



Derby, Burton & District Panel



## Newsletter No. 56 – December 2012

We pride ourselves in recycling etc. to keep material costs down as much as possible leaving travel costs as our main problem. While we give our time and effort for free, we do have to raise funds to cover costs and we have been fortunate this year in receiving significant funding from both the Derbyshire Community Foundation and the Etwall Well Dressing Association. We would like to express our thanks too to the Rotary Club of Etwall and Hilton who have sponsored these newsletters for many years. Another source of income is through the talks we give to groups. This has gathered momentum such that some 39 talks have been booked for this year and 13 already booked for next year. We do not ask for a fee but gratefully receive any donations that such groups feel are appropriate. We do not expect every group to make a donation especially if they are people who could benefit from our services.

### DB-110-12, Keith Hunter

In 2011 Keith made a “hobbyhorse” for a boy with primordial dwarfism so he could play with his friends. He has grown so the hobbyhorse has been modified to suit. Over time as he grows it is hoped that it will be further modified until it can be converted into a pedal cycle.



### DB- 094-12, Keith Hunter

This lady had muscular sclerosis that caused spasms in her legs that made it very difficult to get on and off her powered wheelchair because the wide foldable double footrest was interfering with her legs especially if she had experienced an MS spasm.

The footrest was replaced with a narrower one that allowed her to put her feet down onto the ground.



### DB-104-12, Dennis Whinfrey

This 3 years old boy had a form of dwarfism. He had short arms and legs and had problems getting in and out of the bath as he was unable to climb over the side of the bath

A set of wooden steps with a landing was made that let him access the bath or wash basin



He also struggled to reach the kitchen worktop so a unit was made that connected to the end of kitchen unit with good quality gate hooks.



### DB-082-12, Allan Sutton

The objective was to enable a person with quite severe cerebral palsy and little muscular control to hold a pencil or artist’s paint brush.

A pistol-grip handle had a V-groove to hold a brush or pencil. This was held in place by a spring-loaded clamp. A strap secured by Velcro round the hand prevented it being dropped during a muscular spasm.



### DB-097-12, Malcolm Logan

An autistic boy with no sense of danger was fascinated with house light & socket switches. Some kind of device to stop him doing this was wanted.

A box was made with battery powered switches operating a number of indicator lamps. He now plays with these in preference to the house units.



### DB-053-12, Allan Sutton

This girl had lost part of all four limbs and wanted to do embroidery. She could hold a needle in her myoelectric hand, pass it through material and take it in the other hand, but could not turn the needle round. She needed a device to hold the material in position and enable it to be turned to enabling stitching from both sides.

A model maker's vice was modified by fitting a turntable under the head with notches and a locating ball that engaged in the notches. A standard embroidery frame was held in the vice jaws using a hinged split wooden block, shaped to fit the lugs of the frame and clear the hoop.



A width-adjustable frame was made with spring-loaded arms. A central lever provided adjustment via links to the arms. The two pieces of material to be seamed were held at each end by spring clips at the top of the arms.



### DB-122-12, Keith Hunter

Boy with primordial dwarfism needed an intermediate step on a chair so he could get on to it without assistance. The step had to fold away so that the chair could be used by other children of a normal stature.

A pair of pivot blocks was fitted to the front legs of the chair carrying swinging arms attached to a footrest. The footrest could be pulled out to create more room for his feet. A pair of swing down legs was fitted to the underside of the footrest to prevent the chair overturning.



### DB-116-12, Mike Aston

Leg ulcers meant that this man spent most of his time in a recliner chair. He needed a table to fit on the chair so he could eat etc.

A 9mm MDF table shaped around his middle was made to rest on the arms of the chair and so that he could have plates etc. right up close to his body. Timber guides screwed to the underside stopped the tray slipping off the arms. A 12mm quadrant was glued and screwed to the top outer edges to stop objects slipping off.



### DB-086-12, Mike Aston

This 26 stone man with poor balance, diabetic, lymphedema, cellulitis and hypertension used a kitchen trolley to lean on. The trolley was getting very wobbly and needed to be replaced.

It was decided to make him a welded steel trolley on 4in casters. Shelves were of 6mm MDF.



### DB-107-12, Keith Hunter

Lady with MS wanted a lightweight shaped tray with cup holder when sitting in an easy chair. A tray that included a drinks holder was made cut to fit around her stomach and rest on the chair arms.



### DB-062-12, Steve Pilkington

A 7 year old with short limbs found it painful to sit on a chair for long periods without support for her feet.

A dining chair was fitted with a footrest by angle brackets screwed to the front legs to provide a foot support. She is now more comfortable sitting for long periods.

