



AUGUST 2018

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Scooby Doo comes to Compaid!



John Wateridge, a client at the Training Centre, has some very inventive fundraising ideas. The latest one involved a "life-size" cut out of the cartoon character Scooby Doo, which John had managed to obtain from the Halifax in Tonbridge. Clients, staff and volunteers had great fun throwing soft balls at Scooby and gained points for each of the targets that they managed to hit (definitely not as easy as it might sound!) Prizes were kindly donated by the Co-op at Branbridges Road, East Peckham and the lucky winners were **Jim Bayne**,

Kate Crawford and **Steffon Marshall**.

John raised £8.50 for Compaid, and is hoping to repeat his success with other fundraising schemes (when he is not busy with his story writing!)



Compaid is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England with company registration number 3400811 and charity registration number 1064160.

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

On 22nd June our Fundraising Manager Diane was invited to attend Tonbridge Rotary club's golf day in Ticehurst as we were delighted to be one of the recipients of support from the event.

Barclays Bank agreed to match fund a percentage of the event proceeds due to the relationship they had with Harry Lilly, one of the organisers. We were delighted to subsequently receive **£750** from them. We are awaiting final confirmation of the total raised but are extremely grateful for the amazing support that Tonbridge Rotary offer us each year.



Event Organiser—David Wells



The Tonbridge Rotary team



Event Organiser—Eddie Prescott





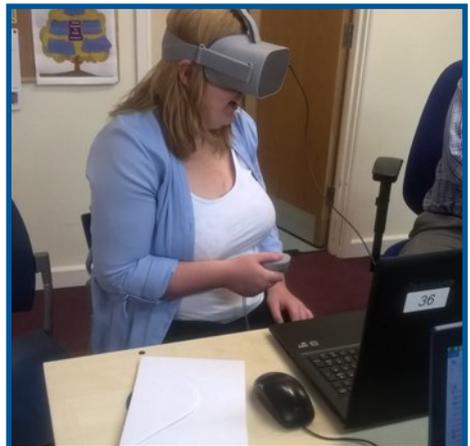
Tonbridge Lions Club Sponsored Walk

Diane Bradley and Nicky Buckwell headed a team of Compaid staff, volunteers and supporters on this walk on 13th May. Thank you to all our walkers, **Lesley & David Turner**, their lovely family and **Steve Hallworth** who joined us to raise valuable funds.



We set ourselves a target of £600 to purchase a VR (virtual reality) headset for the Training Centre. Between us and with the fantastic support of our friends, family & colleagues, we managed to raise **£365** towards our target. Thank you to everyone who kindly supported and sponsored us.

We are delighted to report that since the Walk we have now purchased one VR headset which is now being used by clients within the Training Centre, allowing them to experience many different types of activities which may not have previously been possible for them due to their disabilities. So far clients have been to space, looked at volcanoes, sat at a café in St. Mark's square in Venice, and some brave folk even tried out a roller coaster! Here is our intrepid client **Jess** using the Oculus Go to explore a wonderful rainforest.



Compaid welcomes Tunbridge Wells Mayor

We were delighted to receive Tunbridge Wells Mayor & Mayoress, Councillor Len Horwood and his wife Judy when they visited our digital skills centre in Paddock Wood recently.

The Mayor and his wife spent time talking to clients, staff & volunteers learning about the activities, work and art and design opportunities that we provide. The Mayoress particularly enjoyed her experience using our new virtual reality headset as she learned to walk in space!

During the visit our client and resident story writer **John** was delighted to present the Mayor with a copy of his latest work.

The Mayor commented "It has been a thoroughly enjoyable visit having the opportunity to speak with clients and seeing first-hand the invaluable work, activities and support that Compaid provides".



Councillor Horwood and Carl - avid Chelsea fans!



John presenting his story



Our visitors meeting Josie (client) and Kate (Volunteer)

Kent County Show



This was the first time that Compaid had attended the



Kent County Show at Detling. We were extremely grateful as our stand had been part-funded through a grant from Kent County Councillor Sarah Hamilton.

Our appreciation goes to all our volunteers who gave up their weekend to run our stand and help recruit new volunteers:

Stephen Elsdon, Judith Williams, Diane Bradley, Sairah Merchant, Richard & Carol Tanner, Rob Handley, Jonathan Sargent, Jenny & Andy Wythes, Jo Montgomery, Fred Bailey, Sara Durie & Jim Scrimgeour.

