

# NewstrAid newsletter

Issue Four | Summer 2020

Welcome to the Summer 2020 edition of the NewstrAid newsletter. Despite lockdown easing a little, it continues to be a strange time for everyone with ongoing pressures on individuals and businesses from our industry and beyond.

This year has not worked out quite as we had planned but we are pleased to say that our staff team remain fit and well. They continue to work remotely whilst we make a few changes to our office to make it safe for us to return.

Our welfare team have been extremely busy over the last few months, processing requests for help as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thanks to the fabulous support we continue to receive from retailers across the country we have been able to support people hardest hit by Covid-19, examples of which can be found in our case studies on page 4.

We must also thank our Welfare committee members, a group of volunteers from the industry who work alongside our welfare team and review all the applications for help. Since lockdown they have been meeting on a monthly basis via video conference to ensure people facing hardship receive help quickly.

Thanks to the support of a number of different businesses we were also able to send all our regular beneficiaries a treat hamper in May to show them that even if they were having to isolate, they weren't alone.

The response we received from the hamper recipients was absolutely overwhelming and a full report can be found on page 3.

Fundraising and donations are now more important than ever to ensure we can continue to support those facing hardship in the industry. Joining a NewstrAid Lottery or 200 club remains a great way to help us to help others in the industry, as well as providing a real chance to win great prizes. More details can be found on page 2. For those who don't want to enter the lottery, making a small weekly donation is also a way to support our work. Contact us at the email address listed below for more information.

Please let us know if you have any thoughts or suggestions about the work we do or about this newsletter by contacting us at [oldben@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:oldben@newstraid.org.uk)

Thank you as always for your support.

**Mike Mirams and  
the NewstrAid team.**

**NewstrAid**   
The helping hand of the Newstrade OLD BEN

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

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**Free Helpline:**  
**0800 917 8616**  
[www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk)



# NewstrAid Small Society Lotteries and 200 clubs

A number of NewstrAid's Area Committees run '200 clubs' or 'small society lotteries' throughout the UK with all proceeds going towards NewstrAid's charitable work.

For a weekly entry fee, ranging from £1 to £1.80, depending upon the local area committee, subscribers are entered into a monthly (in one case, quarterly) random draw for a variety of cash prizes.

The average chance of winning a prize is 1 in 150 (much better odds than the national lottery!), and every month a typical prize is greater than £200 with

a total of £270,000 being awarded in prizes over the course of a year.

The money raised through these lotteries allows us to help thousands of beneficiaries every year and is an essential source of income for our work.

We would like to say a huge **thank you** to everyone who contributes to NewstrAid in this way. Your small weekly contribution makes a huge difference to people from the industry who are facing hardship every day!

## Spotlight on.... NewstrAid Area Committees

NewstrAid have 13 Area Committees across the UK who help us to fundraise and raise awareness about the charity. Each committee is made up of volunteers from the industry and typically meet quarterly, with many committees organising fundraising events throughout the year. A typical meeting agenda will focus on income/revenue generated by the 200-club lottery, local events and a head office update.

The area committees are located as follows:

Area Committee	Venue for Meetings
East of England	Menzies Depot Maidstone
East Midlands	Queens Hotel Peterborough
London East	Menzies Depot Greenwich
North East	Newcastle/Gateshead or Durham
North West	Menzies Chester or Smiths News Stockport
Scottish	Menzies Depot Newbridge
South Wales	Smiths News Newport
Sussex & Surrey	Shoreham
Thames Valley	Smiths News Slough
The Shires	Smiths News Nottingham
Wessex	Southampton
West Midlands	Smiths News Birmingham
Yorkshire	TBC

Our Area Committees are always looking for people to help them in their work, so if you would like to know more, please email Tom Rodger at [tom@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:tom@newstraid.org.uk) and Tom will pass your details on.

Did you know?

**IN 2019  
NEWSTRAID...**

**AWARDED MORE THAN  
220 ONE-OFF GRANTS  
TO PEOPLE IN NEED.**

**THIS HELPED WITH  
EVERYTHING FROM  
HOME IMPROVEMENTS  
TO BUYING DISABILITY  
AIDS.**

### Upcoming NewstrAid Events

Although all forthcoming live events have been postponed until further notice we are hopeful that we will be able to organise a couple of virtual events over the coming months to help with our fundraising. Visit [www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk) for the latest information or follow us on Social media.



[newstraid.benevolentfund](https://www.facebook.com/newstraid.benevolentfund)



[@NewstrAid](https://twitter.com/NewstrAid)



[newstraid-benevolent-fund](https://www.linkedin.com/company/newstraid-benevolent-fund)

True or False?

NewstrAid can provide help and support to **dependants?**

**True!**

We provide welfare support to people with a news trade connection, their immediate family and dependants who are in need, hardship or distress.

# Lockdown treat packages for vulnerable beneficiaries

Back in May thanks to support from publishers, wholesalers and distributors, we were able to send more than 500 hampers filled with goodies such as biscuits, cakes and snacks to beneficiaries isolating or shielding at home.

We were aware that all of our beneficiaries are vulnerable or in need of support and were feeling the effects of the lockdown. We wanted to send them something to raise their spirits and let them know that although they were isolating, they were not alone.

Each company supporting the initiative sponsored hampers for a number of households.

Industry sponsors included:

- The Daily Mirror
- Newtrade Media
- Smiths News
- Frontline
- Menzies Distribution
- Seymour
- Mail Newspapers
- Willis News
- Intermedia

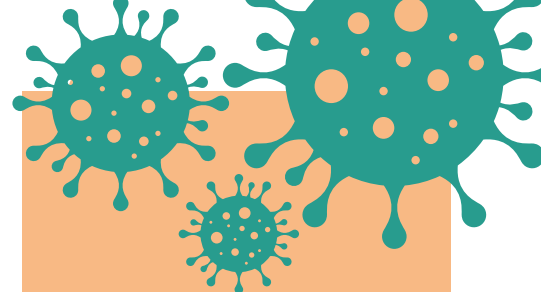
Following the deliveries, we were inundated with messages of thanks. Emails, calls and letters of gratitude to the industry poured into NewstrAid from hundreds of beneficiaries across the UK showing how a little kindness goes a long, long way.

