



SEPTEMBER 2017

Compaid
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Compaid thanks its staff and volunteers with long-service awards



Nearly forty staff members and volunteers gathered in the glorious surroundings of private residential home Willicombe Park in Tunbridge Wells on 2 September, for the first ever Compaid summer social event.

The afternoon was planned as a thank you to staff and volunteers for all the hard work they put in to support thousands of disabled and vulnerable people across Kent. Catering staff at the home provided a wonderful afternoon tea which everyone enjoyed as the sun shone.

As well as staff and volunteers it was nice to welcome a number of Trustees to the event – John Ashelford (chairman), Fiona Condron, John Osmond, John Turner and Trevor Watkins.

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

Chief Executive Stephen Elsdon welcomed guests, and noted that our founder Lorna Ridgway had conceived the idea of Compaid at Seven Springs Cheshire Home, which is just half a mile from Willicombe Park.

Chairman John Ashelford presented Long Service Awards to volunteers and staff members who had spent more than 10 years at Compaid. Those receiving awards on the day included Sarah Bullett, who has volunteered for over 25 years, and Val Sprott, who has led the Outreach Training at Compaid for more than 20 years.



Left: Sarah
Bullett,
(Volunteer)



Right: Val
Sprott (Staff)



Nicholas Fairhall
(Staff) and Sheila
Brown (Volunteer)
receiving awards
for over 15 years'
service





Above: Sylvia Walter (Volunteer), David Walter (Volunteer) , Jackie Fahey (Volunteer) and Jenny Wythes (Staff) receiving their awards in recognition of over 10 years' service



Further Long Service Awards will be presented to other staff and volunteers who were unable to attend this event.

An extremely tasty tea followed the presentations and was enjoyed by all – there was a varied selection including sandwiches, savoury items, scones with jam and cream, and rounded off with a selection of cakes and desserts.



There was also a raffle with prizes generously donated by local businesses – Capel Cottage Nursery, Co-Op Branbridges Estate, Corkers Landscaping, Tonbridge Brewery, Seed and Sow and also a prize donated by an individual supporter.



Paul Sheppard,

Client Trustee



I have been coming to Compaid as a client for 5 years, and enjoy meeting people from different walks of life and with different disabilities. I became a volunteer about 2 years ago, helping clients with making cards, teaching new computer skills and listening to what problems people have and trying to help if I can. I have

been a client Trustee for just over a year and half. In that time I organised last year's trip to the pantomime in Tunbridge Wells, and fish and chips for clients' lunch.

If any Clients have any concerns or comments and want to contact me, they can find me at Compaid on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, or email me on: shepp1958compaid@gmail.com

Paul Sheppard

Birthday celebrations at Compaid!



We always try to celebrate clients' birthdays at Compaid, and this time it was the turn of Friday client Gill, seen with Donna and large chocolate cake!



Our new project in the Training Centre for September is also

birthday themed—clients are going to do a bit of detective work to see whether they share their birthday with any famous people, or discover any historical events that happened on their birth date. Watch this space!



Introducing our new Transport Manager, Jim Scrimgeour



Before joining Compaid initially as a volunteer driver in 2014, I had spent 25 years in the bus industry, as a driver and then area operations manager responsible for three bus depots and 150+ staff. As soon as I joined Compaid I knew that this was the place to be in the autumn of my working life—I liked the clients, my co-workers and the general feel of the place immediately, and thoroughly enjoyed working as a driver for 3 years.

I was thrilled to be offered the position of Transport Services Manager in August 2017, taking over from Mark Gettings, who has moved to pastures new after steering (no pun intended!) the Transport Department through six years of expansion and change.

Since I started as Manager we have welcomed Mark Barton and Chris Pope to the driving team, with Jason Salisbury starting in October. We also have three new escorts for our school contracts: Carol Jones, Jean Weller and Jo Montgomery. Sadly we had to say goodbye to Paul Cummins in July. Paul had worked for Compaid for 7 years, and in that time he had become well-liked and respected by clients and staff alike. I am sure you will join with me in wishing him every success for the future.

