Oh yes the professor is Leonard Cheshire's father, and he had this wonderful routine with everything he did, he was a professor of law. And, I used to go in the evening after duty about nine o'clock and he'd be sitting by the fire and he'd say 'are you going to have a drink, Peggie?'. 'Yes'. And he was ninety plus and he'd be poking at this fire and I'd be worried sick that he'd fall in it. And he used to explain to me how that at a set time, I can't remember now exactly, but at ten o'clock he would turn everything off downstairs, he would go upstairs, he'd run his bath, he'd get in it a quarter past ten, he would sit in it for so many minutes, he would get out of it and he would get into bed, and he would read his book for a set number of minutes and did everything like this to, actually to time, yes, but he was a wonderful gentleman.

13:30 **Jill:**  Was Leonard Cheshire like that? Had he caught these, erm, routine disciplined habits from his father, or was he more easy going? Thinking back to the old days?

13:37 **Peggie:** Not really sure, not really sure. What was interesting though, when he used to come and stay in Laundry Cottage, after the death of his father, he used to come over here to collect his meals with his little cardboard box, stand in the lunch queue, because he was G.C. he didn't just walk up and get his lunch, he stood in the lunch queue with all the staff, with his little cardboard box, collect his lunch and take it back to Laundry Cottage and have it. Yes! And he had a wonderful memory, because, if somebody new had appeared as a resident or a member of staff since his last visit, he would remember he'd come over and say to me quite often I'd have my lunch 'Peggie, who's that over there in that blue jersey?'. And, he'd go over and speak to them. He knew everybody.

14:25 **Jill:** And erm, in the, in the early days just thinking again about this idea of fundraising and publicity, Leonard Cheshire was very famous. He was a very well decorated RAF pilot, a hero, a national hero. He could easily have traded on that to raise funds for what he was doing. Did he? Did he, Bill?

14:47 **Bill:** Well, no, not really, but I remember one day the phone had rang, and erm, I'd answered it, it was just an ordinary call box in the main hall, which I answered, and erm, there was a gentleman on the phone saying 'we're just checking up people during the war who are well decorated and we would like to if the Group Captain is here and what he's doing'. And erm, I said well, [unclear 15:12 to 15:13] at the moment, and erm, what I'll do then is hand you over to Mrs Jeram, who gave them the full story I think. But err, I remember the next day, this car sort of rolled up to the front entrance and out jumped these about three chaps with cameras and they were sort of taking photographs all over the place, you know?

15:34 **Jill:** Without asking permission, or?

15:37 **Bill:** Well, erm, I don't really know they just went in and said 'can we see someone', I think it was Mrs Jeram at the time, and that was it, but I don't think they saw the Group Captain, I can't remember.

15:47 **Jill:**  I was going to say, did Leonard Cheshire take advantage of it even then?

15:51 **Bill:** I don't think so, but erm, I remember maybe a week or ten days later because we used to go down to the south lodge and pick the mail up, and erm, from that piece of news in the news chronicle, then err, post started arriving and there was sort of money in it, cheques in it, and you know, I remember picking up one little parcel and I think there was magazines and when they opened it there was just what would have been a hundred in pound notes I think, and from then on things sort of started to snowball, you know? Other people started taking an interest.

16:36 **Jill:** So it was an article in the news chronicle? And do you remember about the date?

16:41 **Bill:** Erm, well it must have been in 49

16:44 **Jill:** Yeah, 1949. Do you remember the month?

16:49 **Bill:** Erm, it would have been September, October time, that time.

16:52 **Jill:** Okay, it would be interesting to see if we can get a copy of that, erm, and see what was said. So, he didn't, he didn't, court publicity at all obviously, which must have made it a lot more difficult, erm, in terms of finding the money to pay for food as you've already said that was difficult sometimes, hand to mouth, erm, what about paying staff? Peggy?

17:14 **Peggie:** Well, no, it wasn't at all, no, if you would get your wages at the end of the week and of course we did work for an absolute pittance in those days... as I say you didn't know if you'd get your wages, you didn't know if there was going to be food on the plate for, not necessarily for the staff, well for some staff who lived in but, for the residents you just didn't know but somehow somebody always seemed to turn up at the door with a box of groceries, a basket of vegetables, or something like this, yes.

17:41 **Jill:** Staff must have been very loyal to stay under those circumstances. Was Leonard Cheshire a good leader, well he must have been because he'd had the experience in the RAF, did they feel loyalty, did you feel loyalty to him?

17:55 **Peggie:** Oh yes, you felt loyalty to him, certainly, yes. And I suppose perhaps because it was a new venture too, people were interested, because it was a new, I mean it was, there weren't homes for disabled people in those days.

18:12 **Jill:** No provision at all?

18:13 **Peggie:** Well, very little, you know. I think for disabled, for people from the services yes, I mean the services had their home but for the ordinary sort of people... there weren't, no.

