

NewstrAid
The helping hand of the Newstrade
OLD ▲ BEN

2013

Annual Report & Accounts





Trustees Annual Report 2013

Reference and Administrative Details

The NewstrAid Benevolent Fund is an incorporated charitable company. It is involved in a range of activities for the benefit of persons who are, or have been, employed in the selling and distribution of newspapers and magazines in the United Kingdom, including their immediate family and dependents.

Charity Registration Number:
1116824

Company Registration Number:
05973987

Scottish Charity Number:
SC038775

Registered Office

Suites 1&2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 7TD

Tel: 01371 874198 Email: oldben@newstraid.org.uk Website: www.newstraid.org.uk

Chief Executive Officer

Alex van Straubenzee

Marketing Director

Alan Mottram-Playfoot

Accountant/Treasurer

Helen Ryan

Welfare Manager

Sinead Flood

Welfare Officer

Val Brown

Welfare Assistant

Lisa-Marie Salter

PA and Events Manager

Louise Fox

Events and Administration Assistant

Ami Davis

Patron

The Viscount Rothermere

President

Sly Bailey

Vice-Presidents

Andrew Cameron

Sir Alex Jarrett CB

David Mackay

Rupert Murdoch AC

Board of Trustees

Chairman

Mike Mirams (Distribution)

Mark Cassie (Wholesale)

David Holliday (Publishing)

Neil Jagger (Publishing),

Ingrid Jones (Distribution)

Nigel Lomas (Publishing)

Stephen Hirst (Distribution)

Mel Lewis (Publishing)

Frank Mustard (Publishing),

Ron Rushbrook (Retail)

John Stranger (Retail)

Richard Webb (Wholesale),

Colin Fletcher - Co-opted (Retail)

Vision, Mission,
Aim and Objects

The Chairman's
Report

The Chief Executive's
Report

Structure,
Governance and
Management

Related, Affiliated or
Connected Parties

Objectives for
2014/15

Activities in
2013

Achievements and
Performance

Trustees'
Responsibilities

Independent
Auditor's Report

Statement of
Financial Activities

Balance
Sheet

Notes to
Accounts

Committees and
Almoners

Area Committee
Reports

4

5

6

8

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

23

24

Auditors

Bird Luckin Limited, Aquila House, Waterloo Lane,
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1BN

Solicitors

Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EG

Tees Law

Stonebridge House, Stonebridge Walk, High Street,
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1EY

Investment Fund Managers

Rathbone Investment Management Ltd
1 Curzon Street, London W1J 5FB

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc, 14 High Street, Great Dunmow,
Essex CM6 1AA





Our Vision

Everyone, who is, or has been, involved in the distribution and sale of newspapers and magazines, knows that NewstrAid will never let them suffer hardship through lack of money. NewstrAid will be the social consciousness of the news trade, with everyone, from the boardroom to the smallest shop, aware of what we do and prepared to support our cause.

Our Mission

In order to deliver against NewstrAid's stated vision, aim and objectives, the mission of the board of trustees and executive officers is: "To generate sustainable incomes to enable the charity to provide welfare to qualifying beneficiaries and to distribute those funds in ways which deliver the best value of support in the context of rigorous governance. The short term and long term objectives are structured to reflect and achieve these goals."

Our Aim

To provide welfare for persons who are, or have been, employed in the selling and distribution of newspapers and magazines in the UK, including their immediate family and dependants who are in need, hardship or distress.

The Objects of the Charity

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship and to relieve the distress caused thereby through the provision of welfare for persons who are, or have been, employed in the selling and distribution of newspapers, magazines and periodicals ("The Trade") in the United Kingdom, including their immediate family and dependants. Engagement, either full or part-time, shall normally have been for a minimum of ten years. Distribution shall be deemed to be from receipt of the said publications from the machine until received by the reader.



The Chairman's Report



The last year has been another challenging one for NewstrAid, as it has been for our industry, but I am delighted to report that we have come through it in good shape, making the charity more secure and increasing the support we have been able to provide to our many beneficiaries.

Despite some promising signs for the economy, our industry continues to wrestle with declining sales of print products and businesses, big and small, face real tests every week. At the same time, ongoing reforms to the benefits system create uncertainty for those who rely on it most. In this environment, the work of NewstrAid is more important than ever, but steering a path through the many issues we face becomes increasingly difficult.

For those reasons, the strategy the Trustees of NewstrAid have signed up to has joint aims of protecting our incomes and ensuring that the range of support we offer is delivering the most comfort to as many of our current and former colleagues as possible.

To that end, in 2013 we completed the sale of our Barnetson Court care home in Great Dunmow. This was a difficult decision for many as the bricks and

mortar were a tangible representation of the charity itself. Sadly, the truth was that only one of the residents was from our industry and the charity would have needed to make a significant investment over the next few years to keep the home competitive. The sale of Barnetson Court has not only helped to make the charity more secure for the future, but is allowing us to decide how to further increase the help we give to those in need. We have already increased welfare payments by 20%, but are also planning to extend the support and advice we provide.

Thankfully, NewstrAid can rely on a whole range of people whose ongoing support means we can continue to provide real comfort to so many people. Our area committees continue to raise prodigious amounts of money through an array of schemes and fundraising activities and our almoners are the face of NewstrAid for many of our beneficiaries around the

country. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers so, even if you could only spare the time to visit just a few beneficiaries three times a year, please let us know. We also get great support from the news wholesalers, without whose help, it would be impossible for us to function.

Last but not least, I would like to pay heartfelt tribute to the care and dedication of our small team of employees who make everything happen. Under the leadership of Alex van Straubenzee, the NewstrAid team work selflessly to turn your support into real welfare for people in need.

Whatever part you have played in the work of NewstrAid, many thanks.

Mike Mirams
Chairman of Trustees

"Our area committees continue to raise prodigious amounts of money through an array of schemes and fundraising activities..."



The Chief Executive's Report

I am pleased to report a surplus of income over expenditure before accounting for the sale of Barnetson Court of £137,040 for the year ending 31st December 2013. Total income (incoming resources) decreased against 2012, with the primary causes being the closure of the Barnetson Court care home in 2012 (income £182k) and the decrease in pro bono donations. Investment income rose by 26% due, in part, to the proceeds from the sale of Barnetson Court.

Total resources expended decreased as a result of the closure of the care home. The trustees approved a 20% uplift in regular benefit payments, as the rate had not been increased for 15 years. This was implemented in December and helped regular welfare expenditure rise, year on year, by £15,000. Governance costs rose by £30,900 as a new audit regime for area committees came into force during the year and reflects the investment required to bring in necessary controls to our financial processes.

The value of our investments increased during the year by £2.47 million and now totals £7.87 million. More information on our reserves can be found in the Activities 2013 section on page 11.

