



JANUARY 2020

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## Malcolm's joke book is a huge success!

**Malcolm Hill's** joke book was mentioned in the last edition of Compaid Voice, and so far has been a sell out! There has been a steady demand for copies of *"The Compaid book of forgettable jokes, probably Vol 1"*, which so far has raised over **£40** for Compaid.

As Malcolm has an unstoppable supply of jokes, he is now working on Vol. 2, with the help of volunteers **John Eagles** and **Simone Prince**. Malcolm records all his jokes using our new microphone and speech to text software.

To whet your appetite, here are a couple of jokes from Malcolm's book: *"if I had 50p for every maths exam I'd taken and failed, I'd have £2.70"* and *"I'm reading a book on the history of glue. I can't put it down!"*



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

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# Volunteer News

By Judith Williams, H R Administrator

## New Faces

**W**elcome to some new faces in our Centre:

"My name is **Tracey** and this is one of my four golden retrievers called **Poppy**. I am originally from Buckingham but have lived most of my life in Tonbridge and Paddock Wood. I have worked with children both with special needs and within a nursery setting, as well as office work both in London and locally.



I have a son, Michael and a grandson, aged five. I have many interests including ancestry research, cross stitching, gardening, walking and showing Poppy at dog shows.

I heard about Compaid from a friend who is a volunteer in the Centre. She asked me if I would bring Poppy in one day for a client's birthday as a special surprise as the client loved dogs but was unable to have one of her own. Well, that was three months ago and I now come along to sessions twice a week, bringing Poppy with me once a week."

The clients love to see Poppy, and she has her very own volunteer's badge!

## Volunteers Needed

As always, we are in need of new volunteers to support our work in the Training Centre, particularly with music and arts and crafts, and with driving our vehicles. If you know of anyone who can help, please ask them to get in touch.

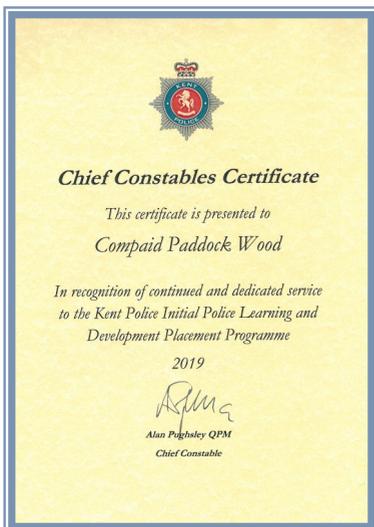
## Thank You

**A**rmed with leaflets, newsletters, posters and the display board, I set up in the foyer of Waitrose Paddock Wood store for 2 mornings during a week in November 2019. My aim was to raise awareness about Compaid in the local community.

There was quite a lot on interest with a number of people stopping at my table to ask questions and take information away with them.

My thanks to **Philippa Humphrey**, Community Marketing Co ordinator at Waitrose for your continued support and for organising these opportunities for Compaid to engage with the general public.

## Certificate of Appreciation from Kent Police Chief Constable



I am really delighted to report that Compaid have been awarded their 2nd award from the Chief Constable of Kent Police for the partnership work with the Student Officer Community Placement Programme.

The relationship between Compaid and Kent Police is continuing into 2020 and there are a number of work experience placements planned for the coming months.

As part of their diversity training, the student officers learn about the ways that different disabilities can affect someone, both physically and cognitively. This helps them to understand a little more about how to communicate correctly and effectively when dealing anyone less able than themselves.



