**Oral History Transcription - Carol - 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 [Carol]: I lived in Epsom. My parents were there. I liked it there, except race day, Derby Day was one of those days when you had to get to work about half past six in the morning, or you couldn't get out of the house. The traffic was horrendous on Derby Day, everything ground to a halt. It was fun.

00:42 - But my horses were my life virtually. Oh, I only had two but they was just... you learned to do dressage and show jumping. And then when the MS got too bad and I couldn't sit on a horse, a friend said to me 'Come carriage-driving with me'. I tried that and I thought 'yeah' ... well it wasn't quite the same as riding, but I did very well. I did lots of shows and lots of rosettes.

01:30 - That was how I found out about this place. We had a group of us that met with the carriage-driving and Paul Hanson came up and he got chatting and I said about where did he live, and he told me about here and that. And the man who came with him said I'll book you in for a week and you can come and see if you like it. Which was a very good way to start because I had a week here and I thought 'yeah'. So we just left it open that when I needed to come I would come.

[Text on screen: Who do you have fond memories of at Hydon Hill?]

02:18 - Denise Wooler. We got on very well, she ran this place. She was very very good. There was the chairman, we got on very well, and then she died. There's not been anybody else that has her character.

02:43  - We drink quite a lot together, we decided she couldn't drink white wine and... she couldn't drink red wine and I couldn't drink white wine so we returned to whiskey as the sort of thing that you both drunk.

[Text on screen: How has assistive technology changed over the years?]

03:06 - Technology is getting more and more incredible really. You think 'well how have they done that?' It's true, but it happens. I mean look at this wheelchair, you know at one time when my mother was in a wheelchair you had a little hand wheelchair and somebody pushed you. Now I can drive myself about in this, as long as I don't kill anybody, they don't mind. It's easy to drive. I can go out in it. I can, I can go anywhere. It's really quite incredible.

**End of transcription**