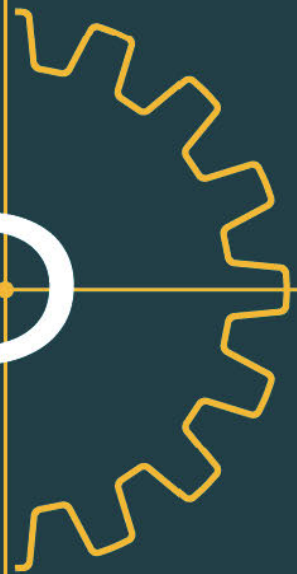


'Bringing **independence**
and a **better quality of life**
for the disabled'

Remap

making things possible



Gloucestershire

YEARBOOK ISSUE 9

www.remapglos.org.uk

Welcome to Remap Gloucestershire

Remap is a national charity that for over 50 years has offered people with disabilities a better quality of life by providing individually designed technical aids free of charge to the users. The local Gloucestershire Panel of Remap meets regularly in Gloucester to hear of cases where people of all ages with disabilities need specialist equipment to help resolve their problems and provide greater independence.

Clients' needs are brought to the Remap panel through occupational therapists, social services, other NHS workers or directly by the client contacting a member of the panel. If you are an engineer or health professional who would like to attend one of our meetings, please contact Wendy Ripley on 01452 426104.

Members of the panel are all engineers or craftsmen who give their spare time and their specialist skills to design and build equipment that helps to overcome the individual problems that people with disabilities face. They operate out of their own workshops and provide a free service to the disabled client.

This Yearbook is intended to provide a snapshot of the work that we are actively involved in, with the purpose also of encouraging more work for the disabled. It is not possible to show everything that we do here, because we average eight or nine case referrals a month. Referrals can be made by submitting an on-line form using our website page:
<https://remapglos.org.uk/referral/entryform.php>

We look forward to being of service to you

John Fox

Chairman, Gloucestershire Remap

Website: www.remapglos.org.uk

Email: remap.glos@btinternet.com



Our Local Sponsors

We are grateful to our sponsors without whom we could not serve the disabled community in the way we do. Some donate money to help with our operating costs (mainly materials and travel costs). Some donate materials or services to help us in a practical way to deliver solutions to our clients.

We should like to thank all our supporters, most of whom are listed below:

Financial

- Gloucestershire County Council
- The Barnwood Trust
- Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes
- Zurich Insurance
- Charles Irving Trust
- Cheltenham Masonic Lodge
- All the clients who make individual donations

Benefits in kind

- National Star College
- GIS Healthcare
- The Barnwood Trust
- Plastim Ltd, Staverton
- Cotswold Foam, Gloucester
- Nick's Timber, Gloucester
- A J Lowther & Son Ltd
- Cotswold
- Partington Engineering Ltd
- Midwest Mobility
- Gloucestershire College
- Emberson Group Ltd, Bath
- Grail Engineering
- Exception PCB Tewkesbury
- Hucclecote Rugby Club



Adaptation to transfer aid

Problem

The “Return” is an aid to enable a transfer from wheelchair to another seating position. The standard “Return” works well for people who have part use of their legs but needs a bespoke adaption for anyone with minimal use of their legs. Remap has helped The National Star College with the use of these transfer aids for students by making bespoke adaptations for individual students.

Solution

A standing base has been made to raise the level to suit the individual and foot holders allow the feet to be strapped in place. The whole unit can be removed so that other students who have better use of their legs can still use the Return. A knee spacer has also been fitted in some cases to stop the legs buckling sideways.

Benefits

Some 5 or 6 units have been fitted with bespoke adaptations for individual students and these students can now transfer to seats, toilets, showers, beds without having to be lifted in a sling which provides a much-improved quality of life.



■ Case for Voice Recorder

Problem

A mother wanted her severely disabled son to be able to use a voice recorder, but the small recorder could be easily lost as her son is blind. Also the recorder needed some protection and it was necessary to prevent access to some buttons, so some sort of box was requested.

Solution

A piece of hardwood was fashioned, drilled and carved so it would hold the voice recorder and enable access to those buttons required for use by the client. A removable cover was fitted on the bottom so that the Voice Recorder could be removed for carers to be able to change batteries and access the buttons which were covered when the device was in the box.

