

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue Six | Winter 2020

Welcome to the first NewstrAid newsletter of 2021. Happy New Year! As we say a less than fond farewell to 2020, it is a sad fact that Covid-19 is still having a major impact on the health and wellbeing of millions of people across the country and we are all still needing to take precautions to stay safe. We are hopeful that the vaccine will help us get back to normal as 2021 progresses.

Thanks to your donations and lottery subscriptions we were able to support hundreds of beneficiaries from the news trade in 2020 including many who were facing hardship as a result of coronavirus. Details of all the help and support available for those affected by Covid-19 can be found on page 3 as well as information on how we have helped colleagues during this difficult time.

Unsurprisingly we saw an increase in requests for one-off financial support last year. All the applications for help that we receive are treated in the same way and we have included a summary of this process on page 2.

Back in December, we were delighted that more than 500 people viewed our Virtual Carol Service in the run up to Christmas 2020. This was a lovely event and we are very grateful to everyone who joined us and also to our many industry supporters who

helped to fund it. More information about 'Carols from St Brides 2020' can be found on page 4.

And finally, in case you haven't already had a look, our new website was launched at the end of last year and includes a wealth of information about the help and support NewstrAid can offer as well as how you can get involved with the charity as a volunteer or fundraiser. Visit newstraid.org.uk to find out more.

We hope you continue to stay fit and well over the coming months and that by the time our next edition of the newsletter is due out in May, life has got considerably easier for us all.

Stay safe and best wishes

**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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supported by Hearst UK

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Prize Draw
Competition

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

What happens when you ask us for help?

Whether you complete an enquiry form on our website, call our office or are referred by your employer, each request for help received by our Welfare Team, will go through the same process.

1. Eligibility for help confirmed

Before your request is taken forward our team will check that you fit our criteria for help including your news trade connection.

2. Application form completed

You then need to complete a detailed application form which our Almoners and welfare team can assist you with.

3. Supporting documentation reviewed

You will then be required to provide any relevant documentation to support your application. Please note that those requesting financial support will be subject to a means assessment and will need to provide financial information.

4. State Benefit assessment carried out

This is to ensure your household income is maximised and guidance will be given, where relevant.

5. Welfare Committee* Assessment

If the application fits the criteria for support and all supporting documentation is provided it will be put forward for consideration at the next welfare committee meeting for a decision to be made.

6. Support Awarded

If the welfare committee decide your application is successful the recommended help or support will be provided by the welfare team.

7. Support Refused

If the application is not successful, you will be notified and any alternative sources of potential help will be provided where possible.

***The welfare committee is a group of volunteers who have all worked in the industry and many of whom are current and ex newsagents. They all give up their time for free and during the pandemic have been meeting via Zoom on a monthly basis in order to process requests for help as quickly as possible.**

Please note: All grants are subject to a means test and applicants must be willing to disclose details of their financial status.

Did you know?

**DURING
2020
NEWSTRAID...**

**...HELPED OVER 1000
COLLEAGUES FACING HARDSHIP**

**...PAID OUT £136K IN ONE-OFF
GRANTS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC
NEEDS**

**...AWARDED GRANTS TO MORE
THAN 400 HOUSEHOLDS TO
HELP WITH WINTER FUEL BILLS**

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

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

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

Visit our website for full details of the help and support NewstrAid can offer.

True or False?

NewstrAid can only help with Financial issues.

False!

NewstrAid offers **emotional** support and **practical** advice as well as **financial** help.



Where your money goes

CORONAVIRUS HELP

Anita had been a trading newsagent for 25 years. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, she had incurred extra costs when she adapted her business for the safety of her staff and customers. In addition, she started delivering papers to her elderly locals who were unable to leave their homes as they were shielding. With bills to pay in her home and with an oil tank to fill to heat her house over the winter she had become seriously concerned about both her personal and business finances.

With regards to her business-related issues, the NewstrAid welfare team advised her to apply to the NFRN for their Covid-19 Hardship Fund. Anita then underwent a full financial assessment by NewstrAid, after which she was awarded £1,000 from our Fresh Start Assist scheme to help towards her oil costs and home utility bills during the winter months.

STATE BENEFITS ADVICE

Jim and Pam had been newsagents for 15 years before retiring. They were both in poor health and had to attend many hospital appointments. They were also looking into adaptations for their home and car to allow for continued independence. They were struggling to cope on their pensions and so approached NewstrAid to see if there was any assistance we could offer them.

After carrying out a state benefits assessment, the welfare team advised the couple on what benefits they could apply for with regards to the adaptations that needed to be made to their house. In addition, after a financial assessment they were awarded a regular benefit to help meet their ongoing living costs.