We would like to extend our thanks to the generous

companies (Kent & East Sussex Railway, Leeds Castle, Poacher & Partridge restaurant, Chapel Down vineyard, Waterside Café, Hawkhurst & Felicity Milligan) who donated some amazing prizes for our raffle, which raised over **£300.**



Paddock Wood Carnival



Saturday 14th July dawned hot and sunny - a perfect day for the Paddock Wood Carnival.

As in previous years the Carnival started with a morning procession through Paddock Wood. A Compaid minibus took pride of place in the parade, colourfully decorated with posters depicting well-known Musicals. The van was driven by **Carol Tanner** and was accompanied by **Donna Winch, Amber Selden, Richard Tanner** and his children who carried collection buckets raising over **£75** from the generous spectators lining the route.

After the parade, attention turned to St Andrews Field where crowds enjoyed the fine weather taking time to watch displays, visit the numerous stalls and partake of the varied refreshments on offer – ice creams were certainly much in evidence!



Our Teddy Tombola stall proved very popular and along with sale of tickets for our Summer Raffle raised over **£120**. Special thanks go to our Assistant fundraiser **Nicky Buckwell** who organized and oversaw our involvement throughout the day, and volunteers **Sheila Brown, Simone Prince, Donna Winch, Wendy Collins, Carol, Richard and Katie Tanner** who very kindly gave up their time to help.

Lands End to John O'Groats bike ride



On 22nd July Compaid Transport Assistant **Jo Montgomery** and her partner **Fred Bailey** left Lands End on their bikes to cycle the length of the country to John O'Groats. Jo and Fred have very kindly decided to take part in this challenge in aid of Compaid, so it is not too late to show your support and sponsor them at

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FredandJo>

Their route, using cycle paths and minor roads wherever possible, will take them through Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, York, Middlesbrough and Edinburgh with an aim to finishing in John O'Groats on Sunday 12th August - a total of **1,095.8** miles!

Daily text updates and photos are being sent enabling us to monitor their progress and keep our Centre clients informed via their challenge map (Shown below). Early photos included views of St Michaels Mount and Bude beach which was reached after 51 miles of cycling across Bodmin of which 14 miles was uphill!



At the time of going to press the intrepid duo have reached Edinburgh and a full report on their ride will appear in our next newsletter.

On behalf of all at Compaid we wish them the very best of luck and hope that they have a safe, successful and enjoyable ride.

Transport News



Dave Budgen

Compaid recently said goodbye to some valued members of staff and volunteers. **Dave Budgen** retired in March after nearly 10 years as a driver. We have also said a fond farewell to two of our volunteer drivers, **Roy**

Smithers and **John Sharpe**, both of whom have been with us for over 5 years and contributed thousands of hours of volunteering for Compaid.



Jim Scrimgeour, John Sharpe & Stephen Elsdon

Carol Tanner has also decided to take on new challenges and has left Compaid after five years based in the busy transport office and driver **Mark Hughes** has recently moved to another part of the charitable sector. **Jim Scrimgeour**, our Transport Manager, has expressed his gratitude on behalf of everyone at Compaid to Dave, Roy, John, Carol and Mark, for their many years of dedicated service, and we wish them all the best for the future.

Compaid Transport has been successful in gaining more KCC School contract work in recent months and we have been busy recruiting additional staff for these roles. We welcome **Mark Barton**, **Dianne Gibson**, **Amanda Simpson** and **Janine Chatfield** into the transport team as valued colleagues.

We have been joined by a new member of staff in the Transport Office, **Nicola Chaplin**, and we also have been fortunate to gain another volunteer driver to add to the team. **Steve Hallsworth** is a retired police officer who gives up his valuable time once a week to help Compaid make a difference.

As for the future, Compaid is in the process of negotiations with Age UK to take over their transport operations in the Tunbridge Wells area, and if successful we will be recruiting new staff to cover this new venture.

We are also in the process of replacing some of our vehicle fleet. One new vehicle was ordered at the beginning of June and we hope to take delivery of the mini bus in the not too distant future. Watch this space for further details!

