



MAY 2016

# Compaids VOICE

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Glastonbury

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## Art Project

Helen, Gill & James

Ewen just starting his  
painting

Sharon &  
Ros



One of our volunteers, Helen Fenner, has been running a brilliant art project (along with her cocker spaniel, Lucky!) on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Clients have been illustrating poems or songs which have a particular meaning for them, and creating pictures to illustrate another client's work. Great fun has been had in designing brightly coloured decorations for two Compaids buses, which will be used in the "Rio" themed Paddock Wood Carnival in July.

Compaids 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

# Volunteering With Compaid

## Has Helped Me Back Into Work



My name is Dave Ives and my background is that of a Graphic Designer.

I had been working for a Graphics Design Company, but unfortunately was involved in a serious motorcycle accident in July 2006. I needed a long period of recovery and adjustment as my speech was affected and I suffered a life changing injury – the loss of the use of my predominate right hand.

My confidence became very low and during my recovery I was supported by The Avenues Trust. Their Support Worker suggested that I approach Compaid to ask if they needed any volunteers to help their disabled clients to learn or relearn computer skills. I thought that was a good idea as I may be able to put my computer skills to good use, whilst regaining my own confidence.

I joined Compaid in April 2009, one day a week initially. Due to my background, I have a good knowledge of a variety of computer software including Photoshop and was able to help one client in particular with this software. After about 2 years I increased my time at Compaid to 1½ days a week.

I found that volunteering was a very enjoyable experience: it has helped me with my own speech and increased my confidence and independence. I looked forward to my time at Compaid as it gave me the opportunity to share my knowledge of I.T. and to help other people.

Over the time that I have been volunteering, my confidence grew and I decided that I would like to try and find paid work. After applying for a number of jobs, I persevered and was employed by Sainsbury's in Tunbridge Wells in July 2015, as a Customer Service Assistant - my duties include customer service, restocking, facing up (making the shelves look more attractive!) etc. I enjoy my time at Sainsbury's very much.

## Birthday celebrations!

Thursday 24th March was a very important day for one of our clients, Nellie Hill, who reached the wonderful age of 97! Nellie is a breath of fresh air in the centre—she has been writing her (very eventful!) life story and learning many new computer skills.



We also celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday by having a tea party and playing "Royal Bingo". As Her Majesty was otherwise engaged, Jonathan stepped in as a very regal sounding bingo caller.



# All the colours of the rainbow...



We recently said goodbye to Debbie Hall, our kitchen assistant (on the far right of the picture). Debbie is a real animal-lover, and keeps chickens, owls and a hawk. We wish Debbie luck with her new job in the pet department of a local garden centre.

# All the colours of the rainbow!!!



Time to get out your dark glasses, as Thursdays at Compaid have never been so colourful! All the clients, staff and volunteers have enthusiastically embraced "Themed Thursdays". We have had "wear a dress day" (ladies only!) pink, purple, yellow, blue, spotty & flowery days so far, with many others planned (including a "Teddy Bears Picnic".)

## Working at Glastonbury Festival by Compaaid client Barry Stanley



Glastonbury Festival - I'm sure you've heard of it!

As a major party animal I attend every year that it runs.

At the 2007 festival, when I was still using a wheelchair to get around, I decided to visit the stone circle which is at the far end of the site, a distance of about 3 miles from the disabled campsite. It was a very wet year (the water was knee deep) and it took me 6 hours to reach it, & 8 hours to get back! When I did return to the campsite I was totally wiped out.

Due to the struggle for myself and also because of my good nature, I opted to stay on the campsite to help other disabled customers with any issues that they had. This got noticed by the staff who were there to help me at that time. I was asked by Claire, the disabled access coordinator, if I would be interested in becoming a member of staff, as she'd heard nothing but good reports about me helping others.

I of course gladly accepted her offer and have now worked for 5 years as a member of staff. So this was how I became a valued member of the disabled access team. I was promoted to disabled team supervisor last year (2015).