I am indebted to our area committees, who continue to produce the lion's share of our annual income. In order to protect this valuable income stream, we have implemented a new programme of auditing and year end reporting. The implementation of these new control measures has been wide ranging and I am immensely grateful to the area committee treasurers for their cooperation and good humour throughout the transition. However, audit costs have increased and will remain high until the new processes have bedded in.

The sale of Barnetson Court was completed on 30th August 2013. Since the first meeting of the planning group, the whole operation took three years to complete. Finding new premises for office accommodation produced a major headache and we were obliged to set up camp in the Menzies Distribution depot in Chelmsford for two months before taking up residence in our new registered office at Thremhall, near Stansted Airport. Our staff did a commendable job in keeping the charity going during the inconvenience of an extended period of disruption, for which, I am very grateful.

During 2013, Mark Cassie, Supply Chain Director of Menzies Distribution, became a NewstrAid trustee. Mark was elected at last year's AGM and has proved to be an energetic and enthusiastic board

"I am indebted to our area committees, who continue to produce the lion's share of our annual income."

“...we could not have achieved such positive results without the support of our volunteers, who include trustees, committee members, almoners and fundraisers.”



member. Not only was he instrumental in offering our head office temporary accommodation, after we left Great Dunmow, but he is also responsive to any requests made to Menzies Distribution, be it area committee support or welfare assistance. The wholesalers' involvement with NewstrAid remains a vital component in the charity's operation. We are fortunate to have Mark Cassie and Richard Webb from Smiths News – both board members of the two news wholesalers. Without their assistance we could not conduct our many fundraising campaigns, so important to our work.

As outlined in my report last year, we entered into merger talks with our sister charity, Old Ben Homes, in 2012. However, after conducting some quantitative research into the future of sheltered housing, a joint working group decided that it was not in the best interests of either charity to merge, but it was important to work closely together in the future. An action group will be formed to progress this recommendation.

It was a busy year for Sinead Flood and her welfare team. Uncertainty surrounding welfare reform and the effects on our beneficiaries occupied a great deal of time, especially advice sought concerning the introduction of new schemes such as Universal Credit and amendments to housing legislation. This has been a particularly difficult issue for many disabled individuals who now have to cope with less available disposable income and who also need increased support accessing their state benefits.

After 10 years as president, Sly Bailey, former CEO of Trinity Mirror, decided to step down during the year. She has been an excellent ambassador for the charity and a great source of sound advice to me and the chairmen who have served under her presidency. She has also been great fun to work with and we will miss her sparkling personality. I am delighted to announce that Murdoch MacLennan, CEO of Telegraph Media Group has accepted our invitation to take over the role of president in 2014. Murdoch is no stranger to NewstrAid, having served as the annual festival chairman in 2002.

I am satisfied that the charity is in a strong position, although the trustees realise that there is no room for complacency. We have carried out a review of our systems and processes to ensure security is improved and risks mitigated. However, we could not have achieved such positive results without the support of our volunteers, who include trustees, committee members, almoners and fundraisers. I am so grateful to them all, many of whom are mentioned by name in this annual report. We look forward to 2014, which will be our charity's 175th anniversary.

Alex van Straubenzee
Chief Executive Officer

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity

The Newsvendors Benevolent and Provident Institution was founded in 1839 to grant relief to members of the newspaper industry in London, who required assistance because of infirmity, age or distress. The NewstrAid Benevolent Fund, the current name of the charity, is the occupational benevolent fund for the circulation, distribution, wholesaling and retailing section of the newspaper and magazine trade throughout the United Kingdom. The charity has always been referred to, affectionately, as Old Ben.

In 2006, the charity became an incorporated limited company and a charity regulated by the Charity Commission. The company is established under Articles of Association, which is the Governing Document.

Recruitment & Training Of Trustees

Individuals are identified from different sections of the trade. If they are willing to stand as trustees, their names are put forward to the board of trustees, who take into consideration their

knowledge and skills as well as the current make-up of the board. Voting is carried out by the members present at the Annual General Meeting, where a ballot takes place. Trustees serve for a period of three years before retiring and, if agreed, put themselves up for re-election. Each trustee must have completed a Disclosure and Barring Service Check as well as a declaration of interests to avoid any conflict of interest. All trustees undergo training from an external organisation of charity specialists and new trustees will be subject to an induction programme on appointment.

Governance

The Board of Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) meets five times per annum. Four of these meetings involve a review and discussion on finance, welfare, fundraising and marketing. The fifth meeting takes place, after the AGM in June, in order to elect the chairman and vice chairman of the board as well as electing the members of various committees. The board currently nominates up to six managing trustees of The Old Ben Homes, an affiliated charity.

Management

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day-to-day management of NewstrAid. Reporting to the CEO are the Marketing Director, Accountant, Welfare Manager and Events Manager.

A number of the trustees, former directors and industry colleagues, sit on the three committees which deal with welfare, investment and budget/finance.

The role of the President is to chair the Annual General Meeting of The NewstrAid Benevolent Fund.

The trustees have prepared the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with NewstrAid's Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and reporting by Charities" issued March 2005 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). Also the accounts have been prepared in accordance with The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

This report is also a directors' report required by S.417 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity provides Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

Auditors

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting of the NBF that Bird Luckin Limited will be appointed as auditors to the charity for the ensuing year.

Related, Affiliated or Connected Parties

Old Ben Lotteries Ltd (OBL) & Old Ben Fundraising Ltd (OBF)

The NewstrAid Benevolent Fund (NBF) wholly owns 100% of the share capital of the above two companies. Each company has a share capital of £100, which was donated by the NBF. The prime activity of both companies is fundraising. All profits generated from these companies are Gift Aided to the NBF each year. In 2012, OBL Gift Aided £84,826 (2012 - £75,512) to NewstrAid and the amount Gift Aided by OBF was £45,528 (2012 - £39,632).



Old Ben Homes (Charity No. 251629)

The Old Ben Homes is a separate charity regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners on 10th January 1967. It was incorporated on 12th January 2008 and the scheme amended on 10th June 2009.

The relationship between the NewstrAid Benevolent Fund (NBF) and The Old Ben Homes can be described as follows: Of the eleven managing trustees of The Old Ben Homes, NBF appoints up to six persons, each being for a period of three years.

Association of Charitable Organisations (ACO)

NewstrAid is a member of the ACO, an incorporated charity (Registered Charity No 111860 and Company No. 6113479).

Association Of Circulation Executives (ACE)

ACE was established in 1951, to foster fellowship, friendship and the exchange of ideas between members of the newspaper and magazine publishing industry, news wholesaling, distribution and service provision.

Each year, ACE makes a substantial donation to NewstrAid and the money is expressly used to help children from the news trade. A fund has been set up for this purpose and is named the ACE/ NewstrAid Children's Fund.



