



Connect - Learn - Thrive

Compaid Voice

April 2026



Compaid turns 40 years old!

This year marks a truly special milestone for us as Compaid celebrates

40 years of supporting people and communities across Kent. We are proud to continue the inspiring legacy of our founder, **Lorna Ridgway**, whose vision has shaped everything we do today.

Please enjoy a short recap of what we have been up to since our last newsletter, along with a preview of some exciting events coming soon.

Thank you for your continued support!

Fiona Condron completes her term on the Board of Trustees



Everyone at Compaid, whether staff or volunteer, plays a part in changing the lives of people in our community for the better. Their dedication to our charity means thousands of disabled, older, and isolated people in Kent can live more confident and connected lives.

Behind the scenes, our Board of Trustees guide our teams with their insight and experience, and for the past 10 years, Fiona Condron has supported them as a member and

Chair to help Compaid reach greater heights.

Today, we are saddened to announce that Fiona's time with us as come to an end.

Fiona said:

"After more than 10 years, including two as Chair, it's with sadness that today marks my last as a Trustee of Compaid. Being a Trustee has been a wonderful experience and I have learnt so much, both personally and professionally. I have always been inspired by our team of dedicated staff and volunteers who provide so many opportunities for our beneficiaries to Connect, Learn and Thrive.

"During my time, we navigated a pandemic, received significant funding from the National Lottery and Motability, successfully tendered twice for the KCC transport contract and our digital training, in the training centre and outreach have ensured that 1000s of individuals have been able to improve their digital skills.

“Like so many local charities, we face challenges and we are not immune to financial pressures. However, we have a Board of Trustees who bring so many skills and deep experience and I leave the charity in their capable hands – with Jean-Pierre Le Borgne stepping into the role of Chair.

“I will always remain a “friend” of Compaid and the friendships I have made will, I hope, stay long into the future.”

We are immensely grateful for Fiona’s dedicated leadership of our Board and Compaid. Her compassion for the people who rely on our services, and her confidence in Compaid’s potential to achieve even more has enabled us to grow and support even more people in our community.

Fiona will be succeeded by our new Chair, **Jean-Pierre Le Borgne**, from April 1st 2026.

Compaid is running the 2026 London Marathon

We are so excited to be represented in the incredible **2026 TCS London Marathon on Sunday 26th April 2026!**

The world-renowned London Marathon is one of the Abbott World Marathon Majors, and conquering the 26.2 mile course is an achievement that over 55,000 people chase after every single year.

This year, **Taylor Cherry** will be proudly representing Compaid on Sunday 26th April, taking on one of the world’s most inspiring



and challenging races, and is aiming to raise **£2000** for Compaid as she does so.

About Taylor

Taylor is a hospice nurse living in the United States and an experienced runner with a long-held dream of running the London Marathon. For many years, she worked toward this goal, but like so many international runners, this iconic race remained just out of reach.

After years of trying, Compaid was fortunate to secure a charity place in the London Marathon. It's a rare opportunity, and one we saw as a meaningful way to raise vital funds while sharing Compaid's story in a new and inspiring way. With this opportunity, we offered Taylor the chance to finally fulfil her dream of running the London Marathon, while proudly supporting Compaid along the way.

Taylor said:

“Running has given me peace during years as an emergency nurse, space to process grief, and now time to reflect and reset as a hospice nurse. It's given me sunrise miles, deep conversations with friends, confidence in my ability to endure hard things, and moments of calm when everything else felt heavy. It has been a constant when so little else was.

“Now, I get to use this love of running for something bigger than myself. Knowing that this run has purpose beyond the finish line is what will carry me through the toughest miles.”

With **only 25 days to go**, Taylor is already well into her training as she prepares for the challenge ahead. She's also working to raise **£2,000** for Compaid.

Every contribution to Taylor's fundraiser will go directly towards supporting our vital services, helping to support vulnerable people and strengthen communities where support is needed most. However big or small, your donation can make a real difference and help Taylor to reach her goal.

Read more about Taylor on our website: www.compaid.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising/compaid-london-marathon-2026/

"So impressed with the service you provided today - really brilliant.

"[The drivers] Mark & Hayley are top people, making the difficult task of getting Mum to her appointment really easy!"

- Family member of Compaid passenger

Celebrating Lorna's Legacy

In March, we celebrated Women's History Month by honouring the 40 year legacy of our founder, **Lorna Ridgway** and her determination to create a more inclusive world.

In the mid-1980s, while volunteering at Cheshire Home in Tunbridge Wells, Lorna Ridgway saw something: the power of technology to make life more accessible for disabled people in her community.

Lorna's small computer sessions in the residential home grew into Compaid being founded in 1986, and now into a community that has empowered thousands of disabled people to connect, learn, and thrive ever since.



40 years later, one woman's belief is still changing lives.

Thank you, Lorna!

A Wonderful Christmas Time at Compaid



Our 2025 Christmas celebrations filled our Paddock Wood centre with laughter and joy.

A week of gift giving, games and a delicious fish & chips lunches were the perfect way to celebrate the season with our clients, staff & volunteers.

Thank you to **Tonbridge Lions Club** and **Oliver's Fish and Chips in Paddock Wood** for making this great week possible!

[This year, your support matters more than ever!](#)

Our work supporting people across Kent to connect, learn, and thrive is made possible because of your support.

As the economy changes drastically, charities across the UK are facing rising costs and reduced funding opportunities. This brings greater pressure to keep vital services available for those most in need.

We are not immune to these challenges, but our commitment to continuing our vital work across Kent, support people and strengthen communities remains unchanged. However, we can't do it without your support.

What Can You Do?

Whether you are an individual, a local business, or part of a larger organisation, anything you can do to support Compaid will make a real and lasting difference.

You can:

- Make a one-time or recurring donation to support us
- Fundraise for us through an event
- Offer your expertise or services to support our work
- or Partner with us.

Join us in making a difference today! Together, we can continue building a more connected, confident, and inclusive community for everyone.



Thank you for your support!



Connect - Learn - Thrive

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