# TRANSPORT NEWS

## **Compaid welcomes new Transport Manager, Andy Allen**



*“Last autumn I decided that it was time for a change so when I saw the ad for the Transport Manager’s role at Compaid, I thought that it would fit with my experience and also would give me the opportunity to work for an organisation that benefits the community.*”

*My working background has always been in Transport and I have previously owned my own minibus and coach company, run a courier company and managed transport departments, including one that managed farm workers and vehicles. I have also driven coaches and lorries professionally.*

*I was originally born in Chatham and now live in Aylesford with my partner and our dog . I can often be found walking with my dog by the local river and out in the countryside.*

*I enjoy gardening, particularly growing my own vegetables. I also enjoy restoring old classic cars and am a keen follower of cricket. I have been to matches at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff and the Ageas Rose Bowl in Southampton to watch England play.”*

# Compaid wins Transtech Award for Rural Innovation



Compaid’s electric minibus pilot scheme won a Transtech Rural Innovation award at the end of 2019.

The electric minibus is the first in Europe, and has attracted great interest from those in the commercial and community transport industries. The judges at the inaugural Transtech awards– which celebrate the use of technology to improve passenger transport – recognised the great steps Compaid had taken, along with our partners Kent County Council and Renault Trucks.

Chief Executive **Stephen Elsdon** and Compaid Trustee **Christopher Shawdon** joined colleagues from KCC and Renault at the awards lunch in London, and received their certificate from Red Dwarf star and electro-mobility advocate **Robert Llewelyn**.

Stephen said: *“Compaid is proud to be leading the field in bringing electro-mobility to passenger transport for disabled people. It is wonderful to see these efforts, and those of our partners Kent County Council and Renault Trucks, recognised by industry peers at the Transtech Awards.”*



## Jim moves to a new role



Left—Stephen Elsden (Chief Executive) pictured with Jim Scrimgeour, Jim is pictured below in his days as a Compaid driver.



Jim was very pleased to receive a personalised West Ham shirt, engraved tankard and shopping vouchers at a presentation to say thank you for his service to Compaid as Transport Manager. Jim started his time with Compaid as a volunteer driver, later moving on to become a full-time paid driver.

He is well known to clients, staff and volunteers for his calm, thoughtful and kind demeanour. In 2018 he stepped up to fill the role of Transport Manager, but recently due to health reasons has decided to reduce his hours, whilst remaining in our Transport department. He has taken over as

Booking Officer, stepping into Nikki Winfield's shoes as she returns to life as a Compaid driver.



Jim is seen here with Stephen Elsden (CEO), Brian & Pat Banes with our new minibus named in memory of their son and our client Graham Banes.

## Ellen Martin named Compaid's Winter Star

Ashford Driver **Ellen Martin** has been voted Compaid's Winter Star, in recognition of the extra support she gives to the children and older people on her bus.

Ellen was nominated by colleagues along with five other individuals, and then came top of a staff and volunteer vote in early January. Ellen was presented with her certificate and a HobbyCraft voucher by Chief Executive **Stephen Elsdon**.

Stephen said: *"Ellen was a worthy winner as she goes the extra mile for her passengers, decorating the bus at Halloween and other times for special needs children on the school run. Most recently Ellen helped one of her elderly shoppers who unfortunately fell in Ashford town centre and required an ambulance."*

Congratulations, Ellen from all of us at Compaid! Ellen's fantastic Halloween decorations can be seen overleaf.

Nominations for the Spring Star Award will open in early March.



# On the buses - Halloween fun!

It has become something of a tradition that Compaid drivers get into the spirit of Halloween to make journeys on 31<sup>st</sup> October more spooky and fun! This year drivers **Andy Eaglestone** and **Ellen Martin** sent in photos of their Halloween decorations on the school buses that they drive! The children really appreciate, and enjoy, the effort that is made by the Compaid staff.



Jo Montgomery (Passenger Assistant)



Not to be outdone, clients at Compaid’s Training Centre made a big effort to dress up for Halloween. Pictured are **Ros Bennett** and **Zandi Gillmore** in their “spooktacular” finery!

Clients, staff and volunteers were also treated to a yummy “graveyard” cake, created by volunteer **Sue Hunt**.



