



JANUARY 2019

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We need your support

New iMac arrives for Training Centre



We were extremely pleased that as the result of one of our recent fundraising approaches we received funding to purchase a new iMac and microphone for our Training Centre.

These new pieces of equipment

will allow clients to explore an exciting range of new media projects, such as music, podcasts, and videos. Clients **Laura** and **Jess** and volunteer **James** are pictured using the "**GarageBand**" software, combining multiple instrumental and voice tracks to create an original musical composition. We will be reporting on clients' experiences in the next newsletter—watch this space! Perhaps there will be a Compaid top ten hit coming soon!



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

Volunteer News

By Judith Williams, H R Administrator

You may have noticed some new faces in our Centre over the past few months and I would like to introduce them to you:

Emma Nye originally trained as a teacher and spent a number of years teaching IT to a wide range of people. She has joined us as a Volunteer Computer Trainer and supports our clients with a variety of computer activities. Emma is a keen traveller and has had various long trips abroad including several months travelling through the Middle East, Asia and America, 3 months travelling in South Africa, and an extended trip to Europe, Africa and America.



Lisa Eastley, originally from Londonderry in Northern Ireland, is an ex primary school teacher who has turned her talents to volunteering in our Centre. One of the many things she is able to do is to support our clients to use **Scratch**, a simple programming software which enables the user to create their own interactive stories, games, and animations. Lisa has a very mischievous cockerpoo called Casper who is very spoilt but adored and also loves people. He takes Lisa on regular long walks which they both enjoy.



James Lawson is our new Music Volunteer. He plays guitar and piano and is an experienced singer, having been classically trained and attained grade 6. James enjoys singing with a choir and at church in his spare time. Having informally taught students before, he has joined us to support interested clients to explore making and recording music through singing or playing an instrument.





Lydia Shacklock is our new Arts & Crafts Volunteer. Lydia has recently finished university obtaining a first class honours degree in the History of Art. She is an artist and would eventually like to pursue a career in arts education with a particular interest in how art can be used to support disabled people

Everyone at Compaid would like to extend a warm welcome and heartfelt thank you to you all.

However, even with these new additions to our team we are still looking for volunteers to support our work, particularly in the following areas:

- **Volunteer Computer Trainers** for our Training Centre in Paddock Wood and also for our **Outreach Team** visiting a residential home in Seal.
- **Volunteer Minibus Drivers** providing a vital lifeline to many disabled people.
- New **Trustees** to join our Board.

If you, or anyone you know is interested in finding out more, please contact me by email at judith.williams@compaid.org.uk or call 01892 834539.

Thank you again to Waitrose ...

Waitrose in Paddock Wood generously allowed Compaid to have a table in their foyer for 2 mornings in early January. Thank you again to **Phillipa Humphrey, Community and Marketing Coordinator.**

I would also like to thank volunteers, **Simone Prince** and **Tony Carter** for their help. *Judith.*

Josie's Life story



Josie, one of our Thursday clients, is a real wordsmith. She enjoys writing poems and stories, playing word games such as Text Twist and Scrabble, and has recently taken on the challenge of compiling her memoirs .

“Josie’s life story” is a fascinating peek into her life illustrated by wonderfully evocative photos of her childhood, holidays, marriage and cats!

Josie’s parents came over from Berlin and Vienna in 1939, and Josie spent her idyllic-sounding childhood in London and then Southborough. Josie got married in 1972, wearing an Austrian dirndl, and guests partook of a very elaborate French wedding cake.

A very demure looking
Josie and her brother !



If you are a Compaidd client who would like to relive some memories by writing your life story, please let the staff know and we will do our best to make it happen.

