

Changing Children's Lives

Doug Kennett, engineer with the Leicestershire panel, has been kept very busy over the last year making equipment for a local children's charity, Steps.

Housed in a very beautiful old school building in Shepshed, Leicestershire, Steps welcomes children regardless of their disability or diagnosis. Steps is underpinned by the values and principles of Conductive Education first developed by the Peto Institute in Hungary; they focus on ability not disability, and support the whole family.

Most of the children who attend have cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome or other similar conditions, ranging from mild to severe which makes motor co-ordination difficult. Conductive Education is a learning process that includes all aspects of a child's development.

Continued on page 3

Remap
news



With best wishes for
Christmas and the New Year

Summer social

Chichester & Worthing panel enjoyed a summer visit to Shoreham Airport, the oldest licensed airport in Britain, much used for period filming. Spouses, friends and possible new recruits were also invited.

An occupational therapist member brought her father with her. He gave the liveliest recollection, on seeing a Harvard, of joining up in 1940, being sent to Canada and USA for flying training. There they had to wear plain grey suits in a neutral country until Pearl Harbour after which

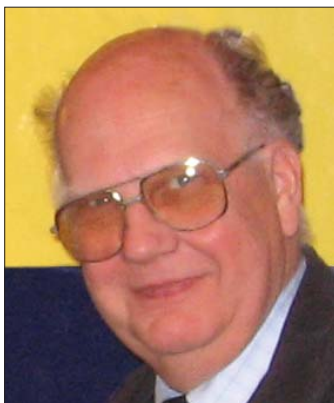
he could wear his uniform again and he then spent a year training the Americans on Harvards before returning home to become a Pathfinder.

Thanks to John Stoton (chairman) for this report of what sounds like a lovely day out.



Frank Tindall

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of our former Leeds & Bradford Chairman Frank Tindall on the 13th September.



Frank was our Chairman from the Panel's inception in 2001 until this year. It was due in large measure to his unstinted generosity in terms of the

resources he made available to us both personally and through his company that our Panel achieved the growth it has done over the eight years of its existence.

In addition to his contribution to Remap and his many other interests, Frank was also a highly respected authority on alpine plants and was recently elected President of the Alpine Garden Society.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

*Mike Smith
Leeds & Bradford panel.*

Keith's epic journey for Remap

In the last newsletter, we mentioned that Keith Hunter of the Derby panel was to ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in aid of Remap.

We are delighted to say that Keith completed his journey without incident, celebrating his 72nd birthday en route and raising nearly £4,000 for Remap.

Keith has been a volunteer with Remap for 20 years, working tirelessly for disabled people in his community and personally making hundreds of devices to help them to be more independent. We are very proud that he undertook this challenge on our behalf and will use the money he has

raised to help Remap grow and serve even more people.

Keith has written an entertaining account of his trip which can be seen on our website or on our Facebook page. He explains how it started out as a personal challenge, but doing it for a good cause provided an imperative that kept him going when the going got tough.

Many thanks to all who sponsored Keith, and those who haven't yet done so - his Justgiving webpage will still be open for several months. Do give something and support his magnificent effort!

www.justgiving.com/Keith-Hunter-cycle-ride



Remap on facebook

Trying to keep up with modern communication methods, we now have a Facebook page.

Just type in Remap and join our group!

Changing Children's Lives

Continued from the front cover

The staff team are highly trained and dedicated working with families from across the Midlands and Eastern England. They place parents at the forefront of their child's education. Both parent and child can remain together throughout the day, playing and learning together.

Once children reach the age of five, they enter statutory schooling. Ongoing support is offered to children in the form

of a gym club which is held once a week at the centre and an annual summer school.

Steps aim is to motivate children to reach their full potential in order for them to become as independent as possible.

"We used to be a disabled family but, with the help of Steps, we are now a normal family with a disabled child. We can now do the things that normal families do".

Parent from Steps

Doug has made many things for Steps. The dressing up box has been a huge hit with the children. Learning through play is a very important part of the Steps philosophy.

Doug made a set of steps to help children learn how to use them. The rails can be moved to a height suitable for each child. This piece of equipment alone took Doug over 400 hours to make. He was also asked to make a computer desk that was suitable for all the children, whatever their age and whether they use a wheelchair or not. The desk can be programmed so that the height automatically sets for a certain child.

Steps are one of a few approved centres across the UK that assess disabled children for IT skills.

Staff at Steps say Doug is a 'real gem' and the equipment he has made is invaluable to the children at the centre. They have plenty more ideas to keep him busy for another year.

For more information on Steps go to www.stepscentre.org.uk or phone 01509 506878.

Cover - Rosemary Conley, CBE, patron of Steps, with Poppy, Fatima and Winston.

Left - Doug Kennett, Debbie Crate and Winston.