# TRAINING CENTRE NEWS

## Josh and friends entertain us at Christmas

Compaid client **Josh Goldup** had everyone at the Compaid Training Centre in stitches with his ventriloquist act at Christmas. Josh is pictured here with his very cheeky friends Maurice the monkey and Harold the parrot, who were firm favourites with the appreciative onlookers, and helped to put everyone into the Christmas spirit!



## Special visit from centenarian Colin

It's always lovely to meet the friends and family of people associated with Compaid, and we were delighted when Thursday volunteer **Jackie Fahey** brought her father **Colin** in to meet everyone. Colin doesn't look it, but he has reached the amazing age of 101!



Jackie and Colin

Colin met lots of the clients, and discovered some of the activities which go on in the Training Centre. He is quite a dab hand with computers, using email and doing online shopping. Please come and visit again if you are in the area, Colin!



Colin with fellow Arsenal fan Jim Bayne

## Compaid clients visit Foal Hurst Wood



John taking a breather



Laura, Kate, Josh, Simone, John, Jonathan,  
Carl and Jim

Last year, Compaid clients visited local beauty spot Foal Hurst Wood in Paddock Wood. The visit was organised by Compaid volunteer **Simone Prince**, who volunteers at the wood. There is much to explore there - 29 acres of woodland plus 11 acres of meadowland at its northern border. Our clients had a lovely time visiting the wood , using the accessible path which was suitable for wheelchairs. We hope to be able to visit the wood again this spring to see the bluebells and primroses.



Darren leads the way!

## Steffon wins again!



On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Compaid client **Steffon Marshall** got up at the crack of dawn to go to Ashford Cattle Market! He was invited there to be presented with a cup for showing his prize winning pigs from Princess Christians' Farm in Hildenborough (part of Hadlow College). Well done, Stef!

## More surprising photos...



The astonished person in the left-hand picture is Compaid volunteer **David Walter**, who had just been awarded a prize for the best mask at the masked ball-themed Staff and Volunteers' Christmas meal. Pictured on the right is Training Centre Co-ordinator **Jonathan Sargant**, who spent the evening trying to convince people that he was in fact Chief Executive Stephen Elsdon!



# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## Co-op Community Fund raises over £3,600



Our year as a designated Co-op Community Fund came to an end in October 2019.

During the year Co-op members could choose Compaid as their chosen charity – meaning that we

benefitted from 1% of monies spent by those members on Co-op products and, in addition, money raised from carrier bag sales. On 21 November **Diane Bradley** (Fundraising Manager) and **Nicky Buckwell** (Fundraising Assistant) were delighted to visit the Branbridges store to receive a cheque for **£3,643.85** from their staff and management. In addition to the Co-op Community Fund we are also extremely grateful for their continued support in donating prizes for our raffles and events.

## Tonbridge Christmas Festival

For a second year **Diane** and **Nicky** manned a stall at the Tonbridge Christmas festival on Sunday 27th November, selling homemade Christmas gifts, crafts and sweets in aid of Compaid. This year we were very lucky that the weather remained mild with only a very short spell of light rain!



The stall provided a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk to people about Compaid and the work the Charity does in the area.

## Christmas at Compaid



This year our Christmas celebrations coincided with 'International Day of People with Disabilities' on 3rd December, so to mark this occasion we were delighted to be joined by Tunbridge Wells Mayor, **James Scholes** and **Mrs Jane Scholes** and some specially invited guests for our afternoon of Christmas entertainment. Guests included the Mayor of Dover - Councillor Gordon Cowan, Vice Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council - Diana Esler, Anna Veness and Caroline Denbow from Paddock Wood Business Association, Mr and Mrs Andrew Backway JP, Councillor Chris Woodward and Richard Barsley.



Mayor James Scholes with Compaid client Bob



Mrs Jane Scholes getting to know Compaid client Josh (and friend!)

Musical entertainment was provided by students in Years 12 & 13 from Mascalls Academy who set feet tapping amongst the clients, staff and guests in our Centre in Paddock Wood. Our thanks go to the students and Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Beck Butler, for coming along and helping to make this such an enjoyable afternoon.



