



Remap in Exeter and East Devon 2024

Have you heard of Remap? A brilliant national charity that is celebrating 60 years of designing and making bespoke equipment to support people to keep doing the things they want to do when their activities have been limited by a disability or illness

Remap makes gadgets for over 3000 people each year, through a network of over 65 volunteer-run branches around the country. Our branch of skilled volunteers makes solutions for people living in Exeter and East Devon.

I learnt about this innovative charity when I was an Occupational Therapy student 40 years ago and got involved in the Exeter and East Devon panel when working as an equipment specialist OT in Devon. As the volunteer 'Case Worker' my job is to find out about the equipment that is needed and check that the gadget doesn't already exist in shops or from specialist suppliers. If the gadget is not available anywhere else, then one of our skilled volunteers meets with the person and together we work out the best solution. Our volunteers are all really good at thinking 'outside the box' to find the best way to create that bespoke gadget; often using recycled materials to keep the cost and the carbon footprint down.

Looking back over the past year our panel has had 50 requests for gadgets. We found commercially available solutions to meet the need for half of these requests and made 25 bespoke gadgets for the other requests from people living in Exeter and East Devon. Our 2023 projects included solutions to enable safety in the bathroom, gadgets for eating and drinking independently, therapy kit for a local school, adaptations to clothes for fit and comfort and equipment to open and close doors and windows and for moving around safely at home.

Our first job for 2024 is a bespoke wheeled beach seat to enable a local person to join in with a regular sea swimming group. All commercial solutions have been tried already, but none had the unique features that were needed. This has been a really interesting challenge which will be ready to launch very soon, hopefully the sea will be a bit warmer by then!

Unfortunately, there are no Remap panels working in other areas of Devon at the moment. BUT if you are an OT or physio, or a skilled maker or a really good organiser, and you would like to set up a Remap panel in other areas of Devon, please do get in touch, we would love to work alongside you.

If you live in Exeter or East Devon & need a bespoke gadget to help independence please email us:

Exeter@remapgroups.org.uk Tel: 07765626937

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