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theBigGive

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

30 NOV—7 DEC 2021

Our **Big Give Christmas Challenge** launches at the end of this month to raise money towards our digital skills training services at Eastlands and in the wider community. We know how vitally important this service is to hundreds of individuals across Kent every week, and with your support for this campaign we can help even more people in 2022 and beyond.

Every donation made to Compaid online at the Big Give website between **Midday 30 November and Midday 7 December 2021** will be matched pound for pound through a special matching pot, created with donations from a number of Compaid Trustees and the Monday Charitable Trust.

This means that a £10 donation will be worth at least £20 to Compaid, and if you are a UK payer, we can claim an extra £2.50 on every £10 given in this way. **From midday 30 November, our Big Give fundraising page will be found here: <https://bit.ly/CompaidBG21>**

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

Compaid supports aspiring Paralympian Athlete Zak Skinner



Back in June we were delighted to announce that Compaid would be supporting local para-athlete **Zak Skinner** on his journey to this year's Paralympics in Tokyo. We have been delighted to start our partnership with Zak by funding a Leg Recovery Kit. This equipment helps the athlete's body return healthy, oxygenated blood back to the legs to recover after a gruelling training regime, equipment that is much needed by full-time athletes.

Zak won two Gold medals at the European Championships in June and was subsequently selected to represent our GB Paralympic team in the T-13 (Visually impaired) 100m and long jump in Tokyo. He finished 8th in the 100m (just outside his personal best time)and 4th in the Long Jump, narrowly missing out on a medal. For his first Paralympics this is an amazing result: at only 23 Zak has a promising future ahead of him.

We will be hosting our first charity event of the new year on Friday 28th January 2022 7.30pm – 9.30pm at the Tonbridge Juddians club house. **'An audience with Paralympian Athlete Zak Skinner'** will be an exciting evening getting to know this inspiring talented local athlete, his work with Compaid and future plans to support him in his athletics career. Tickets are £10 with all proceeds going to Compaid.

Born completely blind before regaining some sight at the age of two, the event will give an insight into the commitment, dedication and sheer hard work that took Zak from an energetic enthusiastic child to gaining GB selection to compete in 2021, where he took his first gold medal on the international stage, winning the 100m at the World Para Athletics Championships in Bydgoszcz in Poland.



Our Interviewer for the evening will be Sam Crick, who already has a popular podcast known to many in the athletics world. “*Crickcastpod*” offers the personal side behind the persona of the world's leading athletes and performers. Sam will be interviewing Zak and finding out about the humorous and challenging barriers he’s had to overcome in his life, as well as his amazing achievements in becoming a European para champion this year and competing in the recent Tokyo games.

I do hope you will be able to join us for this great evening, and there may even be an opportunity to hold a European gold medal!

Tickets for the event cost just £10 and can be booked online at :

<https://bit.ly/ZakSkinner>

Paddock Wood Bowls club members continue their amazing support



We would like to thank our friends and Club Captain Keith Merrin at the Paddock Wood Bowls Club for their continued support as even in lockdown they continued to fundraise for us. In July they invited our fundraising manager Diane along to join them, where she was presented with an amazing £500 cheque that was raised at their annual charity day.

We are so grateful that the club have decided to continue supporting Compaid as their chosen charity for 2021. It was lovely to meet some of their members who had been attending our digital skills training sessions before lockdown. Many thanks everyone and we wish you all the best in your matches this season.

A summary of our year whilst we've been away...

NFU Mutual supports our post pandemic work



We were delighted to receive a donation from the NFU Mutual Agency Giving Fund as part of their national emergency campaign to support charities that impact our local community, providing both emergency support and to help build long-term resilience.

This amazing support arrived at a time when we were finally able to open the doors of our digital skills training centre again after what had been one of the most difficult years any of us have had to face.

As the country emerged from the pandemic, the sense of purpose and enthusiasm among our staff and volunteers to welcome back clients to familiar surroundings had never been stronger. The pandemic had shown how we often take for granted how easy online communication has become, which is why our work continues to be so important, supporting vulnerable people to gain the skills to get online and help reduce increasing levels of isolation and loneliness which can in turn have a major impact on their long term health.

Kent Executive Club's 2021 Charity Golf Day

We were delighted that Compaid was chosen as the recipient of the Kent Executive Club's 2021 Charity Golf Day, which was held at Lamberhurst Golf Club. Compaid entered two teams, and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day, as shown in this photo of the pre-game drinks! We would especially like to thank David Forge and fellow members who successfully re-organised this event following the cancellation last year due to the pandemic.



David commented ***"I am pleased to announce we will be supporting Compaid Trust, a small local charity based in Paddock Wood which provides Digital Skills Training and Transport Services to the disabled and elderly. I had the pleasure of visiting Compaid last year to learn more about the vital services they provide and I also spoke with a number of their clients in their Training Centre. Please spare just a few minutes to watch the introductory video on Compaid's website - www.compaid.org.uk I am sure you will agree Compaid is worthy of our support and like all charities they have been severely affected by the lockdowns"***.