Donated Services

A number of newspapers, both national and regional, donated advertising space, free of charge to display the NewstrAid advertisement. This contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimated value of £10,565.

In addition, Trinity Mirror PLC donated the cost of printing our annual magazine, NewstrAid News. The estimated value of the donation was £13,827.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into the financial statements.



Risk Management

The trustees have identified and agreed the major risks which confront the charity. This register will be updated annually. Where appropriate, plans and procedures have been made to mitigate these risks. The assessment is a part of the NewstrAid strategic plan. There is a decline in funding and an increase in beneficiary needs due to the changing trade environment. In order to mitigate this risk, the trustees have agreed a reserves policy target of five years cover at current expenditure levels. The 2014 strategic plan includes a number of action groups, specifically set up to address the risks and enhance our controls and processes.



Future Plans and Long Term Objectives

The underlying theme of NewstrAid's strategy is sustainability in the context of the changing environment of the news trade. Our traditional income streams are under threat, with increasing disengagement of traditional supporters. At the same time, we need to meet the changing needs of increasing numbers of beneficiaries.

In terms of income, our strategic aims will include:

- Protecting key income streams and mitigate risks to future income, resulting from the changing trade environment.
- Developing plans to grow incomes, where possible, in order to meet likely increases in demand for welfare.
- Protecting our reserves and nurturing our investments to support long-term welfare programmes.

Our strategic aims for welfare are:

- Using income in accordance with NewstrAid's objects.
- Protecting current benefits to regular beneficiaries, keeping vigilant against overstretch.
- Promoting awareness among potential beneficiaries.
- Developing beneficiary support in the context of changing needs.

Objectives for 2014/2015

Our intention is to keep the number of short-term priorities to a manageable number and to ensure that they are sufficiently specific so that we can measure progress and know clearly what has been achieved.

Our strategic priorities for income are:

- Focusing on sustainability of our area committees.
- Reviewing subscriptions
- Focusing on generating awareness including magazine publishers, regional newspapers and wider trade contacts

Our strategic priorities for welfare include:

- Creating a proposal for better understanding of current and future beneficiary needs
- Focusing on attracting new almoners to expand the visiting service we give to our regular beneficiaries.
- Examining ways in which NewstrAid and Old Ben Homes can work together to better serve the objects of both charities
- Create a proposal for the recruitment of extra resource within the welfare department
- Create a proposal for a new welfare initiative

Activities in 2013

Welfare

Beneficiaries receive regular visits from our team of volunteer almoners, who deliver their regular benefit cheques in person, when possible. Our almoner home visiting service helps us to maintain a personal relationship with our beneficiaries and we hold regular workshops to support our almoners in this important role. The feedback from their visits allows us to channel our funds to those considered most in need, as well as helping to address loneliness and feelings of isolation, which is a major concern for many.

Every two months, our Welfare Committee meets to make important decisions about the distribution of funds. They are also kept abreast of relevant issues that affect the welfare of our beneficiaries, such as legislative changes. Welfare Reform and increased living costs resulted in the trustees approving a 20% increase to beneficiaries' rates in 2013, which was gratefully received by all. Our welfare policy is reviewed each year and amendments are made to ensure we continue to offer a relevant range of services.

Our dedicated welfare team are always available to advise on all welfare related issues and this includes signposting to other organisations where necessary. We continue to provide a professional debt and budgeting advice service via our partnership with the Debt Advice Foundation and all our regular beneficiaries benefit from an annual state benefit assessment as part of their annual review. Recent welfare reform has resulted in the biggest overhaul of the welfare system for more than 60 years and our welfare team is

committed to meeting the challenge of keeping abreast of current legislation to ensure that we continue to deliver a high standard advisory service to our beneficiaries.

Together with our team of volunteer almoners, and with the support of our board of trustees, we continue to enhance the quality of life by alleviating hardship for those who contact us for support, in line with the objects of our charity.

Area Committees

Our national network of area committees is made up of volunteers, who generously give of their time and effort to promote the aims of NewstrAid. Meetings are often held at the offices of a wholesale branch or local newspaper. During 2013 all area committees were visited and independently examined by auditors, Grant Thornton. As well as the inspection, the auditors gave advice on best practice. In November a treasurers' workshop was held in London, to confirm standardisation of all reporting.

Investment Policy

After assessing the requirements of working capital, the Chief Executive Officer advises the Investment Committee of any surplus funds

available for investment with the fund manager, Rathbones, with whom we have an agreed policy and management agreement. Rathbones meets twice per annum with the Investment Committee. Rathbones regularly reviews the performance of the NewstrAid portfolio and, on a quarterly basis, sends a valuation to all Investment Committee members, the CEO and accountant. A synopsis is delivered to the board meeting twice per annum.

Reserves Policy

The trustees reviewed the reserves policy and agreed to maintain the target of five years' cover at current expenditure levels. Our unrestricted reserves now total £8m. The trustees recognise that our reserves are now higher than the target. Thus our strategy, reviewed each year, considers welfare payment rates and initiatives to make best use of increased funds.

Public Benefit

The trustees review aims, objectives and activities of the charity at their meetings during the year and confirm that they have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning future charitable activity and that they have complied with their duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.





Achievements and Performance

Income Generating Activities

Our area committees produced a creditable performance with a turnover of £1,157,000 – 2.2% better than 2012. The income generated by our volunteers in the area committees produces 63% of our annual turnover. We are deeply indebted to all the volunteers, who give their time and out of hours work to support NewstrAid.

Subscriptions were 8.3% lower than 2012, mainly due to the churn of retailer closures and changes of ownership. As shown in our objectives for 2014, the trustees have agreed to review the price of subscriptions and intend working with wholesalers to arrest the decline.

It is pleasing to report that each one of our three core fundraising events – The Golf Day, Racing at Lingfield Park and Old Ben Carols reported increased profits and increased attendance.

Investment income rose by £60,395 (36%). This was fuelled by the sale of Barnetson Court care home and investing other cash deposits.

Welfare

In 2013, 1,020 beneficiaries from 656 households benefited from regular grants and visits. An additional 20 households benefited from advice only and 16 households qualified for a Samaritan Grant only.

Although total welfare expenditure decreased year on year by £83,000, in 2012 there was a one-off payment of £200 to all beneficiaries amounting to £129k, to celebrate the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens. Thus, when the grant is stripped out, regular benefit increased by £15k. In 2013, the trustees approved 20% rise in regular benefit rates, which commenced in December 2013.

Approved by the board of trustees on 24th April 2014.

.....
M Mirams
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees.

Trustees' (Directors') Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of The NewstrAid Benevolent Fund for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- prepare financial statements each year that show a true and fair view;
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities and Section 44(1)C of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations

6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.



Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

We have audited the financial statements of NewstrAid Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 2013 on pages 15 to 22. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2013 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime.

.....
Caroline Peters (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Bird Luckin Limited
Aquila House, Waterloo Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1BN

NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2013

	Note	Unrestricted £	General Designated £	Restricted £	2013 Total £	2012 Total £
Incoming Resources						
Voluntary income						
Donations & legacies	2	35,296	8,946	-	44,242	192,764
Activities for generating funds	3	1,156,942	-	-	1,156,942	1,131,649
Investment and other income	4	356,030	-	-	356,030	283,620
Incoming resources from charitable activities	5	263,172	-	-	263,172	469,690
Total incoming resources		1,811,440	8,946	-	1,820,386	2,077,723
Resources Expended						
Costs of generating funds and other income	6	661,513	-	-	661,513	640,750
Investment management costs	8	32,265	-	-	32,265	-
Charitable activities	7	85,206	-	-	85,206	426,824
Welfare payments		724,081	42,464	-	766,545	849,197
Reversal of permanent diminution of the property	8	-	-	-	-	(196,714)
Governance costs	8	137,817	-	-	137,817	106,906
Total resources expended	8	1,640,882	42,464	-	1,683,346	1,826,963
Net incoming resources before transfers		170,558	(33,518)	-	137,040	250,760
Gross transfers between funds	19	(33,518)	33,518	-	-	-
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses		137,040	-	-	137,040	250,760
Realised gain on freehold property	20	518,701	-	-	518,701	-
Realised (loss) on disposal of investments	14	(2,333)	-	-	(2,333)	-
Net income for the year		653,408	-	-	653,408	250,760
Unrealised (loss)/gain on freehold property reversal	17	(853,286)	-	-	(853,286)	853,286
Unrealised gain on revaluation of investments	17	344,384	-	-	344,384	183,813
Net movement in funds		144,506	-	-	144,506	1,287,859
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		7,836,998	605,687	49,314	8,491,999	7,204,140
Total funds carried forward		7,981,504	605,687	49,314	8,636,505	8,491,999

NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2013

	Note	£	2013 Total £	2012 Total £
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	13		12,184	1,534,466
Investments	14		7,876,292	5,406,743
			7,888,476	6,941,209
Current assets				
Debtors, prepayments & accrued income	15	65,123		68,838
Jane Steele Loans	15	35,666		35,666
Cash at bank & in hand		780,399		872,274
Cash at investment managers		411		618,899
		881,599		1,595,677
Liabilities				
Creditors : amounts due within one year	16	(133,570)		(44,887)
Net current assets			748,029	1,550,790
Net assets			8,636,505	8,491,999
Funds				
Restricted funds			49,314	49,314
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds			605,687	605,687
General funds		6,858,895		6,205,487
Revaluation fund	17	1,122,609		1,631,511
			7,981,504	
Total charity funds	19		8,636,505	8,491,999

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements on pages 15 to 22 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 24 April 2014 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Alex van Straubenzee
 Chief Executive Officer

.....
Mike Mirams
 Director

The notes on pages 17 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

Company registered number is 05973987
 English charity registered number is 1116824
 Scottish charity registered number is SC038775

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention except for the revaluation of the investments and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) and the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005. The Charities Act 2011 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.
- Legacy income is recognised in the accounts when there is a certainty of receipt and the valuation is known.
- Gifts in kind are accounted for at market rate.
- Investment income is generated by dividend income from our portfolio and is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest is earned on working capital held in deposit accounts.
- Income from Area Committees is included gross in the accounts.

Funds Structure

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

All other funds are unrestricted funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charity's objects.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Resources Expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. The majority of costs are directly attributable to specific activities. VAT, which is not recoverable, is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

Support costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, the amount attributable to each activity: fundraising events and charitable activities.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life.

- Office furniture and equipment
25% per annum using the reducing balance method.
- Computer equipment
33.33% per annum using the straight line method.

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they cost more than £750 and will be used on an ongoing basis.

Fixed Asset Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Volunteers and Donated Services

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by the volunteers can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements as an estimate of the contribution to the charity.

Group Accounts

The financial statements contain information about NewstrAid Benevolent Fund as an individual charitable company and do not contain consolidated financial statements as the parent of a group. The charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption conferred in S.399 of the Companies Act 2006 not to produce consolidated financial statements as the group it heads qualifies as a small group. In addition, the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemptions available under para 383 (c) of the SORP as the results of the subsidiary undertakings are not material to the group.

Subsidiary companies, Old Ben Fundraising Limited and Old Ben Lotteries Limited, raise funds for the charity and donate their total profits to NewstrAid within nine months of the year end.

Pension Costs

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

Operating Lease

Rentals under operating leases and hire agreements are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis.

2. Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2013 Total	2012 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	10,904	8,946	-	19,850	40,065
Gifts in kind	24,392	-	-	24,392	126,199
Legacies received	-	-	-	-	26,500
	35,296	8,946	-	44,242	192,764

Gifts in kind relates to advertising in the national and regional press to attract beneficiaries.
Also our annual magazine, NewstrAid News, was printed free of charge by Trinity Mirror Printing Limited.

3. Activities for Generating Funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2013 Total	2012 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Membership	80	-	-	80	110
Area Committee fundraising	1,156,862	-	-	1,156,862	1,131,539
	1,156,942	-	-	1,156,942	1,131,649

4. Investment and Other Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2013 Total	2012 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from quoted investments	223,855	-	-	223,855	163,460
Bank deposit interest	1,821	-	-	1,821	5,016
Old Ben Fundraising Limited	45,528	-	-	45,528	39,632
Old Ben Lotteries Limited	84,826	-	-	84,826	75,512
	356,030	-	-	356,030	283,620

5. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2013 Total	2012 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Retailers' Subscriptions	263,172	-	-	263,172	287,230
Residential Care Home	-	-	-	-	182,460
	263,172	-	-	263,172	469,690

6. Costs of Generating Funds and Other Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2013 Total	2012 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising events	600,730	-	-	600,730	483,872
Lottery	36,391	-	-	36,391	30,679
Other	24,392	-	-	24,392	126,199
	661,513	-	-	661,513	640,750

7. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2013 Total	2012 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Residential home	-	-	-	-	387,993
Generating incoming resources	85,206	-	-	85,206	38,831
	85,206	-	-	85,206	426,824

8. Total Resources Expended

	Costs of Generating Voluntary Income	Costs of Charitable Activities	Governance Costs	Support Costs	2013 Total	2012 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	27,618	83,153	-	222,434	333,205	604,382
Fundraising costs	455,167	-	-	-	455,167	361,156
Other costs	24,392	598,507	103,520	111,733	838,152	1,046,967
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	15,755	-	-	15,755	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	8,802	8,802	11,172
Support costs	154,336	154,336	34,297	(342,969)	-	-
	661,513	851,751	137,817	-	1,651,081	2,023,677
Investment management costs					32,265	-
Reversal of a permanent diminution of freehold property					-	(196,714)
					1,683,346	1,826,963

Governance costs comprise:

Legal & professional fees
Audit & accountancy
Meeting costs
Annual report & accounts
Support costs

2013 Total £	2012 Total £
27,730	18,555
60,322	24,541
12,293	32,349
3,176	3,230
34,296	28,231
137,817	106,906

Auditors remuneration of £13,800 (2012 £14,250) related solely to the audit.
£24,392 (2012 £126,199) within costs of generating voluntary income relates to gifts in kind.

