**Oral History Transcription - Gary - Alder House**

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

**Filmed** – 2017

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: What is your background?]

00:11 [Gary]: I was born in Longford, and when I was born I nearly didn't make it because I had  lack of oxygen, which is why I'm like I am and it took six doctors to revive me. See, without those doctors, I wouldn't be here today. I had a really rare relationship with my foster parents, and they were my real, my mum and dad, because they did a lot, lot for me.

[Text on screen: When did you move to Alder House?]

00:59 - 2001, 2001 I think, I can't remember, but since I've been here, this is one of the best homes that I've ever been in. Ok, it has its moments, you know what I mean?

[Text on screen: What are your interests?]

01:26 - Politics, sport and Sky TV! [laughter off screen] When I used to go to Tottenham with my Dad, there was a bloke in a fur coat walking along, and I said to my Dad 'Who's that?' He said, that is one of the BBC football commentators. Instead of walking past me, he come over to me and had a chat with me. He says 'How are, how are you young man?' I said 'I'm alright' I said, 'you're John Motson', he says 'that's right'. But that is one of the happiest days of my life. 'Cause I got to meet one of my favourite commentators on the BBC. And I'll never forget that because he had time for people.

[Text on screen: How have you benefited from assistive technology?]

02:38 - This, this POSSUM is my lifeline, it really is. I couldn't live without it. without that machine I couldn't work my TV, my lamp. It's called an envir..., an environmental, an environmental control system. [off screen: Ok] and it... Mind you they don't give them away willy-nilly, to get one of these machines you have to be assessed by a doctor, and they have to know what your needs are. So without it, Andrea, I couldn't do anything, it's a valuable bit of kit.

03:35 - In this day and age technology has come on in leaps and bounds, and I'm truly grateful for what, what I have.

**End of transcription**