Free Helpline
0800 917 8616
www.newstraid.org

IN WORK SUPPORT

Naresh was working in his local newsagents when he was attacked as part of a robbery. He sustained serious injuries to his body and face including several broken bones and was unable to work for many months whilst he recovered.

With no entitlement to sick pay and with his wife unable to work due to caring for their young child, the family were falling behind on their bills including their rent and struggling to meet their council tax payments.

Following a full financial assessment Naresh was awarded a grant from our In-Work Support Scheme to address his rent arrears and a further £1000 was awarded from the Fresh Start Assist Scheme to help his family with essential living costs. In addition, the welfare team advised him on where he could get ongoing help with council tax and rent costs and the family were given access to the anxiety helpline.

Hearst UK agrees new partnership for NewstrAid Anxiety Helpline in memory of industry legend Terry Mansfield



Hearst UK, the leading UK premium publisher has announced a new, three-year partnership with NewstrAid in memory of its former CEO, Terry Mansfield. Hearst UK's support will be focussed around our mental health provision and the Anxiety Helpline will be aligned with honouring Terry's contribution to the industry for the duration of the arrangement.

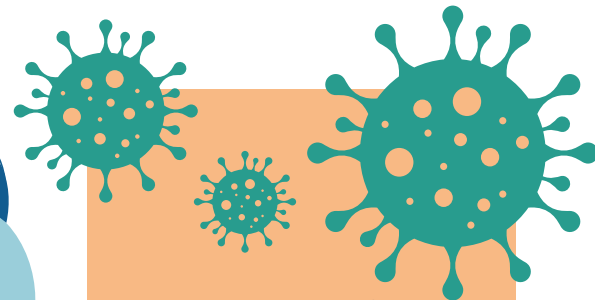
NewstrAid's Anxiety Helpline, provided in conjunction with Anxiety UK, offers emotional support to industry colleagues who may be suffering from stress or mental health issues. Follow up help is available to anyone with a newstrade connection.

James Wildman, CEO, Hearst UK and President, Hearst Europe said: "Terry Mansfield's extraordinary 50-year career in magazines included 20 years at the head of Hearst's UK publishing business. His passion for supporting

charitable causes was well known throughout the industry and we feel it is fitting that his legacy should see Hearst UK supporting NewstrAid and the emotional health of our industry colleagues in this way."

Mike Mirams, CEO of NewstrAid said: "Terry believed in 'learning, earning and returning' and his support of numerous good causes included a long association with NewstrAid, initially as a Trustee and then as a long-serving member of our Investment Committee. Terry sadly passed away from the effects of Covid-19 in March 2020, we are very grateful that Hearst UK have agreed to generously support NewstrAid in his memory."

The partnership will run from January 2021 until December 2023.



Coronavirus Support

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

or contact us for more information:

oldben@newstraid.org.uk

0800 917 8616



Carols from St Brides... Our first virtual event is a roaring success!

Thank you to everyone who watched our first virtual event in December – Carols from St Brides. The event received more than 500 views in the run up to Christmas and saw the industry come together to celebrate the festive season at the end of what had been a challenging year for everyone.

We are very grateful to the readers and choir for their contributions as well as our industry sponsors and donors who made it all possible. A selection of comments we received during and after the event are included below.

Congratulations NewstrAid Team on your first virtual carol service.

Merry Christmas and thanks for all the amazing work you do. Thanks for putting the Carol concert on. It was lovely.

Beautiful carol service, well done everybody.

We go to the Carol Concert every year as guests, and this year we watched online, it was a lovely concert, thank you.



200 Club Prices

Please note that the entry fee for the 200 Club lottery in Yorkshire and the South West and Wales areas was increased to £1.25 from 1st February 2021. You will have received further notification of this increase via your news and magazine wholesaler. Prices have been £1 in each of these areas since 2014 and 2012 respectively. Please note that there are no changes to prices in any other area. Your contribution through these lotteries means that we are able to help and support many individuals and families from the news trade.

Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY

£150 of Amazon Vouchers!

Thank you to everyone who entered our Autumn edition prize draw and congratulations to the winner who received their vouchers at the beginning of January. The correct answer to the question: What date is the NewstrAid Virtual Carol Service taking place this year? Was 7th December.

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

In 2020 how much did NewstrAid pay out in one-off grants?

As always, the answer is in this newsletter. Please send your answer to oldben@newstraid.org.uk

All correct answers received before Monday 29th March 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/

If you no longer want to support NewstrAid

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

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

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

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



NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

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

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616

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



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