9. Support Costs

	Costs of Generating Voluntary Income 45% £	Costs of Charitable Activities 45% £	Governance Costs 10% £	2013 Total £	2012 Total £
Support costs are allocated to charitable activities as follows:					
Staff costs	109,250	109,250	24,278	242,778	234,962
Staff training & recruitment	174	174	39	387	1,284
Senior manager expenses	4,157	4,157	923	9,237	9,384
Office overheads	32,260	32,260	7,169	71,689	22,464
Computers	2,786	2,786	619	6,191	3,602
Lease charge	1,285	1,285	286	2,856	2,500
Advertising & promotion	463	463	103	1,029	855
Website	-	-	-	-	133
Depreciation	3,961	3,961	880	8,802	7,151
	154,336	154,336	34,297	342,969	282,335

Support costs of generating funds are allocated between fundraising events & the Grand Summer Draw in the ratio of 80:20.

Support costs of charitable activities are allocated between welfare payments and generating incoming resources in the ratio of 55:45 (2012 allocation was between welfare payments, residential home expenses and generating incoming resources in a ratio of 35:35:30).

10. Net Incoming Resources for the Year and Trustee Expenses

	2013 £	2012 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	8,802	(185,542)
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit charitable company	13,800	14,250
Other non-audit services		
2013	2,400	8,666
2012	8,070	-
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	2,102	2,812

Exceptional item: included in depreciation is the reversal in 2012 of a permanent diminution of £196,714.
During the year 6 trustees were reimbursed for travel and subsistence.

11. Staff Costs

	2013 £	2012 £
Staff costs were as follows:		
Salaries & wages	282,932	540,077
Social security costs	29,915	39,283
Pension contributions	20,358	25,022
Total emoluments paid to staff	333,205	604,382

One employee earned between £70,000 & £80,000 during the year (2012: One employee earned between £70,000 & £80,000).
The pension contributions paid by the company with regards to this employee were £6,514 (2012 £6,824).

The trustees received no remuneration in the year.

The average weekly number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year was as follows:

	2013 Number	2012 Number
Head Office	8	7
Barnetson Court Care Home	nil	14

12. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Office Fixings, Furniture & Equipment £	Barnetson Court Fixings, Furniture & Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost/Valuation					
At 1 January 2013	1,500,000	16,211	123,056	50,798	1,690,065
Additions	-	2,280	-	-	2,280
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	3,349	(3,349)	-	-
Disposals	(1,500,000)	-	(119,707)	-	(1,619,707)
At 31 December 2013	-	21,840	-	50,798	72,638
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2013	-	13,158	106,666	35,775	155,599
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	2,719	(2,719)	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(103,947)	-	(103,947)
Charge for year	-	2,131	-	6,671	8,802
At 31 December 2013	-	18,008	-	42,446	60,454
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2013	-	3,832	-	8,352	12,184
At 31 December 2012	1,500,000	3,053	16,390	15,023	1,534,466

14. Investments

Quoted investments

	2013 £	2012 £
Market value at 1 January 2013	5,406,743	4,932,496
Additions	2,332,189	290,434
Disposal proceeds	(204,691)	-
Gain/(loss) on disposal of investment	(2,333)	-
Revaluation	344,384	183,813
Market value at 31 December 2013	7,876,292	5,406,743
Cost at 1 January 2013	4,628,515	4,338,081
Additions	2,332,190	290,434
Disposals	(207,024)	-
Cost at 31 December 2013	6,753,681	4,628,515

Quoted investments are allotted to each range as follows:

	Equities £	Bonds £	Common Investment Fund £	2012 Total £
	-	-	6,753,681	4,628,515

The following investments are held in excess of 5% of the total investment portfolio value.

	2013 Total £	2012 Total £
RATHBONE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT	100% 7,876,292	95% 5,137,418
Shares in subsidiary undertakings at cost		
Old Ben Lotteries Limited	100	
Old Ben Fundraising Limited	100	

The charity held 100% of the voting rights and share capital of Old Ben Lotteries Limited and Old Ben Fundraising Limited. Both companies are registered in England. The principal activity of Old Ben Lotteries Limited is to hold annual draws. The principal activity of Old Ben Fundraising Limited is to raise funds from events.

At 31 December 2013	Turnover £	Profit for Year £	Reserves £
Old Ben Lotteries Limited	109,778	-	100
Old Ben Fundraising Limited	131,347	(67)	100

15. Debtors

	2013 £	2012 £
Other debtors	22,605	42,314
Amount due from Old Ben Lotteries Ltd	33,518	25,112
Prepayments	9,000	1,412
	65,123	68,838
Restricted Funds Jane Steele Loans	35,666	35,666

16. Creditors Due Within One Year

	2013 £	2012 £
Trade creditors	3,286	999
Other creditors	37,401	8,924
PAYE & pensions	7,569	9,985
Amount due to Old Ben Fundraising Ltd	38,012	1,518
Accruals	47,282	23,441
Deferred Income	20	20
	133,570	44,887

17. Revaluation Reserve

	Freehold Property £	Investments £	2013 £	2012 £
At 1 January 2013	853,286	778,225	1,631,511	594,412
Revaluation in year	(853,286)	344,384	(508,902)	1,037,099
At 31 December 2013	-	1,122,609	1,122,609	1,631,511

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted J Steele £	2013 Total £	2012 Total £
Funds balances at 31 December 2013 are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets	12,184	-	-	12,184	1,534,466
Investments	7,270,605	605,687	-	7,876,292	5,406,743
Current assets	827,858	4,427	49,314	881,599	1,595,677
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(129,143)	(4,427)	-	(133,570)	(44,887)
	7,981,504	605,687	49,314	8,636,505	8,491,999
Unrealised gains included above:					
On tangible fixed assets and investments	1,122,609	-	-	1,122,609	1,631,511
	1,122,609	-	-	1,122,609	1,631,511
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains:					
Unrealised gains at 1 January 2013	1,631,511	-	-	1,631,511	594,412
Unrealised gains at 31 December 2013	1,122,609	-	-	1,122,609	1,631,511

19. Movements in Funds

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Losses) £	Transfers £	2013 £	2012 £
Restricted funds Jane Steele	49,314	-	-	-	-	49,314	49,314
Total restricted funds	49,314	-	-	-	-	49,314	49,314
Designated funds							
ACE	-	8,946	(42,464)	-	33,518	-	-
Legacy income	605,687	-	-	-	-	605,687	605,687
Total designated funds	605,687	8,946	(42,464)	-	33,518	605,687	605,687
General funds	7,836,998	1,811,440	(1,640,882)	7,466	(33,518)	7,981,504	7,836,998
Total funds	8,491,999	1,820,386	(1,683,346)	7,466	-	8,636,505	8,491,999

Purposes of Restricted Funds

The fund was set up with a legacy from Jane Steele. It is to be used for granting interest free loans for home improvements to beneficiaries, to be repaid on the sale of the property.

