



## **Mental Health: Lennox Castle**

*Resident's perspective: Margaret*

**Howard**

What did you think about the place?

**Margaret**

I gave it a try to see what like it was first.

**Howard**

Hmm, and what like was it?

**Margaret**

Some bad, some good days and some bad days.

**Howard**

Tell, tell me about your day to day routine? What time would you have to get up in the morning?

**Margaret**

You can get up between 7 and 8

**Howard**

And what did you do after breakfast?

**Margaret**

We used to go to our job, our work. I used to work on the chiropodist.

**Howard**

And what did you do there?

**Margaret**

I used to answer phones and deliver letters to the wards.

**Howard**

Hmm, that was quite a responsible job.

**Margaret**

Hmm, I loved that job because I used to work with June Morris here.

**Howard**

What about other kinds of work? Did you ever work anywhere else?

**Margaret**

I worked in OT. I worked in the gardens. That's about, the three jobs I worked.

**Howard**

How did you get on with the, the staff, the nurses?

**Margaret**

Some staff was good and some staff wasnae.

**Howard**

Did you have any sort of what you would call 'friends' among the staff?

**Margaret**

I had a lot of friends here. Some of them

**Howard**

Among the staff, but amongst the nurses.

**Margaret**

I used to like Fiona Roberts and Bill McKewan in the ward I used to be in.

**Howard**

When you worked, when you were working Margaret did you get paid at all?

**Margaret**

When I worked here we used to get a fiver and that was only for your pocket money and that was all.

**Howard**

Right. So you were working in the chiropodist or delivering/?

**Margaret**

I used to answer phones and that.

**Howard**

And that was what you, what you got in a week was it?

**Margaret**

Hmm, on a Wednesday we used to get paid.

**Howard**

Right

**Margaret**

They used to write the forms out on a Sunday and we used to get paid on a Wednesday here.

**Howard**

Hmm, what would you do with your money?

**Margaret**

Spend it as usual.

**Howard**

What on?

**Margaret**

Cigarettes LAUGHS cigarettes and that or ginger

**Howard**

Did you ever manage to save any?

**Margaret**

For what I got, it wasnae worth it.

**Howard**

You were in villa 8. Can you describe the wards, how many beds, or how close were the beds together?

**Margaret**

The beds were like just near one another. You could hardly move there at all.

**Howard**

Do you know how many beds were in the, the ward?

**Margaret**

There were sixteen on one side and sixteen on other side.

**Howard**

Hmm

**Margaret**

About thirty two.

**Howard**

There was, you wouldn't have much privacy then?

**Margaret**

No you didn't have privacy, when you were living with thirty-two crowd.

**Howard**

Where did your clothes come from if you're thinking a way back to the, the beginning when you came into the hospitals?

**Margaret**

Sometimes my mum gave me clothes...

**Howard**

Hmm

**Margaret**

...and sometimes you'd get clothes from the store room.

**Howard**

Right, So did you have sort of underwear that was your own or was there

**Margaret**

I used to wear the ones from here, the big ones, big bloomers and that we used to wear.

**Howard**

So did you, could you go and choose your own or whatever or were they given to you?

**Margaret**

They were given to us.

**Howard**

Right, so would they be there for you in the morning?

**Margaret**

They used to go round and put the underwear and clothes and that on your bed

**Howard**

And would that just be anybody's at all in the ward?

**Margaret**

Anybody wore them.

**Howard**

What's that, what, you said knickers, brassieres and vests as well.

**Margaret**

Vests and pants all the time.

**Howard**

Hmm, right, did you, did you never wear brassieres?

**Margaret**

No it was always vests we wore.

**Howard**

Was it? What about outer clothes.

**Margaret**

Outer clothes? We used to wear...we used to get clothes every day like dresses or skirts or trousers and that.

**Howard**

Again, would that be your own or would that come from the...

**Margaret**

It came from the hospital

**Howard**

Hmm, and did you never have a chance to choose your own sort of colours or...

**Margaret**

No, they just gave it out.

**Howard**

Hmm, did you, did you feel bad about that at all or did you wish you could choose some nice clothes.

**Margaret**

I would like to choose some, I felt bad, I would like to choose some nice clothes.

**Howard**

Hmm

**Margaret**

No wearing the old fashioned stuff

**Howard**

Hmm

**Margaret**

Everybody up the ward felt rotten about that. Why we had to wear everybody else's clothes or the hospital clothes.

**Howard**

Hmm

**Margaret**

We used to all go down on our knees and do all the scrubbing when you were on punishment.

**Howard**

What would you describe as bad and what would be the reason for the punishment?

