**Oral History Transcription - Elisabeth - Hydon Hill**

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

**Filmed -** 2017

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: What is your work history?]

00:11 [Elisabeth]: I went straight into Lloyds Bank as a shorthand typist really. I'd been to college and learnt secretarial skills, so I went to Lloyds Bank and was a shorthand typist but they wanted to put me through the banking system, which really appealed to me. But then we moved to Guildford, Guildford was a much bigger bank and they said 'you're a shorthand typist, that's where you're staying'. So I never learnt the, the other skills. I was there for a year or so and I thought this is boring, so of course I wanted to go to London to work. So I went to the City and I worked there for five years, but after five years I thought, 'you've got MS, haven't you?' So I had to, I mean the travelling to work was really dreadful, the trains were always on strike and so I thought you've got to find a more local job. At that point I had pneumonia, I didn't tell my new employers. I went for an interview at Alan Paine in Godalming and the guy gave me the job. I didn't tell them that I'd had pneumonia but, hey, it was fine. And we just kept working there. Alan Paine was a family-run company and they were really nice to me.

[Text on screen: When did you come to Hydon Hill?]

01:38 - I came to see Hydon Hill about twenty years ago. I met Debbie then and, because I realised I could not look after myself, and I would have to go somewhere to be looked after. It's alright, as I say, I came here about twenty years ago, to be interviewed. I was too well then, to come here, but, and then... Well, I've been here eight years now.

02:06 - I'd never been into a care home before, so this was my first. Basically they allow you to do anything you can do yourself, and encourage you to continue living as you were before, when you were independent. Which is what I find now. There is another resident, she and I love opera concerts, classical concerts and so we just do, we carry on doing that.

[Text on screen: What changes have you seen at Hydon Hill?]

02:42 - I think the most wonderful thing they've done is the garden that's behind me. We've got some neighbours, Harry Hall, he has a fruit farm and together with Leonard Cheshire, they decided to make a garden. Harry Hall provided the workforce for making all the garden, and it happened almost overnight, you know saw them coming in with the planking and the, and all the stonework, and it was just done. It was absolutely amazing. And of course, all us residents can enjoy it so much, it is so nice to come down here with visitors.

[Text on screen: What do you most appreciate at Hydon Hill?]

03:38 - There is an unbelievable selection of volunteers here. I am so lucky I've got so many, they come and help me, either to do anything you ask of them. We've got a wonderful physio department here which to be honest was one of the reasons I wanted to come here. basically I'm very very well looked-after, you know to be given food when I want it, my room is kept clean, my lau... all my laundry is done, you know, talk about the life of Riley! [laughs]

**End of transcription**