Thanks are due to everyone who has helped me during the first few weeks in my role as Transport Manager, especially my colleagues Lynn Plumbly and Carol Tanner. I would like to pay special tribute to our excellent volunteer drivers who give up their valuable time, and along with our regular drivers strive to deliver a service which is second to none.

Understanding Compaid's Social Impact



Earlier this year, Compaid published its first ever **Social Impact Report**, setting out the ways in which our training and transport services are improving people's lives every day. Among the statistics in this first report were 75% of service users feeling less lonely and isolated and 78%

feeling more independent. Find it online at <http://www.compaid.org.uk/news/social-impact-report-published/>

The Report has been a key promotional tool over the last nine months, demonstrating the value of Compaid's services to donors, commissioners and local politicians. This evidence helps us to gain more funding and contracts to extend our services to even more disabled people across Kent.

Work is now underway to produce a second Social Impact Report, and surveys are being circulated to a large sample of people who use our Transport Services, Outreach Training and those who attend the Training Centre at Eastlands. The surveys take less than 10 minutes to complete, either online or by filling in a paper copy.

The survey results, which are anonymous, will be collated later in the year, and the new Report is expected to be published in January 2018.

If you use our Training or Transport services and would like to complete a survey, then you can do so at <http://compaidtraining.questionpro.com> , or <http://compaidtransport.questionpro.com> . If you would prefer to fill out a paper copy of the survey, please ask a member of staff.

Disabled schoolchildren get the Compaid treatment

Disabled primary school children in and around Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells are now getting to school thanks to Compaid. From early September,

our drivers and passenger assistants have been helping over 16 children attending Oakley School.



Children and their families now have a friendly, familiar face on their daily school runs, and can look forward to a safe and secure journey to and from school with their friends

The work has been secured with support from Kent County Council, and the children are travelling on buses that serve Kent Karrier shoppers in the two towns in the middle of the day.

These children join nearly 50 others who have been receiving similar transport support from Compaid in North West Kent, Ashford and Swale .

Invitation to Compaid's **A**nnual **G**eneral **M**eeting

Each year, Compaid's Board of Trustees holds an open meeting which staff, volunteers, clients and members of the public are welcome to attend. This year's Annual General Meeting is being held at Eastlands at

4.00pm on Monday 16 October.

You'll be able to hear about Compaid's achievements over the last financial year to the end of March 2017, and learn more about our plans for the future. As most of the Trustees will be attending this meeting, along with Stephen, our chief executive, it's a great opportunity to ask questions on how Compaid is meeting its charitable objectives now and in the months and years to come.

Steffon's 'Bacon hot' weekend !



It's always great to hear what our clients get up to when they are not with us at Compaid. Steffon Marshall, who has been a client for over 20 years, regularly talks about his love of tractors and farm animals.



We were delighted when Steffon turned up one morning with a certificate that he had been awarded for 'Excellence in team work' for his time spent at the Princess Christian's Farm, based in Hildenborough.

Attending twice a week, Steffon has the opportunity to develop and achieve in a working farm environment thanks to the partnership the farm have with Hadlow College & Kent County Council. The certificate was recognition for the work he did at the centre and his ability to work and motivate others to complete tasks to an excellent standard.

The farm offers individuals who have learning difficulties and /or disabilities programmes that include working experiences on the farm and can accommodate up to 30 learners a day. Steffon has been working in several areas including:

The Poultry unit – collecting eggs, grading and sorting orders, Animal Management Unit – cleaning small animals, hoof stock (Goats, Ponies, Alpacas, Lambs, Yaks—yes, yaks!), reptiles, rabbit and guinea pigs, ferrets, aquatics and amphibians, preparing food for the animals, health checking and exercising.