18:27 **Jill:** People often used to think that erm, Leonard Cheshire's homes were for ex-serviceman didn't they?

18:31 **Peggie:** Oh they did and I think this was why we had all the problems when we went to Rome for that family gathering that you probably know all about, that we had problems with hotel accommodation and things and I think this was really what it was, this was my idea of what it was that they didn't want us because when they saw how heavily disabled a lot of people were, people on stretchers, people in their beds, very disabled, I think they thought Leonard Cheshire, they're going to be war wounds you know an arm missing or a leg missing, an eye missing maybe? But, when they really saw the disability of these people I just feel they couldn't cope with it. Because I know for a fact that that hotel had it in the local, in their local papers in Rome saying how they've got all these people coming out from all over the world, these disabled people, but I had a friend who worked in Rome at the time and she wrote to me and said I hear you're coming out and you're going to stay at whatever this hotel was called, and then when we got there they didn't want us. You know, and you've heard the story of all that went on there.

19:31 **Jill:** Wally Sullivan has done a tape, and he explained it, yeah, yes, terrible.

19:37 **Peggie:** But that was... I'm sure that was a lot to do with it, yes.

19:42 **Jill:** It's funny isn't it Leonard Cheshire did his upmost to try and, erm, put people on the right track as far as that's concerned and he said over and over again in public that his homes were not just for ex-servicemen, or not just for Catholics, which is another idea that people got.

19:57 **Peggie:** Oh no, no, oh no they're non-denominational, yes.

20:01 **Jill:** Err, I guess I suppose it's these myths that take root and people are reluctant to let go of them.

20:07 **Peggie:** Oh they do, I think because people knew what a devout Roman Catholic he had become that... they just sort of tend to take it for granted that the homes are for Catholics, yes.

20:21 **Jill:** So we're mid 50s now, thinking mid 50s, and erm, you've been in the old house, well the old house has been used for six years, five or six years, and the time comes when you're going to move out. How did, how was that funded, that move? Do you remember the circumstances 'cos it must have been massively expensive, we're sitting now in an extension to the house into which you moved then, err, which must have been very modern?

20:50 **Peggie:** Modern in those days, not anymore, but yes.

20:53 **Jill:** How was it, how was it built, how did all that happen?

20:56 **Peggie:** Well the Carnegie Trust built it, they normally build libraries but they stepped in and funded the money for the, what I now know as the main wing.

21:05 **Jill:** And how long did it take for it to be built? Do you remember?

21:10 **Bill:** About two years I think.

21:11 **Jill:** Two years? Meanwhile you were still in the old house?

21:15 **Bill:** That's right.

21:16 **Jill:** And just slowly becoming more and more dilapidated I suppose?

21:20 **Peggie:** Well, with the foundations crumbling at the heart of the building, yes.

21:23 **Jill:** So the day came when you moved. Do you remember what, was that 1955?

21:31 **Bill:** I think it was, 55, yeah.

21:33 **Jill:** And then shortly after that the Queen Mother came to visit you.

21:36 **Peggie:** She officially opened the building, yes.

21:38 **Jill:** Dou you remember that day? That must have been a wonderful day.

21:42 **Peggie:** That must have been, yes it was a wonderful day, I mean we all received our official invitations to attend and erm obviously there were police and things all on the drive, you know, directing the traffic and stopping people coming up unless you had to show your invitation to actually be able to come up the drive, yes.

21:59 **Bill:** And a load of school children.

22:01 **Jill:** Were they involved as well?

22:02 **Bill:** Well, they sort of lined up outside, you know.

22:05 **Peggie:** And then we, each member of staff, you were sort of, you looked, you stood with a particular group of residents, to look after them, you know, and I always remember, I had a resident called Basil. Basil had Parkinson's disease, and Basil [laughs] his great thing was to do was to fall over backwards, and his legs go up in the air, somebody spoke to him, and I was terrified that when the Queen Mother got to us [laughs] that Basil would fall over backwards and suddenly his feet would go up in her face or something! But he didn't, it all went off well yes, yes.

22:40 **Jill:** How had the Queen Mother become interested? Because now of course, the Queen is the patron of the foundation, erm, so there's been royal interest right from the beginning. Perhaps that stemmed from Leonard Cheshire's, again, his career in the RAF?

22:52 **Bill:** I should think so, I'd think so, yes.

22:55 **Peggie:** That's certainly how she came to be asked to.

23:02 **Jill:** And, err, this building now, we're in 1996 so it's been up for... forty years. And you stayed here for how long? When did you leave?

23:14 **Bill:** Erm, I went in 65.

23:18 **Peggie:** Right, and Peggie?

23:19 **Peggie:** Well, you know, well I stayed on but you know not all the time because obviously we've got a family, we've got four children, and so, although I was here for forty two years from the beginning 'till the time I left I wasn't there completely all that time I had my family, erm, but I came back, I did a period of night duty for four years, and the last I did was twenty years actually I was wing sister on the upstairs floor here for twenty years.

