**Leonard Cheshire Resonate Project**

File Title: Interview tape no 17 - St Bridget's 50s Club.

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*Start of Transcription*

00:06 Joan Bagnall: He was the sort of person that anybody did anything for. Literally.

00:15 Jill: you must've got to know him as a person fairly well, I believe you and Will - your late husband - if I may call him that - used to put Leonard up when he visited this part of the world.

00:26 Joan: We put him up 2 or 3 times, I can't remember exactly when, but I do remember the first time that he came and he arrived on a Friday and I was very intent on impressing him because I heard a lot about him, and so I prepared quite a nice meal - steak and so forth - and of course unfortunately being a very strict Catholic he only ate fish. So instead of impressing I felt rather an idiot, so he just had peas and potatoes and so forth.

01:03 Laughter 01:05

01:06 Jill: But I've no doubt he took it entirely in his stride?

01:09 Joan: He did you see, totally, he didn't really embarrass me at all because he was a charming man, very charming, and yes full of humiliation and as Ambrose said he'd always sit and listen to you very much.

01:28 Jill: His humility has been mentioned before to me, and another thing that's been mentioned too is a certain reserve that people noticed about him, a certain sort of space between him and the people he was talking to, a certain setting aside of himself. Did you notice that?

01:44 Joan: I think his character was quite uncanny in a way because he was ... he seemed in a world of his own almost, he was the sort of person that just ... you'd do anything for! Absolutely anything for.

02:02 Jill: So that's almost a contradiction, you felt difficult to get close to him and yet you were still inspired?

02:06 Joan: Do you think? Yes.

02:07 Ambrose: I think the two go together very often, people with a charismatic character ... are alone, but get anybody to do anything for them.

02:24 Woman: They draw people to them, to do anything but -

02:28 Ambrose: Only so far

02:29 Woman: So far.

02:29 Ambrose: Yes.

02:35 Jill: Do you think he was isolated? Do you think he ever felt isolated?

02:43 Joan: No, I think he felt he was part of everybody but, somehow one felt almost revered in the presence of somebody very special. On the other hand, he had a very simple charisma, and I think if he’d asked you to stand on your head you would've done. You see, you could do anything for him.

03:05 Jill: How much do you think this stemmed from his religious faith?

03:10 Joan: A lot I think ... he had a great faith. And he always said that if you prayed, everything would come right! And if you hadn't got the money, well you just prayed, and it did!

03:27 Jill: Yes, I've heard this story so many times from so many people, if you have the courage to take the step that feels right even though it might seem impractical ...

03:39 Ambrose: As it says in the book, it was an act of faith.