Benefits

The young man is now able to use the Voice Recorder in a manner requested by his Mother.



■ Dropped head syndrome straps

Problem

The client was unable to lift his head off his chest, which meant that he could not see who he was talking to nor could he eat comfortably.

Solution

Several different types of neck brace had been used, none of which helped much because they collapsed in use, so it was decided to lift his head with a strap around his forehead secured to a board positioned at his back. The board was made from 9mm MDF to be strong enough to counteract the muscles pulling his head onto his chest. The board was secured to his body with straps.

Benefits

The client was able to see colleagues at last, and his chin was now free so that he could eat more comfortably.



Garden trough on wheels

Problem

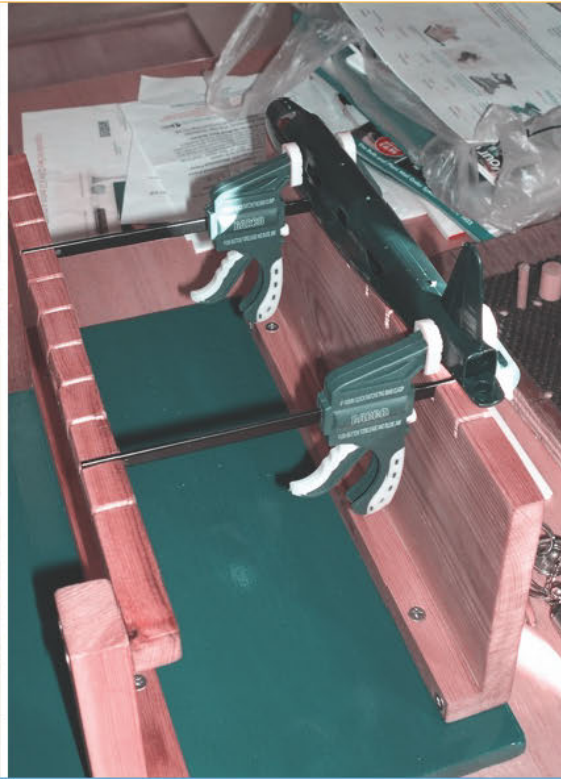
A wheelchair bound lady who loved gardening wanted her plant troughs to be placed in front of an ugly wall that separated a raised garden bed from her uneven patio. In order to get to the raised garden she needed to move the troughs across the patio out of the way. All commercial wheeled supports for garden troughs had small wheels which would not move easily across the patio.

Solution

A wooden frame was made to slot snugly into the strengthening indentations on the trough base, allowing drainage from the troughs. The wooden trolley was attached to large (4 inch) castors, which travelled easily over the uneven patio. In addition, a detachable tow rod was made to make it easier for the lady to move the troughs from her wheelchair.

Benefits

The lady could now enjoy her gardening hobby independently without having to wait for a friend to come and move the garden troughs when she wanted to tend to the raised garden.



Holder for "Airfix" type models

Problem

Prior to his stroke the client had been a keen model maker but he was now only able to use one hand so could not hold the model and perform an action with his other hand at the same time. He had asked for something to be made by Remap to hold a model so that he could use his good hand to perform the necessary actions to build and decorate a model.

Solution

A wooden frame was made which could support two small one-handed bar clamps in various positions. The clamps could be positioned as appropriate for the particular model and tightened to hold the model in the position required thus enabling the client to perform actions on a stable part of the model with one hand.

Benefits

The client was able to resume his hobby of model making.



Toy magnetic pen replacement

Problem

This toy uses a magnetic pen to lift steel coloured counters onto the circles shown in the background pallet. This enables users to learn how to control their movements.

The magnetic pen had broken, so a replacement had to be designed and fitted.

Solution

A bathroom cord pull with a pen-like bob was procured together with a 5mm diameter neodymium magnet. The magnet was superglued into the pen-like bob which conveniently had a 5mm diameter hole in it for the cord. The assembly was attached to the original red string. It was made to a length which would allow it to reach the furthest circles on the pallet – this was an improvement on the original version.