Tracing your Family History

Are you an avid viewer of the BBC programme *“Who do you think you are?”*, and have you ever wondered if you are distantly related to royalty (like Danny Dyer!) Several clients at the Training Centre have been tracing their family trees with the help of staff, using programs such as **RootsMagic**. a



(Compaid also has an annual subscription to **Ancestry**). So far, one client has traced his family back to Robert the Bruce, and **Jonathan** (Training Centre Co-ordinator) has (if he is to be believed!), discovered that he is related to

the Danish Royal family, and the Norse God Odin! We have also had two clients who traced their family trees back to Norman times, and discovered that they were distantly related. If you would like to find out more about family history, let us know at the Training Centre, and we can start you on a fascinating journey of discovery.

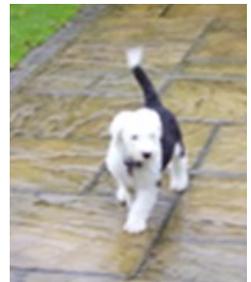
Compaid Cookery Book—Steffon’s contribution



Compaid client **Steffon Marshall** has been hard at work compiling the Compaid cookery book, using recipes from staff, volunteers and clients. He has painstakingly entered each recipe into an e-book editing program known as **Jutoh**, and is currently adding finishing touches. Steffon is extremely busy,

both at Compaid and outside, working at Princess Christian’s Farm in Hildenborough, where he looks after prize-winning sheep and pigs, and managing a troop of cub scouts (including going on many camping trips in all weathers!) The Marshall family have recently acquired a new addition—Alfie, an Old English Sheepdog puppy, now four months old, and a bit mad, according to Steffon!

If you have any recipes which you would like to contribute to the Compaid Cook Book, we would love to have them as soon as possible. Thank you, Steffon, and we look forward to the launch of the cookery book very soon!





Christmas Celebrations at Compaid

Compaid bus driver **Andy Eaglestone** has done it again! Andy, who drives the shoppers' bus in the Faversham area and school buses in the Sittingbourne area, started Christmas celebrations early by decorating his bus with Christmas lights, snowmen, penguins, Father Christmas and elves in true festive spirit. This was much appreciated by all who travelled with him. Andy is renowned for decorating his bus for children's birthdays, Halloween and any other festive occasions so that he can bring a smile to his passengers' faces. We think he's amazing—hope you do too!





During the week of 10th-14th December, a Lucky Dip was held at lunchtime each day and every client attending the Training Centre received a gift – all of which had been kindly donated by members of staff, volunteers and Trustees. To make the event even more special on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday we were extremely lucky to have Father Christmas present to take charge of the lucky dip proceedings! Here he is with **Jane**.

We were delighted again this year to invite additional guests, family members, and trustees to our Christmas festivities, and to have so many come and join us.

During the afternoon of Thursday 13th December, clients, staff and guests were delighted to welcome Year 12 music students from **Mascalls Academy**, whose band rocked us through a fantastic performance of popular songs and Christmas favourites. The tapping of feet and participation by some clients, proved they were obviously a hit! (and there have been requests for a repeat performance next Christmas.!)

Handmade gifts and a good as new stall offered last minute Christmas gifts for sale, as well as a Soft Toy Tombola which proved very popular (a giant Winnie the Pooh and Tigger were seen getting into the rear of our minibus!)

Our thanks go to everyone who helped to make this such a fun event. We would also like to extend our thanks to Plaxtol Bakery and Waitrose in Paddock Wood for their generous donations towards the afternoon's refreshments.



Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas Raffle this year raised over **£1,000** and offered participants the chance to win a variety of wonderful prizes. Our special thanks go to the local businesses who kindly donated prizes: Waitrose Paddock Wood, Sands Hotel Margate, Mark Selden of MSD Architects, McColls, Trinity Theatre, Co-op, The Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells Sugar Craft Guild, John Lewis, Barsleys, LouLou Bella toiletries, Capel Cottage Nursery, Notcutts Maidstone, Mandy Vear of Hanging Gardens, Waterside Café, Hawkhurst and also to various anonymous individuals for their contributions.

Christmas Cake Treasure Hunt



We were very fortunate once again to receive three beautifully hand decorated Christmas cakes donated by the Tunbridge Wells Sugar Craft Guild. The cakes demonstrated the amazing skill and imagination of their Guild members.



