**Oral History Transcription - Jenny – Heatherley**

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

**Filmed: 2016**

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: What is your background?]

[Jenny]

00:00:10 - I was actually born in Epsom. And... at the end of the war. And grew up in Sussex. So I went to a number of different schools, 'cause my parents moved a lot, but it was all in Sussex, and... Quite... Not a million miles from here. I didn't like school. Um, yeah. I was a bit of a... a... a rebel, really. I... I didn't get on well with academic stuff. So I was a very practical person. And, yeah, I mean, I enjoyed sports. I loved tennis and things like that, so that was my forte. But I didn't do very much, really, at school at all. Not academically. Hopeless. (LAUGHS)

00:00:58 — [Woman off-screen]: And what did you go on to do after...

00:01:00 — [Jenny]: I went on to do nursing. That was something that I loved. And I went straight from school to do my nursery nursing. I loved nursing. I loved the... being... just being around the children and being able to help them, just being... I like talking to people and communicating with people and... in nursing, you get the whole package kind of thing. You get the child who's not very well, but you also get the parents and the grandparents. And, yeah, this is... I just loved it. I loved it. And it was on the prem baby unit that I actually contracted meningitis, which is why I am paraplegic. I was ill for quite a long time. And afterwards, there was no prospect of nursing.

[Text on screen: How did you get involved at Heatherley?]

00:01:56 - Basically, I wanted to continue with children in some way. But it also took me in to a charity called Disabled Christian Fellowship. And we're now part of an organisation called Through the Roof, which is also a disability charity... bringing the awareness of disability. And the paths, our paths crossed quite a bit with the work that I do for them, and now with Leonard Cheshire. I was very involved in rehousing or re-placing somebody within the other organisation. We found Heatherley. And, so... I came with her to Heatherley. Used to visit her two or three times a week. And got to know Heatherley through this lady. Sadly, she died soon after she had come. But that was when I offered to come on as a volunteer. I've been coming two days a week ever since.

[Text on screen: What do you do here as a volunteer?]

00:03:03 - I go into the IT room. I love IT. And the opportunities it opens

for so many people who... The word 'can't' can come into their lives so often. And, so, I love IT. I work with them in the IT. But I also help with any other kind of IT issues around. And it also gives me an opportunity to just talk to the folk and hopefully be an encouragement to them as well.

[Text on screen: What do you like about Heatherley?]

00:03:34 - My very first reaction about Heatherley I think was the amazing surroundings. It is in the most lovely countryside. Has the most amazing grounds. One of the things that really struck me the first year I was here was the barn dance. It was out in the grounds. So they had music, PA system, and everybody out there. Everybody. And the, you know, big hats. Barn dance hats. And it was just brilliant.

00:04:12 - It's made an impact on my life. And it's... It's opened up the... Right from the very beginning of my career, if you like, with nursing, I loved communicating with people and just being there for people. And this, it's another two days in a week when I can do that. And I can communicate with these folks. Whether they can communicate with me or not, we can get a rapport going. And it's... I thoroughly enjoy it here.

**End of transcription**