



In December we said a fond farewell to **Mike Butterfield**, who has now retired. Mike has been the fount of all knowledge in computing matters for the last 11 years at Compaid, and for the last few years he has been Senior Trainer. Mike has deputised for the Centre Manager and has also been in charge of such esoteric things as computer maintenance, statistics and spreadsheets, and of course, editing Compaid Voice. As resident Family History guru, Mike also introduced many clients to the delights of tracing their family trees, some finding that they were related to ancient nobility. We hope that Mike has a wonderful retirement and wish him all the best for the future (he is probably improving his golf handicap at this very moment!)

Also “flying” to pastures new is **Geoff Collins**, (aka “The Bearded Photographer”), who is leaving us to go on a round the world trip. Geoff is a qualified pilot, and is hoping to do some flying in New Zealand and the USA during his trip with his wife Stella. We wish them both a safe and happy journey, and look forward to hearing all about their adventures!



It has been an exciting time at Compaid as we welcomed the two gorgeous babies born to our Care Assistants, **Leah Botting** and **Jess Large**. Baby Alfie put in an appearance on 14th November 2015, weighing 7lbs 2oz. His proud Mum Leah has visited us several times recently, and Alfie has met lots of the clients and staff already. Jess (pictured right) had baby Harry - James on 14th December. Harry weighed in at a hefty 9lbs 1oz, and shows every sign of rapidly getting bigger and bigger! Congratulations are also due to Jess as she has now achieved her goal of getting her NVQ in care and hopes to return to Compaid later on this year.



Spotlight on Sara Durie, our new Outreach Trainer.

When I moved to the area 3 ½ years ago I kept seeing bright yellow mini buses with Compaid on the side driving around! When I found out about Compaid's important work in the community I wanted to play a part in it and use my experience to help. I had previously worked in media research as a software trainer in London and then trained as a secondary school languages teacher. When the opportunity to volunteer at Compaid as a Computer Assistant came up I applied. My time as a volunteer was very interesting and I met a lot of lovely people. I ended up doing a variety of different computer activities with a range of clients so never a dull moment! Seeing clients enjoying and gaining experience using a computer is very fulfilling. The position of Outreach Trainer became available in December and I started in January. I help clients referred to Compaid by the Job Centre. The clients are supported to learn general computer skills and how to use online services to look for work, via a combination of



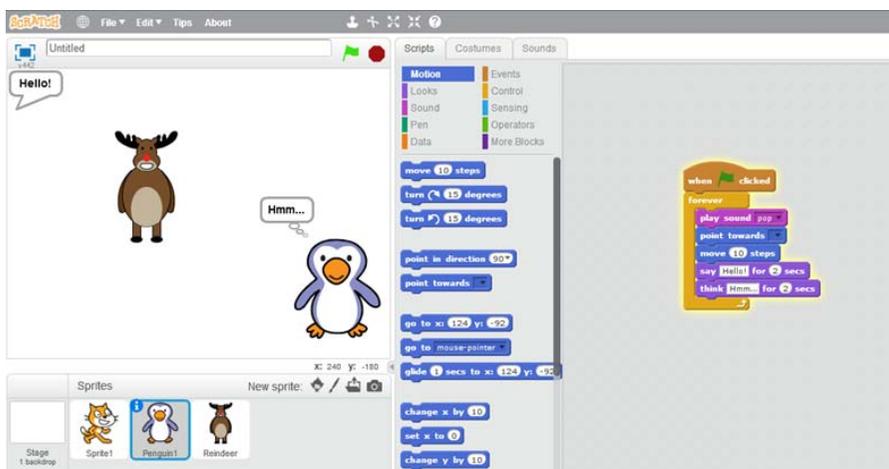
special online learning modules and personalised activities. Those clients I have worked with so far seem to have enjoyed the sessions and appear to be getting a lot out of them. It's great when they tell me that they want to come back the following week and that they'd like to have a look at information in between the sessions!

When I am not working at Compaid I am running around after my 3 year old daughter! It's all about the film "Frozen" at the moment so I can also tell you everything there is to know about that! I also love music and play the piano. I enjoy watching films. My other love is dancing and I have just started doing a Zumba class.

I am looking forward to working with more clients at Compaid, helping them to get the most out of computers and what is available on the Internet.

This month's useful website : Scratch

Scratch is a free program which was designed to teach children how to do computer programming. It uses bits of code which fit together in the form of blocks. You can make your own animation - the characters will do all sorts of things, including make sounds. (Compaid was alive with the sounds of meowing and mooing when we tried it out!)



<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Well done, John!

Many of you will know John Wateridge, who has been a client at



Compaid since 2010, firstly on Fridays and now on Thursdays. John is an extremely hard-working client, and he often uses his Compaid sessions to complete his college homework from the Adult Education Centre in Tonbridge. After many months of hard work, John has now received his certificate in OCR Functional skills at Entry 3 in Reading, Speaking, listening and communication, and Writing.

John has a great imagination, and has used his new found skills to write many wonderful stories on lots of different themes, including westerns, science fiction, and crime. Some of John's recent stories are entitled "The Railway Murders", "Journey to the Unknown", "The Train Robbers" and "The Stranger who came to town". John has also made lots of word searches and quizzes for Compaid clients to do.

John is very proud of the fact that he tries to be independent whilst at Compaid, and asks for very little help. In his spare time (he doesn't have much of this!) he enjoys watching darts and snooker, listening to Country and Western music, and going fishing. Well done, John and keep up the good work!

Fundraising News

By Diane Bradley, Fundraising Manager

Christmas Fun!

