



NOVEMBER 2015

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Welcome to this, the last issue of Compaid Voice for 2015, with Christmas just around the corner. Those of you who attended last month's AGM will have heard me talk about the great achievements we have made this year. Our Training services have been extended into Thanet, our Transport services into Ashford and Sheppey, and more than 1,600 people have benefited from these and our Payroll services.

This growth has come about due to the hard work of all our staff and volunteers, who have had to forge new relationships with organisations like Job Centre Plus and Housing Associations, and develop new ways of working and of measuring our impact. At the same time, we have ensured we continually improve the quality of our existing work, as evidenced by our investment in new equipment for the Training Centre, and our award of the Community Transport Association's Quality Mark.

As some of you will know, next year marks the 30th anniversary of Compaid. In 1986, our founder Lorna Ridgway saw the opportunity for personal computers to improve the lives of disabled people. Her vision for this and the other services she developed before her death

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in 1994 remains at the heart of our work today, and while we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary in many ways, we will also continue to ensure that even more disabled and vulnerable people across Kent can realise their potential with our support.

There will be more news on our plans in the coming months, but for now, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Stephen Elsdon - Chief Executive

All the Staff, Clients and Volunteers were very sorry to see Leah Botting leave at the beginning of November.



Her infectious personality has only been with us since July of this year but in that short time she has won everybody's heart.

She is awaiting the birth of her first child and we all wish her and her new family health and happiness.



Neil Hancock

3rd February 1958 - 2nd November 2015

Everybody at Compaid was saddened to hear that Neil had passed away, peacefully, in his sleep. Although plagued with ill-health, Neil was always cheerful, and treated life with a great sense of fun and humour.

I helped Neil with researching his ancestry and he would delight in telling anyone, who asked how far back he had gone, that his 69th great grandfather was Mark Antony.

Neil will be greatly missed and our sympathy goes out to Neil's family and friends.

Fundraising News

Tonbridge Half Marathon

On Sunday 4th October Compaid once again joined the team of volunteers at the Tonbridge Half Marathon to offer our help. Special thanks go to Jenny Wythes and Colin Francis who were out marshalling on the course, Val Coombes, Peter Hood and Stephen Elsdon who ran our stall selling cards and cakes, courtesy of Leah Botting (Care assistant) and her mother-in-law Bernice Botting who made and donated over 150 cakes helping us to raise £66.70.

Further thanks go to our volunteers Lesley and David Turner (Volunteer and Trustee) who probably had one of the toughest jobs this year, removing all the chip timing devices from the shoes of all 1496 finishers! This great team of volunteers are all pulled together by our fundraiser Diane Bradley who is one of the race organisers.

Compaid is very grateful for the generous £1,000 donation that we receive from the race committee each year in appreciation for our help.

This year we had 5 runners competing in aid of Compaid; Daniel Bradley, this year's winner finishing in a new course record of 1 hour 12 minutes 13 seconds, Greg Cole, 6th in 1 hour 14 minutes 39 secs, Maria Heslop finishing 3rd lady in a time of 1 hour 23 minutes 35 seconds, Caroline Hedley 1 hour 56 minutes 08 secs.



Our final runner Joe Baldwin who is visually impaired ran for us last year and this year with a new guide Andy Howey, (a fellow training member) exceeded all expectations and improved his best time by over 6 minutes finishing in 1hour 48 minutes 45 seconds. These inspiring runners have raised in excess of £600 for Compaid for which we are extremely grateful and congratulate them on their fantastic performances.



Daniel Bradley, Joe Baldwin & guide Andy Howey

The sporting theme continued as Emily Streeter, daughter of our dearly departed training centre client Ronnie Mitchell, fulfilled her challenge of competing in her first race in memory of her father.

A year ago Emily committed to take part in a special challenge on the anniversary of her father's death to raise funds for Compaid. Supported by friends and family Emily completed the Richmond Park 10k with her cousin Erin Baker, seen in white in this picture. Emily who had never run before, endured months of extremely tough training and an injury along the way but still persevered to be able to start the race and complete her challenge. We are delighted to announce that as a result of the fantastic support of their friends, family and colleagues these inspiring ladies have raised £1532.78.



We would like to thank both Emily and Erin on behalf of everyone at Compaid for their support and congratulate them on their amazing achievement.

Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon

Last year a group of Compaid volunteers attended the Tunbridge Wells Half marathon and we are delighted to have received a donation of £600 from the race committee as thanks for our help marshalling around the course.