Our chief executive **Stephen Elsdon** attended the evening dinner and spoke about our work and how the club's fundraising would benefit hundreds of disabled, elderly & vulnerable people living across Kent who are in need of our services. A Black Tie dinner will be held in December when there will be a presentation

to Compaid of the proceeds raised from the event. We have been informed that this sum has exceeded £5,000, which is an amazing effort by everyone involved and very much appreciated by everyone at Compaid.

Tonbridge Half Marathon – 4th October

We are grateful once again to be one of the recipients of proceeds raised from this event. Our fundraiser Diane Bradley (who volunteers as the race manager) was involved again as the race celebrated its 10th anniversary. Our thanks go to Tonbridge Lions and Rotary club members, and Compaid supporters Steve & Shirley Pike, Fred Bailey & Jo Montgomery, Carol Tsang, Vicky Stoodley, Megan Colclough and Andy Wythes who helped out this year, marshalling around the course and helping organise runners at the start and handing out medals at the finish.



National Lottery supports purchase of new vehicles.

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in securing a three year grant from the National Lottery to fund our new “Out and About” Dial a Ride transport service in the boroughs of Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling. This service will be available to disabled, older and other vulnerable people to book travel for themselves and up to four other people anywhere within the borough from Monday to Friday.



The National Lottery grant will be funding the purchase of two new wheelchair adapted vehicles, running costs and staff salaries for the service, which we hope to launch early next year.

Our wonderful supporters

Last year was extremely challenging for all charities, so we are extremely grateful to all the Trusts, Foundations, local businesses, organisations and individuals who continued to support us through this difficult time. Every grant and donation enabled us to continue reducing isolation and loneliness for many more people across Kent, especially those forced to isolate for many months due to health issues.

We were fortunate to receive a Covid emergency grant from Barclays Bank which enabled us to buy much needed laptops, tablets and mobile Wi-Fi units. These were loaned to vulnerable people who did not have their own devices or internet connection so that they could still receive our digital support. In addition we have been delighted to receive funding support from a number of new Trusts which have included Persimmon Charitable Foundation, Rainford Trust, David Solomons Charitable Trust, Andy Thomson Foundation and A G Manly Trust.



As we look to 2022 we know there will be fundraising challenges. Research shows that the impact of the pandemic has been uneven and unpredictable on voluntary organisations and warns of projected declines in funding from all income sources in the next financial year. Compaid will need to raise in excess of **£200,000** to ensure we can continue to support the increasing demand for our services following the pandemic.

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. So if you, or anyone you know, would like further information about how to support our charity please contact **Diane Bradley**, Fundraising Manager (dianebradley@compaid.org.uk) or call 01892 351054 for an informal chat.

Since the pandemic we have seen a significant increase in demand for our services from elderly, disabled & other vulnerable people as support services were disrupted. These vulnerable people become even more isolated as the lockdowns forced them to spend lengthy periods of time shielding and unable to see anyone. This time in isolation has had a major impact on their anxiety and increased feelings of loneliness, which in turn has had a major impact on their long term physical and mental health.

How could you help us to support these people?

Making a one off donation

As a charity that relies on the goodwill of our community, we need your help now more than ever. Your donation, however big or small, will make a lasting difference to a vulnerable person's life.

What your donation would buy.....

£50 - would provide a one-to-one supported digital skills session to a disabled learner to gain practical skills and confidence in using online services, including paying for goods and services, managing benefits, looking for work and training opportunities, and handling their own health and social care needs.



£150 - would buy a year's subscription to Ancestry.com, enabling clients to feel a real sense of belonging through tracing their personal history and mapping their family tree.

£250 – Would provide a vulnerable person with a tablet/iPad with Wi-Fi connection to be able to get online and benefit from the services that are available.



£500 - would cover 12 months of expenses for a volunteer driver working 1 day a week (travel expenses & small lunch allowance). Without the support of our dedicated volunteers, we would be unable to meet the needs of our vulnerable clients.

£800 - would cover the cost of First Aid and MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) training for up to 10 drivers. All transport staff are regularly provided with this essential training to ensure they can meet CTA (Community Transport Association) standards at all times



Choose to give a regular gift

By choosing to give a regular monthly donation, you will be helping us to plan ahead and make long-term improvements for our clients and their families. A regular gift allows us to plan for the future because we know, day in and day out, that we will have a steady income stream that we can rely upon. We can't thank you enough for your support, however you choose to give. If you are a UK taxpayer, don't forget to *giftaid it* which will enable us to reclaim an additional 25% at no cost to yourself!

For every £1 spent on fundraising, Compaid raises £8.35 to help fund our work, which ensures our income directly benefits those most in need of our services.

Compaid

Removing barriers Improving lives

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