



**MAY 2018**

**Compaid  
VOICE**

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## **New Social Impact Report, by Chief Executive Stephen Elsdon**



Last year, Compaid published its first ever Social Impact Report, showing the difference that our services make to the lives of disabled and other vulnerable people every day. Now, a follow up report has been released for 2018, this time including case studies on a number of clients.

The 2018 Social Impact Report is compiled from the results of short surveys sent to both Training and Transport clients. More than 120 people completed the surveys this year, for which we are very grateful.

Among the Report's findings, more than 78% of transport passengers reported a reduction in their feelings of loneliness and isolation, while 71% felt more independent and 77% of service users had improved access to local services and activities.



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



Computer skills training helped 50% of respondents to improve their awareness of online safety, and 24% reported making savings by purchasing goods and services online. Savings were also made by 53% of Compaid's transport passengers, who were able to access local shops and supermarkets.

Stephen Elsdon, Chief Executive at Compaid says: ***"This second Social Impact Report shows that the services delivered by our staff and volunteers are making a real difference to people's lives. With growing awareness of the barriers of social exclusion and isolation, it is essential that local commissioners and funders understand the real value of organisations like Compaid."***

The new Report has already received positive feedback from several key people in local Government. Peter Fleming, leader of Sevenoaks District Council commented:

***'What a fantastic story you have to tell. Congratulations on your new partnerships, it appears that you continue to go from strength to strength'***, while Phil Lightowler, head of Public Transport at Kent County Council said: ***'It was for once, so nice to get a document through which was all about the positive, all about how the community is***



***benefitting and in a small way, nice to see what our Kent Karrier funding to Compaid delivers.'***

The 2018 Social Impact Report can be found on the Compaid website at

<http://www.compaid.org.uk/>



## New Trustees sought for Compaid

Compaid is seeking up to six enthusiastic individuals to join its Board of Trustees.

People with experience in digital skills, community transport, legal affairs, human relations and business development are particularly sought, along with those who have worked in positions in local government and services industries. Applications from disabled people would be particularly welcome. The Board of Trustees ensures that Compaid fulfils its charitable objectives in supporting disabled and other vulnerable people across Kent, setting clear goals for staff and volunteers, and helping the charity to raise and spend its income wisely.

A few Trustees have stood down from the Board in recent months or indicated their intention to do so soon, and the new Trustees will replace these individuals and bring additional skills and experience to the charity.

John Ashelford, Chair of Trustees at Compaid says:

***“Compaid is a charity making a fantastic difference to the lives of disabled people every day, and as a relatively small but growing organisation it needs an experienced and committed team of Trustees to support the staff and volunteers in delivering its services. I have found my time on the Board highly satisfying, and the Trustees have enjoyed contributing to strategic issues and making their own impact on the charity’s vital work.”***



If you are interested, or know of somebody who might be, you can find more information on the Compaid website, or speak directly to Chief Executive Stephen Elsdon.

## Fundraising News

### Compaid chosen as finalist at the Kent Charity Awards



We are delighted to announce that Compaid was shortlisted as a finalist in the 2018 Kent Charity Awards in the 'Voluntary Charity of the Year' category. The presentation evening took place at The Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham on 15th March and

Compaid was represented at the event by Stephen Elsdon (CEO), John Ashelford (Chairman of Trustees), Sairah Merchant (Volunteer) and Diane Bradley (Fundraising Manager). A very enjoyable evening was had by all and the event provided a great opportunity for Compaid to be highlighted as

one of the main charities in Kent. We would like to thank all our volunteers; as without the commitment of these dedicated individuals, Compaid would not be able to meet the increasing demand from those who require our services. In the last year, volunteers donated 9,750 hours of their time, the approximate value of which was **£75,000**.



### Compaid celebrates funding successes

In common with many other charities we are dependent on raising funds from a variety of sources in order to maintain and expand our services. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find new streams of income to support our work, as a growing number of charities are finding it challenging to secure money to pay for 'core' items in order to run their organisation. We have been, and hope to continue to be, successful in securing additional funding from a range of sources, including local authorities and social services

budgets, trusts and foundations, and other charities for whom we provide services to their own clients. Beyond that, we need to ensure that we continue to raise funds from local community groups, businesses and individuals to fund our vital services. Over the past months we have been delighted to receive some significant grants from the following organisations.

