

# NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 13 Autumn 2022

## Welcome, I hope you and your families are well.

Over the last few months, the news agenda has been filled with stories of soaring energy costs and increases in our cost of living. In this newsletter you will find details of all the ways we are supporting people who work in the sale and distribution of newspapers and magazines and who are facing hardship and need some support. Don't forget to pick up the phone and call us if you need our help.

In addition it is worth remembering that our welfare team are able to give advice and signpost to other sources of support available. Do get in touch if you or a colleague need assistance.

The last few months has seen a lot of fundraising and awareness activity

take place for the charity. You can read more about our awareness initiative, Woolly Wednesday, on page 2 and the recent Tandem Skydive challenge on page 4.

Finally, as we hurtle towards Christmas, we are again in the midst of organising our annual carol concert which will be taking place for the 30th year at St Bride's Church on 5th December. It is incredible that this concert has been running for three decades and full details of this year's event can be found on page 4.

Stay safe and thank you for your ongoing support which allows NewstrAid to help hundreds of people in our industry who need our help.

**Neil Jagger and  
The NewstrAid Team**

## Are you struggling with the Cost of Living? Are you worried about paying your bills and putting food on the table?

If the answer is yes to the above questions then you could be eligible for a grant from the NewstrAid Cost of Living Crisis Fund.

Visit [www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk) for more information

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Prize Draw



**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



Emotional  
Support

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

# Introducing our new Cost of Living Crisis Fund

Created in response to the current Cost of Living Crisis, this fund offers grants of up to £250 per household to help bridge the gap between income and costs for anyone with a newstrade connection who is facing hardship.



Neil Jagger, CEO for NewstrAid said: *"With millions of people cutting back on energy use and reducing their spend on food and essentials as a direct result of the cost of living crisis, we felt it was vital to launch a fund that can provide some financial assistance to anyone in the industry who is finding it difficult to make ends meet."*

Neil Jagger added, *"This special fund has been created particularly with those who don't already receive help from us in mind. The cost of living crisis is putting everyone's finances under pressure and this fund aims to help those who may not have received support before but whose household finances are now at breaking point."*

Anyone interested in applying to the fund should visit the NewstrAid

website for the eligibility criteria and how to apply. NewstrAid can also offer a wide range of financial, emotional and practical support, including state benefit advice, to anybody from the industry.

Visit [www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk)  
Freephone 0800 917 8616

## Did you know?

Last month,  
we paid out  
**£4,800**  
to children  
facing financial  
hardship.



We are very sad to announce that after an incredible 20 years at NewstrAid our Welfare Manager Sinead Flood will be leaving us at the end of this year. As our longest serving member of staff she will be very sadly missed by all who work with her as well as our many volunteers and beneficiaries. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her many years of service.

## True or False?

NewstrAid only  
helps pensioners.

**False!**

NewstrAid can help anyone with a newstrade connection including those currently in work.

## Useful sources of help

### Energy advice helplines:

Home Energy Scotland: 0808 808 2282

Simple Energy Advice England: 0800 444 202

Nest (Welsh Residents): 0800 808 2244

Northern Ireland Energy Advice Service: 0800 111 4455

### Other useful numbers:

- Contact your local council to enquire about the Household Support Fund
- Get extra help and support from your energy supplier by signing up to the Priority Services Register and to enquire about a Warm Home Discount
- Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 0808 223 1133
- For help clearing debt, reducing spending or maximising income, contact [moneyhelper.org.uk](http://moneyhelper.org.uk) for free impartial money guidance 0800 138 7777

## Woolly Wednesday, October 19th

On October 19th we launched our first industry wide awareness day. The initiative aimed to highlight the plight of many of our beneficiaries who are unable to cover the cost of heating this winter.

Woolly Wednesday asked industry colleagues to come together to increase awareness about the charity and raise a few pounds to support its work by posting pictures wearing their favourite woollies on social media and donating to NewstrAid.