Whilst a lot of his time has been spent with the animals, Steffon has also worked in the kitchen- learning basic catering skills and preparing meals and experiencing work in the farm shop – serving customers and learning customer care.

Knowing Steffon's passion for tractors, we jokingly asked if he had been trusted to drive one yet— his reply was "Yes, last week—it was fantastic!" . The excitement in his voice was clearly evident that he had eventually fulfilled his ultimate dream and driven a red Massey Ferguson tractor!



This week Steffon arrived at Compaid looking very pleased, and proud, and when asked what he had been up to over the weekend he showed a photo of himself (below) from the Edenbridge and Oxted agricultural show that he had attended.



Princess Christian Farm/ Hadlow College were entered into the commercial pig classes at the show, including 'Individual porker', 'Pair of porkers', 'Individual cutter', 'Pair of cutters' and a 'Bacon pig'.

These classes basically contained different sized pigs, from porkers (the smallest) to the cutters and then to the bacon pig (the biggest!)

Steffon showed the 'Individual Porker' and 'Individual Cutter pig'. He placed first in both classes then went on to win reserve champion with the 'Individual Porker'. His effort in thoroughly cleaning the pigs to ensure there wasn't a single dirty mark on any of them obviously paid off! He was subsequently rewarded by being given the honour of showing them in the ring in front of the public.



Well done Steffon - who knew we had an award winning champion at Compaid!

PADDOCK WOOD CARNIVAL

Saturday 8th July dawned hot and sunny - a perfect day for the Paddock Wood Carnival, which this year took Nursery Rhymes for its theme.

As in previous years the Carnival started with a morning procession through Paddock Wood. A Compaaid minibus took pride of place in the parade colourfully decorated with balloons and posters depicting well-known nursery rhymes. The posters had been designed and printed by staff and clients of the Training Centre.

The van was driven by Carol Tanner and was accompanied by Donna Winch and her children, Richard Tanner and his children who carried collection buckets and who had even added Nursery Rhyme logos to their T-shirts to follow the theme! Sadly the van did not

win a prize this time but the effort put in was certainly appreciated by those watching as demonstrated by the generous donations collected as the parade passed by.



Val and Donna putting the finishing touches to our bus!



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! Visitors also had the chance to enjoy the adjacent Fun Fair with its many stalls and rides.



The Compaidd stall was manned by Val Coombes, Mike Peek, Jenny Wythes, Sheila Brown, Jackie Fahey and Nicky Buckwell. In addition Rob Smith (client) came along to help for some of the afternoon. The stall continued the Nursery

Rhyme theme and offered a variety of table top games, face painting, biscuits, sweets and our greeting cards for sale. The face painting proved to be a particularly popular amongst those attending the event! Our



thanks go to Katie Wallis (supporter) for her expertise with the face paints.

We were also supported by Emma Graham (supporter) of “Seed and Sow” who brought along her plants and flowers to sell.



At the end of a busy day we were delighted that the parade collection and stall had raised in excess of £200. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, you really helped raise awareness of our charity’s work.

Fundraising News, by Diane Bradley (Fundraising Manager) and Nicky Buckwell (Fundraising Assistant)

As mentioned in the June edition of the Voice we are proud to have been chosen for this round of the Co-Op Local Community Fund which runs until November. Co-Op continue to donate 1% of everything Co-Op card holders spend on selected own-brand products and services at the Branbridges Road and East Peckham branches to their chosen charity. In addition there are collection boxes located at the till points in both stores.

By June the total raised, including money from sales of carrier bags and in store

collections was **£766.49**. By 31 August this had risen to **£988**. An increase of just over £200 in less than 3 months!



We are also extremely grateful to the Co-Op for donating items for our stall at the Paddock Wood Carnival in July and also the Summer Event held at the start of September.

If you are a Co-Op member and use either of these stores then please take the time to go online at <https://membership.coop.uk/causes/4361/> to register your support for Compaid.

