

**Derby, Burton & District Panel**

**Newsletter No. 60 – December 2013**

These newsletters are primarily designed to remind you of what we do and to get you to use our services. We hope that this one may also help us in recruiting new panel members. Our major costs are in travelling to the clients and we are woefully short of members towards the north of the county. If you know of anyone who is good at problem solving, has the expertise, equipment and inclination to join a group of enthusiastic panel members who help disabled people while at the same time exercising his or her skills and getting great satisfaction in doing so, please get them to contact us for more information.

Panel members must have a workshop of some kind, skills to use his or her equipment, transport to visit clients and have good problem solving skills. There is no pressure to take on work - members pick what referrals they wish to tackle and the only pressure to complete such work is generated either by the member's attitude or the client's need.

**DB-066 & 082-13, Allan Sutton**

A local Activity Centre asked Remap to improve the supports for bows used by young disabled archers. These bows were either horizontal or vertical and mounted on stands. Because of space available, in the newsletter only the adaptation of the horizontal version is described.

The wood on which the bow and trigger were mounted was discarded and replaced with recycled walking frame aluminium tube with the interfaces made from reconstituted plastic fencing material.

The existing trigger assembly was incorporated into a pistol-grip handle. For the less dextrous clients, the bow string was arranged to be released by nudging a small horizontal lever set above the grip. A safety catch prevented the bow being accidentally fired.

To improve stability a wooden frame was made into which the tripod feet were located in any of three positions. The front leg could also be clamped down or weighted with sandbags to stop the bow lifting as it was cocked.



**DB-061-13, Stephen McCordick**

This tetraplegic man enjoyed cooking but had difficulty holding kitchen tools. His current palm holder was unsatisfactory.

A strap round his hand was modified to hold a knife, thus enabling him to carry out many routine kitchen tasks.



**DB-092-13, Steve Pilikington**

This client had learning disabilities, epilepsy and a history of falls. His bathroom was not ideal for his condition with the bath being open.

A bath cover which fitted snugly over the end of the bath was made. As a bonus he can sit on it whilst drying himself.



**DB-077-13, Stan Edwards**

With severe back pain, this man preferred to stand propped against his armchair. This resulted in the chair moving and sometimes overturning.

On a wooden base, each chair leg was screwed to the base surrounded by wooden blocks. This increased the chair's stability making it difficult to move/tip-over.



**DB-096-13, Allan Sutton**

The client complained that the leather belt around his chest and wheelchair back that kept him upright was uncomfortable/cut in.

The belt was replaced by car seat belt webbing. The original design that passed the free end through a rectangular loop and secured using Velcro was changed to a cam buckle.



**DB-119-13, Mike Aston**

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A wheelchair bound lady could manoeuvre herself out of the house but could not open the back gate herself as the latch provided was inappropriate.

A Suffolk latch was purchased and modified by taking the knob off and riveting on an upside-down coat hook. A slot was cut in the upright of the gate and the new latch fitted so that the lady could get a supplied hook underneath and lift it.

The ring bit of the old latch was fitted towards the centre of the gate on the outside as an extra device for the client to hook onto.

The door stile was refitted as was a brace across the two verticals above the hole I cut.



**DB-114-13, John Birkett**

A lady with partial paralysis of the right side found it difficult to raise her leg when getting into bed. She had a pair of leg raisers consisting of slightly flexible wire sheathed in webbing. Unfortunately the wire cut into her foot when she lifted her leg up.

The solution was to adjust the shape of the wire so that it fitted snugly around the foot and attach discs cut out from a plastic milk carton. These were shaped to curve around the foot and, stapled in place and covered with fabric on the outer and sheepskin on the inner side so as to form a soft cushion



**DB-105-13, Keith Hunter**

This paraplegic mother needed a baby carrier and/or pushchair adaption to use with her indoor and outdoor powered chair/scooter.

A collapsible baby buggy which she had was modified for this project. The fabric was removed and used as the basis of the seat. A 1/2in x 1/2in square tube space-frame was made to carry the fabric seat. This was fitted with transverse 1/4in dia steel bars which slotted into the scooter basket hooks. To prevent the child being accidentally crushed, a section of Zimmer frame was fitted across the front.



**DB-040-13, Brian Barry**

This man had many problems that left him with poor mobility/balance became short of breath and fatigued quickly. He had difficulty kneeling down to clear the ashes from his solid fuel fire.

A tool was made, comprising of a short 'grabber' attached to a pair of handlebars which allowed it to be inserted into the tray without kneeling



**DB-074-13, Keith Hunter**

This little girl had a severe visual impairment and developmental delay. REMAP had earlier adapted a toy pushchair for her that was very successful but she had outgrown it and was now about to move to junior school. It was suggested that a storage trolley in which she could carry books etc. would be a good alternative to the pushchair

The original doll's pram body was replaced with a pair of general purpose storage bins and the handlebar height increased by 5cm. This made it suitable for her to use again.



**DB-083-13, Keith Hunter**

This lady who suffered from MS had a shopping scooter bought for her by her family. Her condition made it impossible for her to control her legs. On her wheelchair she had a removable pommel to help her sit.

The scooter had suitably placed holes in the seat pan so a bracket was made to allow her pommel to be fitted to the scooter when required.

