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Compaid trials first electric minibus in Kent!

On Wednesday 19th June we were delighted to take delivery of a new electric minibus, the first of its kind in the county, through a partnership with Kent County Council (KCC) and Renault Trucks. Chief Executive Stephen Elsdon and Transport Manager Jim Scrimgeour were present at the launch at Hadlow Manor last month.

Compaid Chief Executive Stephen Elsdon and Kent County Council member Michael Payne at the electric bus launch



Compaid has been loaned the vehicle by KCC for an initial 12-month pilot, and we will be recording data on the performance of the battery (which has a range of 100 miles fully charged) and gathering feedback from drivers and passengers.



More information on this exciting initiative and other news from our transport service follows on page 2....

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

Transport News

Compaid trials first electric minibus in Kent...

As mentioned in the article on the cover page we were delighted to take delivery of a new electric minibus from Kent County Council on Wednesday 19 June.



The vehicle will be charged in Compaid's main vehicle yard in Paddock Wood, where a new electrical charging point has been installed.

Power will be generated by the solar panels on the roof of our adjacent office meaning the vehicle has a carbon neutral footprint in terms of its impact on the environment.

The vehicle will be in daily use transporting our clients to and from the day centre and it will also be utilized on our Kent Karrier contracts.

Initial reactions have been very good, with staff and clients commenting positively on their experiences of travelling in a virtually silent vehicle.

One immediate benefit which has been noted comes from passengers reporting how much easier it is to hold conversations on the new bus! A very important plus for those who may struggle to hear in a conventional vehicle.

Jim Scrimgeour—(Transport Services Manager)

...and receives funding for three new vehicles

Meanwhile, Compaid has secured funding from The Band Trust and The Wolfson Foundation to purchase three regular replacement minibuses.

These vehicles will replace Compaid's familiar yellow buses which have now reached the end of their service life, each having covered in excess of 120,000 miles.

The new vehicles will be more fuel efficient than their predecessors, and with 36-month warranties should greatly reduce our repair and maintenance costs over the next few years.

The vehicles have been ordered and we can expect delivery of all three by the end of September 2019.

Staff changes..



Richard Tanner who has worked for Compaid for six years sadly left our driving staff for pastures new at the end of July 2019. Richard was an integral part of the driving team who will be sadly missed by all. I'm sure you will join with me in wishing him every success in the future.

Peter Hood a volunteer driver who has been with us for four years has also left the driving team and will be moving to Wales to be closer to his family in the very near future. Again I'm sure you will join with me wishing him health and happiness in his retirement.



News from our clients

Josie and her toy collection

When I was 4 my mother bought me a toy monkey glove puppet named **Jocko** who I still have: she next bought me another glove puppet monkey this one is green and white and called **Mungo** who I also still have He was put in the loft and forgotten about until we moved and found him. You can see them sitting on my lap in the photo!



That started me collecting Steiff toys, I now have over 24 including a giraffe, dragon, lamb and a chimpanzee and a rabbit.

Here is a photo of some of them with me in my room at the home.

During the latter months of last year I took pictures of each of my favourite animals and used them to make an Advent Calendar which I then sold to other residents and care staff at my home. Each day had a picture of a different animal behind the door.

My project this year is to make a collage of all my animals using the Corel Draw programme which I have learnt to use at Compaid. This collage will then hang in pride of place in my room!

My holiday to the Isle of Wight by Steffon



I went to the Isle of Wight, with my mum, dad and my little dog who is called Alfie.

I went for a week, Friday to Friday. I went on a ferry from the Port of Southampton to Cowes.

On Saturday and Sunday we all went to the beach and grass and my dog ran around like a mad fool!!



On Monday, we went to the Donkey Sanctuary where I saw lots of Donkeys who had been rescued, I really enjoyed this day at the sanctuary and had a good time.

For the rest of the Holiday, we drove around the Island loads of times as it's quite small. We saw lots of places in the island and stopped off for lunch in places.



One day, we walked from our house to a bar called 'The Lifeboat' which took about half an hour. I had a pint of London Pride whilst sitting outside with my dog and family.

The bar overlooked the marina where we saw lots of boats which my dad was envious of!

I would like to go back to the Isle of Wight in a couple of years.



Volunteer News

Each year 1—7 June is nationally recognised as **Volunteers' Week**, celebrating and recognising the huge contribution that volunteers make to organisations up and down the country.



Tony with his gift.

So out came the bunting and balloons to give the centre a makeover and the celebrations began.

To show our appreciation, every volunteer received a Thank You card (made in our Centre) and a small gift.