Thank you to all those of you who have already registered and by doing so helped in raising these valuable funds for the charity.



Date for your diary.

Our Christmas Fayre this year will be held in the week commencing 11th December.



Tunbridge Wells Operatic and Dramatic Society (TWODS) has had a long association with Compaid and is pleased to have been able to support the charity with 16 complimentary tickets for their next evening performance :

7.30pm on Thursday 23 November

Tickets are a bargain at £10 each (RRP £18.00) and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Please speak to Diane Bradley to order your tickets

Lotteries can make you a winner and support Compaid at the same time!!

Lotteries are a fun and effective way for causes to raise much-needed funds in these difficult times. By getting more people on board, they don't just raise funds, they also raise awareness. Compaid is now a recognised beneficiary of three lotteries – **Unity Lottery, Tunbridge Wells Lotto and Hive Lotto in Tonbridge and Malling.**

If you have not already signed up please take time to read the following information, and I hope by the time you have read how simple it is to join you will be encouraged to join myself and others who have already benefitted from these lotteries whilst supporting a very worthy cause. **You can play for as little as £1 a week and then have the chance to win up to £25,000.**

We currently have 16 people signed up to one or more of the lotteries.

With a workforce of just short of 100 people, plus all our supporters, we need to attract more people to join the schemes to further support Compaid's work.

If every person reading this bought just one ticket and selected Compaid as their 'Good Cause' the proceeds would raise in the region of £1,500 a year at no extra cost to you.



The poster for the TW Lotto Autumn Bonus Draw features a purple and red background. At the top left is the TW Lotto logo, a heart with 'TW LOTTO' written above it. To the right is the Compaid logo with the website 'www.compaid.org.uk' and 'Registered Charity No. 1046102'. The central text reads 'JOIN NOW AND BE ENTERED INTO OUR AMAZING AUTUMN BONUS DRAW!'. Below this, it says 'SIGN UP TO SUPPORT OUR CAUSE BEFORE 30 SEPTEMBER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF TWO AMAZON FIRE HD TABLETS WITH ALEXA'. A small image of an Amazon Fire HD tablet is shown. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the website 'www.twlotto.co.uk'. A small disclaimer at the bottom left states 'Eligibility must be 18 years of age or older'.

Tunbridge Wells Lotto

TW Lotto is a weekly lottery that directly supports local good causes and community initiatives.

When you play the TW Lotto 60% of your ticket price goes to good causes (more than DOUBLE what the National Lottery gives) AND the money raised is going to good causes that benefit your local community.

In addition anyone who signs up to the TW Lotto before 30 September has the chance to win one of two Amazon Fire HD tablets with Alexa!

Hive Lottery supporting Tonbridge and Malling area



Hive is another local community lottery helping to raise money for good causes, in this case for those in the Tonbridge and Malling area. As with TW Lotto Compaid is one of the featured causes on the website

Tickets are £1 and from every ticket Compaid will receive 50p. A further 18p will be spent on additional local good causes which benefit the Tonbridge and Malling area.

Unity Lottery continues to produce more Compaid winners!



This was the first lottery which Compaid joined in 2016. Since the last newsletter I am delighted to say that we have had another 5 wins for our current 14 members.

This lottery is designed to give good causes the chance to gain support and raise valuable funds through their own weekly lottery draw.

50p of every £1 you play is guaranteed to go straight to a good cause, and it's you who decides which one -this is where you can support Compaid. The remaining 50p will be used to provide prizes and cover administration costs. By joining the Unity Lottery you will be entered into the respective draw of the charity (Compaid) that you wish to support.

Every Saturday, the lucky winners are selected at random and prize cheques issued and posted directly to you, so there is no need for you to claim. You must be 16 or over to enter. Winners have to match 3, 4 5 or all 6 digits of the winning number in the correct place in the sequence – match 6 digits to win the top prize of £25,000.



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