

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue Three | Spring 2020

Welcome to the Spring edition of the NewstrAid Newsletter, exclusively produced for independent retailers who support our work.

A lot has changed since the last edition went out at the end of February. Not only did many communities start the year having to deal with the result of devastating floods but we know that retailers throughout the country are now facing some challenges never faced before following the coronavirus lockdown.

It is true that corner shops and newsagents are providing an essential and invaluable service to communities across the country as we all try to follow government advice and distance ourselves as much as possible from others. However, this puts retailers in a vulnerable position coming into contact with many people every day and should they become ill themselves, they may find it difficult to keep shops open.

During these unprecedented and very difficult times, NewstrAid is here to provide support and advice to anyone from the industry who finds they are facing hardship. In this newsletter we have highlighted some of the ways we can help independent retailers and we urge anyone who finds themselves in difficulties, both financial and emotional to contact our welfare team.

I am pleased to be able to report that all of us at NewstrAid are now working remotely from our own homes. Our post is being redirected, our phonedlines are diverted and we are all set up to securely access the information

we need to carry on the work of the Charity. Like many others, we are also getting used to regular calls and video conferences to stay in touch.

Our welfare team worked hard to send out April beneficiary payments a week early which made it possible for more of the people we support to access their funds before the lockdown. Area Committee meetings, fundraising events and almoner visits have clearly been cancelled or postponed until we are clear of the risk of spreading the virus but, otherwise, the Charity is fully operational.

Although we can still do just about everything we were doing before, the constraints of working remotely may mean that things take us just a little longer so, please bear with us. We are still available to our beneficiaries and have a process in place to approve applications for support or even fast-track requests for help if necessary. Whilst we will do our best to take calls, it would be helpful if you could to contact us by email at oldben@newstraid.org.uk if possible.

Please stay safe and healthy as best you can by following the government advice. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes from all at NewstrAid.

**Mike Mirams and
the NewstrAid team.**

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NewstrAid 
The helping hand of the Newstrade 

We are the
**helping
hand** of the
news trade



Financial
Support



Grants



State Benefits
Advice



Support For
Disabled
& Carers



Help For
Children



Almoner
Home Visits

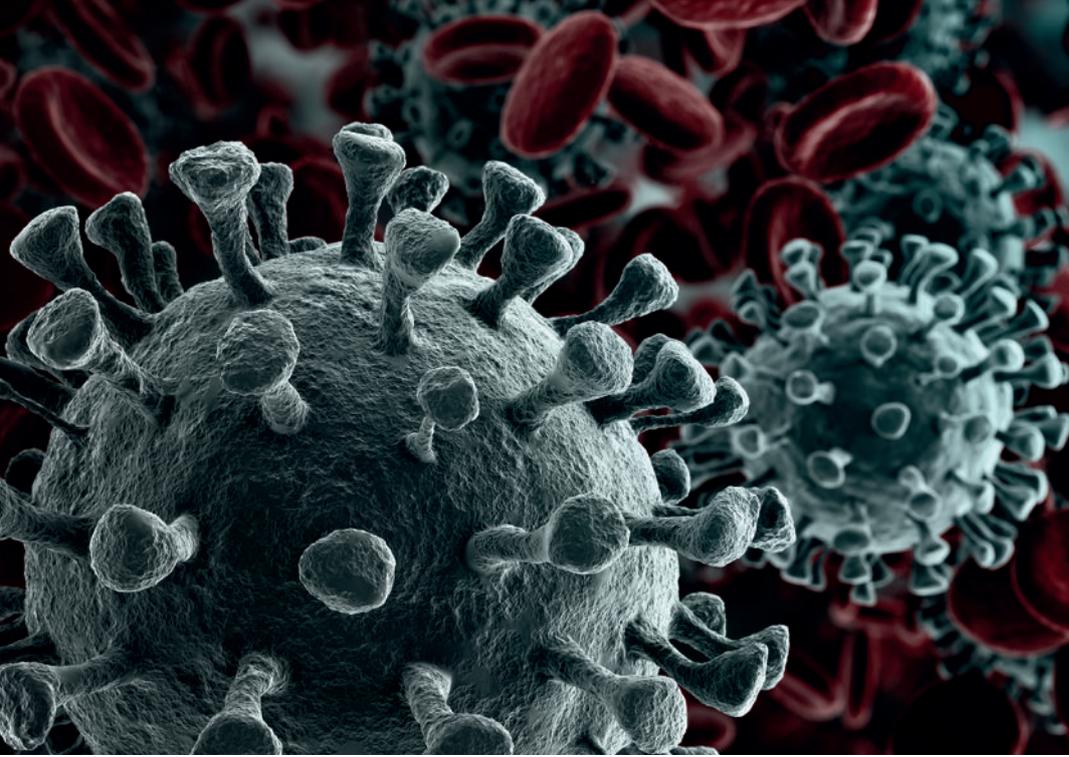


Debt
Advice



Anxiety
Support

Free Helpline:
0800 917 8616
www.newstraid.org.uk



Anxiety UK – Coronavirus Support

During this time of nationwide heightened anxiety, Anxiety UK have been providing additional advice and support online via their website for anyone with concerns or anxiety related to coronavirus. You can access this via the following website
<https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/coronanxiety-support-resources/>

Other Useful Websites

Government website:
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

NHS:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/



Coronavirus Support

As the news trade adapts to the current lockdown and thousands of industry colleagues find themselves coping with reduced income due to illness, quarantine, furlough or redundancy, NewstrAid can offer a wide range of services to anyone with a news trade connection facing hardship.