## Grant from East Kent Freemasons Province of East Kent



The East Kent Freemasons have awarded us a three year grant to support the delivery of our digital skills training. The grant comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends from across England and Wales.

Totalling **£45,000** over three years, the grant will fund the salary of two trainers within our Centre, supporting over 250 disabled learners to gain skills in a variety of topics,

such as use of social media, internet shopping, online safety and digital design.

Following a visit to our centre to see our work first hand, Mark Bassant, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, commented “We’re very pleased to be able to help Compaid who do outstanding work helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community get online, with all the opportunities the internet offers.”



## The Garfield Weston Foundation - £30,000

Voluntary income is a vital source of funds for us to deliver our invaluable and impactful services. The Garfield Weston Foundation has been a firm supporter of our work over the last 20 years and in recent years has awarded us some significant grants. This latest grant of **£30,000** will support our core costs over the next two years to help ensure our services can continue to reach the many hundreds of disabled people in and around Kent who rely on them every day.



## The Joan Strutt Charitable Trust - £25,000

The Joan Strutt Charitable Trust has supported Compaid since 1994 with donations ranging from £250 to £1,000. Unfortunately our relationship with the trust has now come to an end as we have been informed that the trust is due to close this year. We were delighted to hear that Compaid had been chosen as one of their charities that would benefit from the remaining funds held within the Trust. We were therefore thrilled to receive a final cheque for **£25,000** which far exceeded our expectations and proves the benefit and importance of building and maintaining relationships with funding bodies. Over the last financial year we have also been successfully supported with significant grants from the following trusts and foundations:

- The Sobell Foundation
- The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
- The Band Trust
- The Thomas J Horne Memorial Trust
- The PJK Charitable Trust
- The Iron Bridge Trust
- Lawson Endowment for Kent
- Kent Community Foundation
- Joan Ainslie Charitable Trust

We are extremely grateful to all the Trusts, Foundations, local businesses, organisations and individuals who have supported Compaid at all levels. In total these grants and donations amounted to just over **£148,000** in 2017/18. Growth in regular voluntary income is a key component of our business plan. Compaid is a charity that needs voluntary income to thrive, so **your** support is vital to the future of our organisation.

## Events news, and dates for your diary

### Paddock Wood Half Marathon – Sunday 8 April

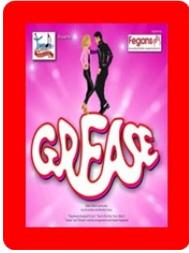
The Paddock Wood Half Marathon was held on Sunday 8 April and once again Baxall Construction kindly agreed to allow Compaid to use their parking areas on the Eastlands Estate and Rosemary Place to offer charity parking to runners and supporters.

In return for a parking space close to the start line people made donations to Compaid. Staff members Jim Scrimgeour, Srikanth Bodduluri, Donna Winch, Mark Hughes, Nikki Winfield and Nick Fairhall, along with supporters Vince and Diane Hughes very generously gave their time on a grey and damp Sunday morning to man the parking areas and collect donations.

A total of £920 was collected and with the addition of GiftAid this meant that Compaid received **£1,100** – this is just over £200 more than was raised at the same event last year!



## TWODS production of Grease



Tunbridge Wells Operatic and Dramatic Society (TWODS) has had a long association with Compaid and was pleased to once again support the Charity with 16 complimentary tickets for their production of Grease on 17 May.

The tickets were eagerly snapped up (like “Greased Lightning”!) by Compaid staff, clients and volunteers, who have always enjoyed the excellent shows put on by this very talented group.