Purpose of Designated Funds

The ACE Children’s fund finances the regular welfare donations to families with children. The deficit on the fund is made up from the welfare budget on the 31 December each year.

The legacy bequeathed to NewstrAid in the will of the late Harry Hammond is designated as funds to be available for any future building project.

The W Starling designated funds relates to monies and the related creditor in respect of a former resident of the care home, awaiting resolution regarding the beneficiary.

Revaluation Reserve

The revaluation reserve represents the amount by which investments exceed their historical cost.

20. Exceptional Item

On 23 September 2013 Barnetson Court Care Home was sold for £1,175,000. The property was revalued in 2012 and this revaluation is reversed and shown as an unrealised loss of £853,286. The sale resulted in a realised surplus of £518,701.

21. Pensions

The charity contributes to a defined contribution scheme which is available to all of the charity’s employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred and there were no outstanding or proposed contributions at the balance sheet date. Pension costs in the year were £20,358 (2012: £25,021).

22. Financial Commitments

At 31 December 2013 the charity was committed to making the following annual payments under non cancellable operating leases in the year to 31 December 2013.

	Land and buildings	
	2013	2012
	£	£
Operating leases which expire: Between two and five years	24,330	-
	Other	
	2013	2012
	£	£
Operating leases which expire: Between one and two years	3,216	2,451

23. Related Party Transactions

During the year, Old Ben Lotteries Limited made a Gift Aid payment of £84,826 (2012 £75,512) to the fund.
At the year end Old Ben Lotteries Limited owed the fund £33,518 (2012 £25,112).

Old Ben Fundraising Limited made a Gift Aid payment of £45,528 (2012 £39,632) to the fund.
At the year end Old Ben Fundraising Limited was owed by the fund £38,012 (2012 £1,518 was owed to the fund).

24. Members’ Liability

NewstrAid Benevolent Fund is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of a winding up, the liability of each member (director) is limited to £1.

Committees and Almoners

Old Ben Lotteries Ltd & Old Ben Fundraising Ltd

Directors: Mike Mirams, Mel Lewis and Alex van Straubenzee.

Welfare Committee

Frank Mustard - Chairman, Tim Lunn - Vice Chairman
John Bradshaw, Alan Lawton, Tony Sprague, Ron Rushbrook, Mary Field, Jeff White, Ingrid Jones, Keith Foster.

Investment Committee

Nigel Lomas, Terry Mansfield CBE, Brendan Fitzmaurice, Mike Newman, Alan Humphrey.

Almoners

Ian Aldous
Philip Atkinson
Brian Beeton
Laura Benger (retired July 2013)
Gordon Bird
Ian Blacker
Brian Booth
Wendy Bowen
Mike Bowker
John Bradshaw
Peter Bridge
Jackie Broadbridge
John Brookfield
Michael Brown
Rowland Brown
Mike Buckmaster
Richard Burke
Gary Cain (joined July 2013)
Fred Canty
Nick Carling
George Carron
Roy Carron
Val Chalmers
David Chalmers
John Chapman
David Chilvers (retired May 2013)
Martin Collier
Trevor Collier
David Cooper
Betty Davidson
Keith Davidson
Brian Davies
Joan Dodworth

Roy Dodworth
Colin Duke
Lois Dunmore (joined May 2013)
Marion Edgar
Mary Field
Keith Foster
Judy Frumin
Brian Gage
Graham Hales
David Hall
Charles Harness
Chris Harrison
David Hendel
David Henderson
David Holliday
Glen Honour
Mike Hopkins
Norman Hoskins (retired June 2013)
Pat Howell
Mervyn Jacklin
Geoff Jones
Ingrid Jones
Gary Kaylor
Ron Kendal
Dorothy King
Tom King
Christine Kinnersley
Terry Knott
Joan Lavery
Alan Lawton
Nigel Lomas
Norrie Loughran
Elsie Lowe

Tim Lunn
Martin Manuel
Jim Marsh
Neville Mayall
Margaret McCloskey (joined June 2013)
Peter McClurg
Frank Messenger
Alan Mottram-Playfoot
Leo Mullan (retired June 2013)
Frank Mustard
Jean Neill
Lindsay Ogle
Brian Osborn
John Palmer
Alan Pemberton
Farhad Pezhman
Tony Pink
Ray Pollitt
Tim Prideaux
Sue Pringle
Len Procter
Simon Proddger (retired February 2013)
Tony Pucci
Alan Purslow
John Reeman
Geoff Riches
Alasdair Robertson
Evelyn Rogers (retired August 2013)
Nick Rose
Ron Rushbrook
Bob Scott
Dan Scott
Dorothy Scott

Peter Seaman
Vera Seaman
Iain Shaw
Ross Shirra
Roddy Smith
Tony Sprague
Iain Steven
John Stranger
Bob Thompson
Avril Thompson (retired August 2013)
Don Thompson (joined June 2013)
Barbara Thompson
Darren Turner (retired February 2013)
Colin Tyler
Alex van Straubenzee
Mike Wallace
David Ware
Jeff White
Sam Whiteside (joined June 2013)
Graham Willows
Colin Wills
Ramon Wilmott
David Witherington
Cliff Wragg
Jim Wright

The Old Ben Homes Managing Trustees

*David Blundell - Chairman, Chris Harrison - Vice Chairman
Tim Lunn, *David Holliday, *Ingrid Jones, Nigel Lomas (elected 2013)
Adrian Wood, *John Buckley, Judy Frumin.

* denotes trustees nominated by NewstrAid Benevolent Fund.

Our Area Committees 2013

The NewstrAid Annual Report and Accounts details, in clear facts and figures, the performance of your charity for 2013. But the figures do not tell the full story, which is about people – people who are prepared to give of their time and effort to make a difference to the lives of others. Old Ben's biggest asset is the support of those who make up our volunteer army – almoners, area committee members, Welfare Committee members and Trustees. These people are the real reason the charity has been able to help thousands over the years and continues to help – not just financially, but emotionally.

