**Oral History Transcription - Leslie – Heatherley**

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

**Filmed – 2016**

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: What is your background?]

00:00:10 [Leslie] - I was born in Redhill, then I moved to Reigate. I had a... bit of... I had a slight learning difficulty reading and writing. And... I worked at Gatwick... and it was... about five years then I had my accident. I was on a bike and a car hit me and didn't stop. Right. Then I was in hospital for some time. Then they took me out of the hospital, then I went to Gracelands in Crawley. Across... Uh, not Crawley, um... Guildford. And then... They said, "That's enough of that." I went to here.

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

00:01:14 - I like gardening, so I took on that, and I order seeds, and when they start to sprout up... Like, you know, my favourite flower is, um... sweet peas and peonies. But, like, my main interest now is painting. I've painted a lot of pictures. I can't remember them all. But the latest one I've done was a van. And, uh... autumn as well. [Woman: Does that include the Christmas cards?] [Leslie] - Yeah. [Woman] - And isn't... One of your paintings is on one of them. Is that right? [Leslie]: - Yeah. [Woman] - So, what... Can you tell me a bit about that? What's the painting that's on the card?

00:02:09 – [Leslie] - There's one with an eagle with a fish in its mouth. [Woman] - Fun. And is that one that you have done recently? [Leslie] - Yeah. [Woman] - Lovely. And how does that feel, to have your painting on the Christmas card? [Leslie] - Oh, oh, I feel proud. I'd like to have an exhibition.

[Text on screen: Do you have any particular memories of residents at Heatherley?]

00:02:32 - Janice Peters was a good... We had our ups and downs, but she's brilliant... at what she does. Like, you know, she paints, she sews, you name it, she does it. [Woman] - And have you been friends for a while? [Leslie] - Yeah. Yeah. I help her take her wheelchair out... when it's nice out.

[Text on screen: How has Heatherley changed over the years?]

00:03:05 - There's quite a lot of changes at Heatherley. Mainly now, we've got a massive, big greenhouse. It cost 6,000 pound. The fire room was... It was a nightmare, so we got some people to sand it all down and painted it and we could make that room bigger and more sensible. It was an improvement, I think.

00:03:35 - I'm on the Health and Safety Board, and the... I'm a... (sighs) I'm a care representative as well.

[Text on screen: What is your happiest memory of being at Heatherley?]

00:03:52 - Oh, going to the seaside. Oh, and also to Wisley Gardens place as well. [Woman] - Where did you go to the seaside? [Leslie] - Brighton. And it gives me...

That lighthouse in Littlehampton, it gives me many memories of Littlehampton. [Woman] - Oh, lovely. Can you tell me more about what you did on the trip to Brighton? [Leslie] - We went to see the sea, and also, we saw... We went on the pier. Have a look around. And then that was it, really.

**End of transcription**