

## Newsletter No. 55 – September 2012

Our panel had its' AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> September when there was a wholesale change in the officers. Mike Banks after 5 years as Secretary and Maurice Elliot after 11 years as Chairman both resigned. Treasurer Allan Sutton was elected to become the new Chairman. Malcolm Logan became Secretary and a new member of the panel, David Nappin, the Treasurer. Mike and Maurice now intend to concentrate on making aids although Maurice is still organising the newsletters and outdoor events.

### **DB-070-12, Keith Hunter**

Girl who was unstable when trying to walk wanted a strong toy pushchair to support her.

A sturdy small “pram” was built using steel sections, wheels and castors. The body was made from foamboard and covered in Fablon PVC sheet with a ‘girly’ pattern.



### **DB-075-12, John Birkett**

Boy with primordial dwarfism wanted a play table made to suit his small stature.

He needed it to be adjustable so that he could sit and work at it or, alternatively stand to do so.

The solution was to provide a wood table with slotted legs, adjustable to facilitate both standing to play at it or sitting at it on his special chair.



### **DB-066-12, Steve Pilkington**

This stroke victim wanted to be able to do embroidery, but could not find a satisfactory way of holding the embroidery frame.

A Universal clamp with rubber jaws was purchased and the clamping mechanism modified to fit on her wheelchair side table.



### **DB-078-12, Keith Hunter**

Large lady with balance difficulties had problems when transferring on/off the toilet.

A drop-down pivoted rail was made using 20 & 25mm square tubing to form a collapsible ‘gibbet’. It was small enough to fit into the space between the toilet pedestal and washbasin.



### **DB-084-12, Keith Hunter**

This keen gardener with balance and co-ordination problems wanted a stable kneeler that included a stand-up aid.

A frame was made on which the client’s ‘kneeler’ can stand with handles set at the height of his hands for when he is standing.



### **DB-091-12, Malcolm Logan**

Following an accident this man needed a footrest to support his fractured leg on his wheelchair. The leg is held rigidly in a frame that needs to extend forward from the chair.

A shaped cushioned extension was made and fitted in place of one of the footrests. The brace rested on this and his foot rested on a raised cushion at the end.



**DB-031-12, Mike Aston**

This lady had lost the use of her right arm and had difficulty in drying her left hand particularly the areas between her fingers.

Long handled towel pads were supplied. It was necessary to cut off some of the handle, form a small loop at the end, and screw the unit to the wall of the bathroom next to the wash basin.



**DB-061-12, Steve Pilkington**

This little girl had short limbs and found that she stood too far forward to balance on her scooter. It needed adapting so she could play with her peers.

The scooter handlebars were reversed so that she stood further back on it. It was rebuilt with fancy stripes and stickers so that she could identify it as bespoke to her.

**Original scooter**



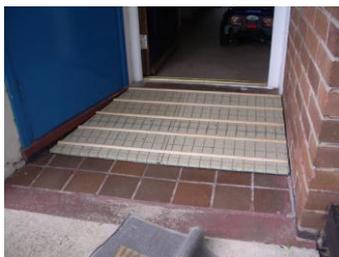
**Adapted scooter**



**DB-063-12, Steve Pilkington**

This lady lived in a housing association property and wanted to store her scooter in a shed across the path. However there were 3.5” high steps to be crossed and it was important not to obstruct the footpath.

The association would not agree to let her have a shed so a ramp was provided so she could store the scooter in the hallway.



**DB-079-12, Allan Sutton**

This man’s feet were too large to fit on his shower chair footplates and tended to slip off them.

The chair was owned by Medequip who would allow any interference to the chair.

New footrests that clamped over the existing footrests and were removable were made from kitchen chopping boards supported the whole feet with restraining straps to stop them sliding off. Aluminium angle and strip was used to make the clamps, and positioned to stop the extensions working their way down the taper and coming loose. The foot restraints were webbing straps secured by Velcro.



**DB-018-12, Keith Hunter**

The challenge here was to enable this man who had Parkinson’s Disease and who lived in a specially adapted property, to descend from the end of his very steep driveway in his electric wheelchair and get access to the patio and to the specially built house extension.

Technically the biggest challenge was to contain the overall size of a viable solution and to control costs and not overwhelm the garden with its size.

The excessive disparity in height between the drive and patio meant that a very long ramp would have been needed to achieve the difference in height so it was decided to combine a shorter ramp with an electrically operated wheelchair lift.

A steel framed ramp with chequer plate floor was built with safety rails leading around a 90° corner to a lift powered by an actuator.



**Up the ramp**



**On the lift**

This was also the biggest referral ever undertaken by a member of the Derby panel.