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Remap is in the process of reorganisation to widen the charity's appeal and create a bigger impact. This includes a new liaison officer. Consultations with all the panels are currently going on to see how to achieve these objectives.

This panel has been one of the most successful Remap panels for a number of years and it is pleasing to announce that Allan Sutton has won a prize that will be given at the Remap national AGM. It was to help a young mother with only one properly functioning arm to change her baby. This device was featured in the June 2015 newsletter.

DB-093-15, Mike Banks

This lady wore fabric walking shoes that provided her with very necessary ankle support. Unfortunately the back and tongue of the shoe kept rolling inwards and preventing her putting the shoe on – a device was needed to solve this problem.

A shoe jig was made that comprised a tilt adjustable platform mounted on a frame with plastic feet to prevent it sliding on her carpet. This unit held one shoe at a time.

A shoe horn that slid on a pillar at the rear and a horizontal cross bar hinged at the front that held the shoe tongue forward out of the shoe. Once she had inserted her foot into the shoe, the shoe horn was removed using a rope with a handle. The bar could then be swung forward to allow her to remove her foot from the jig. The procedure could then be repeated for the other foot.

A safe operating procedure was created for this process that enabled the lady to put her shoes on completely unassisted.



DB-001-16, Ralph Anderson

A lady with post-polio syndrome needed a walking frame that provided both standing and walking support.

The new unit consisted of two horizontal cross members made from a variety of zimmer frame and crutch tubing. A triangular frame ran from the centre of these cross-members to provide support for a saddle so she could sit down or paddle the unit along with most of her weight taken on the saddle. Aluminium sheets were riveted to the sides to reinforce the assembly

To help the passage over rough terrain, large lightweight wheelchair wheels were positioned at the front. Smaller castors were fitted at the rear. These aided steering across cross gradients (such as arise local to dropped kerbs on pavements). The original wheelchair brakes were positioned within reach when she was seated to allow the device to be locked for safe mount/dismount.

Quick release hubs allow the large wheels to be easily removed for the frame to fit in the client's car.



DB-022-16, Chris Morison

This 92 year old very heavy man suffered from a form of Alzheimer's disease. After spending several months in bed he lost so much muscle strength that he was unable to transfer from a sitting position to standing up without assistance from more than one person.

Remap were asked if they could devise something to enable him to support himself when being moved from a wheelchair to another chair, via a rotunda.

It was proposed that he should carry out exercises whereby he, sitting in a wheelchair facing a window alcove, and would grasp a horizontal bar already in position across the window alcove.

He would then seek to raise himself to a standing position and lower himself back down to the wheelchair - exercising the correct muscles in his legs, back and backside. In order to do this safely he needed support in mid travel, as he was not strong enough to complete the exercise without assistance.

After seeking advice from climbing suppliers - Caving Supplies in Buxton, a one way carabiner was purchased. One end of the carabiner was attached to the lintel above the window alcove using a Petzl Bolt and Hanger and the other end to the harness that the client wore.



DB-074-15, Ralph Anderson

An elderly man with Parkinson's disease couldn't hold his head up and it was suggested that he needed a "periscope" type device fitting to his walker so that he could see where he was going.

The device produced was a pair of prism glasses, based on the "easy reader" style that allowed the wearer to read while lying flat. In this case the prisms were reversed to provide the client with a forward view while his chin is against his chest.

Although this device worked well the client's condition had deteriorated so that he was unable to try them out



DB-048-16, Steve Pilkington

A lady with a weak right hand needed an embroidery frame support so she could embroider using a needle in her left hand.

A commercially available frame was obtained, which was mounted on a stalk a board that fitted between the users thigh and seat cushion, so holding the frame in a suitable and stable position.



DB-032-16, Allan Sutton

This client who had multiple sclerosis and limited hand dexterity used to smoke in bed and it was feared that she might set light to the bedclothes. The objective was to produce a lighter that had no naked flame, extinguished itself if dropped and shielded the ignition source.

An electronic cigar lighter was adapted. It was mounted at an acute angle on a section of aluminium tube. A slot in the side of the tube accommodated a squeeze handle that operated a micro-switch mounted in the tube and that replaced the original lighter switch.

A cone was fitted over the aperture above the element. This acted as a guide to the cigarette end, but also reduced the chances of anything accidentally contacting the hot surface. The bottom fitting incorporated a lock to stop the handle accidentally working when out of use.



DB-046-16, Dennis Whinfrey

This boy suffered from dwarfism and had difficulty accessing the toilet.

A set of steps was made from 9 mm exterior plywood, with a wooden handrail each side for a direct approach to the toilet as preferred by the parents



DB-072-16, Malcolm Logan

A sensory toy used by the Early Intervention Team from Derby City Council for children under 5 with special needs was broken and Remap was asked if it could be repaired.

This motorised cylinder contained coloured balls and rotated with an electronic colour change system on the LED light source.

It was found that the interface between the cylinder and the light disc had broken. This was repaired and all visual items cleaned and checked.



DB-025-16, Mike Banks

An elderly lady needed a device to compensate for her shorter than average legs so she would be at a better height to transfer to her commode.

A platform was made from aluminium chequer plate and fitted with four adjustable feet to set the height as required.

It was held in place by two hooks, one either side, built into the side plates which engaged with the cap screw heads of two bolts which were already part of the hoist construction.

A third nylon hook was fitted to the rear of the platform. Vertical safety plates were also fitted to the left, right and rear sides of the platform.

When using her motorised stand aid hoist, the platform enabled her to get her bottom back fully to the rear of her commode and arm chair during transfers.

