

# NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 17 | Autumn 2023

## Hello and welcome to our Autumn Newsletter.

As we all continue to cope with the ongoing cost of living crisis, it will be no surprise to you all that the team at NewstrAid continue to process more new applications for help and support than ever before. This is a clear indication that these tough economic times remain with us and it is worth noting that NewstrAid's Cost of Living Crisis fund is still available. If you or someone you know needs financial support, please get in touch.

You may be aware that The Fed has recently been focusing its efforts on retail crime. There is no doubt that crime can have a huge effect on the mental health and wellbeing of yourself, your family and your staff, and NewstrAid has a range of resources and support available to help retailers who may have fallen victim to such incidents. More details can be found in this newsletter.

The support we get from the newspaper and magazine industry is invaluable and this has been evident from some

of our recent activities and initiatives over the last few months, including the Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge and Woolly Wednesday, both of which you can read about on page 4.

Our annual Christmas Carol concert is coming up in December and if you are able to get to London on December 4th, we would love for you to join us at St Brides Church in Fleet Street. More details below.

And finally, I am delighted to report that NewstrAid was named '2023 Charity of the Year' at the recent ACO awards. This award recognises the work we do in helping our beneficiaries which is only possible thanks to the financial support we receive from all of you. Thank you! Enjoy this newsletter and I hope we get the chance to meet up soon.

Kind regards

**Neil Jagger and The NewstrAid Team**

## Carol Concert and Christmas Raffle 2023

NewstrAid will be hosting its annual carol concert at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street on Monday 4th December. Full details including how to book tickets can be found on our website [www.newstraid.org.uk/events/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/events/)

In addition, you can enter the Christmas raffle online to win a host of prizes including £250 of Love2Shop Vouchers by visiting [www.newstraid.org.uk/christmas-raffle-2023/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/christmas-raffle-2023/)

## New film

If you want to know more about NewstrAid and the work we do, why not check out the new film on our website [www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk)

**NewstrAid**   
The helping hand of the Newstrade 

## We are the helping hand of the newstrade



Financial Support



Grants



State Benefits Advice



Support For Disabled & Carers



Help For Children



Almoner Home Visits



Debt Advice



Emotional Support

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Free Helpline:  
**0800 917 8616**



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

# Cost of Living Crisis Fund receives record number of applications

During 2023 we have received a record number of applications for help, with the vast majority of applicants being awarded a grant from NewstrAid's **Cost of Living Crisis Fund**.

This special fund was launched in Autumn 2022 specifically to provide financial support during the cost of living crisis. It offers a £250 non-repayable grant (per household, per year), to help bridge the gap between income and expenditure and has already helped hundreds of people who work or have worked in the sale or distribution of magazines and newspapers in the UK.

It is important to highlight that those who were awarded a Cost of Living Crisis Fund grant last year are eligible



to apply again this year. Additionally, anyone with a newstrade connection can apply for financial help and contact us for advice and emotional support should they need it.

For more information about the Cost of Living Crisis fund, including the eligibility criteria, visit: [www.newstraid.org.uk/cost-of-living-crisis-fund/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/cost-of-living-crisis-fund/)



## Beneficiary Stories



### Cost of Living Crisis Fund

Father of three, Jordan, heard about NewstrAid from his employer for whom he has worked for 10 years. He was struggling to pay his household bills and buy food for his family due to the cost of living crisis.

*After contacting NewstrAid, Jordan was encouraged to complete a Cost of Living Crisis Fund application form and once assessed by the NewstrAid team, was successfully awarded a grant of £250 to help cover his bills.*

*NB All beneficiary names have been changed.*

## Winter Comfort Grant 2023

As the nights draw in and temperatures start to cool, many of our beneficiaries are concerned about the cost of heating and other household bills over the winter months.

We were therefore delighted that our Board of Trustees recently approved a Winter Comfort Grant of £150 per household for all our regular beneficiaries.

Around 400 households received this grant which aims to alleviate stress and hardship by helping with winter heating



bills, the purchase of new winter clothing or the cost of warm blankets and bedding during the colder weather.

## New Online Application Process

Working in partnership with tech innovators Lightning Reach, we have recently launched a new online application portal to speed up the process for those needing financial support.

The Lightning Reach portal uses trusted and secure cutting-edge technology to streamline the application process, minimise fraud, and connect people in need with financial support from a variety of providers.

Anyone in need can access the portal for free and apply for a range of support, quickly and easily. Applicants complete a generic form, after which

they are given a list of relevant charities to apply to. Charity partners like NewstrAid then have a bespoke application form built into the portal which eligible applicants will be asked to complete.

A link to the application portal is available on the NewstrAid website [www.newstraid.org.uk/how-to-apply-for-help/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/how-to-apply-for-help/)

Paper application forms for support are also available for those who are unable to use the online portal.