Next year's race will take place on Sunday 21st February and they are already looking for willing volunteers, so if you feel you could join our Compaid team of volunteers then please email dianebradley@compaid.org.uk

Christmas time at Compaid

Following our successful Christmas Fayre and carol concert last year, we will again be holding another event this year.

Through popular demand we will be extending this year's event throughout the week of Monday 7th - Friday 11th December every afternoon 1.30pm – 3.15pm to enable all our clients to enjoy the festivities.

Once again we are delighted to have the Paddock Wood Junior School choir coming along on Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th to entertain us with their wonderful singing. There will be a Grand Raffle, refreshments, Christmas gifts, cards & tags and much more. We do hope you can join us on either Tuesday or Thursday and be part of our Christmas celebrations. If you would like to attend please email dianebradley@compaid.org.uk or telephone 01892 834539 to assist us with catering purposes.

Raffle tickets have been sent to many of our supporters but if you have not received any and would like to support us, please contact me.

The raffle will be drawn on Monday 14th December.

Morrisons Foundation supports local charity



We were delighted to receive the news that we had been successful in our funding application to the Morrisons Foundation for support to purchase much needed IT equipment. Receiving this funding has enabled us to purchase some new laptops and additional specialist equipment.

The world of technology moves at an alarming pace so Computers and software are quickly outdated, and these new laptops will really benefit our clients. The picture above shows Compaid clients Jane and Allison using two of our new laptops.



Compaid's Fundraising Manager Diane Bradley is presented with the cheque by Store Manager Martin Fuller.

Only 6 weeks 'til Christmas

Imagine how much we could raise if **every** one of you shopping online registers to Easyfundraising. With Christmas approaching millions of pounds will be spent online in the next few months. Can I please urge you to take a few moments to sign up to Easyfundraising.org.uk and help us to raise as much as possible for Compaid, we need your support.



Remember it costs you nothing – here's just how easy it is to use:

Let's say you want to buy an item from Amazon, Instead of going to Amazon.co.uk you go to easyfundraising.org.uk first and find the Amazon website. In our hectic lives it is not always easy to remember to use the fundraising site, so to help you remember if you copy this link:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/donation-reminder

into the browser on your computer it will give you the opportunity to download the reminder so that you are prompted every time.

If you're not sure how to do this, then please do ask one of the Compaid team to show you.

Happy shopping and enjoy watching your fundraising grow for Compaid!

Diane Bradley - Compaid Fundraising Manager

Volunteer News

I really can't believe that we are into November already and that this will be the last edition of Compaid Voice before Christmas.



On behalf of the staff and clients I would like to thank all of our volunteers for your invaluable support, and also to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Can you, or someone you know, spare some time to make a difference?

We are looking for volunteers to hold fundraising events.

Could you ...

- hold a Coffee Morning with friends and family?
- sell some unwanted gifts, or hold a Boot Fair or Garage Sale?
- take part in a sponsored walk, run or other challenge?

If so, please contact me .

Judith Williams, H R Administrator

judith.williams@compaid.org.uk

01892 834539



Compaid Charity Christmas Cards

Available to order

All original artwork by Compaid Clients



We three kings...

We Three Kings by Meryl Kyles

Small Cards (100mm x 100mm)

No.....@ £2.50 pack of 6

Large Cards (130mm x 130mm)

No.....@ £3.50 pack of 6

Robin by Jeanette Kent

Small Cards (100mm x 100mm)

No.....@ £2.50 pack of 6

Large Cards (130mm x 130mm)

No.....@ £3.50 pack of 6

Reindeer by Sharon Streeton

Small Cards (100mm x 100mm)

No.....@ £2.50 pack of 6

Large Cards (130mm x 130mm)

No.....@ £3.50 pack of 6



Compaid Charity Christmas Cards

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Geese by Shila Patel

Small Cards (100mm x 100mm)

No.....@ £2.50 pack of 6

Large Cards (130mm x 130mm)

No.....@ £3.50 pack of 6



Snowman by Susanna Bowdery

Small Cards (100mm x 100mm)

No.....@ £2.50 pack of 6

Large Cards (130mm x 130mm)

No.....@ £3.50 pack of 6



Santa by Sharon Mitchell

Small Cards (100mm x 100mm)

No.....@ £2.50 pack of 6

Large Cards (130mm x 130mm)

No.....@ £3.50 pack of 6

Please return this order form to:
Compaid, Unit 1, Eastlands, Maidstone Road,
Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6BU
email: officebureau@compaid.org.uk
Tel: 01892 834539

Postage and Packaging

1 to 4 packs £2.50

5 to 10 packs £4.00

10 to 15 packs £6.50

Total amount

Total amount incl p & p

Name

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email.....

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