State Benefits Advice

For those who (a) are not well enough to work, (b) are currently under furlough, (c) the self-employed and (d) those that do not qualify for any of the corona related schemes and need to apply for Universal Credit. Ask our team for an assessment and guidance on how to maximise household income. oldben@newstraid.org.uk

Anxiety Support Service

For those who are feeling overwhelmed and are worried about their mental health. Our services provide access to a **Freephone Helpline** available to you and your dependants. Call **0800 138 6552**. Further information is available on our website: www.newstraid.org.uk/anxiety-helpline

Debt Advice

Free professional debt advice is available to anyone with a news trade connection via our partnership with the Debt Advice Foundation. If you require advice on debt or need to talk to someone in confidence about your options, there's no need to wait or book an appointment, this free debt advisory service is open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm on NewstrAid's dedicated helpline number **0800 987 5685**.

Further information available on our website: www.newstraid.org.uk/welfare/debt-advice

Signposting and Information Services

We can advise on a range of family and welfare issues and signpost to specialist organisations where necessary. This includes guidance for people working from home and those who are looking after the vulnerable and dependent children.

Financial Support

One-off hardship grants are available, subject to a financial assessment, via our **In Work Support Scheme**, our **Fresh Start Assist** scheme and finally, our **ACE Children's Fund**. Please note that all applicants for financial assistance will be required to complete an application form and provide documentation to support their financial situation. Each application is considered on its individual merits. Contact our Welfare Support Team **0800 917 8616** for further information or email oldben@newstraid.org.uk

Full details of all the help and support available from NewstrAid can be found on our website www.newstraid.org.uk

Terry Mansfield

It is with great sadness that at the end of March we learned of the death of Terry Mansfield after contracting Covid-19.

Throughout a long and illustrious career in the industry Terry was always concerned for independent retailers and has been a great supporter of NewstrAid. He frequently stood in as Chairman of our AGM and was a trusted and reliable member of our Investment Committee until his death.

He will be very sadly missed and our love and best wishes go out to his family.

How is Covid-19 affecting our industry?

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a catastrophic effect on families and economies across the world, including our own industry. Newspapers and magazines have an important role in informing and entertaining millions of people stuck at home and many independent newsagents are performing a vital role in their local communities. But all businesses in the supply chain have had to deal with unprecedented challenges from reduced sales, unpredictable sales patterns and staff who may have been furloughed or suffering sickness themselves. Here are just a few stories from leaders of key news trade organisations:

Reach PLC

To cope with the unprecedented circumstances that Coronavirus has presented we at Reach PLC are successfully producing all of our newspapers and websites from the homes of our staff. We have joined the delivermynewspaper scheme which has generated 40,000 home delivery orders to date all of which are being directed to newsagents. We are printing earlier each night to ensure we have no reruns and we are featuring stories each day highlighting the amazing work that newsagents and their deliverers are carrying out. As an industry we have gained special worker status to allow all parts of the supply chain to continue to operate. Thanks so much for the amazing work that you the newsagents are doing to help readers get their favourite newspaper every day, and stay safe.
Neil Jagger, Chief Operating Officer

Smiths News

I've always known the news trade is pretty special, not just because of its products, or its processes – but because of its people. At Smiths News we're working flat out to keep the supply chain open, and it's humbling to see colleagues, publishers and retailers, pulling together every night to serve as many customers as possible. If there's one thing this terrible crisis has reminded me of, it's how important the news trade is to the wider communities we serve. I hope, as and when the restrictions ease, that we remember this cooperative spirit and that we all come through stronger together.
Jonathan Bunting, Chief Executive Officer

Mail Newspapers

For the first time in the paper's 124-year history, the Daily Mail is being published remotely and we're working closely with all trade partners to ensure the safest way to provide

essential and informed advice around the Coronavirus. Allocation systems adapted quickly, ensuring supply meets demand as purchase patterns shifted in accordance with where readers are locked down, able to shop/exercise and temporary store closures. The whole supply chain has pulled together in an incredible way and we acknowledge our printers, wholesalers and retailers for their dedication to continue to serve their communities during these challenging circumstances.