The UK news trade is going through a very difficult time and has been for a number of years. Normally, when times are tough, people and companies tend to draw their horns in and focus closer to home. NewstrAid and, more importantly, the charity's beneficiaries can be immensely grateful that this has not happened to our supporters. Indeed, our support seems to go from strength to strength. The amount that area committees were able to raise towards the work of the charity in 2013 was 2.2% up on 2012 and area committees up and down the country are determined to ensure they rise again in 2014.

One important message from our area committees is that fundraising and awareness raising need not be a deadly serious matter. I often go on about how much fun area committee meetings are – and they really are. Not only are they fun, but great opportunities for all sections of the news trade to mix and meet. What other forum exists where a retailer, wholesaler, distributor and publisher can meet in convivial circumstances, help those less fortunate and forge good working relationships?

During 2013, our area committee treasurers attended a workshop, hosted

by NewstrAid and area committee auditors, Grant Thornton. It was an excellent opportunity not only to discuss systems and methods, but to share ideas and best practice around the committees.

As well as reading the details of the various incomes and expenditure made by the charity during 2013, let's take time to doff our caps to the biggest asset the charity has – the people who support us; the people who make it happen.

Bristol, Somerset & Wiltshire

Chairman Trevor Veale
Secretary Vera Seaman
Treasurer Ian Aldous
Members Peter Seaman
Brian Gage
Glen Baxter

Another year of wholesaler consolidation has left Trevor and his colleagues without a firm base, yet their doughty efforts still produced an actual increase on last year's contribution to the charity. Their Christmas hampers for all the beneficiaries in their area were, as always, very well received.

Devon & Cornwall

Chairman Glen Honour
Secretary Ray Spiller
Treasurer Peter Amos
Members Tony Sprague
Ken Vincent
David Ware
Harry Littlewood
Nigel Stears-Tremlett

Glen and the Devon & Cornwall team focused on promoting their 200 Club in 2013 and their efforts resulted in them being able to increase their contribution to the charity. Owing to popular demand, they have re-instated their famous tomato growing competition and, as always, held a raft of innovative events. As always, their meetings continue to be a mixture of fun and effort. Long may they continue to be so.

East Anglia

Chairman Christine Mann
Treasurer Colin Mayes
Members Keith Davidson

East Anglia continued to "tick over" in 2013. Without such stalwarts as Colin Mayes, who at 87 years old, continues to provide sterling service as treasurer, the charity would simply not be able to help as many people as it does.



East Midlands

Chairman Michael Doyle
Treasurer Dorothy King
Members Jan Davis
Carol Crocker
John Green
Stephanie Law
Rebecca Sussex
Elaine Ingram
Mike Walsh

East Midlands Area Committee continues to push Wessex as the most proactive area committee we have. Mike and his colleagues managed to increase the amount they raised for the charity by a whopping 33% in 2013. They used a mixture of events such as their annual Pub Quiz Night and focus on their 200 Club, introducing a new, special quarterly prize of £2,500. Not resting on their laurels, their plans for 2014 already include a Greyhound Night, another Pub Quiz Night and even a possible Bowls night.

London East & South Essex

Chairman Martin Manuel
Treasurer Charlie Harness
Members Nick Jones
Ron Rushbrook
John Lowman

Martin and his colleagues consolidated their efforts from the previous year, but even so, managed to remit the magnificent sum of £24,000 towards the work of the charity. Covering such a cosmopolitan area, it is very difficult for them to tailor any event to attract all, but focus on the 200 Club has shown results, although they are faced with further wholesaler consolidation in 2014.

North East

Chairman Jeff White
(latterly Tony Pucci)
Secretary Colin Wills
(latterly Marie Kirven)
Treasurer Jeff White
(latterly Colin Wills)
Members Tony Pucci
Dorothy Scott
Paul Foreman
John Swanson
Mark Wilkinson

Suffering the loss of their excellent chairman, Jeff White, when he moved house mid-year, the North East were in the happy position of having an equally excellent replacement to hand in Tony Pucci. Marie Kirven joined the committee as secretary and Colin Wills took over as treasurer and with another successful Greyhound Night under their belt and focus on their 200 Club, the committee increased the amount they were able to raise for the charity by 25%. Always forward looking, Tony and his colleagues have plans to make 2014 another successful year.

North West

Chairman Jim Marsh
Secretary Barbara Thompson
Treasurer Alan Pemberton
Members George Thompson
John Buckley
Val Chalmers
Allen Harrigan
Keith Foster

Each year, it becomes even more difficult to find things to say about Jim and his team. Each year they raise such a staggering sum towards the work of the charity that, in its own way, says it all. This year, despite a slightly lower amount raised than in 2012, it was still nearly £58,000 more than the next highest area committee. Not prepared to rest on their laurels, treasurer Alan Pemberton, along with Keith Foster and Allen Harrigan, has conducted another successful promotion of their 200 Club and has high hopes for 2014.





The Shires

Chairman Alan Smith
Treasurer Mike Hopkins
Members Colin Duke
 Derek Bell
 Steve Gorman

Alan Smith and his colleagues have had a very good year, raising the amount they were able to send to the charity by 104%. Focus on their 200 Club and another successful annual golf day organised by Colin Duke helped them to have a record year. Luckily, despite retiring in 2014, Derek Bell has agreed to stay on the committee and, with help from Carol Patterson with the 200 Club, further the aims of the charity.

Scottish

Chairman Ian Shaw
Treasurer Scott Lister (latterly Gordon McCutcheon)
Secretary Frank Mustard
200 Club
Co-ordinator David Henderson
Members Jean Neill
 George Carron
 Iain Steven
 Robert Douglas
 Tina Callcutt

Another excellent year for Iain and his colleagues. Another successful annual Dinner Dance at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow, hosted by local celebrity Tam Cowen (who found an easy target for his humour in the Chief Executive, Alex van Straubenzee) and organised chiefly by the redoubtable Jean Neill and a new Treasurer in Gordon McCutcheon to replace the long serving Scott Lister. Although the amount they were able to raise for the charity was down this year, they have already taken steps to ensure that 2014 will be yet another bumper year.

South East Dickens

Chairman Ron Rushbrook
Vice Chairman Melvyn Jacklin
Treasurer Tony Pink
Members Christine Southern
 Nick Southern
 Naresh Purohit
 Libby Paterson
 Fiona Maddison
 Tom Egan
 Mukesh Amin
 Charlie Pandya

With the splendid help of the local Kent District of the NFRN, another Old Ben Fishing Day helped Ron Rushbrook and the team in South East Dickens to another successful year. A strong area committee has emerged over recent years from the embers of the old Kent Dickens Area Committee, whose sole survivor, Tony Pink, had done a sterling job over the years keeping the NewstrAid flag flying, virtually on his own. The annual Christmas Lunch was well attended and focus on the 200 Club ensured they were again able to raise significant funds towards the work of the charity in 2013.