My main aim is to help people out however I can. This is my personal opinion! If you go to the festival, I guarantee you will leave with this thought in your head, and the thought will be, oh yes and again, or no thank you that is too much for me!



Me, I will be there every time that Glastonbury is staged. It does test both your mental and physical strength. But the experience will live with you forever. I just hope you enjoy it as much as I do, and will want to do it again. If you do get there, myself and the rest of the team I'm part of will be happy to help you out in any possible way that we can.

Hope to see you there in 2016 !

# Fundraising News



**by Diane Bradley, Fundraising Manager**

Since our last newsletter in January the calendar has been rather busy with fundraising events and enjoyable cheque presentations. Stephen Elsdon had the pleasure to be invited to Paddock Wood Junior School at the start of February to receive a cheque for £169.55 which their junior choir raised from performances during the Christmas festivities. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Head teacher Mr Opstad for allowing the children to choose Compaid as their charity and the amazing Katie Hawkins, their choir teacher who made it all possible.



## Tunbridge Wells Half marathon

Once again Diane Bradley and her wonderful team of volunteers (Peter Hood, Debbie Hall, Mark & Lorraine Gettings, Neil McQuillan, Jenny Wythes and Val Hookway) turned out to offer their support by marshalling around the course. We were delighted to have the support of George Kelly, a Tonbridge AC member running his first half marathon in aid of Compaid and raising valuable funds for us. We would like to thank George for his efforts as his sponsorship really helps our fundraising. The race organisers also generously support Compaid by making a donation in return for our willing volunteers, which will be received in due course. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to volunteer and assist us in raising much needed funds.

## Tonbridge Half Marathon Presentation

Fundraising manager Diane Bradley and Trustee Sairah Merchant had the pleasure to be invited in February to the Tonbridge Rotary club's 92<sup>nd</sup> Charter Lunch to be presented with a cheque for £1,000 from the proceeds of the 2015 Tonbridge Half Marathon. President David Wells said "We're delighted to support the work of Compaid. I am personally delighted to award this cheque as I cannot speak highly enough of their work as my wife attends their training centre".



## Kent Charity Awards

We were delighted in February to be informed that we had been shortlisted as one of the four runners up in the Kent Charity Gala awards in the Supporting Charity category. Diane Bradley (Fundraising Manager) Sairah Merchant



(Trustee) and Tony Carter (Volunteer) attended the evening award ceremony at the Lea Cliffs hotel in Folkestone.

Unfortunately Stephen was unable to join us due to illness. Whilst we



were very proud to be shortlisted as a finalist we were beaten by the worthy winner The Royal British Legion.

## Kent based Chartered accountants Perrys Charity awards.

Whilst talking about awards, Last month Kent based chartered accountants Perrys announced the launch of their Exceptional Awards to recognise inspirational and outstanding charities, individuals, services and businesses across the county. After receiving multiple nominations for the charity category, 10 finalists were shortlisted for the Exceptional Charity Award. We are delighted to announce that Compaid has been shortlisted as a finalist in this category. The charity receiving the most votes will be unveiled as the winner at a glittering awards ceremony at Leeds Castle on Thursday 10th November, so thank you to everyone who voted for us.

## Royal Tunbridge Wells Round Table presentation giveaway.



In March we received more great news as we became one of the 31 charities chosen to receive a donation from the proceeds of the Tunbridge Wells Roundtable fireworks display. Stephen attended the presentation

at the Royal Wells Hotel and received a cheque for £500 towards our training services. Our thanks go to all members of the Roundtable for their dedicated work raising funds that benefit so many worthy causes.

## Wrotham Heath Golf Club – Ladies Captain chosen Charity

We are delighted to announce that our Trustee John Turner's wife Wendy has been elected ladies Captain at their golf club in Wrotham Heath. Wendy has generously chosen Compaid as her charity for the year, so our Fundraiser Diane attended the Club's AGM and election meeting to inform the members about our work. We are very much looking forward to working with Wendy by attending their fundraising Rio themed golf day taking place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August and a Bridge day next year.