Continuing the party atmosphere, each afternoon there were a variety of delicious cakes — many of them homemade — which were generously donated by staff to accompany the daily afternoon tea or coffee and these were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Paul with an enormous piece of chocolate cake



Some more of our volunteers - Danny, Chris and Emma

Compaid is very lucky to have such a dedicated team of volunteers giving their free time to support the services that we provide to our clients.

Volunteers' Week Gallery



Volunteer Jackie
opening her gift with
client Jane looking on



Centre Manager Jonathan
presenting Lisa with her gift



Volunteer Sylvia with her gift

So **Thank You** again to all our wonderful volunteers. Compaid would not be the same without you.

And also thanks to Waitrose.....

During Volunteers' Week, Waitrose in Paddock Wood once again allowed Compaid to have a table in their foyer on the Friday morning which generated quite a lot of interest. Thank you to **Phillipa Humphrey**, Waitrose Community and Marketing Coordinator

Judith Williams— HR Administrator

As ever, we are always on the lookout for new volunteers so if you, or anyone you know is interested in finding out more, please contact me either by email at judith.williams@compaid.org.uk or call 01892 834539.

Fundraising News

Support received

As mentioned in our last newsletter for we have a big fundraising challenge ahead of us in 2019/20! This year we need to raise **£200,000** in fundraising income to enable us to maintain our current support for disabled, elderly and vulnerable people 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 the last year. Due to the challenging and competitive fundraising climate we need to encourage new supporters to come forward to help us reach our goal.

Since our last newsletter we have been delighted to receive grants from a number of new Trusts, as well as those who have continued to support us over the years. ***These include the Bruce Wake Charitable Trust, Marsh Christian Trust, Iron Bridge Trust, Pargiter Trust, Sydney Black Charitable Trust and the Sir Edward Lewis Foundation.***

In this competitive funding market we are keen to hear from businesses or individuals who would be interested to sponsor or support us in some way – this does not have to be a financial commitment but could be the offer of training or services in kind.

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.



Tonbridge Lions Club Sponsored Walk - Sunday 19 May

On Sunday 19 May six intrepid Compaidd walkers met at Shipbourne Village Hall for the annual Tonbridge Lions sponsored walk. Stephen Elsdon (Chief Executive), Donna Barbour and her daughter Emma elected to undertake the 5 mile route. The remaining three – Diane Bradley, Nicky and Brian Buckwell – took on the 9 mile version of the walk – passing through the Fairlawn Estate, past Ightham Mote and through beautiful countryside before finishing at the Chaser pub on Shipbourne Green for a well-deserved coffee.



A huge thank you to all those who sponsored us – through your generosity we raised an amazing £780. This will allow us to purchase additional equipment for our music project to help inspire all our budding musicians!!!

The walkers – from left to right: Brian Buckwell, Diane Bradley, Nicky Buckwell, Stephen Elsdon, Emma and Donna Barbour

Are you sitting comfortably?



We would like to thank Baxall Construction, our landlords in Paddock Wood, for their very generous donation of office furniture, including a number of office chairs, for our training centre. Thanks to their generosity clients, staff and volunteers are now sitting much more comfortably!

Waitrose Green tokens

Compaid was delighted to be chosen as one of the three charities to benefit from the Waitrose Green token scheme throughout June at their Paddock Wood branch



A huge thank you to all those who chose to support us and helped to raise **£207** for Compaid



Do you have any leftover foreign currency?

**Are there any spare foreign coins or banknotes in your drawers?
Why not donate them to Compaid— every coin and banknote helps!**

There is now an easy way to donate your spare currency to Compaid
Simply drop any spare foreign banknotes or coins into Compaid or give them to Diane Bradley or Nicky Buckwell



Using [Leftover Currency.com](http://LeftoverCurrency.com) we will exchange whatever we are sent and the combined exchange value **plus 5% extra** is paid directly to Compaid.

There are no fees, and no commission and we will provide you with confirmation of the amount raised





McColl's continue to fundraise for us with our collecting tins displayed in 15 branches, extending across an area from West Kingsdown to Eastbourne and Bexhill.

To date our partnership with McColl's has raised over **£1,500**. We are very grateful to David Brown, Regional Manager, and all his staff for their support.

Co-op community fund – calling all Co-op members!

As mentioned in our last newsletter we are delighted to be a Co-op Community local charity until the end of October 2019. If you are a Co-op member could we please remind you to support us again – there is no cost to you and the Co-op will give 1% of what you spend on Co-op products as well as 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. To date our partnership with Co-op has raised over **£4,000**.

We would also like to thank...

Mark and Kirsty at the Hop Pole Inn, Nettlestead
and



Jay at The Star, Matfield

for their support in agreeing to display one of our collection tins

Paddock Wood Carnival - Saturday 16 July

Once again this year Compaid entered buses in the Carnival procession!

