

Lindsay Cant

My Story



I was born in 1973 in Perth Royal Infirmary.

I was born with hydrocephalus and cerebral palsy, the latter due partly to bad midwifery. I was blind until I was 18 months old and I have epilepsy although I have not had many seizures.

The day after I was born the doctors told my parents that if I lived I would be a cabbage, if only they could see me now.

When I was 1 month old I had an operation to put a shunt in my head to relieve pressure.

Growing up

I lived with my parents and younger brother and we always had pets.



We lived in Glenalmond where my dad was a teacher for the first 3 years of my life. We then moved to Newtyle where I attended Armistead Child Development Centre. Three years later we moved back to Glenalmond and stayed there until I was 10 years old.

When I was 5 years old I started to be able to walk with help but in 1981 I had meningitis, this caused more brain damage and by the age of 10 years old I had grown to the same height that I am now.

When I was younger I had to wear frog splints for many months because of dislocated hips. I then dislocated my hip again when I was 10 years old which meant I had to go into hospital for 10 days which turned into 3 months because of complications. I was allowed home occasionally in my frog splints and my parents would use a hospital trolley to move around.



When I was 14 I had another operation this time to stabilise my ankles.

After all this I eventually managed to get up and walk.

School Life

I started my school life at Coldside Occupational Centre in Dundee but it was terrible and my parents moved me to Cherrybank primary school but after a year I had progressed so far that I needed to be moved into a class with my peers but there was no physical access for me to attend these classes so I was kept with the profoundly disabled.

I then became a boarder at Westerlea School in Edinburgh but this was to close shortly afterwards. I had 6 very happy months there as a boarder and I attended Girl Guides.



My parents managed to get permission for me to attend Westerlea on a daily basis and I learnt many skills including reading and arts and crafts.

I then wanted to go to college but there was no access to Perth College so I ended up going to Beaumont College in Lancaster. I developed more skills in arts and crafts before I moved back to Perth where I attended Upper Springlands for 9 years.

By this time Perth College was accessible for me but I didn't like it there.

Work Life

I have had various jobs including, working for 5 years helping housekeeping staff at a children's hospice, I worked for a year at Todd and Duncan's textile works, I did photocopying at school for 3 years and I now volunteer at the library.

Adaptations

I have had some good and bad adaptations. I used to have to wear horrible special boots and frog splints because of my hips. I have had a variety of walking aids and bikes and I now have an electric wheelchair to help me get around.

I also had a BBC-B computer with touch screen to help me, but now I manage emails with just a roller-ball mouse.



My Life

I have always been encouraged to take part in main stream activities where possible, I have a great support network who listen to my ideas and help make them happen. I helped set up the mobility scooters around Loch Leven and I have organised quizzes at the church to raise money for charities.

In 2001 I moved into my own house and for the last 8 years I have received Direct Payments which means I can employ my own Personal Assistants. This allows me to be versatile in the activities that I do. I hope that more people will be able to benefit from this in the future.

Hobbies and Interests

I have had many hobbies which include;

- Horse Riding
- Horse carriage riding
- Wheelchair Curling
- Gliding – I have done over 100 flights
- Boccia
- Pottery



I love adventure and holidays and I am part of the Faith and Light movement and a Prospects (church) group.

I have also tried skiing, abseiling, snowboarding and looping the loop many times at gliding. I have been asked to speak at national meetings and to say prayers at church.



Recently I have had sight problems so I have been attending Vision PK which has introduced me to more new things.

My motto in life is **if you want to do something, go for it.**

