**Oral History Transcription - Thelma - Hydon Hill**

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

**Filmed –** 2017

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: How did you get involved at Hydon Hill?]

00:11[Thelma]: My husband and I were both Busbridge’s church people and sang in the choir there and there was a magazine, I think it must have been in the magazine, that they were advertising Raphael was coming here and volunteers were wanted to help paint the buildings. Anyway, that was something I could do because my husband was a builder so I was quite used to painting. So I came up in, I must have come up on a motorbike because I had a BSA Bantam when I was first married.

00:44 - There wasn't really much painting, I remember doing [laughs] but the first chalet was where the warden was living, and the second chalet was the only one in use at the time. And the beds were in there and I think the staff, there was a young lady seemed to be in charge and I can remember doing some ironing and a young soldier was in bed there who hadn't got very long to live. Another man was there in a wheelchair and I don't remember many residents, just those two. And the... where these buildings are now it was like the kitchens of the school that had been here, and I think we might have done a bit of painting in there. But my next memory is being in the kitchen there and making some very thin custard, because I wasn't used to quantity cooking! [laughs] so I don't think that went down very well.

[Text on screen: What activities did you enjoy doing with residents?]

01:51 - As a volunteer I used to do a lot of escorting, which we did in those days, and we did a lot of outings. Shopping expeditions to Woking or Kingston. A lovely trip to the sea I remember around the Solent, up to the Wheel, which they still do, don't they. Going up there and Kew Gardens, and theatre trips. Escorting was quite good.

[Text on screen: What fundraising events do you remember?]

02:31 - The fetes here used to be very good, they were all around the grounds here and one of the wardens was connected with the army, and I can remember he had the army band come and play which was, yes, that was good [laughs].

02:49 - Going right back, there was Pam Wessel who worked with Jane Firth and Jane Firth had started the paper collection, that was in the early days and people would have a collecting point in the village and all the villagers around would bring their paper here and there was a big skip and that was a good source of income. Of course I worked in the Good-as-New as well, which was in that... that chalet at the time and Margaret worked in the Good-as-New. Then we had, for our support group we had gardens open and always took a stall at the fetes in Godalming and we had a lovely fashion show once, that raised quite a bit of money.

[Text on screen: How has Hydon Hill changed?]

03:45 - The buildings and the rooms are all very well done now, yes, I do think that doing away with the lounge was a mistake. It's rather changed the character of the place, but the powers that be thought it was for the better and for some people it has been I guess but, the lounge isn't used like it was, so that's the most change about the place. I think was not for the best.

[Text on screen: Will you continue as a volunteer?]

04:20 - Certainly, all the time I'm driving, that's the only thing. It's not an easy place to get to if you don't drive, but there's two other Hascombe people that come now, Maureen's started coming since she lost her husband and Vera comes, whose son works in the kitchen, so there's quite a little Hascome contingency now.

**End of transcription**