

Forward Midlothian Disabled People

www.forwardmid.org.uk



Forward Mid collaborate with national mining Museum Scotland to improve access for disabled people.

On the 16th of March 2022 four members of Forward Mid visited the Lady Victoria National Mining Museum at Newtongrange. This followed a series of meetings with the Museum's curator Nicola Moss and education manager Victoria Rob where we agreed to work together to see how accessible the venue and tour experience was for physically disabled people including wheelchair users and those with mobility problems.

The site visit lasted three hours and included a detailed tour, group discussion and lunch. Throughout the visit we were educated and entertained by guides whose wit and wisdom were really appreciated.

The visit was a very positive experience for both parties with Forward Mid members saying that there was much about the current physical infrastructure and layout of the museum that was worthy of praise; however, they did identify a number of key points for improvement, constructive criticism that the museum team welcomed.

This felt like such an encouraging collaborative effort to ensure that this local museum experience is accessible to all citizens. Forward Mid will meet in



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a few weeks time with the Curator and Education Officer to finalise recommendations to improve access. We look forward to updating you, our readers, on these recommendations becoming reality.

Right A working model of the lift pulley system to take men animals and machinery in the mine and bring coal out.



Above: Iain getting an exorcism at the end of the tour, Bad news it did not work.

Below: A gas lamp and large minhead wheel located opposite the entrance to the mining museum.



Nicola Moss (Curator) from the Mining Museum said:
We were delighted to have a visit from members of Forward Mid Midlothian. It was invaluable for us to hear from real people, the experts(!), on what we can do to improve our visitor experience, so that everyone has a fun and memorable visit to the Museum. We're looking forward to making some changes based on the feedback we received from this group and other visitors, thanks to a recent grant from Asda Community Grant.

Forward Mid will be meeting with Nicola for a follow up meeting at the end of May to finalise action plans.



MIDPA

Midlothian Disabled peoples assembly will meet in August 2022.

Midlothian disabled peoples assembly, the collective group for disabled people in Midlothian and the wider context of the work of **Forward Mid**, will hold their first meeting of the year in August 2022. The meeting will happen in a zoom conference call for this particular instance and we hope to have around 15 to 20 people present. The focus and theme of the meeting will be “coming out of Covid - disabled people and well-being.”

The meeting will include some guests from Midlothian health and social care partnership.

More details timings and program will be available in our next newsletter watch this space on the **Forward Mid** website for more information. If you’re a disabled person living in Midlothian and this interests you then please look for more details in our next newsletter in July or contact us through the Forward Mid website.



Saturday 17 September 2022
09:00 Hrs - 16:00 Hrs

One for the calander.

Come along to One Big Day, Edinburgh to see the latest range of products available on the Motability Scheme and meet our Scheme partners and experts - it's free to attend and a great day out for the whole family!

All the information of what is on please visit.

<https://motabilityonebigday.co.uk/one-big-day-edinburgh/>

Adult Disability Payment

Adult Disability Payment is a new type of assistance. It can help with the extra costs of living with a disability or health condition. It will replace Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for adults in Scotland.

You could get between £23.70 and £152.15 a week. The amount you get depends on how your condition affects you. It does not matter if you're working or not. Your income and savings are not taken into account.

When you can apply

Adult Disability Payment will be launching in 2022. Depending on where you live, you will be able to apply on or after these dates:

21st March, if you live in Dundee City, Perth and Kinross or the Western Isles,

20th June, if you live in Angus, North Lanarkshire or South Lanarkshire,

25th July, if you live in Fife, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire or South Ayrshire,

29th August, if you live elsewhere in Scotland.

Who will move to Adult Disability Payment

You do not need to apply for Adult Disability Payment if you currently get either of these benefits:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for adults

Social Security Scotland will:

- move you without you having to do anything
- begin to move clients to Adult Disability Payment from summer 2022
- send you a letter telling you what will happen when you transfer
- The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will continue to pay you PIP or DLA for adults until Social Security Scotland start to pay you. You do not need to contact DWP to have your benefit stopped.

Find out more about how your benefit is moving to Social Security Scotland. www.mygov.scot/browse/benefits/benefit-transfer

Who can apply

You can apply for Adult Disability Payment if you have either a:

- physical or mental health condition or disability
- terminal illness
- You need to be between 16 and State Pension age.

You will be able to apply:

- online at www.mygov.scot/browse/benefits/disability-benefits

- over the phone 0800 182 2222
- by completing a paper form at Citizens Advice Scotland

Social Security Scotland's Local Delivery service will also be able to help you apply for Adult Disability Payment.



Allotment and community growing spaces

Would any of you like to grow more of your own food? Would you like an allotment? Or access to the expertise and support of other local growers ? Does this become a higher priority for you as food prices rise?

Did you know that our Council is fully supportive of these ideas? They have an already published Plan for Local food growing. They have even identified plots of land near you which can be made available for growing.

The Council wants to support grass roots creation of smallholdings, allotments, Community gardens, Nature gardens and all kinds of growing view the Strategy document at www.midlothian.gov.uk/news/article/2978/new_plan_for_allotments_and_community_growing_spaces

Pauline Mcpherson stated, "I didn't know this! This is an open door I want to push on ! But I can't do it alone. Do any of you want to participate in the creation of a local Community smallholding or garden? I have expertise and enthusiasm in this area and would love to see whether we can make something happen ? Anyone interested?"

Pauline Mcpherson stated, "UPDATE

Wow, woke up this morning look at this post. 65 likes and steady 40 people saying they want an allotment. Here's my plan - I'll personally take it forward with the Council and if we get to a point where I know it's a go-er, I'll set up a Facebook group and invite intetesteds parties to join. I will only be working on the areas around Bonnyrigg/Poltonhall. All other areas of the County are covered too. See if there is one near you and speak to your Councillor. They are obliged by law to support this happening."

Lets Get Growing!"



Alternative Publications

Please like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/forwardmid/

Forward Mid newsletters are available in large print on request from Eric Johnstone ☎ : 0131-663-9471 or eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk write to him at MVA, 4-6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE with your request. Electronic copies can be found on www.forwardmid.org.uk. The latest Firefox browser has the reader symbol 📖 in the address bar, click and select narrate from left menu. The latest Safari Browser has the reader symbol Reader but does not read aloud. These only work on websites without errors. If you require help please contact Forward Mid and we will arrange to help you.

Edited by Iain Tait for Forward Mid