Neil Jagger CEO for NewstrAid said: *"There is no doubt that worry and stress about heating and energy costs are at the forefront of everyone's mind and we are starting to hear some*



*heart-breaking feedback from our beneficiaries who just don't know how they will meet the cost of their rising bills. Woolly Wednesday aimed to bring the whole industry together in support of colleagues who are facing extreme hardship over the coming months."*

**Thank you to everyone who took part!**





## Winter comfort grant helps hundreds from the newstrade to keep warm this winter.

In direct response to the current cost of living crisis, we recently added a supplement to the annual Winter Comfort Grant we pay to around 400 of our most vulnerable beneficiaries during October.

Grants totalling £100,000 were distributed to hundreds of industry colleagues who need the most support. The grants will help recipients to cover the cost of heating bills, buy warm bedding and purchase winter clothing over the coming months.

Sinead Flood, Welfare Manager for NewstrAid said: "Each year our Winter Comfort Grant helps hundreds of our beneficiaries to keep warm over the winter period. Having added a supplement to last year's grant in response to the economic situation in 2021, we felt compelled to review the amount again in 2022 and have included an additional uplift to the grants paid to households this October. We hope the increased grant will go some way to help those who are facing serious hardship this year."

Sinead added; "Anyone with a newstrade connection who is struggling to cope this winter should contact our welfare team on Freephone

**0800 917 8616.** We can offer a wide range of financial, emotional and practical support including state benefit advice to anybody from the industry."

*"...to hear you were providing an added supplement this year was just amazing! ...I have already used some of my grant towards a much-needed winter waterproof coat, a new torch and spare batteries in case of power cuts, and an extra hot-water bottle. The remainder will stay in my account to go towards the energy bills ...I hope this shows you just how far your generosity goes and what a huge difference it will make to my comfort and peace of mind this winter."*

Winter Comfort Grant Beneficiary, October 2022

## Menzies Distribution lorry

As part of our partnership with Menzies distribution, the NewstrAid logo has been included on the side of one of the Menzies delivery lorries. If you spot the lorry out on the road, why not drop us a line and, if it is safe to do so, take a picture and tag us on social media.



## Beneficiary stories



### Benefit advice

After working in the family newsagents for a number of years, Sarah was sadly diagnosed with cancer. Now, on a low income, the family were struggling to cope with finances and also the devastating cancer diagnosis. **NewstrAid were able to give advice on which benefits the family were entitled to and after a full financial assessment, were able to award regular benefit to help with ongoing costs. They also have full use of the Spectrum Life Wellbeing Suite.**



### Help for Hobbies

Priya had worked in a shop selling newspapers for several years and approached NewstrAid as she was finding it hard to pay her bills as well as her son's football subs. **As she fitted the eligibility criteria for the new Help for Hobbies scheme, £250 was awarded to Priya which will allow her son to continue to play football for another year.**



### In work support

Vasant had been working for a newsagent for several years until ill health forced him to take some time away. With many hospital appointments and bills piling up, he was finding it difficult to get by. **After contacting NewstrAid, he was awarded a grant from our In Work Support scheme to help meet living costs whilst he took time off work to recover.**

## Tandem Parachute jump

A big **thank you** to everyone who took part in the Tandem Sky Dive on 2nd October. We are delighted to say that so far, this event has raised a massive £8k for NewstrAid and sponsorship is still coming in. Well done to everyone who got involved!



## 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 in October. The correct answer to the question: What is the name of our funding scheme for Children's pastimes was Help for Hobbies Children's Recreation Fund.

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

**How much money is available per household from our new Cost of Living Crisis Fund?**

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

All correct answers received before 31st December 2022 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/)

## CAROL CONCERT 2022

We will be hosting our 30th Christmas Carol Concert at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street on Monday 5th December at 6.45pm.

Full details, including how to book, are on our website [www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk)

If you can't join us at the concert, you can still support the event by buying a raffle ticket for our Christmas prize draw. Full details including the prizes on offer and how to enter can be found at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newstraidxmas](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newstraidxmas)

## Help for Hobbies

Children's Recreation Scheme

The Help for Hobbies Children's Recreation Scheme supports newstrade families who are struggling to meet the costs associated with their children's pastimes.

**Freephone: 0800 917 8616**

[helpforhobbies@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:helpforhobbies@newstraid.org.uk) [www.newstraid.org.uk/help-for-hobbies](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/help-for-hobbies)



## 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](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: [mail@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:mail@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**

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