Shaun Jones, Head of Circulation

Menzies Distribution

Menzies Distribution is proud to be supplying newspapers and magazines across the UK and Ireland at this crucial time. We are here to support independent retailers fulfilling our key worker role in the communities we, and our customers, live and work in. The health and safety of our people and our customers is paramount and we have deployed a series of measures to ensure safe delivery. We are working hard to safely deliver your products whilst minimising any disruption. We look forward to serving you and your communities both now and in the future. Wishing you good health in the coming weeks.
Greg Michael, CEO

The NFRN

For some members, business has boomed as consumers heed the NFRN's advice to Shop Local, Shop Little and support their independent store. Others continue to prove that they are the beating hearts of their communities by adding essential goods such as bread, milk and eggs to their newspaper delivery rounds to those self isolating or to the elderly, vulnerable and infirm. But, sadly, there are independent retailers for whom COVID-19 has caused financial disruption beyond anything they have ever known. That's why we

have launched the NFRN Covid-19 Hardship Fund to help those in crisis as much as we can. More details and an application form for a grant from the fund, together with news of other support we are providing during this global pandemic, are available from www.nfrnonline.com
Stuart Redditch, NFRN President

Frontline Ltd

Our efforts pale against those of the heroes of the NHS but working out how many copies to print and where to send them four weeks before on-sale in this highly volatile environment has been a challenge. Some magazines have more than doubled sales, others have been hit hard, some stores have gained hugely whilst others closed completely. We have, analysed sales patterns (including from the impact of the Beast from the East!) and, along with our supply chain partners, gone to huge efforts to move copies from closed and restricted footfall retailers to smaller local stores. We hope this has helped publishers and retailers alike. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone serving our communities, friends and families in this critical hour.
Frank Straetmans, Chief Executive Officer

True or False?

NewstrAid only helps with financial costs?

False!

As well as our grants we also offer non-financial support through our helplines including state benefits advice, anxiety support and debt advice services.

Where your money goes...

How our Fresh Start Assist Scheme can help

Case Study 1:

Mr P contacted NewstrAid after receiving a Fresh Start Assist Leaflet from the NFRN. He and his wife ran two shops under one business. Both shops were trading but struggling and he was in severe debt and under pressure from creditors. In addition, he had to pay more staff as he was needed at home to look after his wife who is severely disabled, and the situation was becoming too much. On top of this, Mr P had been given strict instruction by his doctors to keep his stress to an absolute minimum given his angina and the risk of another heart attack. Due to continued pressure from creditors, he had taken advice and decided to close both shops and file for bankruptcy.

NewstrAid was initially able to advise him on the state benefits he was eligible to apply for. We then arranged for an almoner to visit him to complete our application form and made contact with his insolvency practitioner. Following a full assessment it was agreed that Mr & Mrs P were a textbook example of candidates for our Fresh Start Assist scheme and a grant was agreed to cover the bankruptcy and court fees. In addition, they were

approved as regular beneficiaries and a small amount was awarded to help while their state benefits were being processed.

Case Study 2:

Trading newsagents Mr & Mrs J were referred to us by a local almoner. Mrs J was due to have reconstructive surgery following treatment for breast cancer. The surgery would mean she was unable to work for at least 3 months. In addition, she had to purchase compression garments to aid her recovery and with neither party driving any trips to the hospital for follow-up appointments would mean additional travel costs. The couple's shop was running at a loss and Mrs J being out of action for a number of months would put additional financial burden on the couple.

Although NewstrAid is unable to help with any business costs we were able to offer some support through the Fresh Start Assist scheme covering the cost of purchasing the post-surgery garments and the cost of travel to and from the hospital during Mrs J's recovery.

Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY

£150 of Amazon Vouchers!

COURTESY OF MAIL NEWSPAPERS

If you would like to enter our prize draw please answer the following question:

What telephone number should you call if you need anxiety support from NewstrAid?

Clue - the answer is in this newsletter.

Please send your answer to oldben@newstraid.org.uk.

All correct answers received before Monday 29th June will be entered into the prize draw. Terms and conditions apply. See the NewstrAid website for details www.newstraid.org.uk/about/newstraid-policy-documents/

Making regular contributions

Thank you for making a regular contribution to NewstrAid through your news wholesaler's weekly invoice, either as a 40p a week Retailer Charitable Donation (RCD) / NewstrAid Charitable Donation, or by membership of the NewstrAid 200 Club / Old Ben 200/400.

Your money allows us to make a real difference to the lives of people from our own industry who need help. We are very grateful for this support. However, if you would like to cancel your Retailer Charitable Donation, your membership of the 200 Club, or both, please do one of the following:

- Email your supplying wholesaler using the relevant address from the following:
Menzies Distribution: enquiries.headoffice@menziesdistribution.com or
Smiths News: mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk
- Fill in the online form on our website: www.newstraid.org.uk/stop/
- Email NewstrAid at: oldben@newstraid.org.uk
- Write to us at: NewstrAid, Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7TD
- Call us on 01279 879569 or on Free Helpline 0800 917 8616

You can also use any of these contact details to let us know that you no longer wish to receive this newsletter but please be aware that this will automatically cancel all contributions.



NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM22 7TD

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616

www.newstraid.org.uk Tel: 01279 879569 oldben@newstraid.org.uk



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