



Derby, Burton & District Panel

Newsletter No. 58 – June 2013

The number of talks we have given to various groups has risen steadily each year until it reached 39 last year. Five of our members give talks – Allan Sutton, John Birkett, Keith Hunter, Mike Banks and I. One problem has been when successive talks are close together, transferring the talks set of equipment from speaker to speaker can be awkward. When an almost brand new laptop computer was given to us we decided that we should create two sets. A trolley to carry all the associated equipment has been made that is described overleaf. It makes the setting up of the system much easier as only two trips will be necessary to get it all into the venue. I am waiting to see if the users of the old system when three or four trips are necessary will want a similar trolley.

DB-046-13, Steve Pilkington

This lady had suffered a femur fracture and needed help to access her corner bath.

A wooden slatted bath board sculpted to fit was made and fitted to the bath



DB-047-13, Allan Sutton

A Derby man, who attended the New Enterprise Centre, needed an aid to help him hold a paint brush. The aid provided had a pistol-grip type handle with a groove at the top in which a paint brush, pencil or other marking device could be clamped. A knurled wheel, at the bottom of the handle, moved a screwed rod with a hook on the top so clamping the tool firmly into the groove.



DB-033-13, Steve Pilkington

This man needed to be able to store his scooter in his garden shed but needed a ramp to be able to do so.

An appeal to Remap resulted in a ramp being made available from our acquired items that fitted the bill admirably



DB-053-13, Dennis Whinfrey

This lady needed her armchair raising by approximately four inches.

The existing chair legs were 2.5 inches high, attached to the chair frame with a couple of screws. These were replaced by new assemblies attached at the four corners by 2" long screws increasing the height of the chair by about 4 inches. For extra rigidity the legs were cross connected, front to rear at each side



DB- 026-13, Keith Hunter

This little girl had deformed upper limbs. She had virtually no left arm, just a hand and also her right hand lacked some function.

Keith modified her cycle by adding an extension to the left handlebar which had a 'rose' joint terminating in a socket for her hand. Since she was unable to operate the brakes with her hands, a pair of foot-operated brakes was added.

As an additional safety feature a backrest was fitted which can be removed at a later date when she is better able to control it.



DB-024-13, Keith Hunter

This little girl wanted to ride a cycle but both hands had been amputated following meningitis.

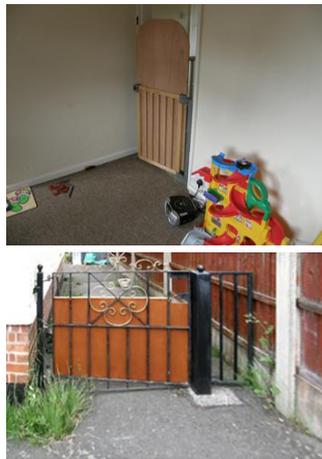
A robust and stable trike was supplied by the parents. The handlebar grips and brake lever were removed and a pair of sockets for the arm ends (about the wrist joint) was manufactured. A rose joint connection to solid nylon blocks attached it to the handlebars. The sockets were lined with thick cold water pipe insulation sleeving that was tailored to fit the ends of her arms.

A foot operated brake lever was made, mounted in a clamp block fitted to the 'down tube' and connected to the brake. The little girl had no means of pulling on the handlebars so a padded backrest was fabricated from a pair of mountain bike seat stays and mounted to the main frame.



DB-043-13, Steve Pilkington

This autistic boy with no sense of danger needed the bedroom door and garden safety gates heightened to stop him climbing over them.



DB-010-13, Maurice Elliot

Twin boys with spinal muscular atrophy had grown out of their potty chairs and needed headrests and seat support wedges fitting to their new larger chairs. The aperture on these was also far too big.

New padded headrests were made. The original padded seat was cut into two and fitted to the inside of each armrest thus reducing the overall width between armrests by 3".

A padded toilet seat with the appropriate sized aperture was purchased and a nylon pommel fitted to it, sealed with silicon rubber.

Even after the base relative to the backrest was positioned as far back as possible it left the boy's backs unsupported by about 2". The headrest was refitted in front of the chair frame and a thick cushion placed in front of the backrest to close the gap.



Talks Trolley, Maurice Elliot

The newly approved second set of gear for giving talks consisted of a donated laptop and a purchased projector and screen. A variety of simple items for demonstration were also recreated by members of the panel. A local pub donated a redundant snooker cue.

Instead of a table to support the projector, a welded steel framed trolley on a pair of scrap wheels and a detachable ex-zimmer frame handle was made. A large plastic box mounted on the frame carries all the forms, leaflets and demonstration items stored within it. The frame also mounts two "holsters" to carry the demonstration snooker cue and fishing rod for a one-armed man.

An MDF top was fitted on the plastic box while a second table, mounted on the detachable handle, was fitted above it.

The laptop is positioned on the lower table while the projector and a mouse is fitted on the top table. The laptop in this position allows the speaker to see what is displayed on the screen without turning to the screen (the classic way of speaking away from the audience and becoming inaudible!).

It also helps the speaker to set up the system much easier than bending down low to use the laptop mouse

