**Oral History Transcription – Steve – St Cecilia’s**

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

**Filmed** – 2016

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: What is your background?]

00:00:12 [Steve]: I was straight into work when I left school. And, fortunately, a job was waiting for me because it was 1969. I could walk into any type of job I could get. It was an office job, and it was a firm of solicitors, and I stayed there for about four, five years. And then the lovely Post Office had the rest of my company for about 25 years after that. I eventually got into the Post Office archives myself, and I spent nearly 10 years there, and you had every record you could dream of, and it was the best thing I could have done.

00:01:11 - They gave you a lot of information, and you also got many different types of people coming in who were either doing projects for university or otherwise. Or they might be writing a book. Or doing a film on something, and they sort of come to us for information. I enjoyed my years with the Post Office. And I'll never regret it.

[Text on screen: What family do you have?]

00:01:45 - Obviously my wife, Aileen. We've been together 40 years now. My daughter, born in 1979, my eldest boy was born in 1982, and my youngest one was born in 1984. And that's... So, two of them have borne their own children now. The other one's sort of steering clear, I think. And one of them's now got three boys. My daughter's got two girls and a boy. But the boy is about six foot two at 14. And feet the size of boats. So I think they're going to sort of keep me going for the rest of my life. And the other ones are too young to even... Not to say worry about. They're only five... About five, four and seven months so... And I'm just waiting for my first view of them this Christmas.

[Text on screen: What are your main interests?]

00:03:10 - I've always done gardening. I used to have an allotment years ago. So it was all vegetables and everything for the family. And I used to please my wife and take the kids over the allotment to get them out of the way for Sunday dinner. And then we had a bit of fun with the dog as well.

00:03:33 - It's nice to see you can put thing in the ground and suddenly it's shooting up. And you think, like... Well, onions, they're sort of a little bulb you can just poke in the ground, and it comes up, a great big stamp, and you've got a great big bulb at the end of it. It's such a thing.

00:03:58 - You get onions, you get peas, you get beans, runner beans. Potatoes are the obvious choice. And we used to grow all of that. And you know, obviously, with a growing family, I sort of said to them, "This is your dinner."

00:04:17 - I'll grow a few seeds. It'll be growing. Got them here sometimes. We've got herbs and that we're growing now. And I think if we can do that for the kitchen here, we'll provide some of the stuff which we're gonna eat.

[Text on screen: What else do you enjoy about life at St Cecilia’s?]

00:04:38 - All the events. Don't matter what they are. Whether they are running up for a particular reason, everybody gets in, clubs together and you get... If you get a good day, you're out on the garden, on the lawn. And you're enjoying everything. Sunshine, flowers, the lot. You know, we had St Cecilia's Day. Alright, it's already gone now. But we had a lot of people here. And everybody enjoyed themselves here. I think it's a good thing here. I've enjoyed my 4.5 years. And I'm hoping I'm going to enjoy a good few more.

**End of transcription**