Bottom right - The dressing up box

AGM 2010



The 2010 AGM will be on June 26 next year and will again be at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

The reason the same venue as last time has been chosen is that it will be particularly important to have as many panels as possible attending, because Remap's new constitution as an incorporated charity will be on the agenda. Duxford was a popular location this year, with a majority of delegates finding it easy to reach as well as providing a congenial setting.

We would like to make a bigger feature of pieces of equipment made by panels. Last time the Hertfordshire North panel brought along several delightful mechanical toys controlled by photo-electric cells attached to baseball caps, as well as one of the pageturners they have been instrumental in developing.

So please start thinking now about what you can bring along to showcase your panel's ingenuity, and let us know as soon as you can if you would like space.



Cheers!

Tim's hands have been so weakened by multiple sclerosis that he can no longer lift and hold a bottle of wine.

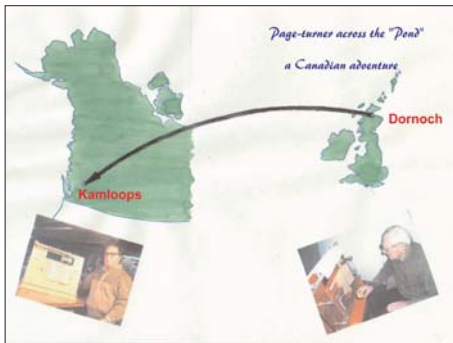
Here he is seen holding a glass he filled using an ingenious device designed and constructed by Lionel Shapiro from Remap's London West panel. The device makes

use of an optic, a CD and pieces of cunningly organised aluminium and wood.

Tim is thrilled with it and full of praise for Lionel. To fill the glass, he need do no more than position the glass beneath the optic then press on a lever. Hey presto! Satisfaction is then dependent upon the wine - if only it were 1953 Chateau Latour says Tim!

Page turner across 'the Pond' - a Canadian adventure

Promoting Remap



Bowie (Caithness) has now surpassed that.

Robbie has compiled a small book from emails between himself and Ralph Adams, an Air Pollution Meteorologist (and sometime

helicopter mechanic) from Kamloops, British Columbia.

Ralph had come across the page turner in the yearbook and requested plans for it. He intended to build one to act as an advertising tool for TETRA - www.TetraSociety.org (Remap's equivalent in North America).

For 6 months Robbie and Ralph corresponded in a very lively and entertaining manner (with further contributions from

Don Clarkson, Caithness and Bruce Carr, N Herts). Robbie and Bruce decided to send a kit of components in the end and a friend of Robbie's happened to briefly stop at Kamloops on a train journey and Ralph met the train and handed over C\$200 to the lady for the expenses - all very melodramatic!

The emails, as well as containing much technical detail, show how a delightful friendship grew between Robbie and Ralph covering events such as Ralph's marriage, Robbie's 80th birthday and much discussion of favourite whiskies, Burns night and dogs - Baldric (Ralph's) and Smudge (Robbie's).

A pdf version of Robbie's book is available on our website and Facebook page.



Remap promotional pens and post-it notes, the latter bearing the slogan 'Remap can do something really special for you', are available from head office at an approximate cost of 25p each for the pens and 65p each for the post-it notes - the exact cost depends on the size of the order we make.

To let us know how many you would like and what colour pens you prefer please email s.iwanek@remap.org.uk. Apart from the blue and turquoise illustrated other colours include lime green, yellow and pink.

You may remember the partnership between the Caithness, Sutherland and Northern Isles panel and the Hertfordshire North panel over what has become a very successful page turner (previously featured in the Spring 2006 newsletter.)

We thought that was a great piece of long distance collaboration but Robbie

Who to contact

Headquarters

Chief Executive Officer - **Susan Iwanek** Fundraising - **Jill Homewood**
D9 Chaucer Business Park, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6YU
Tel: 0845 1300 456 Fax: 0845 1300 789 E-mail: data@remap.org.uk

Remap - Scotland

National Organiser Scotland - **David Reid** Forgue House, Forgue, Huntly AB54 6DA Tel: 01466 730254

Remap - Isle of Man

Chairman - **Dr D Leoidsson** Whitburn, Shore Road, Castletown IM9 1BF Tel: 01624 825903



Please help Remap

We need funding to keep the charity going, every £10 given will produce £200 worth of help.
Many panels are short of electrical, electronic or mechanical engineers and therapists.
Each panel member recruited will voluntarily devote his or her skills to helping people in need.

Name Company (if Applicable)

Address postcode

Tel E-mail

Signed Date

Please tick this box if you have paid income or capital gains tax equal to the tax that will be claimed and you would like Remap to reclaim the tax you paid on this and any future donations you may make

Please make cheques payable to Remap and send, together with this form to: **Remap, D9 Chaucer Business Park, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6YU**
Remap is a registered charity no 1000456