**Oral History Transcription - Barbara – Hydon Hill**

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

**Filmed** – 2017

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: What is your background?]

00:11 [Barbara]: Me and my brother were both brought up with Catholic religion, you know, going to church and ... and making sure that you know we behaved ourselves as you're supposed to do. When we went to the infant school, which wasn't Catholic we had to... when it was prayer time, all the Catholic children had to go out of the room, because our prayers were so different, well they weren't that different but the teachers thought the prayers were different and we couldn't be, we couldn't mix with the other children. I mean it's so, it sounds so silly. You know, just over a prayer really. Luckily that's all changed now [laughs]

00:53 - I went to work in British Home Stores in Wood Green and it was in those days, they don't have it anymore, well they don't have British Home Stores anymore but, they have, they had loose food counters where you could buy like cooked meats, cheese, fresh cakes. It was just like a little mini-supermarket really, but within British Home Stores. And I was made supervisor as well, me and another colleague, and I had... I was there for about 3 and a half years, and it was after that that I decided to enter the convent. Daughters of the Cross in, in... well it was starting off in London but I moved to Purley, which was their novitiate house when I became a novice, but I didn't take, I didn't take final vows so although I was with the Sisters for six years, I didn't take final vows so it meant after the six years I decided to come out and it was then I started going in to care work.

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

02:07 - I used to have re-enablement people come and see me after my accident and one of the ladies spoke to me and she said to me, I was a bit depressed that day, she said to me do you, have you heard of Leonard Cheshire? I said well I know the name but I don't know what they do, she said there's one in Hydon Hill.

02:22 - Jonathan and Dash came to see me at home before, told me a bit about Hydon Hill, what they do, and Jonathan sold it to me that day, without me even seeing the place, he's such a good salesman. And, I just thought when it, you know when he talked about it, I thought well you know, I really wanna go there and see what it's like, and I say, I wasn't disappointed from day one.

[Text on screen: What do you do here as a volunteer?]

02:49 - I'm doing the shop, the little sweet shop on a Thursday morning. I asked, when Tim said to me would you like to do that, and I said yeah, and so he asked the lady who works on a Thursday, could I work with her. So every Thursday morning when I get here, I don't, I can't get here for 10 o'clock, but as soon as I come in, I go straight into the, go into the day room, order my lunch, and then come straight down to the shop.

03:16 - I'm just happy to be here [laughs] and, you know, because I, I, just get so much from the people around me.

[Text on screen: What is the highlight of your time at Hydon Hill?]

03:28 - The main highlight would have to be when I did this sky walk, the wing walk I don't know what to call it! The wind walk, and that was again down to Jonathan. It was just one of, a fantastic experience and, I mean everything at Hydon Hill that I've done I find, you know is good, but that had to be the main thing that, you know, kind of, you know, say something I never thought I would ever do.

**End of transcription**