**Oral History Transcription - Ev - 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 [Ev]: I trained as a general nurse and then I specialised in orthopaedics and specialised even further in othopaedic surgery and trauma, later, later years in trauma as well, so. And I did that for twenty four years.

[Text on screen: Why did you come to work at Hydon Hill?]

00:35 - Although I loved theatre, it got to the stage where standing for hours at the table was taking its toll on, you know, your legs and your back.  I thought, well, you know, I'll give it a go. And it was a compulsory residential post, you know, we had to be residential, and that was sort of part of the package. The accommodation was provided, you know, free for myself, matron and the head of home, who was then Major Mitchell. And, so that's how we, you know, we came to be here. And that was in May 1984.

01:19 - There was lots and lots of differences, apart from the job itself, you know, I been used, twenty four years, all my patients were asleep, because they were all anesthetised! They didn't argue! And then I was you know, with real live talking, speaking people! No it was good.

01:44 - And staff as well, because you find at the hospital if you ask anyone to do, you know, they did it.  No questions asked. Here - they question everything and I wasn't quite prepared for that, but I soon got used to it.

[Text on screen: What was Hydon Hill like in those days?]

02:10 - We looked after ourselves, you know, we did our own fundraising. If we, like when I started we only had one overhead hoist in the entire... that was in one of the bathrooms and we obviously, you know, needed a hoist in, as we have now, in each room. To get that, to get those we had to, to fundraise, go out and... Each, each hoist cost £1000, so each time we collected £1000 we bought another hoist. And that took, took us about three years, to do that, but we did it.

[Text on screen: What was it like meeting Leonard Cheshire?]

02:55 - I'm so, you know, I was really quite nervous, you know, meeting this, you know, this man. And he just came up to me and put his arm around my shoulder and said 'Maggie, look after this girl. She is our future'. I thought 'Oh God, bless him' It was lovely, a lovely man. And when he used to come and visit here, I mean he just ... there was never any great announcement 'Oh, you know, Leonard Cheshire is coming' or anything like that, you'd walk into the dining room and he'd be sitting in there just talking to the residents or he'd be sitting in the lounge, and he'd just be there. And, he'd just fit in and mix in and, then he'd be gone. You never, you know... he was lovely, a lovely man.

**End of transcription**