Jim Scrimgeour, Transport Manager

Links with local businesses



We are delighted to announce our partnership with Tunbridge Wells based **CK Office Solutions**.

Thanks to their generosity, we recently took delivery of two new printers now enabling us to

print high quality copies of clients work, designs and artwork. Charlie Stevens, Sales and Service Director, visited our training Centre to oversee the installation of the new printers and took time to speak to some of our clients. He is shown with Training Centre Co-ordinator **Jonathan**, and client **Allison**.



In addition they also assisted us in kindly providing the high quality poster for our Land's End to John O'Groats cycle ride.

Waitrose



We would like to extend our thanks to Waitrose Paddock Wood for the years of support that we have received through raffle prizes and donations from their Community Matters initiative.

In addition to this wonderful support we have recently become a recipient of their FareShare initiative and are now receiving donations twice a week. These donations can range from surplus food to flowers & items with damaged packaging which are not suitable for sale through their store. The items are then distributed to clients at our Centre in Paddock Wood.

Thanks to recent talks with David Brown, McColl's Area Manager, a new partnership with Compaid has been formed as we have been selected as their chosen Charity for the Paddock Wood area. Collection tins have now been placed in both their shop in Commercial Road, and outlet in the local Railway station.

On 28 June McColl's staff at their Paddock Wood branch held a fundraising Open day introducing Compaid to their customers and incorporated a raffle which raised a fantastic **£98**. **Nicky Buckwell** and **Diane Bradley** attended the event, raising awareness of our work and promoting our new partnership.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all McColl's staff and customers for their support and look forward to a great partnership with this well known store.



Compaid celebrates funding successes

In common with many other Charities we are dependent on raising funds from a variety of sources in order to maintain and expand our services. We rely heavily on the generosity of individuals, trusts and companies for financial support.

This year to maintain our current support to disabled people we need to raise **£180,000**, and even more to fund our planned future developments. We are extremely grateful to all the Trusts, Foundations, local businesses, organisations and individuals who have supported Compaid. In this competitive funding market we are always keen to hear from new

supporters/sponsors with an interest in supporting our work.

Since our last newsletter we have been delighted to receive grants from a number of Trusts who are long term supporters of Compaid, some starting their association with the Charity as far back as 1995. These include ***The Bruce Wake Charity, The Iron Bridge Trust, SMB Charitable Trust , The Marsh Christian Trust , The Sir Edward Lewis Foundation and The Earmark Trust.*** This income is vital if we are to continue reaching the many hundreds of disabled, elderly and vulnerable people who require our services. The grants received from the Trusts allow us to maintain and enhance the services offered by both our digital skills training centre and accessible transport services. We like to invite the Trusts who support us to come and see our work first hand. Recently we were delighted to welcome Emily Reeves, Trust Manager of the Marsh Christian Trust to our centre. Emily enjoyed chatting to our clients and saw how their trust support is assisting those who benefit from attending our Centre.

Dates for your diary

Tonbridge Half Marathon - Sunday 7th October 2018

Compaid will be having a stall at the Tonbridge Half Marathon and we are looking for volunteers to help man the stall. In addition we will be looking for donations of cakes which can be sold to the hungry runners in return for a donation to Compaid! If you could help – either as a volunteer on the stall or a baker – please contact Diane Bradley (dianebradley@compaid.org.uk) or Nicky Buckwell (nickybuckwell@compaid.org.uk) or call 01892 834539.

Tonbridge Christmas Festival – Sunday 25th November

For the first time this year Compaid will be having a stall at the Rotary Club of Tonbridge Christmas Festival – further details to follow in due course!

Christmas Celebrations Week at Compaid— Monday 10th—Friday 14th December

Early notification so that you can get the date in your diaries!!!



My day at Compaid, by David Manktelow

My name is David and I come to Compaid every Friday and I find it fun.

I came to Compaid one Thursday afternoon to see if I liked it which I did. Before I came to Compaid I had never used a computer in my life. The staff are very friendly and put you at ease as they will show you how to use a computer.



I like writing stories and playing games and if you like doing dot to dot one of the staff will find it and then load it in to the computer for you to do when you come and the clients that come are very nice and some of us order sandwiches and meals from a local caterer.

