

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Albright
Given name	Cindy
Date of birth	1938
Place of birth	United States
Date of interview	5 June 2017
Length of interview	00:47:00
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewer	Jen Kavanagh

Track 1 of 1 [00:47:00]

Cindy Albright (CA) was born in 1938 in the United States. She lives in an adapted home in Chessington. Her family moved around when she was young. Parents Harry and Lucinda Fernando. Father in diplomatic service. Attended school in Mexico, America, South Africa. Had private tutors. Attended finishing school in Switzerland. Worked in sales. Became ill age 29, after second daughter was born. Received radiation treatment. Lost eyesight and had bone problems [00:04:30]. Mentions Crescent Resource Centre. Attended art classes with Bob Ross. Became qualified artist. Talks about problems with home care. Determined to prove she was able to able-bodied. Mentions Cat Turner from Social Services. Talks about Jane Campbell, Kay Trujillio, Ali Kashmiri and Jane Lawrence – KADP – Kingston Association for Disabled People. In receipt of Independent Living Scheme (ILS) payments. Mentions Phil Levick and care workers. Mentions Independent Living Fund [00:09:15]. CA assisted KADP with mailouts and fundraising. Talks about other Boroughs taking interest in scheme – Sutton and Richmond. Talks about being lucky, raising awareness. Changed CA's life. Talks about being suicidal and ILS saved her life. Gave CA her freedom [00:14:40]. Talks about mobility assessments, stopped work. Received Disability Living Allowance. Talks about outings with community. Describes lack of attendance at user group meetings. Attended by representative from Council. Talks about challenge of paying neighbour who offers support, strict rules. Describes difficulty with Council services, lack of knowledge [00:20:20]. Talks about oncology problem, attending Moorfields Eye Hospital. Hiring a car and driver to get there, works as carer. Frustrated with Council asking her to cut care hours. Describes daily routine with care workers, not abusing system [00:25:15]. Talks about film made by KCIL. Talks about campaigns, including going to Downing Street. Campaigning to local MP about home care. Representing ILS at Greater London meetings in Brixton [00:29:00]. Mentions ILS saving CA's life. Talks about family taking advantage, friends disappearing. Talks about freedom of being able to go out to cinema, flower show. Describes attending Council meetings about increases in service charges. Attendance allowance being taken away. Explains making payments to carers and personal assistants [00:34:45]. CA not wanting to fight Council any longer. CA's personal assistant joins conversation. CA mentions magazine article she wrote on benefits of Independent Living. Talks about worries of losing KCIL [00:40:10]. Challenges of financial assessments by the Council. Mentions KCIL holiday scheme. Talks about access advice from KCIL. Ends with positive reflection on ILS and work of KCIL, but that KCIL have to be cautious.

End of recording [00:47:00]