*"Thank you so much for the hamper. It was not only a welcome bonus to my food cupboard but after having to shield for about 3 months now it really gave me a boost at just the right time."*

*"Thank you so much for the hamper, I have been in hospital so it was the perfect pick me up, feels like Christmas again!"*

*"What a fabulous surprise to receive that wonderful hamper just when the lockdown is really starting to bite."*

We are very grateful to our industry sponsors who made this all possible.



## Coronavirus Support

Don't forget, we have a range of services and support on offer should you be facing hardship as a result of Coronavirus, including;

- State Benefits advice
- Anxiety Support Services
- Debt Advice
- Signposting and information services
- Financial support

Visit our website

[www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk)

or contact us for more information:

[oldben@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:oldben@newstraid.org.uk)

0800 917 8616

## NewstrAid or NFRN Assist?

We often get enquiries from news retailers who are confused about whether they should contact **NFRN Assist** or **NewstrAid** for help with an issue. Although we sometimes work alongside each other, **NFRN Assist** and **NewstrAid** are separate organisations that help with different types of problems.

In short, **NewstrAid** cannot provide help and support to your business, we can only help individuals with emotional and financial support for non-business issues as well as offering advice on welfare issues such as state benefit entitlement.

A few years ago we teamed up with **NFRN Assist** to create the **Fresh Start Assist** scheme, specifically for news retailers facing financial and emotional difficulties.

Deciding to cease trading is a very difficult decision to make and this is where the **NFRN Assist Scheme** can help. Trading newsagents can discuss their business problems in detail before making a final decision. In addition, **NFRN Assist** has specialist advisers who can help to manage cash flow, structure debts and advise on the viability of a business.

**NFRN Assist** can be contacted by calling **0800 043 0215** for business advice and support. You do not have to be a member of the NFRN to use this service.

If, after considering your business problems you decide that the time has come to cease trading, **NewstrAid** can help you to readjust to life after retail. If you are worried about what lies ahead, we can help to give you a Fresh Start by offering the following welfare services:

- Welfare grants, including help with home relocation
- Anxiety Support- Free phone Helpline **0800 138 6552**. Including counselling for victims of retail crime.
- State benefits advice
- Advice on family welfare issues
- Support for the disabled and carers
- One to one personal support
- Access to free professional debt advice and funding for debt solutions (IVA/DRO/bankruptcy etc)

**Fresh Start Assist** is open to all newsagents and their staff, not just NFRN members.

**Decision Time...**

**Continue Trading?**  
Contact NFRN for Business Support on **0800 043 0215**

**Cease Trading?**  
Contact NewstrAid's Fresh Start for Welfare Support on **0800 917 8616**

 **NFRN**  
Federation of Independent Retailers

**NewstrAid**   
The helping hand of the Newtrade

# Where your money goes

## CASE STUDY 1: CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

Mr S of North London, a trading newsagent was struggling to breakeven before the Coronavirus pandemic, but closure for 8 weeks during lockdown made his situation even more difficult. Most of his stock had expired and he was worried about managing his debt commitments. The financial stress was starting to affect his mental health as he had a poorly wife, two children and an elderly mother all dependent on the business.

NewstrAid arranged a referral to the NFRN Business Support Service and advised him to apply for Universal Credit. Our Anxiety Support Helpline was made available to him and a grant of £2,000 was awarded from our Fresh Start Assist Fund to help him meet family living costs until he could recommence trading.

## CASE STUDY 2: CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

Before the lockdown, Mrs C who had managed a newsagency with her husband for many years, was struck down with Covid -19 and was not well enough to work for a prolonged period, resulting in a reduced income and difficulty making ends meet.

NewstrAid awarded a hardship grant to help her until she was able to resume working and we also funded a new TV as her old one needed replacing.

## CASE STUDY 3: HELP FOR CHILDREN

A support worker at the Children's Cancer Trust contacted us to see if we could help Mrs V who had been on maternity leave from her job as a full-time shop assistant at WHSmiths when her young baby was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Forced into taking extended leave to care for her poorly baby, the family were struggling to survive on a reduced income. Frequent hospital appointments both locally and in London were putting a further strain on the family finances.

NewstrAid awarded a grant from the ACE Children's Fund to help meet family costs during this very difficult time. We also delivered state benefit advice to help the family maximise their income and the Anxiety Support Service was made available to all family members.

## Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY

**£150 of  
Amazon  
Vouchers!**

COURTESY OF REACH PLC

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

**How many NewstrAid Area Committees are there?**

As always, the answer is in this newsletter. Please send your answer to [oldben@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:oldben@newstraid.org.uk)

All correct answers received before Monday 28th September 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/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/about/newstraid-policy-documents/)

Thank you to everyone who entered our Spring edition prize draw and congratulations to the winner who received their vouchers at the beginning of July. The correct answer to the question: What telephone number should you call if you need anxiety support from NewstrAid was: **0800 138 6552.**

# 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](mailto:enquiries.headoffice@menziesdistribution.com) or  
Smiths News: [mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk](mailto:mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk)
- Fill in the online form on our website: [www.newstraid.org.uk/stop/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/stop/)
- Email NewstrAid at: [oldben@newstraid.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.newstraid.org.uk) Tel: 01279 879569 [oldben@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:oldben@newstraid.org.uk)



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