**Film Transcription**

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

**Film Title:** Heatherley

**Duration:** 10 minutes 48 seconds

**Transcription Date:** 30th June 2016

**Archive Number:** AVF/038

**Summary of Main Points**

0:37 – Roy describes life at Heatherley

2:03 – Narrator talks about staffing levels at Heatherley

3:02 – Pamela describes origins of Heatherley

4:36 – Rosa describes how Heatherley expanded over the years

5:32 – Narrator describes the bungalows built for couples

7:04 – Narrator talks about the computer room at Heatherley

8:27 – Nigel talks about the funding needs of Heatherley

**Start of Transcription**

0:27 [birdsong] to 0:38

0:37 **Roy**: It really is a place where we can be sure we're going to be looked after for the rest of our natural life, and where would we be otherwise? For myself, I would have probably ended up in some geriatric home because that was really the only possibility that social workers could see for me. And that's not a particularly happy prospect.

1:10 **Male Narrator**: This is the story of a remarkable place called Heatherley. A place that's not an institution, but a home. Home for ordinary people who just happen, by an extra ordinary stroke of fate to be physically disabled. There's nothing wrong with these peoples' minds, it's their limbs which have let them down. In a society, which despite its boasts, isn't very good at looking after people who are never going to get better.

1:39 **Roy:** What you've got to remember is, that you're taking people from all walks of life, different disabilities, some have had it congenitally, some of us had been out in the wide wide world.  Some of done different things. And yet we all seem to blend in, as a family. Odd isn't it? That that should be so. In fact I still can't believe that it's possible.

2:03 **Male Narrator:** They've never been called patients. They're 'residents'. 32 of them in the main building at present. Helped, supported and cared for by 31 full-time staff, 42 part-timers, and a small army of volunteer helpers.

2:18 Heatherley is a Cheshire Home, based on an ideal founded by the famous World War Two bomber pilot, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire. Like other Cheshire Homes in Britain and around the world, it has to run itself. To a large extent paid for with money raised from, and by, the local community. And yet, the extraordinary fact is that Heatherley came about in the first place almost by accident.

2:45 In the 1950s, a young Crawley doctor, who'd also served in the RAF in the War, Rowland Farrell, contracted Multiple Sclerosis. One day his wife decided to see if she could raise some money to help him and others suffering in a similar way.

3:02 **Pamela Farrell:** Oh, it started in a rather slap-happy way with the Crawley Carnival in May 1960. The carnival committee let us have a free site and we borrowed a tent, in exchange for some advertising material which was on the outside of the tent. And we borrowed some things that had been made by residents in other homes and put them on show. And my family, and my two small sons and my mother and father and my sister, all had collecting tins and it poured with rain! And we were the only sideshow with a roof and so we did awfully well because people came in there to shelter from the rain. And having got in there of course, they jolly well didn't get out without putting something in the tin! And so we went home at night, very tired and wet, and emptied these collecting tins out on the carpet and found we had 40 pounds, 6 Shillings and 8 pence which seemed a vast amount of money then!

3:49 **Male Narrator:** It was enough to get the ball rolling. Within a few months, a committee had been formed and on May the 1st 1961 the first 13 residents moved into a converted Edwardian country house called Heatherley, just outside the village of Copthorne, several miles east of Crawley in Sussex.

4:09  [no speech] to 4:20

4:20 **Male Narrator:** Within a year a large extension had been added to the original building allowing the number of residents to increase to 39.

4:36 **Rosa:** Well, it's been like topsy since 1962. It's grown bit by bit. First we had the dining room put on, the year after it opened.

[film cuts away from Rosa]

4:48  **[Helper to resident]**: Would you like jacket potato tonight, with cheese or tuna?

**Resident:** I'll have cheese with it, please.

**Helper:** Cheese.

[film cuts back to Rosa]

4:50 **Rosa:** And then after that we had the kitchen all altered and a new wing put down the far end, which took in the occupational therapy and the physio treatment rooms and the laundry and that. That was a wonderful big blessing.

[film cuts away from Rosa]

5:10 **[Helper to resident]** Yeah - you've got a little bit too much there.

[film cuts back to Rosa]

5:12 **Rosa:** And that's how we've sort of grown over the years. Oh we didn't finish there! We had 12 bungalows built out in the grounds which take a married couple. One disabled and one able-bodied.

5:26 [no speech] to 5:32

5:32 **Male Narrator:** The bungalows were built close to the main building and were specially designed to help the disabled cope wherever possible without help, and so avoid the need to split up families. If help is required, or in an emergency, a member of the Heatherley staff is only a few yards away.

[film cuts to staff member and resident (Cathy) having a hand massage in water]

5:55 **[member of staff to Cathy]**: Did you go swimming last night?

**Cathy:** Yes love.

**Staff member:** How many lengths?

**Cathy:** 32 again last night.

**Staff member:** Crikey!

**Cathy:** It was great - water was warm.

**Staff member:** Changing rooms big enough?

**Cathy:** No, horrible! You know, never mind.

**Staff member:** Same problem there isn't it?

**Cathy:** Yeah, one day I guess they'll sort it out.

**Staff member:** That’s right

[film cuts to Cathy]

6:13  **Cathy:** My lovely bungalow, and then I come over here and it's great. They're absolutely brilliant, I don't know what I'd do without them. They keep me going, it's wonderful.

6:23 [no speech] music to 7:01

7:04 **Male Narrator:** Another revolutionary development in the lives of the Heatherley family was the computer room. For many people the computers provided here have opened the door to a new independence. For Gwen, who, along with Rosa, is one of Heatherley's original family it’s meant the chance to fulfil the ambition of a lifetime and write a 70,000 word novel.

7:33 For David for it's meant simply the chance to communicate.

7:46 And for Jackie a camcorder has meant that a video diary of the Heatherley family events can now be compiled.

7:53 [no speech] music to 8:20

8:21 **Male Narrator:** As well as a team of specialist medical staff, Heatherley is equipped with a range of advanced aids to help reduce the physical discomfort of residents. For Stephen, this special bed means that instead of having to be turned manually by night staff every 2 hours, he's now able to sleep undisturbed for the first time in years. But now at a time when money is perhaps in shorter supply than at most times in its history, Heatherley is facing a financial crisis. And not just in the provision of specialist medical equipment.

[film cuts to Nigel]

8:57 **Nigel:** The government grants, both from the social security and the local authorities are never sufficient to provide the standard of care that our family deserve and need. Over the last 5 years we have had to raise 85,000 pounds from friends groups, supporters, functions. Just to make ends meet. And from the first of April in 1991 we have to find another 40,000 pounds a year. Because the [unclear] local authority are withdrawing their grant, they have no money to pay us. It is a question of surviving. In the past we were very grateful when friends groups have perhaps provided a specific object like a special bed or a Jacuzzi, which can be seen, and very nice indeed. And this was fine because, until recently, we have managed to meet running costs from our normal fundraising activities, but with this withdrawal of the grant we need, desperately need, 40,000 pounds extra, just to run the ordinary running costs. Without that we shall not make ends meet, we shall not survive.

[film cuts to nurse with a resident]

10:00 **Nurse:** Ok have you got your bag?

**Resident:** Yes.

10:03 [no speech] music to 10:48

**End of Transcription**