What a busy and enjoyable December we had.....Christmas celebrations kicked off in November as we attended the inaugural Paddock Wood Christmas market. Thank you to our staff and volunteers who attended running our stall selling greeting and Christmas cards designed by our clients and cupcakes made by our own Mary Berry, Val Coombes which helped us to raise £140.

Once again Christmas came to Compaid in the form of a week-long Christmas fayre this time, enabling all our clients to enjoy the festivities. Paddock Wood Junior School choir once again entertained us with their fantastic voices and even got a few of us singing along too. As you can see from the picture the children



Steffon, Jane and Edward with the PWJS choir

not only gave their time to come and entertain us but they also held a collection in aid of Compaid at their school Christmas concert and at the Paddock Wood Christmas Festival.

On behalf of everyone at Compaid I would like to thank Head teacher Mr Opstad for allowing the children time off school to come and join us, and the amazing Katie Hawkins who masterminded the entire performance, not once but twice as we were treated to two performances in the week.

Christmas Grand Draw



May I thank everyone who kindly supported us by buying raffle tickets for our Christmas draw. We were able to offer some fantastic prizes thanks to the

generosity of many local

Lesley, Ros,,Meryl, Val, Jackie and Sheila in festive mood!



businesses who donated gifts and vouchers. Congratulations to all our prize winners and I hope your gifts added to your Christmas celebrations. This was our most successful Christmas fayre to date raising a fantastic **£1613** so thank you to everyone who attended or made generous donations—your support was really appreciated.



Christmas would not be the same without a Christmas tree—and we were so fortunate to have been given this beautiful tree by a generous donor. It looked amazing and was appreciated by all the clients, staff and volunteers.

Boxing Day coffees were a charity treat!



Each year Tonbridge Athletic Club organise a Boxing Day race and as my family organise this event, I provide free refreshments for all competitors. I was delighted to be approached by Jem Crick of Mocha Fella, a friend of Compaid, offering to donate his

refreshments with all proceeds going to Compaid. His delicious drinks were well received and raised a fantastic £95.00 bringing the total he has raised for us in the last year to £317.00.

I would like to thank Jem and all his customers on behalf of everyone at Compaid for their continued support and look forward to another successful year in 2016.

Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon – Sunday 21st February

Last year a group of Compaid volunteers attended the Tunbridge Wells Half marathon and in return for their help we received a donation of £600. This year's event is only 4 weeks away and the organisers are desperate to hear from any willing volunteers. Each year it is becoming more and more difficult to find enough volunteer marshals to ensure runners can compete safely whilst out on the course. If you feel you could join our team of volunteers, then please email Dianebradley@compaid.org.uk or call 01892 834539 for further details. (No previous experience is required as you will be paired up with an experienced marshal).

Sainsbury's local, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge



We have been delighted over the last year to have been supported by customers at Sainsbury's local in Tonbridge. The store has continued to

fundraise through the collecting tins on their tills and the sale of our greetings cards which I'm informed have been extremely popular. To date they have raised a fantastic **£1333.50**. I have recently spoken to the new manager Dean Charlton who said "I am looking forward to this year and seeing what we can do additionally to raise more cash for Compaid". Our thanks go to all customers and staff at the Sainsbury's local for their support.



This year Compaid celebrates our 30th Anniversary and to commemorate this landmark we would like to invite you to join our new and exciting lottery offering you the opportunity to win various prizes including a £25,000 jackpot!

How does it work?

You can play for as little as £1 per week. 50p of every £1 you play is guaranteed to go straight to a good cause, and it's you who decides which one (This is where you can support Compaid). The remaining 50p will be used to provide prizes and cover

administration costs. By joining the Unity Lottery you will be entered into the respective draw of the charity (Compaid) that you wish to support.

For just £1 per week you will be allocated with a six digit Unity Lottery number, which will remain yours for as long as you wish to keep playing. You can purchase more than one number if you wish.

Every Saturday, the lucky winners are selected at random and prize cheques issued and posted directly to you, so there is no need for you to claim. You must be 16 or over to enter. Winners have to match 3, 4 5 or all 6 digits of the winning number in the correct place in the sequence.

- ◆ 6 digits in the correct place wins £25,000
- ◆ 5 digits in the correct place wins £1,000
- ◆ 4 digits in the correct place wins £25
- ◆ 3 digits in the correct place wins £5

With odds of winning any prize being 1 in 63, what have you got to lose!

Paying is simple: To make life easier for you, simply enter this link into your computer www.unitylottery.co.uk click PLAY NOW and enter Compaid in the 'select your charity' box. You can then either make your payment(s) by direct debit or download a form and complete sending a cheque. It takes approximately 2 weeks to then receive your lottery number(s) and allows a 10 day cooling off period should you change your mind.

Per lottery number

Monthly £4.34

Three-monthly £13

Six-monthly £26

Annually £52

How does your support help Compaid?

If you play just once a week, in your first year your support would enable an isolated disabled person to attend our digital skills training centre, with their journey to and from home provided by our team of dedicated drivers. In a single day, that individual will enjoy getting out and about, learning new skills, making friends, and socialising with others.

We rely heavily on the generosity of people like you to help us transform the lives of disabled people in and around Kent. We need around £170,000 in fundraising income each year to maintain our current support and we need to raise even more to fund our planned future developments.

Thank you—your support is so important to us.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 3rd April – Paddock Wood Half marathon, marshals & car parking volunteers required

Sunday 15th May – Tonbridge Lions club sponsored walk 10 miles or 5 miles (walkers wanted to join our team)

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