

Latest News

Graham Law and Martin Grant from the Leicester & Rutland panel visited us in December. A significant discussion topic was the lack of support in the Nottingham area. We jointly decided to investigate how we can develop a Remap volunteer community in Nottingham. If you know of anyone in the Nottingham area, please send this newsletter to them and encourage them to enquire at the Remap head office or by visiting the Derby and Leicester panel websites.

Getting help

We are now receiving referrals using a website portal. To send a referral, go to the Remap website, <https://www.remap.org.uk/referral-form/>. You can submit a referral for yourself, or on behalf of someone else, and then fill in the form with as much information as you have. 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.

Volunteers

In view of several recent retirements, we would like to recruit more new members. **We need volunteers** in the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire areas who want to help disabled people live better lives by making or adapting aids. The panel also need members to assist with talks, exhibitions and publicity. If you know anyone who would like to help, please contact Don Walton on 07484 855081 or send an email to don1waltonremap@gmail.com.

Independence in the Kitchen by Nich Holberton

Taylor has bilateral above-knee amputations following meningococcal sepsis in infancy. While he does use prosthetics at times, he more often moves without them and therefore has a very short stature. This made everyday kitchen tasks—such as cooking, baking, and washing up—difficult, limiting how involved he could be at home.

Taylor wanted to be more independent and active in family life, particularly in the kitchen. Standard step stools were explored, but those with suitable handholds were designed for toddlers and were close to or below Taylor's weight limit, raising safety concerns.

Nich Holberton designed and built a bespoke step platform with a supportive frame to provide safe access to worktops and the sink. The design focused on stability, strength, and confidence when stepping up, with secure handholds and a wide, non-slip top platform. Lockable castors allow the unit to be moved easily when needed, while maintaining a low centre of gravity for stability in use.

The finished step has been tested for stability and strength and fits well within the family's kitchen space. Taylor can now safely climb up, stand securely, and take part in cooking and washing up.



Car Boot Hoist By Mike Banks



A client with limited mobility and strength uses a lightweight four-wheeled walker, which she stores in the boot of her Mini. Although the walker fits easily in the boot, she was unable to lift it in and out independently and had to rely on family support, limiting her ability to go out on her own.

Commercial solutions were explored, but a suitable lift could not be fitted to her vehicle. REMAP volunteers designed and installed a bespoke 12V electric hoist with an extendable arm, mounted securely using the rear seat anchor points. The hoist uses a nylon lifting strap with a robust clip to attach to the folded walker, allowing it to be raised and lowered safely.

Enabling Everyday Life Despite Severe Mobility Loss by Brian Hermiston

Following a prolonged illness and multiple major operations, a client with severe osteoporosis experienced profound loss of shoulder function, visual impairment, and difficulty with walking and daily activities. Commercial mobility aids and crutches were unsuitable, offering insufficient support for her shoulders and arms. Hospital Occupational Therapists suggested a referral to REMAP to explore bespoke options.



REMAP volunteers designed and built a custom support frame incorporating a counterweight system to partially unload the weight of the client's arms. This allowed her to lift her hands comfortably to eat and drink at the table, activities that had previously become extremely difficult. The frame has also enabled her to write again and to carry out gentle arm mobility exercises.

The client now relies heavily on the device for everyday independence. Given the progressive nature of her condition, the solution has been adapted over time, with further support planned in close collaboration with medical and occupational therapy teams as needs change.

Simple Handle to Improve Boccia Performance by Paul Gillians

Rachel has cerebral palsy, affecting her balance and fine motor control, and plays boccia using a wheelchair. She was advised that her accuracy would improve if she could stabilise her body by holding onto the chair with one hand while throwing with the other.

Commercial options and temporary solutions such as straps and bungee cords proved unsuitable. REMAP volunteers therefore created a simple, removable handle that fixes securely to the wheelchair using specially made brackets and cable ties, avoiding any permanent modification to the chair.

The handle provides Rachel with a stable handhold during play, helping her centre her posture and improve control while remaining fully removable when not in use.



Pushchair Tray for Safe Mealtimes by Peter Woolley



Vinnie is a five-year-old with a rare condition that causes significant difficulty with eating and a risk of choking. A stable tray was required that could be used while he remained in his pushchair.

No suitable commercial tray was available for his pushchair. REMAP volunteers designed a removable, sturdy tray system that attaches and can be easily fitted or removed without tools.

The finished tray provides a safe, stable surface for feeding and allows the family to visit restaurants and eat out with confidence. Vinnie's parents are delighted with the result.