Benefits

The young disabled children at the Allsorts charity were once again able to play with the toy enjoyably, learning how to carefully control their movements.



Neater Eater Modification

Problem

The Neater Eater is a commercial device that assists the user in collecting food from a plate or bowl and bringing it to the mouth. The client, suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, found that the spoon was presented at an awkward angle making it difficult to eat when tired. He would need someone to feed him in this situation. Picture shows the spoon in fixed position.

Solution

The spoon attachment was redesigned so that the angle of the spoon could be adjusted to suit. See picture of modified design. Other items, a fork and a scoop were also redesigned in this way.

Benefits

The client is now much more comfortable when using the Neater Eater and does not need assistance from someone to enable him to eat when feeling tired.



■ Three-wheeled buggy

Problem

A young child suffering from Autism and Downs Syndrome used a three wheeled buggy for transportation. He tended to get his fingers and feet into the spokes of the wheels whilst travelling, thus potentially causing injury to him.

Solution

A set of guards was manufactured so that his access to the dangerous parts of the buggy was restricted.

Panels were fitted to the tubular frame of the buggy to guard the two rear wheels. The front wheel was guarded by a profiled box covering the spokes and the tyre. The additions were painted to match the fabric of the buggy.

Benefits

His parents were now able to take their son out in the buggy without the fear of him being injured.



Throwing stool

Problem

A number of throwing stools have been designed and built for local para athletes by Remap Gloucestershire. Previous models of the throwing frame had been designed for throwing the javelin, discus and shot. Beth wanted to throw the Indian club which is done by throwing it over the shoulder. A frame needed to be adapted for her to support her back as she thrusts herself backward whilst throwing. She also needed foot rests to enable her feet to be strapped securely.

Solution

A backrest was attached that could be adjusted to slope further back as her throwing technique developed. Chains were initially used to hold it in place but they did not pass the strict rules that the scrutineers enforce at competitions. So, they were replaced by a notched bar. A flexible canvas back support was well padded with foam to take the thrust backwards. Fold out footrests were attached to the original footrest to give a more comfortable throwing position. All the straps were anchored in place for maximum support and comfort.

Benefits

Beth now competes regularly and has improved her personal best by over 2 metres through the season. Her best throw would have given her 2nd place in the European games had she qualified in time this year. So, she now looks forward to international competition next year. Her confidence and self-esteem have been given a huge boost.



■ Trolley gutter arm support

Problem

A very short 91-year-old woman who was recovering from a fall needed help to walk around her home. She had been leaning on the top shelf of a trolley and was thought to be unsafe.

Solution

A gutter frame was designed to support her arms, based upon the handlebars from a time-trial bike which had low height forearm supports. Time-trial bike handlebars were used because the arm supports were very low compared with the usual NHS ones which were over 150 mm (6 inches) too tall for her.

It was necessary to weld a cross-tube under her trolley shelf, and make a pair of holes in the top shelf through which the arm supports could be fitted. Tubes with hand grips also helped her stability.

Benefits

The client can now move more safely around her home.



Vibrating Mat Control

Problem

A client who has difficulty trying to sleep found that by using a vibrating mat relaxed and soothed her enough to allow for a good night's sleep. Unfortunately, this control unit has to be plugged into the mains supply to power the unit. This method is not safe due to the potential risk of electrocution and her therapists have requested Remap to provide a safer solution.

Solution

The method of using rechargeable batteries together with the control unit provides this safer way to operate.

These batteries have to be charged through a specialised charging unit and this was developed with assistance from Exception PCB Ltd, based in Ashchurch Nr Tewkesbury. They produced a circuit board for Remap and this was used within the system.

Benefits

By using rechargeable batteries this safer method of powering the mattress allows for a perfect night's sleep.

Remap Gloucestershire

Remap is an independent charity whose engineers design and make one-off equipment (or modify existing equipment) to improve the quality of life of disabled individuals when there is nothing otherwise commercially available. Remap Gloucestershire is part of this national charity.