During the afternoon refreshments were provided, including a delicious selection of cakes which were generously donated by Plaxtol Bakery. In addition Christmas gifts and crafts were on sale with a tombola which proved extremely popular and tempted people to try many times in the hope of winning one of the amazing array of prizes!

We would like to thank Waitrose and Asda for their donations towards the refreshments.



## Compaid exceeds its target on Big Give Christmas Challenge

Compaid's Big Give Christmas Challenge, which aimed to raise £4,000 towards the costs of running one of our accessible minibuses,



beat its target by nearly £1,000 thanks to the generosity of many past and present supporters. The campaign ran for a week from 3rd December, and was launched by Chief Executive **Stephen Elsdon** at our Christmas celebration.



Trustees, staff and volunteers all helped to share the campaign on social media, and many gave generous donations which were then matched, pound for pound, through Big Give pledges. The total raised, including Gift Aid and after Big Give administration costs, was a fantastic **£4,944**.

It is hoped that we can take part in another Big Give Christmas Challenge this year, and more information will be given in a future issue of Compaid Voice.

## Christmas Raffle



Our Christmas Raffle this year raised over **£1,000** and offered participants the change to win a variety of wonderful prizes. Our special thanks go to the local businesses who kindly donated prizes: **Waitrose Paddock Wood, Salomons, Woodchurch Vineyards, Lamberhurst Golf Club, The Assembly Hall, McColls, Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells Sugar Craft Guild, Great Dixter, Hofmeister Helles, Fenwick, Barsleys, LouLou Bella toiletries, Barsleys, Mandy Vear of Hanging Gardens**, and also various anonymous individuals for their contributions.

Our thanks go to the **Tunbridge Wells Sugar Craft Guild** as we were very fortunate to receive three beautifully hand decorated Christmas cakes donated by their members. The cakes demonstrated the amazing skill and imagination of their members and were much admired by everyone.



Two of the cakes were used as prizes in a special Christmas Cake Treasure Hunt, which raised an impressive **£72**, and the third cake was given as a prize in the Christmas Raffle

## Thank you to Tonbridge Lions - £1,400 received

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January we were delighted to welcome **Keith “Lofty” Bunyon**, Tonbridge Lions President along with fellow Lion **Gordon Hill** to our Centre in Paddock Wood. Keith and Gordon had come along to present a cheque for **£1,400** which had been raised by the Lions. Also in attendance were **Andy Allen**, Transport Manager and **Diane Bradley** (Fundraising Manager). The money will help finance the replacement and maintenance of wheelchair restraint devices in some of Compaid’s fleet of minibuses. We would like to extend our thanks to all the Lions for their continuing support.



L - R :Andy Allen – Transport Manager  
Diane Bradley – Fundraising Manager  
Gordon Hill – Tonbridge Lion  
Keith “Lofty” Bunyon – President, Tonbridge Lions  
Stephen Elsdon – Chief Executive



## Mayoral Year update

### Mayor’s Charity Clay Shoot – West Kent Shooting School - 3<sup>rd</sup> October

On a cool but dry Thursday morning 66 people arrived at the beautiful surroundings of West Kent Shooting School in Brenchley, near Paddock Wood, ready for a friendly (but often very competitive!) competition to see who could hit the most clays from a variety of different stands. The joint winners were **Rupert Home** of Dandara and **Tim Duncan** of Lambert and Foster.



The morning started with bacon baps and coffee before the teams set out. Tunbridge Wells Mayor, **James Scholes**, enjoyed meeting participants and supporting the teams from the sidelines.

Once the shooting was over teams returned to the club house for a wonderful buffet lunch provided by the Shooting School. After lunch the Mayor thanked all those who attended and **Stephen Elsdon**, Compaid's Chief Executive, gave a short speech about the work that Compaid does within the local community.



A big thank you to **Gillian Dyer-Lynch** and her staff at the West Kent Shooting School for their support, and special thanks to event sponsor **Richard Longhurst** of Hofmeister Helles who, as well as sponsoring the event, provided each participant with a bottle of his beer to sample!

