**Oral History Transcription - Sue, St Cecilia’s**

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

**Filmed - 2016**

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: When did you start coming to St Cecilia’s?]

00:00:11 – [Sue] It was either 1976 or 1978. But I haven't got any record now of the exact date. I worked for the Electricity Board, and I decided that I'd got fed up with paperwork and I wanted to help people. So I went to the Citizens Advice Bureau in my lunch hour one day, and, um... and they suggested I did voluntary work. So then my first... was to go on holiday to Winged Fellowship Trust. And I had a two-week holiday in Essex. Jubilee Lodge. And I had... And we looked after disabled people and it was really one-to-one, and it was wonderful. I had the best holiday ever.

00:01:06 - And so when I came back, I decided to go back to the Citizens Advice Bureau and see if there were any homes, and they said, "Try St Cecilia's." So then I came here, and, um... and I spoke to Miss Cashman and then eventually I left the LEB and came here to work. As a nurse. Or a helper... Or, yes, a nurse. And I think I was here for about a year, until I damaged my back, and... and then after I had an operation, after that, I came back as a volunteer. And have been coming ever since

as a volunteer.

[Text on screen: What are your memories of your time at St Cecilia’s?]

00:01:54 - We used to get together, several, two or three, and we'd go to Fairfield Halls and watch the wrestling. Every... Tuesday. Once a month, on a Tuesday, I'd gather together three residents, and we'd have three carers as well. The driver... And it was wonderful, you know, they loved it. Screaming and shouting at the wrestlers.

00:02:18 - And I used to take this lady, push her into Bromley, and she'd pick her favourite pub and we'd have... She'd have her port and lemonade, and she absolutely loved that. And then we'd sort of go round the shops and have a look at things and then come back and have another port and lemon and then I'd push her all the way home, and she'd... you know, she had lovely rosy cheeks, and... Yeah, so, I think that's my favourite memory. Her name was Mary Rose. And she had cerebral palsy, and she did the most lovely embroidery. She spent hours doing embroidery, to sell it at their sales. And she was a lovely lady. Yeah, so that... She's my... favourite memory. Yes.

00:03:12 - When I first started working here, they were allowed to smoke in their rooms, in anywhere, they could smoke. And when I was the carer... they used to queue up to go to the loo. There were two ladies who liked to always do everything together. So there were two loos side by side, and they used to both sit and have... Sit in there for about ten minutes with their cigarette. You know, and we had to... I had to hold it for them, because, you know, they couldn't use their hands. Well, there was another carer in the other cubicle, and they'd be chatting away to each other, you know, and the carer and I would be just giving them their cigarette. But, I mean, that would never happen today.

[Text on screen: What memories do you have of staff at St Cecilia’s?]

00:04:02 - Miss Cashman, who was here, um... She was like the matron, in a way. The Head of Care. She did everything. She had a different cap on most times of the day. And when I worked here, if the canteen staff... didn't turn up, she would be there at 6:00 in the morning, pushing the trolley with all the breakfasts on. She had got up at 5:00 to get all the breakfasts ready. And then if they hadn't turned up for lunch, she'd be doing all the lunches. And then she'd be in her office doing all the office work, all the paperwork. Interviewing... She'd interview staff, you know. She did live here, so heaven knows what time she went to bed. But, um... You know, she was just amazing. She must have been here from the '60s... I should think. And then when she got ill, she came here as a resident, and she was cared for by staff here. So she died here.

**End of transcription**