### 13th May - Tonbridge Lions Club Walk

On Sunday 13 May Diane Bradley and Nicky Buckwell will be heading a team of Compaid staff, volunteers and supporters on the annual 10 mile Tonbridge Lions Club Walk around the Kent countryside. As many of you



will be aware, the majority of our clients for various reasons will never be able to join us on a fundraising walk, although this is something many may wish to experience. With this in mind Nicky & Diane decided to try and raise enough money to purchase a **Virtual Reality (VR) headset** which could be

used by many of our clients. This equipment would enable individuals who are unable to join us on the walk to

experience a range of physical activities or even virtually join us on a similar walk around beautiful countryside! The immersive possibilities of VR would allow clients to feel they are experiencing things rather than simply looking at them on a screen, improving



concentration and deepening interest. People with a physical disability will

be able to have the experience of walking in the countryside, visiting places of interest or taking part in an active event, so simply seeing a different view on life. For people with autism and/or anxiety, VR offers a totally risk-free way of experiencing different places and activities without the barriers of feeling surrounded by other people. Practicing everyday tasks, such as walking to the shops, in this risk-free environment may represent a helpful step towards some achieving their short-term goals.

The cost of this equipment is around **£600** which is a small price to pay for the amazing opportunities that can be experienced from the purchase of this immersive and educational software. We would be delighted if you felt able to support us in some way to try and raise adequate funds to purchase this innovative equipment. If you would like to sponsor the team then please contact Diane Bradley ([dianebradley@compaid.org.uk](mailto:dianebradley@compaid.org.uk)) and help us make this virtual experience a reality! It is never too late to support us and we would still welcome donations from anyone willing to help us reach our target.

### 6th, 7th & 8th July – Kent County Show



6, 7, 8 JULY 2018

This year, for the first time, Compaid will have a stand at the Kent County Show at Detling, Maidstone. Our presence will allow us to showcase the work done by the Charity with the aim of recruiting additional valuable volunteers. If you are in the area do come along and say hello to us at our stand!

### 14th July – Paddock Wood Carnival - Teddy Bears wanted!

This year we will be holding a **Teddy Bear Tombola** on the Compaid stall at the Paddock Wood carnival. So we are looking for any **new** teddy bears - any shape, any size, any colour. All new bears will be “**beary**” gratefully received!!! Please contact Diane ([dianebradley@compaid.org.uk](mailto:dianebradley@compaid.org.uk)) if you are able to donate a bear.



## 22 July – 12 August - Lands End to John O’Groats sponsored cycle ride!



On 22 July Jo Montgomery (Compaid Transport escort) and her partner Fred will be leaving Lands End on their bikes to cycle to John O’Groats. Their route, using cycle paths and minor roads wherever possible, will take them through Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, York, Middlesbrough and Edinburgh and they aim to reach John O’ Groats on Sunday 12th August - a total of around 1,100 miles! (an average of about 50 miles per day).

We hope to receive daily updates from Jo and Fred on their progress which will be used by clients in the Training Centre to monitor how they are doing and plot their route on a timeline.

Jo and Fred have very kindly decided to donate the funds raised through sponsorship to Compaid and we hope that as many people as possible will support them on this amazing endeavour. On behalf of all at Compaid we wish them the very best of luck and hope that they have a safe, successful and enjoyable ride.



If you would like to help you can either sponsor them online at :

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FredandJo> or by contacting Diane Bradley – by email at [dianebradley@compaid.org.uk](mailto:dianebradley@compaid.org.uk) or by phone on 01892 834539.



## Emma and her EDS Journey

Emma Woolley (aka the “Compaid Nightingale”, because of her lovely singing voice) worked for Compaid in the Training Centre for many years. Sadly she has had to step back due to her ongoing struggle with EDS . Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (*EDS*) is a group of conditions that affect the stretchiness and strength of supporting tissues in the body, including skin, joints, blood vessels and internal organs.

EDS sufferers are known as “medical zebras”, and in medicine, the term “Zebra” is used to refer to a rare disease or condition. The phrase “When you hear the sound of hooves, think horses, not **zebras**.” is taught to medical students throughout their training. The zebra is the mascot of the EDS support organisation, and Emma has some “zebra-themed” T shirts which she designed herself.



