



Connect - Learn - Thrive

# Compaid Voice

November 2025



## Welcome back to Compaid Voice!

There have been so many wonderful stories, experiences, and events across Compaid since our last issue, and we're excited to share them with you in this final newsletter of 2025.

In this issue, you will discover:

- Our services' availability over the holiday season
- The results of our campaign Drive Out Loneliness
- The growth of our Outreach digital skills service
- A heartfelt message from one of our previous drivers.

*We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter, and wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

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

## Drive Out Loneliness finishes strong!



On Thursday 9th October, our fundraising campaign, **Drive Out Loneliness**, came to a close.

With your support, we raised over **£10,800** for our accessible transport, helping to reduce isolation and loneliness for hundreds of people in our community.

Whether you donated, shared our social media posts, or simply encouraged others to get involved and learn more about what we do, you have helped so many in our community to live more connected lives. We couldn't have achieved this success without you. **Thank you!**

### Since our last issue, we have...

<p>Delivered</p> <p><b>890 journeys</b></p> <p>with our Accessible Transport</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p><b>30 new people</b></p> <p>through our Outreach Digital Skills</p>	<p>Raised</p> <p><b>Over £17,000</b></p> <p>through campaigns and events</p>
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**Your support made this possible**, and together, we can achieve even more for our community. To learn more about our Volunteering opportunities or upcoming events, visit our website at [www.compaid.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.compaid.org.uk/get-involved)

## **Bridging the Digital Divide in New Ash Green**



In villages like New Ash Green in Sevenoaks, many people are feeling the effects of essential services shifting online.

Our Outreach trainer Nicole supports dozens of residents every month to gain the skills they need to access important information, bank and shop online, stay in touch with family, and connecting to support services. Thanks to further funding from Sevenoaks District Council, this will continue into 2026.

**Nicole**, said:

*“The people who book sessions with me can ask as many questions as they want, and as I help them, they can practice what I have shown them to ensure they are comfortable with what they have learnt.”*

Read our full interview with Nicole on our website: <https://www.compaid.org.uk/news/new-ash-green-outreach/>

## Driver Spotlight: Lee's Lasting Impact

Our Transport Team deliver over **30,000 journeys** across Kent every year thanks to our amazing staff and volunteer drivers. They make every journey meaningful, treating each passenger with kindness, respect, and care that truly brightens their day. One driver who made a lasting impact was **Lee**.



For two years, Lee went above and beyond for every passenger he supported, making sure they felt safe, confident, and valued whenever they travelled on our accessible buses. His dedication was recognised when our teams voted for him to receive the Transport Champion award this summer, a testament to how much he meant to our clients and team alike.

Sadly, Lee had to leave our Transport Team at the end of September, but before he did, Lee shared a few reflections on his time with Compaid and what being a driver meant to him:



*Hello all!*

*Some of you may already know that I have been struggling with an ongoing health problem. It means that I will have to leave Compaid at the end of September. This genuinely makes me sad. But I am also very happy to have had the privilege to get to know so many wonderful people, both clients and staff.*

*I have never worked anywhere quite like Compaid before and doubt that I will again.*

*From my first day, I was made to feel welcome and one of the team, but the best part by far was meeting the fantastic clients who use Compaid's service each week.*

*I've had such memorable journeys with many of you, where we have just chatted about anything and everything and each time, we have always managed to have a laugh! You, the clients, have all enriched my life no end and I think that you are all amazing.*

*Very soon, my family and I will be moving, but, whenever I am in the area, I will be sure to drop in and say hello.*

*A huge thank you to everyone at Compaid and I wish you all the best of luck for the future. - Lee*

**Thank you, Lee!** You made such a positive impact to everyone you supported as a driver, and were a valuable member of our team. Wishing you all the best!



## Service Availability over Christmas & New Years



As we approach the end of the year, the availability of our services will change slightly, so we want to make sure all our service users, and their families and carers are kept informed.

Please take note of the following dates:

<p><b>Digital Skills Centre</b></p> <p>Closed: 25th December 2025 - 2nd January 2026</p> <p>Fully open: 5th January 2026</p>	<p><b>Accessible Transport</b></p> <p>Closed: 25th &amp; 26th December</p> <p>Open: 27th - 31st December</p> <p>Closed: 1st January 2026</p> <p>Fully Open: 2nd January 2026</p>
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# Exploring Our Community:

## A Day at the Fire Station

Thanks to our amazing Paddock Wood Community Warden Sophie, at the end of September, our clients spent a great day with firefighters at the Paddock Wood Fire Station.

The joy they felt when trying on firefighter gear, getting in the fire truck and taking turns on the hose was contagious! We're thrilled that we could connect our clients with their local community in this fun way!



For more stories about and from our clients, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn!](#)

***“Compaid’s transport service helps me get to the Maidstone Age UK Centre from Haversham.***

***“The service is vital for my social life. It helps me get to my weekly appointments and allows me to meet friends often.***

***Without Compaid, I wouldn’t be able to see anyone or get anywhere.”***

**- Ernestine, 89 years old, Passenger**

## A Huge Thank you to TWODS!

We just wanted to say a big thank you to TWODS for the generous tickets to The Sound of Music! It was such a fantastic show, we loved every minute of it. Your kindness and generosity are so much appreciated by our clients.



We also want to acknowledge the incredible support we've received from the following trusts, whose generosity makes a great difference:

- **Cantiacorum Foundation**, for supporting the purchase of much-needed art and gaming equipment for our centre.
- **Barratt Redrow Foundation**, for donating funds to provide outdoor seating, giving our clients a lovely space to relax and enjoy.
- **Great Stonebridge Trust of Edenbridge**, for their continued support of our Outreach Digital Skills delivery in Edenbridge.
- **Cobtree Trust**, for continuing their support of our accessible transport for Maidstone residents.

## Thank you for your support

Your generous donations 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](http://www.compaid.org.uk)





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