A raffle and auction were held and we would like to thank all those who donated prizes. The event was a great success and raised a fantastic **£1,850**. For more information on West Kent Shooting School, their website is <https://westkentshooting.co.uk/>, and they can be found on Facebook too.

## Mayor's Charity Bridge Afternoon – Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club – 2<sup>nd</sup> November

On what was one of the wettest and windiest days of 2019 the Mayor's Charity Bridge event was the perfect way for 64 enthusiastic bridge players to spend the afternoon in the warmth and comfort of Tunbridge Wells Bridge club.



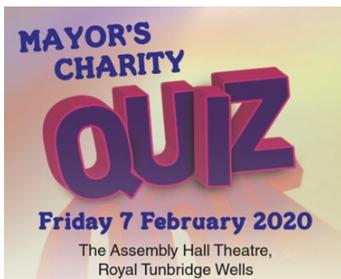
Midway through the session the players broke for afternoon tea of sandwiches, homemade cakes and jelly all sourced and prepared by **Diane Bradley** and **Nicky Buckwell**.

The event was a great success and raised over **£1,100** for Compaid. We are very grateful to the Bridge club for use of their venue and to all those who donated raffle prizes and ingredients for the afternoon tea.



## Upcoming events

### Mayor's Charity Quiz Night– Friday 7 February



The Mayor's Charity Annual Quiz Night will be taking place at the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells on Friday 7 February. We would like to thank Dandara Ltd, Hofmeister Beer and Turners who have all generously agreed to sponsor the event.

The quiz is always great fun and keenly contested by up to 50 teams. As Mayor's Charity all proceeds from the Quiz will support Compaid.

This year we hope to have several Compaid teams made up of our drivers, staff, family and friends who will once again be competing against each other, to try and become the highest placed Compaid team on the night – and hopefully one of the teams may even finish as overall winner!

In addition to the Quiz there will also be a raffle and round of “stand up bingo” to raise additional funds. Good luck to everyone who is competing!

## **Cheese, Wine and Beer tasting evening – Saturday 28 March**



A Cheese, Wine and Beer tasting evening is taking place at Bidborough Village Hall on **Saturday 28 March** starting at 7.00pm. This will be a great opportunity to try samples and learn about wines from **Tim Fletcher** of Rodney Fletcher Vintners, beer

from **Paul Bournazian** of Tonbridge Brewery and cheese from **Robin Betts** of Winterdale Cheese, Wrotham.

The evening will not only be enjoyable but also informative, so we hope you will come along and join us to sample some fantastic local produce. Tickets cost £15 per person and as numbers are limited early booking is very much advised! If you would like to attend please contact **Diane Bradley** ([dianebradley@compaid.org.uk](mailto:dianebradley@compaid.org.uk)).



**RODNEY FLETCHER VINTNERS**  
*Selling wine since 1955*



## Support received

We are extremely grateful to all the Trusts, Foundations, local businesses, organisations and individuals who have supported Compaid this financial year. To maintain our current high level of support to disabled, elderly and vulnerable people we need to raise **£200,000** by the end of March and even more to fund our planned future developments.

Since our last newsletter we have been delighted to receive grants from a number of new Trusts in addition to continued funding from others who have been supporting Compaid for many years. These include Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, Joan Ainslie Charitable Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, The Inman Charity, H Shawdon Charitable Trust and the Masonic Charitable Foundation - grants received have ranged from £500 to £15,000.

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 new minibuses, wheelchair safety straps for use in our vehicles and equipment for the Digital Skills training centre.

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. Any contribution you can make towards our work would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to support something specific, please contact our Fundraising Manager, Diane Bradley ([dianebradley@compaid.org.uk](mailto:dianebradley@compaid.org.uk) or call 01892 834539). We have detailed costings and would be happy to work with you to identify an area you might like to support.

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