



Connect - Learn - Thrive

Compaid Voice

August 2025

Welcome to the new look for our newsletter!



We're excited to share our quarterly newsletter in this fresh, easy-to-read format, helping you to stay connected with our work and the people we support thanks to your donations.

In this issue, you'll hear from one of our dedicated digital skills volunteers, learn about our upcoming fundraising campaign, and find out how you could get involved with our Transport team.

We'd love to know what you think! If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Compaid is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in England with charity registration number 1064160.

Registered Office: Unit 1, Eastlands, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Kent, TN12 6BU

Our Fundraising Campaign



From **25th September to 9th October 2025**, we're raising **£12,000** to fund accessible transport for isolated people across Kent.

Right now, many in our community are stuck at home unable to see loved ones, attend hospital appointments, or even buy groceries because of age, disability, or low income.

You can change that.

During this campaign, your donation could be the reason someone reconnects with their family or gets the care they need. Your donation could be the reason that we can help someone to attend a vital hospital appointment, buy more affordable groceries from local supermarkets, or spend an afternoon with their loved ones.

You could change someone's life by helping us **Drive Out Loneliness**.

Why Does Accessibility Matter

Across England, millions face daily loneliness and isolation:

- Approximately 270,000 older people aged 65+ in England go a whole week without speaking to anyone
- Disabled people make 38% fewer journeys because of inaccessible travel options
- Approximately 3.1 million people in England say they always or often feel lonely, and it's getting worse.

This needs to change, and you can help us change it!

Our accessible transport service helps break those barriers bringing people back into their communities, to loved ones, to the places they need to go.

“With Compaid’s bus, I can buy food from Sainsbury’s for my husband and I. I am his full time carer, but I can’t drive because my eyesight is poor and there are no shops near where we live. I look forward to Wednesdays when Compaid’s bus arrives. It’s also a great outlet for me to get out of the house. The bus is very enjoyable, and the driver is always kind.”

Olga, 89, passenger



What You Can Do Now

Before ‘Drive Out Loneliness’ begins on 25th September, you can find and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date with our campaign news, services updates, and stories from our clients and passengers!

You can also visit our JustGiving page by scanning this QR code to make note of the page and share with others who would like to support us!



Volunteer Spotlight: Kate

Volunteering isn't just about helping others, it's a powerful way to grow your own skills, confidence, and connections.

We sat down with Kate, one of our inspiring digital skills volunteers, to hear how supporting others has helped her find a community of her own, and helped her grow in impactful, and meaningful ways.



Q: Please could you introduce yourself, and tell us a bit about what you do?

Kate: *Hello everyone! My name is Kate, and I've been a volunteer digital skills trainer at Compaid for 9 years.*

Q: Why did you choose to become a volunteer with Compaid?

Kate: *I originally started because I needed a work experience placement for college. I enjoyed it so much that I continued volunteering through the summer holidays, and when I finished college, I began volunteering 2 days a week. I've been doing that ever since!*

Q: What does volunteering look like on a daily basis for you? What do you do as a volunteer in the digital skills centre?

Kate: *Volunteering in the centre usually involves sitting with a client when they arrive at the centre, and helping them learn new skills and become more experienced with computers. I know a lot of clients well, so while we work together, we also chat and have a fun time together.*

I help people learn the basics of using a computer so they can feel

safe and confident online. A lot of them end up doing really fun things, like writing stories, trying out online art and colouring, or playing puzzle games that keep their minds active. It's amazing to see how much more independent they become as they get used to it all.

Q: What is your favourite thing about volunteering with Compaid?

Kate: *Getting to know each person who comes to the centre. Spending time with them is really encouraging for me and making friends means learning what they want becomes fun too.*

Q: What is something you have learnt or gained from volunteering with Compaid?

Kate: *I've definitely become a more confident person.*

I also have a learning disability, so getting to know the clients and staff and other volunteers, becoming friends with them, and working with them has given me the opportunity to improve my social skills.

Also, through teaching clients, I've learned a lot more digital skills that I use in my own life, like finding and accessing online programmes, researching different things on the internet, and using computers. It's been a great experience for me.



Q: Do you think volunteering is important? Why?

Kate: *Yes, I believe volunteering is very important. I enjoy being able to help people. Seeing them succeed because of my help and realising how much I'm growing too is very rewarding. Everyone gets something positive out of it.*

Q: What would you say to someone who was interested in volunteering with Compaid?

Kate: *I would say that, volunteering at Compaid is not only important, but really enjoyable too. It's a great opportunity to support and help*

people who have disabilities, and who may not have the chance to access computers and technology like most people do. The staff and other volunteers are supportive, and the environment is lovely. I'm glad to have been here for 9 years.

Other Recent News — Read the full articles on our website

- **Client Story: Jordan Joins the Online World** — With the support and encouragement of our trainer, Jordan became one of the many learners to overcome his digital fears, and connect with his community and local services by learning key digital skills with our Outreach team in New Hextable.
- **The Butterfly Effect Project: Growing Together** — We believe that growth comes not just from within, but from the voices of everyone who makes our organisation what it is. That's why we invited feedback from our staff, volunteers, passengers, and digital skills learners to understand their perspectives on how to make Compaid an even better charity for all.

Get Involved:

Become a Volunteer Driver

Are you a confident driver who enjoys helping others and has a few hours to spare each week? Just like Kate, you can get involved with us and make a difference in your community.

We are looking for Volunteer Drivers to join our dedicated Transport team and support older, disabled, and isolated people in Kent to travel where they need to go safely and confidently.

Your Commitment

For at least one half-day a week (8am–12pm or 1pm–5pm, Monday to Friday) you can make a huge difference by supporting our passengers get to medical appointments, do their shopping, visit loved ones, and stay connected to their communities.

Requirements

- A clean D1 driving license from 1997 onwards
- A minimum of 5 years driving experience
- Be between 21 and 70 years old (for insurance purposes)
- Strong knowledge of road safety and the Highway Code
- Confident and adaptable in unique or challenging situations
- Willing to learn about a range of disabilities



If you or someone you know would be interested in this opportunity to give back to your local community, contact our HR Manager **Judith** by email: judithwilliams@compaid.org.uk; or by phone: **01892 351055** and visit our website for more information.

Thank you for your support



Thanks to your donations, you enable us to support people across Kent to get online through digital skills training and travel safely using our accessible transport.

Your kindness enables the most vulnerable in our communities to connect, learn, and thrive.

To donate and support the work we do, visit our website at www.compaid.org.uk.



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