

There has been several changes to the panel recently. Terry Coulbeck has left the panel and Peter Harris has moved out of the area and joined the West Midlands Panel. Late last year Jean Bates, who is an OT, and this year Vic Brown, Chris Morison and James Unwin have joined us and brought us up to strength.

When Mike Aston died we lost a really special and valued volunteer and the panel decided to create an annual award in his memory. It is a working model heat engine in a glass case. It will be awarded annually to the member who is considered to have provided the most innovative and client appreciated aid during the year, as voted by the panel.

DB-122-14, Stan Edwards

A man with M.S. suffered loss of movement in both legs, spent all day in his electric wheelchair but found the footrest too small and uncomfortable.

A wooden top made of polished wood floor-boarding was secured to the existing foot-rest with Z-shaped metal brackets making use of existing fixing bolts. The wooden-top over-lapped the sides and front of footrest by 3cm. A 5cm wide strip of wood was fixed along the centreline in order to keep his feet separated.



DB-038-15, Ralph Anderson

A lady with Parkinson's disease found that her hands had a very serious tremor as she brought a spoon to her mouth at meals.. She wanted a spoon she could hold with both hands to reduce the level of tremor.

A soup spoon was modified by fitting side facing handles to it so the lady could hold it with both hands and hence reduce the magnitude of the tremor as it approaches her mouth.



A request was received to supply a short wedge to enable a mother to manoeuvre her wheelchair bound daughter through a doorway in their property

The initial visit made it clear that a ramp was required.. This was made to the necessary size and covered by rubber matting. On fitting it was found necessary to modify it to suit the out of square doorway.



DB-050-15, Ralph Anderson

A seriously disabled lady needed the lid of the downstairs toilet padded to make it more comfortable for her.

A foam pad enclosed in durable fabric was made to be attached to the toilet seat lid to provide both back & head protection.

It fitted over the toilet lid to stop the pad dropping away and an elastic strap provides flexibility for different toilet lid designs. It was secured with velcro to allow easy fitting and laundering.



DB-044-15, Peter Chandler

An amputee needed raisers on his armchair and bed to ease transfer to and from his wheelchair.

Four inch wooden extensions were made for the armchair and bolted on to the existing legs with two M8 stainless steel coach bolts. These were shaped and stained to match the existing legs.



The bed had six legs, a wooden one at each corner and two steel ones in the centre.

It was found that one of the steel legs was broken off, the other was bent due to a failed weld. Two new ones, of heavier construction and of the required extra length were made.

Four new longer wooden corner legs were also made. Both the wooden and steel legs were painted satin black to match the existing legs

Each new leg was bolted on with two M8 stainless steel coach bolts.



DB-040-15, Malcolm Logan

A man had a power assisted wheelchair with the controls positioned so only the carer behind the wheelchair could operate them. He wanted them positioned so that either of them could do so.

The current motor controls mounted on the handle bars were modified to allow them to be repositioned and clamped either behind or on the arm rest on the chair when desired..



DB-046-15, Dennis Whinfrey

A wooden ramp had been supplied to this man by the panel some 6 years ago. Being horizontal and having sat outside in a very shady situation, its inclination meant that it did not drain easily. Consequently the outer edges of the plywood were suffering from wet rot.

The solution was to replace the unit with a new one made of 12 mm exterior plywood and planed timber

The whole unit was given a generous coating of Cuprinol clear wood preserver and two coats of Sadolin woodstain. Acrylic frame sealant sealed the outer edges of the plywood and drain holes through the outer rims. The top surface was covered by ribbed rubber sheet.



DB-037-15, Malcolm Logan

A boy with Cerebral Palsy was unable to keep his feet on his bicycle pedals. His left leg also had a splint fitted so he needed added heel support.

Both pedals were modified by fitting toe clips and straps. To provide the extra support to his heel a suitable extension to the rear of the pedal was also made.



DB-104-14, Ralph Anderson

A girl with quadriplegic cerebral palsy wanted a portable commode for when she travelled with her parents.

A folding commode chair, whose design used a standard commode with lid and a mothercare seat intended to help a child to use on an adult toilet, was made. The seat was sized to suit her. Her wheelchair could be fitted in their vehicle that had blacked out windows to provide privacy.

Having a folding design allowed the seat to be practical and to be stored in the vehicle.



DB-115-14, Allan Sutton

A man with Parkinson's Disease needed a bedside commode stabilising so he couldn't overturn it when using it.

A support beam was screwed to the back of the bed head extending out to one side. Two standard door bolts were fitted slotting into holes in lugs just below the seat extending from the back of the commode chair.

This meant that the bed and the chair could be easily restored to original in the future if necessary.



DB-078-15, Vic Brown

An elderly man had a standard raiser fitted to his toilet but this had created a gap at the front between the rim of the bowl and the underside of the seat which allowed urine to spray out onto the floor. A deflector was needed to prevent it from going on the floor through the gap.

It was decided to mould a strip of thermoplastic material into the required shape. Fortunately such a piece was supplied to Remap.

A template of the right geometry was made. The plastic sheet was heated to 80°C in water and moulded around it to produce the correct shape. This was attached to the toilet seat using marine grade stainless steel screws.

