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Derby, Burton & District Panel
Serving Derbyshire & East Staffordshire

Editor: Bernard Killeen e-mail Bernard@longlands.net



Covid continues to cause difficulties for our operations. We have completed two panel meetings at the RBL, our normal meeting place. The latest meeting was using zoom again due to the recent surge in infections.

Each year the panel awards the Mike Aston trophy to the solution judged by the panel to have the best mix of ingenuity and client benefit. Some of the candidate solutions are presented on the second page of this newsletter.

We are now receiving referrals using a website portal. To send a referral, log on to the Remap website, <https://www.remap.org.uk/referral-form/>. Please select to submit a referral for yourself, or on behalf of someone else, and then fill in the form as best you can, giving the same level of information as before. Please pay particular attention to your contact details, specifically your email address and phone number and the client's postcode, which will be used to determine the Remap panel to which the referral will be sent if you haven't selected one.

DB-21-046 – Robert Little



Swadlincote autistic boy needs his bed reinforcing. The client has autism and several other sensory related problems. He is very heavy and regularly needs a new bed because

they are built so flimsily these days. A local furniture store kindly supplied me with a new “small double” divan and mattress. I reinforced the divan base with wooden slats and put a thick sheet of MDF (also donated) over the top, creating a very sturdy bed that will hopefully last for many years to come. The client was delighted with the new bed.

DB-21-060 – Malcolm Logan



Morley man, who has been provided with a new riser/recliner chair at his care home, needs the operating cable protecting so he can't damage it.

The client uses a rise-recliner chair and is able to bite through the remote and power cables when not monitored. A 5m mains cable covered in hard but flexible 12mm conduit was provided. The mains cable needed to be 5metres long and terminating in an enclosed figure of 8 plug.

DB-21-037 – Stephan Ashford

Young Derby girl with spina bifida needs a means of accessing the raised swimming pool in the garden.

The OT asked for access to a swimming pool for a young girl with motor impairment, as she could not use the steps that came with the pool. She was becoming too heavy for her mother to lift her in and out.



It was decided to make stairs that the girl could shuffle up on her backside. Because the pool had a plastic bottom I made the inner stair with plastic feet.

The girl was in the pool when I delivered the step and she managed to climb out of the pool on her own.

DB-20-047 – Paul Gillians

Young Chaddesden girl needs the 4 safety gates in her house adapting/positioning so she cannot climb over them.

A 3 year old with complex health problems climbs over the three safety gates to keep her off the stairs, keep her out of the kitchen and keep her in her bedroom. To climb them she grips the vertical rails of the gates between her toes. To defeat her climbing action a sheet of MDF was fixed to her side of each gate so she cannot get to the bars with her toes or fingers. This very simple approach seems to work.

DB-20-063 – Bernard Killeen

Elderly blind Chesterfield man needs a warning device fitted to his rollator so he gets warning of verges and obstructions.



A solution based on car parking sensors was investigated. A pair of sensors were fitted to the rollator along with vibration motors in the hand grips. A processor unit was programmed to read the sensors and when an obstacle is sensed, one or both hand grips will vibrate.

DB-21-042 – Robert Little



A Woodville lady, with only one hand, needs an adjustable device to hold the jewellery items she makes. Although the client has only one hand she enjoys making delicate and very intricate jewellery. She needed help to hold her work which can also vary considerably in size as the pieces progress.

A clipboard was modified by reversing the clip so the item could be held firm yet worked on with enough space around it. The clipboard is clamped to a music stand using bulldog clips. The stand can be raised or lowered to the desired height. The client was delighted with this solution.

DB-21-011 – Allan Sutton



South Nottingham girl with short arm and partial hand needs a scooter and cycle adapting so she can safely ride them. The left arm of the little girl is significantly shorter than her right. To

enable her to be square on when using her scooter and tricycle the left handgrip needed to be closer to her body. At present the difference was 9cm.

The hand grips were removed from the left bars and fitted to parallel bars closer to her. The parallel bars were clamped to the original handlebars using modified cycle brake lever brackets. Aluminium angle was bolted to the basic clamp brackets to give a vertical face. Slotted vertical plates, to which the new handgrip bars were bolted, were attached to these faces using two sets of M5 bolts. The slots in the plates will enable the distance to be changed by up to 2cm if the girls arm length difference changes as she grows.

DB-039-20 – Alan Sutton

An Ashbourne boy uses a stair lift but the standard seat harness is not suitable for his present size and needs adapting. The main problems with the 7 year old using the stairlift were the shoulder straps fell off his shoulders, the footrest was far too low and he swung his legs so his feet caught between the stair balusters.

The solution to the shoulder strap problem was a clamp to hold the straps together. The foot problem was solved by making a raised platform to the shape of the footrest with a rubber edged lower rim that located round the footrest edge. The base plate and top were of plywood and the surround formed from a bent strip of 1.6mm thick aluminium sheet screwed to the base and rebated top edge. The assembly was held on the footrest by a webbing strap which passed underneath and fastened with a cam-buckle bolted to the side. To hold the child's feet down the top of the platform had a raised rear edge and an adjustable webbing strap that clips to an eyebolt on each side.

