

# NewstrAid newsletter

Issue Five | Autumn 2020

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 edition of the NewstrAid Newsletter. This year has certainly been challenging for everyone and as the knock-on effects of lockdown continue to bite, it looks like we might have a long Winter ahead.

It is at times like these that charities like NewstrAid are needed more than ever. An increasing number of colleagues in the industry are facing hardship and we are clearly seeing this in the number of applications for help that we are receiving. That is why the contributions we receive from retailers through Retail Charitable Donations and 200 Club Lotteries are so important and we are very grateful for the money we receive.

As always, this newsletter aims to show you where your money goes and what a difference it can make to people in need. We have summarised some of the ways we have helped independent retailers in recent months on page 3, and on page 2 you will find feedback from some of our beneficiaries following the distribution of hand sanitiser and reusable face masks at the end of the Summer. Initiatives like this are particularly important because they make some of our most vulnerable beneficiaries feel like they are not alone.

This newsletter also aims to highlight some of the support we offer should you or a colleague find yourself in need. On page 3 we have outlined details of some of the schemes we have available for working people

facing hardship. A summary of the coronavirus support on offer can also be found on page 3.

Finally, after a year of cancelled events and thanks to sponsorship from some of our industry partners we are delighted to be hosting a virtual carol concert this December. We hope you will join our free online event to start the festive season off with a bang. Full details on page 4.

Speaking of the festive season, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas. The 'new normal' might mean that celebrations are a little different this year but we hope that you are able to enjoy a break and spend time with friends and family even if it has to be virtually.

Thank you as always for your support and please continue to stay safe and well.

**Mike Mirams, CEO  
and the NewstrAid Team**

If you have any thoughts or suggestions about the work we do or about this newsletter, contact us at [oldben@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:oldben@newstraid.org.uk)

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**NewstrAid**   
The helping hand of the Newstrade OLDBEN

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

# NewstrAid PPE for Beneficiaries and Volunteers

At the end of the summer, we sent out hand sanitiser and reusable face masks to all our beneficiaries and almoners. We decided that providing a small supply of what are currently essential items was a great way to ensure everyone stayed as fit and well as possible.

The response we received from the recipients was incredible which proved that it was a really worthwhile exercise. We would not be able to run initiatives like this without the income we receive through our 200 Club Lotteries and retail charitable donations and so we are hugely grateful to everyone who contributes to NewstrAid in this way.

A selection of the messages of thanks we received from beneficiaries are below:

*"I would just like to tell you how thrilled I was to receive my package of face masks and gel! It was a lovely surprise and I would like to say a big thank you for this gesture."*

*"Thank you so much. Just knowing people are thinking about folk less fortunate makes a huge difference."*



*"Such a lovely and most welcomed surprise. Extremely thoughtful of NewstrAid to think about us during such a worrying time."*

*"Just a quick note to thank you all at NewstrAid for the wonderful & thoughtful gift of the hand sanitiser & masks, they are very much gratefully received as I am one of the high risk groups being Diabetic among other illnesses, so protection is paramount for me."*

*"What a lovely surprise yet again to receive your parcel of masks and hand gel. You are such kind and wonderful people and I cannot thank you enough for your thoughtfulness. Many, many thanks."*

*"You are always full of amazing surprises...thank you for your kind and thoughtful gift of face masks and hand gels, to help keep us safe. Much appreciated!"*

## Gannett Foundation helps us to provide winter comfort to beneficiaries

In October we issued more than 400 Winter Comfort Grants, totalling £61,500, to vulnerable households throughout the UK. These payments were generously supported by a grant of £10,000 from the Gannett Foundation for which we are very grateful. The Winter Comfort Grants allow hundreds of beneficiaries from the news trade to keep warm over the winter months with recipients deciding how best to use the money whether it goes towards a heating bill, the purchase of a new winter coat, or perhaps, some warm bedding.



GANNETT  
FOUNDATION



Did you know?

**IN 2019  
NEWSTRAID...**

...MADE PAYMENTS TO NEARLY **800** REGULAR BENEFICIARIES 3 TIMES DURING THE YEAR.

...WERE SUPPORTED BY OVER **100** ACTIVE VOLUNTEER ALMONERS ACROSS THE UK

## Social Media

We regularly post all the latest news and information about NewstrAid and the services we offer on social media. Why not follow us on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn?

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

 @NewstrAid

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

## New Website

This Autumn we are launching a brand new website. The new site includes details of the help and support available to anyone facing hardship as well as information on how you can volunteer, donate and take part in events and activities. Why not have a look by visiting:

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

True or False?

The **Fresh Start Assist Scheme** is only open to NFRN members.

**False!**

Fresh Start Assist is open to **all newsagents and their staff** not just those who are members of the NFRN.

# Spotlight on.... support schemes for working people

**Fresh Start Assist** is for newsagents who have decided to cease trading, who have been victims of crime or who are dealing with emotional stress and anxiety.

The Scheme offers a wide range of services including:

- Financial Help
- Emotional Support
- Advice and Signposting

*"When my business ran into financial difficulties and we decided to stop trading, NewstrAid was an absolute lifeline. After receiving a visit from an almoner and then having a full financial assessment, NewstrAid agreed to cover our bankruptcy and court fees and awarded us a hardship grant whilst our state benefits were being processed. We are so very grateful!"* Mr P

For more information contact us FREE on **0800 917 8616**.

