



**Bucks Older Peoples Action Group Meeting
(BOPAG)
10am, Friday 28th July 2023.
Minutes**

Christ The Servant King Church, Sycamore Road, High Wycombe.

Attendees:

Alan Barnard – BOPAG Chairman Marlow bottom Valley Plus (AB)
David Whittaker – BOPAG Vice Chairman (DW)
Paula Watts – BOPAG Administrator/Editor (PW)
Heather Wilde – BOPAG Assistant Administrator (HW)
Jane Osborn - Lane End OPAG (JO)
Linda Richards – BFAB (LR)
John Betts – STOPAG Stokenchurch (JB)
Janet Kenny – EX-OASIS (JK)
Renay Clark – Bluebird Care Burnham(RC)
Eunice Merimo – Bluebird Care Burnham(EM)
Linden Porter – Lane End member (LP)
Marian Mulady – Local resident Marlow (MM)
Elizabeth Aylward – PROBUS (EA)
Bernie Hunter – DAM (BH)
Wendy Healy – Avery at Beaconsfield (WH)
Louise Joslin – Ashridge (LJ)
Lesley Ball – Imperial Health (LB)
Marilyn Green – Hub Care Support (MG)
Larissa Goff - Hub Care Support (LG)
Richard Chalmers – Oasis BG/South Bucks Hospice (RC)
Sue Stuart – Memory Partners (SS)

Apologies:

Barbara and Phil Richardson – COPAG (Chesham)
Chris Stanners – Dignity Champion and Founding Member BOPAG
Wendy Park – Carers Bucks
Joe Boake – Extra Care Hughenden Gardens Village
Hannah Munn – The 50+ Group
Pei-Ling Harper – Trading Standards
Jan Sambrook – DAM

1. **Introduction;** Alan Barnard (AB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the attendees that we would be recording. Alan went on to introduce Heather Wilde (HW) who is taking up a part-time post for BOPAG as Assistant Administrator

2. **Main Speaker's:**

(AB) went on to introduce our Main Speaker's: Les Brown (LB) and Derek Jones (DJ) from **REMAP** South Bucks group. **REMAP** are the UK's only charity providing custom-made equipment, free of charge for people with disabilities. The charity was formed in 1964.

With the aid of an excellent PowerPoint presentation and several physical examples (some 3D printed) that were handed around the group; (LB) explained how **REMAP** help to improve quality of life and increase independence for people with a disability. The **REMAP** website where you can find contact details and more examples of what can be done by this proactive charity is at: <https://remap.org.uk/>

3. **Q & A's followed:**

Q: (BH) asked who can refer people to you, medical or an individual? (LB) answered that anyone can ring up and ask for a referral and that all the details were to be found on the brochures provided that day. If there is a "self-referral" then **REMAP** will normally consult with health professionals. (BH) congratulated the team on the work they did.

Q: (AB) asked about protection of product via patents. (LB) replied that someone always asks this question and that their answer is always "everything they do is bespoke and since most of the designs are very person specific it is generally not appropriate to protect with a patent". (DJ) added It is also very costly and they do not have the resource to seek a patent.

Q: (MG) asked how long a request would take to be processed as she has individuals who would undoubtedly benefit from REMAP services? (LB) explained how the request would be sorted and prioritised accordingly. Depending on the level of urgency (as defined by a health care pro) it could take as little as a week or up to two years.

Q: (LB) asked if the OT's were provided by the NHS or were they volunteers? (Les Brown and DJ) stated they were volunteers, usually from NHS and that they could always do with more! (LB) asked how she could get in touch with the service in her London borough area. Les Brown said he could put her in touch with the relevant people.

Q: (PW) asked why the NRS did not recognise or work consistently with **REMAP**. (LB) replied that they do work with NRS and other commercial companies but these companies are always quick to point out that **REMAP** are possibly undermining the safety and durability of their products. He pointed out that any modifications carried out to existing equipment are done with the approval of healthcare professionals.

Q: (JK) asked if a friend's wheelchair could be adapted for off road? (LB) responded by saying that a commercial option already existed and thus there is no point in adapting an existing wheelchair.

(SS) pointed out to all present that **REMAP** had changed one of their clients lives after a severe stroke by the adaptations done to her disabled equipment. Every Christmas the Gerrards Cross division hold a Secret Santa and the proceeds are donated to **REMAP**

(AB) thanked the Main Speakers for their help and support and mentioned they are welcome to stay for the rest of our meeting. (PW) will reach out to them for info for an article for The Hoot.

Speakers: Renay Clark (RC) and Eunice Merimo (EM) from Bluebird Care, Burnham

Renay described their services and the ages of whom they care for; everyone from the 18 years to their oldest lady of 104 years. Depending on the length of time they need to care for an individual, their charges can range from £29.00 for 30 mins to £1000 for a full live-in carer. Their carers are paid well and all time, including travel time, is taken into account.

Q & A's followed:

Q: (BH) asked why the NRS never pick up equipment after it is no longer needed. (RC) replied that it can take a while! (BH) said it took so long that he redistributed the equipment amongst those in his community that needed it.

Q: (DW) asked how many clients and carers BBC had and Renay replied that they have approx. 120 customers and 70/80 carers.

(AB) thanked Bluebird care for their contribution. (LB) wanted to further offer thanks for whoever had invited the speakers for today especially the REMAP speakers

4. No matters arising from last meeting

5. Any Other Business/Notices

Alan invited the room to inform the group on any updates.

(BB) reported on how DAM is growing in size. They meet twice a week, have exercise classes on Thursday afternoons at St Peters Church Hall and Tuesday singing groups at 1:30. Attendance is free of charge

All details on their website: <https://www.dementiaactionmarlow.org/>

(PW) promoted the Golden Years Free Dementia Support day at the Princes Centre Princes Risborough at 10-1pm on 1st September.

<https://bopag.org.uk/index.php?page=golden-years-free-information-day-2023>

(RC): Announced a new bereavement group for those still working: Bereavement Plus Group. (RC) has joined South Bucks Hospice as community advisor and fund raiser.

The hospice in High Wycombe has been rebranded from Butterfly House and a concert is to be held at Wycombe Abbey School to promote the hospice. Meanwhile they need volunteers at their new shop in Amersham. A nutritional course for those with cancer is to be launched at the hospice in September.

<https://www.ccfh.org.uk/oasis-bereavement-group>

6. (AB) thanked all for coming and networking continued in the foyer.

7. Meeting closed at approx. 12:30

8. Next Meeting will be on the **22nd September 2023**