When you come you can do various activities that you like and it is very enjoyable when you understand what the computer can do and it will let you do things that you have never done. I have been at Compaid for two years now and I like it very much.



Here is David using our newly-acquired Virtual Reality headset.

Steffon's Show Success



Steffon Marshall, a client at the Training Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays, has had a very busy summer attending agricultural shows to exhibit the animals which he looks after at Princess Christian's Farm in Hildenborough (part of Hadlow College).

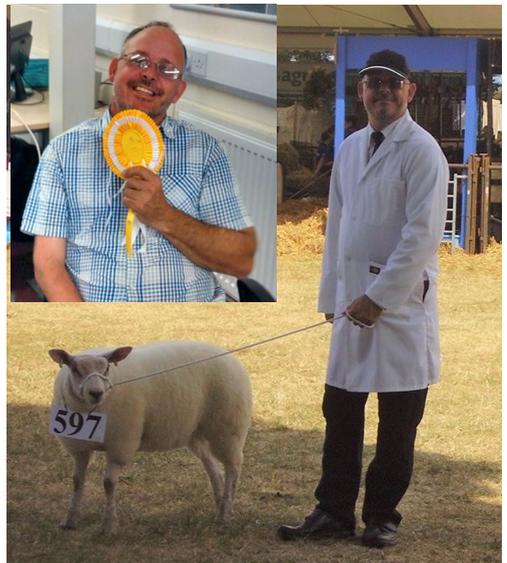
At the Heathfield & District Agricultural Show in May, Steffon

exhibited Welsh and Pietrain pigs (named after the village in Belgium where the breed originated) in the "Smallholders Pig" category. Stef and his colleagues were thrilled to be awarded first place and came away with a trophy, sash and rosette. Steffon commented " It's fun, and I like looking after the pigs".

At the Kent County show in July, Steffon was tasked with looking after the sheep and leading them around the ring for judging.

It was an extremely hot day , and the sheep had to be hosed down at intervals to keep them cool! The Hadlow College sheep triumphed again and Steffon came away with a 3rd place rosette.

Well done, Steffon – we're proud of you!



New Trustee joins the Compaid Board



The Trustees were delighted to welcome Kerry-Ann Francis to the Board when they met in mid-July. Kerry has a background in charities and IT, and worked for some time at major technology company Salesforce, which sells database and cloud computing systems to industry. She now runs her own coaching and business development consultancy. Kerry-Ann was raised in New York City, and now lives in Lewisham with her husband and daughter.

As part of Kerry's induction to Compaid, she will be spending time meeting staff, volunteers and clients over the next few months.

Compaid updates its charitable objects

As a registered charity, Compaid has legally binding objects that determine the type of services we can provide and the people we can provide these to. The objects had not been updated with the Charity Commission for many years, and at the Compaid AGM in October 2017, it was agreed that revised objects should be introduced.

Our objects now state that Compaid can:

“Provide services for the public benefit of disabled and other disadvantaged individuals, groups and communities to help them realise their full potential and achieve better life outcomes, and specifically to facilitate their social, digital and economic inclusion. In particular but not exclusively by:

- the provision of advice and training in the use of digital technology;
- the provision of community transport services;

- the provision of vocational training and employment support to those who wish to gain or retain paid or voluntary work and
- carrying out research in the above areas, and disseminating the results to influence policy making both at local and national levels.”

These new charitable objects now cover our work with individuals such as those with mental health issues or substance addictions, and support to disadvantaged communities such as an isolated village or housing

New partnership to support older people

Following several months of planning, a new charity has now been established in West Kent to co-ordinate services to older people. Age Well West Kent has been formed



by Compaid and four other partners – Age UK Tunbridge Wells, Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge, Age UK Maidstone and Age Concern Malling – and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that will be registered with the Charity Commission. Each charity has a Trustee on the Age Well West Kent board, and I am representing Compaid there.

Age Well West Kent is already taking referrals from doctor’s surgeries across the area, and older people are being supported to access services provided by the partner organisations and other local charities. It is expected that this new approach will simplify access to services for older people and help to share resources among the five partner charities.

If you know of any older person, aged 50 or above, who may need help from community services, they can be referred to Age Well West Kent by calling

[0800 158 4436](tel:08001584436) or emailing info@agewellwestkent.org.uk

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