Two of the cakes (above) were used as prizes in a special Christmas Cake Treasure Hunt which ran throughout the week and raised an impressive **£72** and the third cake (left) was used as a prize in our main Christmas Raffle

Fundraising Day at McColls

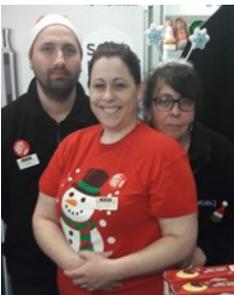
We are delighted to announce that we have become **McColls** chosen charity in 11 local stores across Kent. The first event of this new partnership took place on 19th December when staff at the stores were asked to wear Christmas jumpers as part of a fundraising day in aid of Compaid.

The event was a great success, raising around **£500** for Compaid. On the day **Nicky Buckwell** (Fundraising Assistant) visited stores in Tonbridge, Hadlow, Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood, West Malling, West Kingsdown and Staplehurst to wish staff a Happy Christmas and thank them for their support.

We look forward to working with McColls in future and to many more successful events. Apart from fundraising through the placement of collection boxes in each of the stores, the partnership also provides a great opportunity to raise awareness of the Charity and the work that we do across Kent.

Our thanks go to all the McColls staff and regional manager, **David Brown**, for organising the day and for all the support that they give us.

Some of McColls staff in their festive finery!



Compaid – Tunbridge Wells Mayor’s Charity of the Year 2019/20

Compaid is delighted to have been chosen by the Tunbridge Wells Mayor elect, **Councillor James Scholes**, to be his chosen charity for his term in office which commences on 22 May 2019.



Compaid will feature at many of the mayoral events throughout his year, the highlight of which will be the Civic Dinner and Fundraising event on **Saturday 21 September** at High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells. At the dinner there will be a raffle and auction and all proceeds from events during the year will benefit Compaid.

Other events will include a Bowls Match at the Grove Bowls Club on **Tuesday 18 June**, the Mayor’s Civic Service at King Charles the Martyr Church on **Sunday 7 July**, Clay Pigeon Shoot on **Thursday 3 October** and the Mayor’s Charity Quiz Night in **January 2020**.

We are extremely grateful to Councillor Scholes and his wife, Jane, for their support and choosing Compaid to benefit from their year in office. This is a great honour for Compaid and we look forward to working with Councillor Scholes to help make his term in office enjoyable and successful for the charity.

During the year we will be looking for volunteers to assist at events, and hoping to receive some very special auction and raffle donated prizes. If you can help with any of the above, either by volunteering or donating a raffle/ auction prize please contact Diane Bradley (dianebradley@compaid.org.uk) or Nicky Buckwell (nickybuckwell@compaid.org.uk) or call us on 01892 834539.

Co-op community fund



In October it was announced that we had been chosen once again as a Co-op community fund recipient. This sponsorship will run for one year to the end of October 2019.

Please support us again if you are a Co-op member – there is no cost to you and the Co-op will give 1% of what you spend on **Co-op** products and money from carrier bag sales to Compaid. All you need to do is to log onto your Co-op membership account and choose Compaid as your nominated charity.

As well as featuring as their chosen Charity we are also extremely grateful to **Sam Salti** and all the Co-op staff and customers at the Branbridges Road Petrol station. Collections boxes placed at their tills have to date raised over **£1,300**.



Compaid needs you! Help required for the Paddock Wood Half Marathon Sunday 7 April 2019

Could you volunteer to assist with car parking for the Paddock Wood Marathon on **Sunday 7th April?**

We will meet in Eastlands from 07:45 as Baxalls kindly donate both of their car parks so that we can raise valuable funds. Competitors will start arriving from 08:00 —and you should be finished by 09:00.

Last year we managed to raise just over £1,100 through donations from competitors who were delighted to be able to once again park so close to the start. Your support would be very much appreciated. If you are able to help please contact Diane Bradley (dianebradley@compaid.org.uk or 01892 834539).

