

## ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

### 'Fighting for our Rights' project

<b>Surname</b>	Lawrence
<b>Given name</b>	Jane
<b>Date of birth</b>	1944
<b>Place of birth</b>	Ripon, North Yorkshire
<b>Date of interview</b>	13 June 2017
<b>Length of interview</b>	01:01:29
<b>Number of tracks</b>	1
<b>Name of interviewer</b>	Jen Kavanagh

#### Track 1 of 1 [01:01:29]

Eve Jane Lawrence (JL) born in 1944 in Ripon, North Yorkshire to parents Jack and Muriel. Attended a Royal Air Force school in Singapore from 5 years old. Home-schooled for 3 years by mother after returning to England in 1951. Attended local village school in Cornwall to take the 'Eleven Plus' exam. Went to secondary grammar school but was dismissed after only 1 year due to the building not being adapted. Afterwards sent to a specialist boarding school on the Cornish South Coast for 6 years. First pupil at this school to take A Levels. Talks about her unhappiness at school. Left education at 18 years old [00:06:55]. Received a place at Queen Elizabeth's Training College to do short-hand typing, which JL detested. JL worked in this field until 1990 after being made redundant. Moved to Kingston in 1980. Goes into detail about disability – diagnosis of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a lifelong genetic condition that makes the muscles weaker and causes problems with movement. JL believes that she is the oldest-living person with SMA known to British medical services. Diagnosed with SMA around 12 to 13 years of age. Talks about her early young adult years living in a hostel in Isleworth. JL explains that she and her husband received no assistance in earlier years. Only began to receive support when husband was diagnosed with cancer – he passed away in 1993 [00:12:20]. JL met Ann McFarlane and became Chair of Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL). JL explains how she was involved with the Independent Living Scheme (ILS) from 1994. Talks about difficulties with accessing places using manual wheelchair – cinema as one key example. JL campaigned with other disabled advocates to increase access to public buildings. Served as National Chairperson of Disabled Drivers Association (DDA) for 3 years [00:20:00]. JL explains more about her previous roles at KCIL. Left KCIL in 2000 following disagreements with colleagues. Mentions Robert Reilly as an influential employee at KCIL. JL enjoyed helping to make a difference to the lives of local disabled people [00:30:08]. First became involved with DDA in 1963. JL goes into detail about her role at, and the overall aims of, the DDA (which is now known as Disabled Motoring UK). Explains in more depth about various disability campaign roles. Mentions the Taxicard and its purpose. JL gives her views about 'Dial a Ride'. JL worked with local MP Ed Davey to introduce lifts at both Kingston and Surbiton train stations [00:42:02]. Ends by reflecting on past disability campaign achievements.

**End of recording [01:01:29]**