First job of the day was to decorate one of the buses with large pieces of artwork that had been put together by clients, volunteers and staff in the Training Centre. Luckily I was ready with my step ladder to help put them in place!

This year we were joined by two of our clients; Steffon Marshall and Ros Bennett, who were both buzzing with excitement at being a part of the celebrations. I took charge of wheeling Ros around in a wheelchair, which I think she thoroughly enjoyed!

We were also delighted that the Mayor and Mayoress came along to see us .

Right: Mayor James Scholes and Mrs Scholes with "Ernie" the electric minibus



When the bus was decorated we set off to Eldon Way to start lining up for the procession and were joined by our second bus—the new electric minibus which is fondly known as Ernie! As the marching band started up we were off on the walk to St Andrews field with collection buckets in hand. Along the route everyone seemed to be talking about Ernie, how quiet he was and he gained many admirers!

Ros and I enjoyed talking to the people in the crowds and handing out Compaid leaflets and collecting money in buckets.

Also walking with buckets were staff members Val Coombes, Tom Harrild and Rob Handley, volunteer Tony Bennett and James Tanner who is the son of one of our drivers . Driving the decorated bus was Richard Tanner and last but not least Nick Fairhall who drove Ernie for us!



Nick Fairhall, Ros Bennett, Donna Winch, James Tanner, the Mayoress and the Mayor, Rob Handley, Val Coombes, Steffon Marshall and Tom Harrild with the bus

A big thank you to all those who came along on the day and also to all those who were involved in making the decorations for the bus.

The bucket collection raised a fantastic £128.56.

Donna Winch—Accounts Assistant

Second Ronnie's Race Night under starter's orders!

Following on from the great success of their first Race Night, held in memory of former Compaid client Ronnie Mitchell, we were delighted to learn that Ronnie's family had decided to repeat the event on Saturday 31 August. Once again the event will be raising funds in aid of Compaid.



We hope they have a wonderful, fun evening and would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved for their support.

We look forward to including a report of the evening in our next edition.

Tunbridge Wells Mayor's Charity of the Year 2019/20

We are delighted to have been selected by the Tunbridge Wells Mayor James Scholes, as his chosen charity for his term in office which commenced in May. This is a great opportunity for us to raise awareness of our services and support and we look forward to working with Mayor Scholes to make it a very enjoyable and successful year for both the mayor and our charity.

Several events are planned throughout the year for which we are required to secure a number of high quality auction and/or raffle prizes. The events include:

21st September - Civic Dinner at High Rocks

3rd October - Clay Pigeon Shoot at West Kent Shooting

2nd November – Tunbridge Wells Bridge Society afternoon

7th February 2020 - Mayor's Quiz night at Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall

As a small organisation we rely heavily on the goodwill of staff and volunteers. However, this Mayoral year is going to require additional volunteering support and we very much hope that you, or someone you know, may be willing to assist us – either through the donation of a raffle/ auction prize or by assisting at one of the events.

If you can volunteer or donate a raffle/auction prize please contact Diane Bradley

[\(dianebradley@compaid.org.uk\)](mailto:dianebradley@compaid.org.uk)

or Nicky Buckwell

[\(nickybuckwell@compaid.org.uk\)](mailto:nickybuckwell@compaid.org.uk)

or call us on 01892 834539.



How you could help....

Make a regular donation?

At Compaid, we are very grateful to the Charitable Trusts, local groups, businesses and individuals who regularly support our work. However, to meet our current fundraising target we would like to encourage more people to consider making a regular donation towards our work.

As mentioned previously, this is an extremely challenging year for Compaid as we need to raise **£200,000** of voluntary income. To give an example of how easy it is to help - if 130 people set up a regular monthly donation of £10, that would raise (including Gift Aid) £19,500 in 12 months. This is nearly 10% of what we need to raise in 2019/20.

The easiest way to set up a regular donation is with a Standing Order to your bank – if you use online banking this can be done from your computer, but if not then your local branch can help. You specify how much you would like to donate and how often you wish to make a donation. And you can easily amend or cancel your standing order at any time.

You will need Compaid's bank details which are as follows:

Account Name: Compaid Trust

Account number: 50260096

Sort Code: 20-88-13

If you are a UK taxpayer you can also complete a Gift Aid declaration which means that HMRC will pay Compaid the tax that you paid on the value of your donation which increases the value of your charity donations by 25%. This means a donation of £10 is actually worth £12.50 for Compaid!

If you would like more information how to make a regular donation, please contact **Diane Bradley** or **Nicky Buckwell** .

The benefits of leaving money in your Will to charity

People make donations to charities in lots of different ways. Putting coins in a collecting box, setting up a standing order with their bank, or taking part in a sponsored event. But one way many people like to give money to charity is through their Will.

