

## New link

The Leicestershire & Rutland Remap panel has forged a link with Gateway Sixth Form College. Last month our panel had a referral from the college to design and supply equipment to help students with disabilities participate in the activities of their gardening club. To date, panel members are now engaged in designing and making

- a movable potting bench suitable for use by those who are confined to wheelchairs.
- ramps to allow wheelchair users easy access to the various sheds and greenhouses on the college site.
- a device for attaching a hose to a wheelchair to facilitate the watering of plants.

The panel anticipates the arrival of yet more requests in the coming year.

## Indoor parking

Mrs M has a mobility scooter that she likes to park off-street. The step up into her house from the pavement made this difficult and it was clear that a ramp would ease the problem. On the one hand the ramp could not be left out in the street as it would cause an obstruction. On the other hand, Social Services would not countenance the provision of a ramp unless it was of a permanent nature. After attending a presentation given by Remap at one of her Saffron Lane Friendship Group's meetings, she referred her problem to our panel. Martin Grant responded and provided the solution - a ramp that was light enough to be set out and taken up as and when required and strong enough to bear the weight of the scooter.



## WANTED

**Requests** from or on behalf of people with disabilities for equipment that

- will help increase independence
- cannot be obtained commercially

Members of the Leicestershire & Rutland Remap panel are looking for every opportunity to apply their ingenuity in designing, making or adapting equipment, **free of charge**, to help improve quality of life.

## WANTED

**Volunteers** who would like the chance to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

You should either have practical skills and facilities for making things or administrative skills or professional experience in the care field.

## CONTACT US

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[www.remapleics.org.uk](http://www.remapleics.org.uk)

Registered Charity No:1137666

Custom-made equipment for people with disabilities, supplied free

## Farewell 2011

Last year our panel received 93 referrals requesting help for people with disabilities and we are looking forward to scoring a century in 2012.

## STEPS visit

On Wednesday 16th November Doug Kennett introduced panel officers Martin Grant and Neil Curwen to staff at the Shepshed based charity STEPS. We were presented with a big thank you card bearing cut-out hand prints of all the children who use the many pieces of equipment that Doug has made for them and were able to see, at first hand, how it is all being used.



A notice board acknowledges the work of REMAP with pictures of children using the equipment made by Doug.

## Keep it simple!

No great sophistication was required to solve the newspaper page turning problem featured in the November issue of our newsletter. Martin Grant suggested the use of a rubber finger cone. Result? One very happy client!



## Panel membership

Towards the end of last year we had to say farewell to stalwarts Martin Storer and Jo Rees whose work was to take them away from our region. By way of recompense we have been fortunate to recruit four new members - Rob Church, Fazila Hajat, Rebecca MacDonald and Elizabeth Watson. To all four we extend a warm welcome and look forward to the contributions they will make enhancing the work of our panel.

## A Christmas SOS

About two weeks before Christmas, the panel received a request from a lady who wanted to give her granddaughter, Lacey, a baby-walker as a present. Unfortunately, Lacey has a condition that causes shortening of the limbs and none of the available baby-walkers had sufficient adjustment to allow her feet to reach the floor. Graham Law came to the rescue ...



Lacey testing Graham's adaptation

... and well in time for Christmas!

The Leicestershire & Rutland Remap panel is grateful to Des Burgess for printing this newsletter.

## Room for two

In 2008, Richard Gays enabled a client to hoist a mobility scooter into his car. Three years later, our client changed both car and mobility scooter. The new car had a device for lifting the new scooter into the vehicle but not the old one. The client, however, wanted to be able to transport both scooters.



Two scooters ready to roll

Richard adapted the original lifting device so that the old scooter could be hoisted into the car alongside the new one. There were, however, safety issues concerning the stability of the scooters when in transit. To address these issues Richard made straps that could be used to anchor the scooters to sturdy points of the vehicle, some of which were already in situ and others that Richard had to install.



Two of the anchor points engineered by Richard

## Kitchen helper

Dennis wanted to assist his wife in the kitchen but a leg, weakened by polio, prevented him from standing for long periods. At a presentation given by our panel's publicity officer at a Polio Club meeting, Dennis saw a video in which a Remap client was using a perching stool on castors. "I could make use of one of those", thought Dennis. Huw Thomas took up the challenge and built a perching stool on castors. The castors, unfortunately, had a mind of their own and, under certain conditions, they locked and refused to swivel as castors should. With a subtle modification, Huw tamed the wayward castors thus allowing Dennis to move about the kitchen with ease while helping his wife.



Dennis testing the first version of the perching stool (left) and the modification (above)

## Straps

A client, with limited right arm and hand function, had problems manipulating the Quick-Release catches on her son's pram and high-chair harnesses. Any solution had to be one which would still secure the child safely, be easy for mum to operate with one hand and yet be impossible for the child to do so. Martin Grant constructed new harnesses which fastened with Velcro behind the child's back. Another satisfied client!