As she is unable to get out as much as she would like, Emma’s computer has become her lifeline, and she has recently started a blog on EDS and her ways of coping. You can find Emma’s blog, entitled “My EDS Journey” at <http://edsjour.blogspot.co.uk/>

May is also EDS Awareness Month.



## 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 **3**

winners. We are still awaiting a Compaid BIG win so could that be you?

This lottery is designed to give good causes the chance to gain support and raise valuable funds through their own weekly lottery draw. By choosing Compaid we benefit directly and so would like to encourage more of you to participate and so increase the outcome for the Charity.

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**.

6 digits in  
the correct  
place wins  
**£25,000**

5 digits in  
the correct  
place wins  
**£1,000**

4 digits in  
the correct  
place wins  
**£25**

3 digits in  
the correct  
place wins  
5 entries  
into the  
next draw

# Rob's story

My name is Rob Handley and you may have seen me helping out in the Training Centre at Compaid during the last 6 months or so. It's great to meet all of you!

I have been working with computers for most of my life after gaining a degree in Computer Science at Kingston University in Surrey. I was involved with designing and testing real time software for the Boeing 777 and the Eurofighter Typhoon at GEC-Marconi Avionics. After working on a few other defence projects I decided that a change was needed so I found a job working for Cornhill Insurance in Tunbridge Wells, where I learnt to code database systems (and practice my golf game as Cornhill did have a great golf society!).

It was at this point in January 2001 that I suffered a major stroke. In hospital the doctors explained to me slowly that as I could not speak or walk it would



take me months or even years of rehabilitation to get back to the way I was before. This was a complete shock at the time but I managed to really get involved with my recovery and the rehab exercises. I

recently did a short YouTube video about my stroke and recovery which you can find at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AFwrFh-cuk>

On the whole, my recovery has been really amazing considering what I was up against. My friends and family stuck by me through the dark times, and laughed with me through better times; and in fact Compaid helped me a lot as I did some voluntary work for them 10 years ago when the training centre was located at the Tunbridge Wells football ground. So far I am really enjoying my recent work at Compaid and I am looking forward to helping any clients who want to learn computers and programming!

# Volunteer News

**We are looking for new Volunteers** to join our friendly team supporting our work in the following areas:

**Computer Trainer:** Can you support our clients to learn or relearn computer skills in a fun and informal way? Activities may include creative writing, using art or photography software, researching the internet, playing games and sending emails.



**Volunteer Driver:** Can you drive a specially adapted minibus to collect vulnerable people from home to go on day trips, to social events, to day centres and to do their weekly shopping?

**Fundraising Volunteer:** Are you able to organise fundraising events on our behalf or take part in sponsored walk, or run?

If you or you know of someone who can spare a few hours a week to help us, please contact:

Judith Williams

H R Administrator [judith.williams@compaid.org.uk](mailto:judith.williams@compaid.org.uk)

# Compaid Client News

Do you love to cook, and do you have a favourite recipe? If you are a budding Mary Berry or Jamie Oliver, why not let us have 2 of your favourite recipes for our new project, which will be a **Compaid Cookbook?** Please include a little information about yourself and the reasons why you chose this particular recipe.

Our next project for June will be called "*I sit here*". Each day in the Training Centre there is a different set of clients, and they don't normally get to meet each other. We thought that each client could compose a little piece about themselves, their background and interests, together with a photo if they wish, which will be placed on the desk where they sit. This will mean that clients will be able to find out about each other, and maybe even become pen-pals!



Last week we said a fond farewell to one of our long-standing clients, Julia Cogan. Julia has been with us for 20 years, but is moving to the West Country. We will miss her varied selection of music in the centre, her fondness for owls of all descriptions, and most of all her unfailing cheerfulness and good humour. We wish her all the best for the future.

On a sadder note, one of our Training Centre clients passed away last month. Jackie Glaysher had been with us on Wednesdays for 15 years, and battled bravely with her MS. Jackie was a real character, who despite her disability, still managed to find a wry humour in everyday situations. She will be missed by us all.



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