Southend on Sea

Chairman David Witherington
Secretary Sue Cooke
Treasurer Reg Wright
Members Jean Witherington

The stalwarts of Southend Area Committee continue to support the work of charity as they have for very many years. Indeed, Reg Wright is currently our oldest serving Treasurer at 95 years old! Long may they continue.

South Wales

Chairman Kevin Clarke
Treasurer Alun Morgan
Secretary Shaun White
Members Gary Cain
 Matthew Clark
 Ian Blacker
 Paul Traynor

Reinvigorated in 2013, South Wales Area Committee are getting the bit between their teeth again and have added new recruits in Shaun White, Matthew Clark, Paul Traynor and Gary Cain. Wholesaler consolidation has taken up much of their time this year, but 2014 promises to be a great year for South Wales.

Sussex & Surrey

Chairman Roddy Smith
Treasurer John Bradshaw
Members Steve Dartnall
 Steve Edwards
 Mike Williams
 Phil Elcome
 Simon Howarth
 Steve Mankelow
 Lian Shortman
 K Rance

Another record year for Roddy and his colleagues in Sussex & Surrey and all down to their hard work and focus on their 200 Club. An extremely well organised promotion of the Club resulted in an excellent increase in what they were able to raise for the charity. NewstrAid has a large base of beneficiaries in the area as John Bradshaw knows, for as well as serving as treasurer, he also sits on the national Welfare Committee which oversees the help provided by the charity. Roddy, John and the team in Sussex & Surrey remain shining examples of what the charity is all about.

Thames Valley (TVAC)

Chairman John Chapman
Treasurer Clive Element
Secretary Terry Skipsey
Members Alan Bowen
 Alan Purslow
 John Small
 Mark Dunne

Another great year for John and his colleagues in Thames Valley. As well as a tremendous focus on their 200 Club, which enabled them to raise over £86,000 for the charity, their annual Golf Day remains a favourite fixture in the news trade. Winter Hill Golf Club in June is the scene of an excellent day's golf, followed by a splendid meal and prize giving, all supervised by Terry Skipsey and Chairman John Chapman. Special thanks, as always go to Lynda White and Shefali Patel for their great work behind the scenes of the area committee.

Wessex

Chairman Mike Bowker
Treasurer David Hall
Secretary Peter Bridge
Publicity Jacqui Broadbridge
 Steve Batchelor
 Richard Burke
 John Stranger
 Colin Fletcher
 Graham Hales
 Ray Culverwill
 Jim Walker
 Kerry Darwin
 Alex Morley

Another record year for Wessex, an area committee that just seems to keep breaking records. They hold the most events and just seem to get more active each year. After a sharp focus on their 200 Club and a plethora of fundraising events, they increased the amount they raised for the charity by nearly 23% to £43,000. New Chairman Mike Bowker and his team's focus on ensuring the diversity of the area committee means all sections of the news trade are involved and helping them to run such a range of successful events.

West Midlands

Chairman Neville Mayall
Treasurer Ray Prendergast
Secretary Mary Field
Members Geoff Riches
 Fred Prezhman
 Garth Bennett
 Paul Tucknutt
 David De Sousa

Our second largest area committee lost their long serving President Andrew Boyd, when he moved home, but this did not mean they lost their impetus, delivering over £128,000 for the charity. The highlight of the year was the West Midlands Curry Night, held in co-operation with the local West Midlands NFRN and spearheaded by Mary Field, who, as well as being an area committee member, an active NFRN member and a hard working almoner, is also a vital member of the national Welfare Committee.



Yorkshire and North Derbyshire

President Chairmen Roy Dodworth
 Eric Hudson /
 Brian Beeton
Treasurers John Reeman /
 Ron Coleman
Secretary Members Mike Butcher
 Ossie Harrigan
 Jo Dodworth
 Nick Carling
 Bill Hyde
 Manny Mistry
 Lesley Owers
 Alan Wray

Following the successful merger of the West Yorkshire Area Committee and the South Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Area Committee into the Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Area Committee, joint chairmen Eric Hudson and Brian Beeton and their colleagues have had a record year and producing more than £45,000 for the charity. Their annual Greyhound Night in October was another success with numbers up from the previous year. In 2014 plans are already afoot for a Curry Night and another Greyhound Night.



5 Ways to Support NewstrAid



The NewstrAid Benevolent Fund is the news trade's charity and helps individuals in newspaper and magazine retail, wholesale and distribution throughout the UK. In 2013, NewstrAid supported more than 1000 regular beneficiaries with on-going grants and spent more than £100,000 last year on one-off costs such as disability aids and essential household repairs.

How to get involved

1. Volunteer as an Almoner

The almoners, who are all ex-news trade workers, deliver cheques to our beneficiaries and act as NewstrAid's eyes and ears on the ground, ensuring those in need are well looked after.

2. Look out for local and national NewstrAid events

Get a team together and support an event, like the Old Ben Walk, a local quiz night or a greyhound racing event, to name a few. Or go a step further and help organise a quiz yourself or donate a prize.

3. Be on the lookout for people who need help

Contact NewstrAid's welfare department if you know of a former or existing trade colleague in need of support due to ill health or old age. Although NewstrAid does not help with business related costs, trading newsagents may qualify for a one-off grant for a specific purpose such as a disability aid and an advisory service is open to all.

4. Donate money through your wholesaler

Retailers are able to set up a 30p weekly subscription directly to NewstrAid through their wholesaler. Alternatively, you can enter the weekly '200 club' £1 prize draw. Ask your wholesaler for more information about donating through your carriage sheet.

5. Raise sponsorship money

Run a marathon, take part in a sponsored walk or hold a community treasure hunt, donating your sponsorship money to NewstrAid.

For more information or to get involved call

01371 874 198

email

oldben@newstraid.org.uk

visit

www.newstraid.org.uk

or search "NewstrAid" on YouTube



WORLD
LAND
TRUST™

www.carbonbalancedpaper.com
This product is carbon balanced
Reg. No. 2104

The paper used for the production of this report has been carbon balanced.

This has preserved 7m2 of forest and saved 85kg of CO2.

NewstrAid Viewpoint
Alex Van Straubenzee,
Chief Executive Officer, NewstrAid:

"It is absolutely vital that all of us in the news trade support those colleagues and ex-members, whether they be retailers, wholesalers or distributors, when they fall on hard times. Please do your bit to support NewstrAid."