**Margaret**

'cos when I was a wee toddler. I used to be wild...I was

**Howard**

Wild.. aye, and what would you do when you were wild

**Margaret**

They used to put me to my room, into my bed.

**Howard**

What would you do? Would you try and run away or would you break a window or

**Margaret**

I wouldnae break a window. I'd run away if I was....

**Howard**

Aye, and did you, and did you run away at all?

**Margaret**

No I wouldnae run away.

**Howard**

Did you never feel like it?

**Margaret**

I felt like doing it when I was here but I wouldnae...I just felt like running away.

**Howard**

Tell me again about this punishment you were on.

**Margaret**

The punishment. When I was in trouble years ago we used to get short nightgowns, mole skins. We used to go down on my knees and sit out, do all the scrubbing and sit out in the corridor and used to have a punishment table for your meals and all that and you weren't allowed to sit inside with other crowd.

**Howard**

Hmm, and you said something about um scrubbing the floors with short moleskins?

**Margaret**

Hmm, the short nightgowns and moleskins

**Howard**

Hmm, why, why was that?

**Margaret**

Just because we were in punishment.

**Howard**

Hmm, and would you, would you have no other clothes on?

**Margaret**

No it was only the short nightgowns and moleskins we used to wear and you used to get, you used to get five fags a day.

**Howard**

What, what did you think of that as a punishment

**Margaret**

Didnae like it at all.

**Howard**

And that would be just for what, being cheeky or what?

**Margaret**

Hmmm. Didnae like it at all.

**Howard**

Were there other forms of punishment?

**Margaret**

No that was the only one.

**Howard**

That was the only one that you got. Did you see any other forms of punishment?

**Margaret**

No, no, no when I was there. I didnae see any of them. I only saw the one.

**Howard**

Have you heard about anything else?

**Margaret**

No

**Howard**

Were you on any drugs at all?

**Margaret**

I was just on the same ones that I used to be.

**Howard**

Right, what's that?

**Margaret**

That was largactyl I used to be on or melleril.

**Howard**

Right, did you feel them having an effect on you?

**Margaret**

Sometimes I used to and we used to get paraldehyde jags.

**Howard**

Right, and did you get paraldehyde?

**Margaret**

I got it. I used to get it that day I had a bad phone call

**Howard**

Hmm, what was that?

**Margaret**

My brother died and that's when I took a turn and they gave me some paraldehyde to calm me down.

**Howard**

What kind of turn was it?

**Margaret**

I've not had one for, it was, I've no had one for about two years.

**Howard**

Hmm

**Margaret**

It's because I get bad news.

**Howard**

Right

**Margaret**

That was the last I had one.

**Howard**

Right, um the largactyl and melleril would that be everyday you were taking that?

**Margaret**

I used to get one at eight o'clock, twelve o'clock and six o'clock

**Howard**

Hmm, and did you feel them having an effect on you?

**Margaret**

So...some used to, the melleril used to effect me when I used to sit out in the sun

**Howard**

What would happen?

**Margaret**

I burnt a lot with the sun. See if I sat outside long I would burn dead easy.

**Howard**

Hmm

**Margaret**

Definitely the melleril affects you when you're sitting outside.

**Howard**

And what, what, why were you taking largactyl and melleril?

**Margaret**

I've been on them all my life. I've been on the tablets since I was six years old and I've been on them since then, just to try and help me, to calm, to calm down and that.

**Howard**

And you feel that that's something that you know, you need to do?

**Margaret**

Hmm. I'm only on one now

**Howard**

Right

**Howard**

Did you have a chance to go outside the hospital?

**Margaret**

Outside?

**Howard**

Say go down the village or into Glasgow?

**Margaret**

I used to tell the staff where I used to go.

Howard

**Did you have a card or anything?**

**Margaret**

No

**Howard**

You just....so you were allowed just to..

**Margaret**

As long as I told them where I was going. They didn't bother

**Howard**

Right so you were trusted...

**Margaret**

Hmm, trusted to go and come back.

**Howard**

So did you go into Glasgow or what?

**Margaret**

I used to go, I know a time when I went into Glasgow or Kerkintilloch when I had the money. That was the only thing. I used to go messages for the staff.

**Howard**

Did you have a boyfriend when you were here?

**Margaret**

No, no, think about going with the men here....oh you're up a gum tree. It was a nightmare here

**Howard**

No decent men?

**Margaret**

No I used to go and get a cup of tea in the bowling green with Sammy Reid.????

**Howard**

Er, but just a....

**Margaret**

...friendly person he was

**Howard**

Right, did you ever think about meeting a guy and getting married?

**Margaret**

No, no way. I didn't want to get married. I didn't fancy any of the boys here.

**Howard**

Hmm