## Did you know?

NewstrAid has already processed **3 x more** applications for help in 2023 than we did in the whole of 2022.

## True or False?

If you received a Cost of Living Crisis Fund Grant last year you can apply for one again this year

**True!**

£250 can be awarded per household, per year.



## Support for victims of retail crime

You may have noticed in recent months that The Fed have been highlighting the increase in theft and violence that is being experienced by retailers and their staff everyday.

It is worth noting that our Wellbeing Suite offers a free helpline and countless online resources to anyone from the industry who is experiencing anxiety or concerns as a result of crime in the workplace.

### Live debates on the wellbeing suite

Did you know... our Wellbeing Website includes access to live debates each month on a range of different subjects. Topics covered recently include, Navigating Burnout and Stress, Heart Healthy Habits and Building a Financial Safety Net.

Log into our Wellbeing Website using the QR code or by visiting: [newstraid.spectrum.life/login?org=news2021](https://newstraid.spectrum.life/login?org=news2021) and click on the Wellbeing Series to access all the debates.



Call **0808 196 2016** to speak to a counsellor or visit [newstraid.spectrum.life/login?org=news2021](https://newstraid.spectrum.life/login?org=news2021) to access the resources.

You can also download the free Spectrum.Life app to access all the content on the move. Available on IOS or Android from your app store.

## NewstrAid Wins ACO 'Charity of the Year' Award

We are delighted to announce that we were recently named 'Charity of the Year' at the Association of Charitable Organisations (ACO) Annual Awards for 2023.

The Award was presented to Tom Rodger (NewstrAid Operations Director) and Katie Babooram (NewstrAid Welfare Manager) (pictured) in recognition of the work NewstrAid has undertaken over the last year to support hundreds of people who are going through difficult times.

Neil Jagger, NewstrAid CEO, said: "I am very proud to be CEO of an amazing charity and the outstanding team that



won this award. The last year has been extremely challenging for everyone and has seen our team process a record number of applications for help from people facing hardship. This award acknowledges the hard work that goes into providing this support to the newspaper and magazine industry during some really tough times."

## Beneficiary Stories

### Victims of Crime



#### Emotional and Financial support

Syeda was on long term sick leave following an armed robbery that took place whilst she was working. She was struggling to cope both financially and emotionally following the experience. The trauma she faced at the shop was having a long-term effect on her mental health and she felt she could not return to work.

*NewstrAid were able to fund a series of counselling sessions for Syeda to help her come to terms with her experience and move forward. In addition, and following a full financial assessment, she was awarded regular benefit and more recently has been awarded one off grants to help with rent arrears and general hardship whilst she is unable to work.*



#### Financial support

Retailer Bilal lost the sight in one eye following a horrific acid attack in his shop. The effect on his mental health has been immense. His relationship broke down and he has not worked since the attack.

*Although his trade connection was relatively short, following a full financial assessment, the NewstrAid Welfare Committee made him a regular beneficiary which means he receives 3 grant payments throughout the year. In addition, he has also been awarded one-off Samaritan grants to help with the cost of household goods such as a microwave and Hoover.*

*NB All beneficiary names have been changed.*

# Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge raises more than £6,500

In September, NewstrAid CEO, Neil Jagger along with Finance Director, Laura Grice and Welfare Manager, Katie Babooram, joined a group of industry fundraisers from companies including Marketforce and DMG to conquer the Yorkshire 3 peaks, raising more than £6,500 for NewstrAid.

The challenge took around 12 hours to complete and involved a 24 mile round trip including the peaks of Pen-y-Ghent (694 m), Wharfedale (736m) and Ingleborough (723m).

Neil Jagger, NewstrAid CEO, said: *"I have to admit that none of us were prepared for what a physical and mental challenge*



*it would be to complete the Yorkshire 3 peaks, but the money it has raised for those who really need it makes it all worthwhile."*

All the funds raised from the 3 Peaks challenge will support people from the newspaper and magazine industry who are struggling with the current cost of living crisis.

## Industry Supports NewstrAid on Woolly Wednesday

As part of our annual campaign to highlight the support we can provide to those struggling during the colder months, we hosted Woolly Wednesday on 1st November.

The initiative asked industry colleagues to help to raise awareness about the charity by simply pledging their support via social media on Wednesday 1st November 2023 and using the hashtag #WoollyWednesday.

The event saw some great activity on social media and helped to spread the word about the support available from



NewstrAid for those struggling to stay warm and pay their bills this winter.

## 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 prize in October.

The question was: *How many households have NewstrAid helped with a Cost of Living Crisis fund grant since Autumn 2022?* The correct answer was: 179.

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

**What is the date of NewstrAid's Carol Concert this year?**

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 2023 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/)

## 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:

- Contact 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) or  
NewsTeam: 3 Saline Street, Airdrie ML6 9BE
- 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

[www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk) Tel: 01279 879569 [mail@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:mail@newstraid.org.uk)



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