## Paddock Wood Half Marathon

This year's race took place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and once again Diane and a team of volunteers (Nick Fairhall, Richard Tanner, Vincent & Diane Hughes, Debbie Hall, Martyn Eastwood, Peter Hood, Sairah Merchant and her husband James) marshalled and ran two of the local car parks donated by Nigel Exall of Baxall Construction. Providing parking for over 180 cars whilst asking for a donation in return, we raised an amazing £767.38. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for your time and effort in helping us raise such a fantastic sum.



**Tonbridge Lions Club sponsored walk – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May.** Once again our Fundraising Manager Diane took part in this lovely sponsored walk which takes participants around either a 5 or 10 mile course through the beautiful Kent countryside, starting and finishing in Shipbourne. Diane said "This year's walk was once again efficiently organised by the Tonbridge Lions club and many local charities were supported by walkers taking part. Whilst numbers were lower than last year, the weather was again beautiful for all to enjoy and I had friends and family who joined me to walk in aid of Compaid. I would like to thank everyone who supported me through sponsorship; special thanks go to my fellow walkers Val Hookway, Elaine Lowe, Keith Eldridge, Nicky & Brian Buckwell for keeping me company and donating to Compaid. I am delighted to have raised £483 which far exceeded my initial target. I look forward to next year's event and hope many of you reading this may feel you too can join me.

# *Compaid*

## *30th Anniversary Ball*

*Saturday 24th September 2016*

*High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells*

We are delighted to be celebrating our 30th Anniversary this year and will be hosting



an Anniversary fundraising ball to celebrate this momentous occasion. The ticket price of £50 per



person includes a pre-dinner drink on arrival followed by a three course dinner with wine. For your entertainment we will have live music performed by Mickey Blue Eyes, a casino plus a raffle, auction and dancing through to midnight. For further information and to purchase your tickets please visit [http://](http://www.compaid.org.uk/get-involved/compaid-30th-anniversary-ball/)

[www.compaid.org.uk/get-involved/compaid-30th-anniversary-ball/](http://www.compaid.org.uk/get-involved/compaid-30th-anniversary-ball/)



### **Compaid's new Facebook page!**

Compaid are pleased to announce that we now have a new and exciting Facebook page. Whilst we still have our transport page these have now been linked to show all the news and forthcoming events of the charity. Don't forget to like our page.

We also have a great gallery of photos for you to view.

[www.facebook.com/Compaid.org.uk/](http://www.facebook.com/Compaid.org.uk/)

### **Compaid have first win in the Unity Lottery!**

We are delighted to announce that we have had our first winner on the Unity Lottery! Unfortunately not the jackpot but any win is great news. If you have not already signed up please join us and support Compaid whilst being part of a great Lottery.



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Stephen Elsden**

**01892 833664**

**stephenelsden@compaid.org.uk**

**OFFICE SERVICES**

**Srikanth Bodduluri: Manager**

**01892 834539**

**srikanth@compaid.org.uk**

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

**enquiries@compaid.org.uk**

**TRAINING SERVICES**

**Val Sprott: Manager**

**07942 180885**

**valsprott@compaid.org.uk**

**TRAINING CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR**

**Jonathan Sargent**

**01892 833606**

**jonathansargent@compaid.org.uk**

**ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT**

**Mark Gettings: Manager**

**01892 832447**

**transport@compaid.org.uk**

**FUNDRAISING**

**Diane Bradley: Manager**

**01892 834539**

**dianebradley@compaid.org.uk**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**AND VOLUNTEERING**

**Judith Williams: Manager**

**01892 834539**

**judith.williams@compaid.org.uk**

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Jenny Wythes**

**01892 833606**

**Compaid**

**Unit 1, Eastlands**

**Maidstone Road**

**Paddock Wood**

**Kent TN12 6BU**

**01892 834539**

**enquiries@compaid.org.uk**

**www.compaid.org.uk**

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