This year we will need to raise **£200,000** in fundraising income to maintain our current support to disabled, elderly and vulnerable people and we must raise **even more** to fund our planned future developments. We are extremely grateful to all the Trusts, Foundations, local businesses, organisations and individuals who currently support Compaid, but we need to encourage more supporters to reach our target.

Since our last newsletter we have been delighted to receive grants from a number of new Trusts and others who have been supporting Compaid as far back as 1994. These include: Kent Community Foundation – Kent Reliance Provident Society Fund, The Britford Trust, G C Gibson Charitable Trust, Hospital Saturday Fund, People's Postcode Community Trust, Masonic Charitable Foundation, C M Keyser Charitable Trust, G M Morrison Charitable Trust, Tory Family Foundation and Paddock Wood Lions and Lionesses. Grants received have ranged in value from **£300** to **£10,000**.

These Trust grants are essential in enabling us to continue supporting the many hundreds of disabled, elderly and vulnerable people who are in need of our services. In addition particular grants have also contributed towards the replacement costs of a new minibus, new iPads and an iMac computer for the training centre (see front page).

In this competitive funding market we are always keen to hear from businesses or individuals who may feel they could sponsor or support us in some way. So if you, or anyone you know, would like further information about how to support Compaid please contact Diane Bradley, Fundraising Manager (dianebradley@compaid.org.uk or call 01892 834539) for an informal chat.

Compaid News

More new Trustees Join the Compaid Board

We are delighted to welcome two more Trustees to the Compaid Board in **Andrew Robertson** (pictured below) and **Barry Jenkins**.

Andrew, who lives near Westerham, is a Director with major contracting company Serco, and has many years' experience in contracting and project management. A qualified accountant, Andrew has also worked in the education sector, including as a school governor.

Barry has recently retired as Chairman of the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund, and relocated to Tunbridge Wells with his partner.



Barry's career was spent in the cinema industry, including several years as Managing Director for Cannon Cinemas.

Both Andrew and Barry will be spending time at Compaid over the next few months as part of their induction, and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Fit for the Future

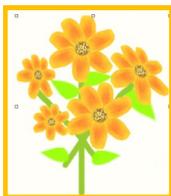
Staff and volunteers attended a series of 'listening events' at the end of 2018 to discuss the emerging goals from the Fit for the Future programme. Chief Executive **Stephen Elsdon** explained to attendees that the goals were developed through meetings with clients, staff, Trustees and advisers from **Pilotlight** who were supporting Compaid throughout last year.

Among the goals are introducing shared values – of equality, support, collaboration, continuous learning, and speaking out – and pooling talent among staff, volunteers and clients to benefit the charity in the long term.

Many positive ideas came from the listening events, and further clients are now being invited to share their thoughts through a short survey. This will help to set timescales and milestones for the goals, which can then be monitored and reported on through Compaid Voice and other communications.

Graham Banes

Staff, clients and volunteers alike were saddened by the loss of Monday client **Graham Banes**, who has died after a short illness. Graham had been coming to Compaid for many years, and will be remembered by us all for his infectious giggle, his love of EastEnders and cuddly meerkats, his colourful paintings, and his sense of fun when playing golf on the Wii. We send our deepest sympathy to his family.



Compaid Voice Information

Compaid Voice is published four times per year: January, April, July and October. If you would like to receive a copy via email, please contact Diane Bradley (Fundraising Manager) dianebradley@compaid.org.uk

Forthcoming articles.

Compaid Voice is for **you**—If there is anything you would like to see covered in Compaid Voice, please let us know. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding Compaid Voice, please contact Jonathan (Training Centre Co-ordinator) jonathansargant@compaid.org.uk or Jenny (Training Centre staff member). jennywythes@compaid.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!



Don't forget—we are also on facebook and Twitter, where you can find the latest tweets on what clients have been up to.



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