When making a Will you don't have to choose between looking after your loved ones and helping a charity that you care about. Choosing to leave a gift to a charity close to your heart, whose work you admire or have benefited from, can be both a way of saying thank you, and ensuring that those services can continue into the future.

Leaving Compaaid a gift in your Will, however large or small, can help us to deliver our services to future generations of disabled, elderly and vulnerable people, who will have the opportunity to enjoy life to its full potential.

We very much hope that you may consider leaving a gift to Compaaid in your Will. It is important to put our registered charity number 1064160 to avoid any confusion. We would love to know if you decide to leave a gift in your Will, as sharing your intentions will help us plan for the future and we can also personally thank you.

Writing or amending a Will can seem very difficult to some people. Others may consider that simply expressing their wishes to those around them is enough for their chosen charity to be supported after their death. Recently we became aware that one of our clients had no Will in place, although she had expressed a desire to have one. We put her in touch with a local Will writer, Peter Camrass, who visited our Training Centre and spoke privately with her. Throughout the whole process we ensured that an independent witness was present to support the client.

"It was the final thing that I needed to do. It was a great help having someone to advise me with such a personal service".

Making a Will

A Will is a legal document which ensures your wishes are carried out and you should always consult a solicitor or professional Will writer to draw up or update your Will.



When you take your home, belongings and savings into account, you may be surprised at the value of your estate. Having an up-to-date, professionally written Will gives you the chance to put your affairs in order and avoids any confusion after your death.

If you have already written a Will, then Compaid can still be incorporated into it by the simple addition of a codicil. A copy can be found on our website www.compaid.org.uk/get-involved/leaving-a-legacy

Welcome to new Trustee David Timms

At our May Board meeting, Compaid's Trustees warmly welcomed David Timms as our newest Trustee.



David, who lives in Hollingbourne near Maidstone, is Group Head of IT Risk Assurance for BUPA, where he supports the company's operations worldwide. He brings his experience in helping organisations to manage their information technology, data privacy and security of IT systems and information.

David was formerly a Director of Purple, a social enterprise that supports companies to employ more disabled people, and this interest in disability issues led him to apply to join Compaid's Board. In his spare time, David enjoys sailing, walking, golf and spending time enjoying good food and wine with friends and family.

While Compaid now has eleven Trustees on its Board, we are very interested in recruiting one additional Trustee who has lived experience of disability either first hand or as a family member or carer. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Stephen Elsden for more information - stephenelsden@compaid.org.uk

Helping people into work.....

Over the last 4 years Compaid has worked in partnership with the Tonbridge and Maidstone Job Centre Plus (JCP) offices, offering one to one computer and related IT training sessions to clients who are considered to be in need of specialist support. **During the past 12 months, nearly 100 clients from Tonbridge, Maidstone and the surrounding areas benefited from these two hour sessions which took place once a week for eight weeks.**

Many individuals may be living with.....

- *mental health issues such as anxiety, panic attacks or depression or have physical or learning difficulties*
- *shouldering all kinds of confidence, social, educational, financial and morale issues or just be....*
- *unable to cope in group teaching environments*

The unique nature of our training provision supporting just two clients at a time per session proved to be very beneficial and reassuring as the encouraging comments opposite illustrate.

The aim of the sessions, using laptops or the client's own phone, was to assist the clients to manage their JCP accounts, to learn new IT skills via a variety of online tools and websites and to support them to move forward in some positive way. This could include exploration of further education and training, self-development, CV creation, voluntary work and opportunities for employment.

Now we come to the magical bit! Many of these clients who were referred by their JCP Work Coaches, had initially been reluctant to take up the sessions because of their own perceived difficulties. Everything can be a challenge – from initially answering the phone to our assessor, to actually making the effort to travel to the two Centres.

So everything they actually achieved helped build their own confidence and morale. Because the sessions were deliberately informal in tone and individually tailored to each client's needs and objectives, they could work at their own pace. Add to the mix our excellent, empathetic and inspiring Trainers, and the results spoke for themselves. Clients became motivated, engaged and enthusiastic.

It is anticipated that further similar partnership opportunities will develop in the future.

*Val Sprott
Training Centre Manager*

"I just wanted to say thank you for your confidence building— today I have accepted a job as a store manager"

"I have acquired confidence in using computers. The Trainer has the patience of a saint!"

"You have made the biggest difference by helping me and making things simple for me to use the computer and because of the skills I've learned from you I've managed to secure a job"



"My confidence has gone up both in general and when looking at computers now. I have learned interesting things and technologies that I had no idea existed".

"I've had a lot of fun and enjoyed working with people on the course. It has improved my self-esteem and I am now much more confident in general".

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Proud to be the Tunbridge Wells Mayor's
Charity of the Year
2019/20

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