**Film Transcription**

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

**Film Title:** Maybe Today

**Duration:** 12 minutes and 39 seconds

**Transcription date:** 11th July 2016

**Archive Number:**

Please note: this document does not contain the transcript of the actual Audio Description for this film.

**Summary of Main Points**

3:01 – Narrator describes life at Le Court

4:10 – Narrator talks about a resident who organised a charity concert

5:22 – Narrator discusses the campaign to raise money for a new wing at Le Court

6:32 – Ground Captain Leonard Cheshire makes a speech about the project

8:55 – Narrator describes the difficulties faced by the project

10:33 – Narrator talks about the building of the new wing

11:03 – Narrator discusses the outcomes of the project

**Start of Transcription**

0:00 [no speech] to 0:36

0:36 [music] to 1:05

1:05 **Male singer:** Another day begins, the world it awakens. This private world that I must call my home. In this different world, a different kind of family. Related by misfortune, together yet alone.

1:33 [music] to 1:42

1:42 **Male singer:** There are no walls around this prison. No iron bars to show it is a jail. But who is free who cannot move unaided? Ah, this is a prison if you cannot walk away. But last night, I had a dream. I dreamed that I was free. I could choose to follow any road, to go wherever pleased me. Last night I dreamed I was free.

2:54 [no speech] to 3:00

3:00 **Male Narrator:**54 of us get up. Have to be helped to get up to face the day like this, every morning here at Le Court Cheshire home. Breakfast is a community experience. But it's more. It's work, hard work for us who are disabled, hard work for those who help us. Some of us have never known home life in the way most people do. Others remember a life that was so much easier. Home should be a chance to choose quiet and intimate moments. But for us intrusions and complex routines are vital to our need for active life.

Charlie Horton had a close family life, and of course they keep in touch. But for 17 years he's had to learn to cope and live with us. He shares a lot with Roger, like their room with two others. 4 of them, together because of disability, but so different.

4:00 [no speech] to 4:10

4:10 **Male Narrator:**Many different people. Many different talents. And ingenious ways devised for residents like David Martin, writing the lyrics for a song. We could start our story here. David and Michael, a helper, are planning a charity concert.

4:28 **David**: Well that's it Mike.

4:29 [music] to 4:38

4:38 **Michael [sings]:** When you were a soldier daddy did you march with your head held high? Were your buttons bright and your belt pulled tight, and your uniform gay?

4:55 **Male Narrator:**A concert was held. Money was made

4:58 **Male singer:** Though I slouched with a twisting neck honey, and I also sagged at the knees, my buttons were black and my belt was slack and my shirt had to blend with the trees.

5:15 [music] to 5:22

5:22 **Male Narrator:**Another resident. Another way to raise funds. And all for a very special campaign.

5:28 **Female singer:** Did you fight a war for a flag daddy, the country or for the queen? Or did you fight for democracy and the parliamentary sea?

5:46 **Male Narrator:**One day we got together and asked for single rooms. Our urgent need for privacy. This meant enterprise, effort and ideas. What could we do to find money to build a brand new wing? Brian's hitchhike, Edinburgh to Petersfield, was one answer. Collection boxes in pubs were easier. When the plans were made, 62000 pounds was needed. A huge challenge.

6:16 **Man:**We will now pass to the next item on the agenda, and that is flag day.

6:20 **Male Narrator:**The Le Court Association, and the residents, faced it. The campaign for the new wing became a massive operation. Our annual fete played its part, and was opened by Group Captain Cheshire.

6:32 **Leonard Cheshire:**Being here today, in these grounds, brings back many many memories to me. It was nearly 25 years ago that Le Court first started, with a very shaky start, and now you are embarking on a major new project. I would like to pay my tribute, particularly to the residents because this new wing is their idea. They have provided the inspiration, and the work, and the drive that has made it possible.

7:08 [music] to 7:43

7:43 **Man:**Hello? Brian? Where are you? … Good. Right, I'll put you on the map.

7:51 [no speech] to 7:55

7:55 [music] to 8:06

8:06 **Male singer:** I see people, people on wheels, those wheels are spinning fast. Sometimes hard, sometimes easy, trying to the last.

8:18 **Singers:** People living on spinning wheels that carry them along, never stopping, always rolling on.

8:27 [music] to 8:32

8:32 **Male singer:** People on wheels are not so tired as they might seem to be. Wheelchair roaming hones the body and the mind is always free.

8:44 **Singers:** People living on spinning wheels that carry them along, never stopping, always rolling on. [clapping]

8:55 **Male Narrator:**This was a big programme. Our efforts took time. 2 and a half years in fact. But in those 2 and a half years, inflation entered the race. Costs soared, and nearly defeated us.

9:10 **Man:**Hello Brian. Welcome back to Petersfield. Have you had a good trip?

9:13 **Brian:**Yes, indeed, we have.

9:16 **Male Narrator:**Suddenly, just as the dream so nearly changed to reality, and we began to see ourselves each in a room of his own, the money ran out.

9:25 [no speech] to 9:35

9:35 **Male Narrator:**The only possible solution seemed to be a drastic cutting back. 18 single rooms instead of 24. No lift. Fewer bathrooms and toilets. Even to manage this revised plan we still needed luck.

9:51 **Man:**Congratulations Mr Grimes on the first half a million pound dividend ever paid on the [unclear 9:55] in the United States.

9:57 **Male Narrator:**Mr Grimes, our accountant, gave us a cheque which enabled us to continue. But more money still was needed. Many projects were started, both large and small, by residents and friends, and the whole campaign was under way again. Under the chairmanship of Miss Iris Chant the building committee went into the detail and planning stage. Adjustable vanity units. Purpose designed light switches. Intercom. Powered hoists.

10:27 [music] to 10:33

10:33 **Male Narrator:** Because we were living on the actual site we had one unique advantage. We were able to discuss structural and functional points with the architect [unclear 10:41]. Were the fixtures at the right height? Was step height for wheelchairs another problem? All the residents we’ve met, now have rooms of their own because they, with the help of their friends, were able to make something happen.

11:00 [music] to 11:03

11:03 **Leonard Cheshire:** This new wing is not the end of an endeavour but the beginning of many more to come. Not just here at Le Court but through Le Court to inspire others, in other places, to build their own homes and to develop their own ideas and hopes.

11:23 [music] to 11:25

11:25 **Female singer:** Sometimes we thought we’d never make it. Sometimes the end looked far away. But we kept trying, our friends kept helping, we made something happen today.

11:48 [music] to 11:51

11:51 **Female singer:** Maybe today everyone will be happy, maybe our troubles will all fade away. Maybe the sun will banish the shadows, maybe something will happen today.

12:13 [music] to the end 12:40

**End of Transcription**