**Oral History Transcription - James - 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 [James]: I went to Broadwater County Secondary School, as a teenager. I left there when I was, well I suppose, I was 16, because I had to stay on an extra year, because my birthday was the following year as it were. So I left in 1982 and I think from there my first job was working at a place called Pete's Land in Guildford which I enjoyed a lot. And then I had a few various jobs from there onwards. And then I got into computing at a later date, and I enjoyed that immensely. I worked very well with that.

00:53 - I met my now wife when I was 18. She was a bit younger than me, am I allowed to say? 15. She was nearly 16, honest. [laughs] And, for some reason we fell in love. We spoke to each other on a, what was then called the citizen's band radio, and that's how we met. We went for a, what they call, an 'eyeball' where you meet people. We went to that, and it's just gone from there I suppose and we're still together today.

[Text on screen: What are your hobbies and interests?]

01:34 - I love playing on my games console at home, which is a PS4, I have a PS3 as well. I also have a PS2 as well, but mainly just play on the PS4 these days. I love watching films. Mainly horror films [laughs]. I did used to ride motorbikes, my last motorbike, can I say? was a VFR400, which would, I don't know how I knew this but it would do over 100,  well about 140 miles per hour. I have no idea how I know that! [laughs] maybe there was some road or something I went along once! But yeah, I do love my bikes. And wish I could still ride.

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

02:21 - I used to come here when I was a Scout, we used to deliver, or collect papers from people who didn't want them anymore and we used to deliver them here. That was my first, my first coming here. I don't remember that much because I was quite young, but I do remember coming. That was in about '72, so that's quite a while ago, to say the least. And then I didn't really come here until probably about 2003 or 4 maybe.

02:54 - I come in on day release, yeah, on a Monday and a Friday, which I like. Sometimes I'll stay for a bit longer, which is quite good. Gives the wife a break [laughs]. I've made a couple of friends here as well, you know, people that stay here permanently, so it's nice to see them. Yeah. I'm always welcomed when I come, you know. People are always pleased to see me, I don't know, but they are! [laughs]

[Text on screen: What activities do you enjoy at Hydon Hill?]

03:24 - One of the best activities, was going sky-diving. Well, I went to go sky-diving with everybody but unfortunately because I couldn't get my legs out properly I wasn't allowed to jump, but we did go, I mean Jonathan, who used to be the head of activities, got us all in to going to indoor sky-diving, which was fantastic! And I'd quite happily go again, a fantastic experience.

**End of transcription**