**In Work Support** is a scheme aimed at providing help and support to people in work who are going through a difficult time. For example, applicants may have encountered an unexpected family expense, ill health, redundancy, family breakdown or bereavement.

Services include:

- One off welfare grants (subject to financial assessment)
- Anxiety Support – free helpline 0800 136 6552
- State Benefits Advice
- Debt Advice – free, confidential helpline 0800 987 5685
- Information and Signposting
- Home visiting service

Call our welfare team for free on **0800 917 8616** or visit our website for more information: [www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk)

## 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**

## Where your money goes

### IN WORK SUPPORT AND HELP FOR CHILDREN

Emma from the West Country is a single mother who worked as a full-time assistant in a local newsagents for 7 years. She was forced to take unpaid leave last year to address family issues and was facing eviction due to rent arrears which had accumulated during this time. She was struggling to clear her debt when the coronavirus forced her employer to close the shop and she was placed on furlough, with a strong possibility of redundancy.

Following a review of her income, our **Welfare Team** identified that she was not in receipt of her full state benefit entitlement and advised her accordingly. A grant was awarded from our **In Work Support Scheme** to clear her rent arrears and a further grant was awarded from our **Children's Ace Fund** to help with back to school costs. With her correct state benefits now in place, Emma has regained financial control.

### FRESH START ASSIST

Paresh from the West Midlands is a self-employed newsagent who currently lives above his shop, which has been closed since last year. Competition from a local supermarket and a reduction in newspaper and magazine sales caused him to run out of working capital and this, combined with a decline in his health, forced him to cease trading after over 20 years in business. Business debt had accumulated, and he was now facing eviction from the council.

A grant from our **Fresh Start Assist Fund** helped him to clear his utility arrears and helped meet ongoing heating costs. This grant also helped him to fund taxi fares to and from his hospital appointments as he was unable to use public transport. Our **Welfare Team** also helped him to maximise his income from state benefit and awarded him regular assistance to help him make ends meet going forward. Finally, a referral was made to the **Business Debtline Charity** to help him find a solution to his business debt.

### CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

Alex from London found herself in financial difficulty when authorities forced her to close her newsstand following the outbreak of the coronavirus. She was forced to apply for state benefits, however, with no dependants and no health issues, her entitlement was very low and did not cover her rent or council tax. She quickly fell into arrears as she simply could not make ends meet. She was desperately seeking alternative employment to avoid falling into further debt, but job interviews were few and far between at that time. The stress of the situation was starting to have a negative impact on her mental health as she had never been out of work before and had never fallen behind with her bills.

**NewstrAid** awarded a grant from our **In-Work Scheme** to help her address her financial issues and suggested she take advantage of our **Anxiety Support Helpline** to help her manage her mental health whenever she feels overwhelmed or worried about her situation.

# Our First Virtual Event

**Carols from St Brides**  
**7th December 2020 4.30pm**

This year our Annual Carol Service is going to be a bit different as we present our very first virtual event. Taking place on December 7th at 4.30pm we will be streaming around 35 minutes of Christmas Carols from St Bride's Church featuring the St Bride's Choir, as well as festive readings to help put you in the festive spirit. Readers will include Ian Hislop (Private Eye and Have I Got News for You). The event will be free to watch with the option to make a donation.



We hope very much that as many people as possible from the industry are able to login to enjoy this Christmas event marking the end of a year which has been hugely challenging for everyone in the trade. To register to receive the event link, please visit our Eventbrite page at: <https://bit.ly/2HuEjrQ>

We hope very much that you will be able to join us!

This event has been made possible thanks to support from:

**Principal Sponsors:**  
**Menzies Distribution**  
**NFRN**  
**Reach Plc**  
**NewsTeam**

**Event Sponsors:**  
**Mail Newspapers**  
**Inter-Send**  
**The Telegraph**  
**Smiths News**

**Supporters:**  
**Willis News**



## NewstrAid 200 Club Lotteries

**Did you know...?** Newstraid's Area Committees run 200 Clubs or small society lotteries throughout the year.

- For 2021 the annual national prize fund will be in excess of **£230,000**.
- For a weekly entry fee of between £1 and £1.80 you can have the chance of winning one of the 85 monthly prizes. **That's 1 in a 180 chance of winning!!**
- Top prizes in each area range between **£1000** and **£250**.

All the proceeds of this lottery are used to support people who have worked or are currently working in our industry but are experiencing hardship.

## Prize Draw

**WE ARE GIVING AWAY**

**£150 of Amazon Vouchers!**

Thank you to everyone who entered our Summer edition prize draw and congratulations to the winner who received their vouchers at the beginning of October. 13 was the correct answer to the question: How many NewstrAid Area Committees are there?

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

**What date is the NewstrAid 'Carols from St Brides' virtual event?**

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 27th December 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/)

## How to cancel your NewstrAid contribution

**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 opt-out form on our website: [www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-donations/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-donations/)
- 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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