The Gloucestershire Panel, which was established over 35 years ago, comprises engineers, occupational therapists and other health workers. All the engineers' time is given on a voluntary basis. Most cases are referred by Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Social Services or health and community workers within the county. Any difficulty that disabled people encounter in their daily lives is looked at by the Remap team and a solution is designed and built to try to resolve the problem. Each solution, provided free of charge to the client, is specifically designed to address the individual's problem and enables an improvement in their quality of life or provides greater independence. Remap's unique pieces of special equipment are tailor-made by volunteer experts and given free to the people who need them.

In Gloucestershire Remap helps on average 100 disabled people every year and brings them a better quality of life or new opportunities for them to explore.

There are a number of ways to make a donation to Remap Gloucestershire:

Go to our website remapglos.org.uk and click the 'donate' button

Use PayPal Giving Fund/Remap 2010

Post a donation to our Treasurer:

Mr. M Davies, 4 Lansdown Lodge Drive, Cheltenham, Glos, GL51 6QJ

Making a Referral

This is the process required to make a referral to Gloucestershire REMAP:

- Please confirm that all commercial options have been investigated and that none is suitable.
- On our website: www.remapglos.org.uk fill out the on-line form to give us the details of the client, the Occupational Therapist (if available) and the details of the problem to be solved. (If you cannot access the website please telephone John Fox on 01451 861432 for a paper form.)
- Submit the form electronically from the website or, in the case of a paper form, send it to Wendy Ripley (address on the form). The form is treated confidentially and meets GDPR guidelines.
- The referral will be reviewed at our next meeting – meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.
- We will be in touch with the referrer shortly after that and an engineer will be assigned to investigate the problem.
- Working together, the client, engineer and OT will agree a suitable solution and the engineer will design and build the required equipment.
- On completion, the equipment will be offered to the client to confirm that the problem has been resolved.
- In the event that there is still a problem, the engineer will attempt further changes to reach a satisfactory outcome.

We work closely with Gloucestershire County Council Social Services:

Adult Helpdesk 01452 426868

A wide range of information and help for adults regarding social care, including referrals taken for occupational therapy and personal care.

Children and Families Helpdesk. 01452 426565

Social care referrals for children. Providing information and guidance.

Your help is needed

To continue to serve the disabled our Panel needs:

Donations

The service is free to the client and we therefore need donations. Please support us if you can – For donations please phone our Treasurer, Mike Davies on **01242 231250**

Material

If your Company could support us with engineering materials, metal, plywood, etc. please phone Mike Plant on **01242 245228**

Engineers

If you are an engineer or craftsman and would like to join us, please phone John Fox on **01451 861432** or Mike Plant on **01242 245228**

Occupational Therapists

If you are an OT and would like to attend a meeting, please phone Wendy Ripley on **01452 426104** or e-mail wendy.ripley@glos-care.nhs.uk

Publicity

If you are a member of an organisation that would like to hear more about Remap and what we do please phone John Fox on **01451 861432** to arrange a presentation.

Referrals

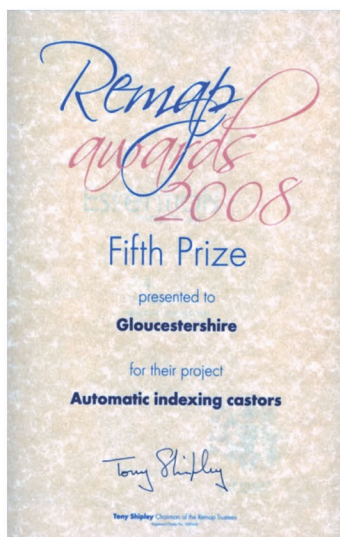
Please visit our website at www.remapglos.org.uk to submit the on-line form or phone John Fox on **01451 861432** for a paper form.

Website www.remapglos.org.uk

Email remap.glos@btinternet.com

Awards

Over the years, Remap Gloucestershire has received a number of awards from both Remap Trustees and outside agencies.



Waitrose Community Matters

Every month we give our time and money to local communities. We donate £1000 to be shared by three good causes that you choose.

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Remap



Gloucestershire County Council supports
Remap in their work for the disabled



Zurich and its Cheltenham based staff have
been proud to support the invaluable work of
Remap Gloucestershire



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BUFFALOES GRAND LODGE OF
ENGLAND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE**

Pleased to support Remap Gloucestershire in
their work for the disabled



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