23:46 **Jill:**  Well you must have noticed changes looking at it today and thinking about it when you first moved in. I suppose, people say the main change is the privacy that the residents have now.

23:55 **Peggie:**  Oh yes.

23:56 **Jill:** And the freedom that they have, does that strike you?

23:59 **Peggie:** Very much so, yes, because when you think that when they were sharing four to a room, you got no privacy at all, whereas now everyone has their own individual rooms, they furnish them the way that they wish to have them furnished, whereas before it was... well whatever was there. In fact, there was so little room you had a locker by your bed, a small wardrobe in the corner, and at the bottom of each bed was a piece of furniture which was a sort of desk come chest of drawers I suppose, there were drawers in it and the top flapped down so you got a writing space, and that was each bed had those same pieces of furniture... very regimented. And then of course you had a hoist to lift the.. which was attached to the ceiling, electric hoist, well of course to start with, we didn't have any hoists in the early days you lifted everybody everywhere.

24:50 **Jill:** Like in the old house?

24:51 **Peggie:** In the old house you lifted everybody and when we first came here, and then we had the portable hoists, you know that you run around from bed to bed, while then eventually the coming of the electric hoists was wonderful. But in the four bedders, you had a track like a rail track round your room, and you just had to run the hoist from bed to bed but this wasn't convenient because, erm, people who came in late, erm, they'd, the hoist would be over their bed, but the next bed to them wasn't going to be the person getting up in the morning so it was running round the room over the top of people's beds waking them up!

25:27 **Jill:** Not ideal.

25:28 **Peggie:**  And of course the same at night, when you were on night duty and you answered a bell at night when there were four beds you went in with a torch to do whatever was necessary to turn people or whatever attention they needed, trying to be as quiet as can be without waking the others up, while now, in their own rooms, I mean you can go and you can put lights on, you can talk, and so it's very, so from the staff point of view, that's much easier, than having to creep around with a torch, and erm, the thingy of night duty, my recollection of night duty in the old house, I was on night duty, alone of course like we were, and of course the staircase, the duty room where we sat, matron's office come bathroom [laughs], erm, was at the top of the front stairs, and the stairs used to creek and we had several cats in the house, and they would run up and down the stairs at night frightening the life out of you. But then one night I suddenly could hear sort of shuffling going on, and suddenly in the doorway appeared Miss Permaine, in her long white, you know, Victorian nightdress and a candle in her hand [laughs] she frightened the life out of me!

26:39 **Jill:** Miss Permaine was a...?

26:39 **Peggie:** She was a resident, yes. One of the residents, very elderly resident yes.

26:46 **Jill:** But despite the changes, the inevitable changes, erm, thinking back to the very early days, do you think Leonard Cheshire's spirit lives on here at Le Court? It must do.

26:57 **Peggie:** Well certainly when I was here two years ago and I was still on the staff it certainly was, yes, yes.

27:02 **Jill:** And what do you think that that spirit is, do you think it's to do with, erm, giving residents individuality, do you think it's, erm, giving the opportunity to live an independent live, do you think it's been that from the beginning? Do you think his aims changed over his life, perhaps?

27:20 **Peggie:** Well I think they must have done because as, erm, as progress, as things have progressed and there's been more things available for disabled, so obviously I think his aims had changed. But I would think the fact of giving them independence must, must be a really main point. Because when you think, I mean I can think of one young man that we had here, who, his parents had kept him in a back room because he was born disabled and so they'd kept him tucked away in a back room, and then the parents died of course and so he was put in, the young man, probably in his late thirties I suppose he was, tucked away in this back room, parents died, he's put in a geriatric ward in a hospital, and you can imagine what that was anyhow, erm, a resident and some staff from here went down, he was found down there and we were asked to take him and he came and lived down here. And I mean, how he blossomed over the years! I mean, you know, to have a room with his own belongings, to be able to go out, and the first time he ever went out, we couldn't get him out to start with. I think he felt if he went out, that we weren't gonna have him back again or something. But you can understand this. Anyhow, one day, I said look we're going to Brighton, I will take you Jimmy, I'll come with you, listen I've got to come back, I said I'm not going to stay at Brighton [unclear 28:45 to 28:46] he'd come. So we took him to Brighton, and his highlight of the day was sitting on the front and there were two little girls on the beach, running in and out of the water screaming like children do, 'oh I'm getting wet!'. And he sat for about an hour watching these two little girls trotting in and out of the water, and you'd have thought you'd have given him the top brick off the chimney. I don't know why I bought him one of those hats which says sort of 'kiss me quick' or whatever it said on the front of it, and you'd think you really had done so much. And after that he began to out, when he realized that you could go out and you could come back again.

29:25 **Jill:** Well, that, that is doing a lot for that particular person isn't it?

29:28 **Peggie:** That's right, yes.

29:31 **Jill:**  Well what a lovely story to end on. Thank you, Peggie and Bill Roberts.

**End of Transcription**