

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 18 | Winter 2024

Welcome. A very Happy New Year to you from all the team at NewstrAid. We all hope that this year provides some respite from the increasing costs that everyone has faced and the stresses this has brought on.



2023 proved to be one of the busiest years NewstrAid has ever faced. Soaring inflation and rising energy costs meant more people than ever faced real hardship, however I am pleased to say that NewstrAid's Cost of Living Crisis Fund was there to provide much-needed financial support at the time it was needed most. As a result, we were able to help many more people and this was only possible with your support. Thank you so much.

It is NewstrAid's 185th birthday this year. Rather than sending us a card, we would love you to join one of our Area

Committees across the UK and help us to spread the word about the charity whilst raising funds to help more of our trade colleagues. Alternatively, perhaps you could find time to become an Almoner and visit some of our beneficiaries who love nothing more than a cup of tea and a catch-up?

I hope you enjoy reading our first newsletter of 2024 and here's to a very happy and healthy year ahead.

**Neil Jagger and
The NewstrAid Team**

How your money helps In 2023, NewstrAid...



Helped **1,486 people**
from the newspaper
& magazine industry



Supported
146 children
in need.



Awarded a total
of **£837,507** to
households in need.



Helped
194 people with a
Cost of Living Crisis
Fund grant.



Provided advice to
more than
240 colleagues from
the newstrade.

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

Page two
Cost of
Living Fund

Page two
Free Debt
Advice Helpline

Page three
Get
involved

Page four
Prize
Draw



Free
Helpline:
**0800
917 8616**



www.newstraid.org.uk



Cost of Living Fund

If you are finding it difficult to make ends meet at the moment, you could be eligible for a grant from NewstrAid's Cost of Living Crisis Fund.

Launched in 2022, the fund offers up to £250 per household to help bridge the gap between income and costs for anyone with a newstrade connection.

Those who were awarded a Cost of Living Crisis Fund grant last year and who are still struggling, can apply again after 12 months.

For more information about the fund and to download an application form visit: <https://www.newstraid.org.uk/cost-of-living-crisis-fund/> Or call 0800 917 8616 to talk to one of the NewstrAid Welfare team.

Beneficiary Stories

Cost Of Living Support

Ayeasha contacted NewstrAid after looking for financial support online. She was struggling to pay her council tax, mortgage and buy food. She completed a Cost of Living Crisis Fund application form and provided proof of her benefit entitlement and current income.

As she is in receipt of Universal Credit and had no savings, she qualified for a grant from the Cost of Living Crisis Fund. The full £250 grant was awarded for which she was very grateful.

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.



185th Anniversary Year

On the 22nd May 1839, a small group of men connected with the sale and distribution of newspapers met at the Crown & Anchor pub in the City of London to establish a charity offering help to those working in the distribution side of the newspaper industry.

Fast forward 185 years and we are proud to say NewstrAid continues to be a beacon of hope for those from the industry who are experiencing hard times.

The assistance we offer is only possible thanks to the financial support we receive from the newspaper and magazine trade, including retailers like yourself. So, as we enter our 185th year, we would like to say a huge 'thank you!'



FREE Debt advice Helpline 0800 987 5685

Open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm

Beneficiary Stories

Debt Advice

Ben had previously received help from NewstrAid and so when he found himself struggling to meet repayments on several credit cards, he decided to contact us to see if we could help.

Following a short chat about his current circumstances, it became clear that he was having trouble managing his finances. He was therefore advised to contact our free Debt Advice helpline to discuss the best ways to get on top of his bills and manage the repayments.

Ben said: 'Just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you for your help. I've had a few really good conversations with the debt advice foundation and I think we've found a good way forward.'

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.

NewstrAid works in partnership with the Debt Advice Foundation which is a registered national debt advice and education charity offering free, confidential support and advice to anyone worried about debt. They can help you understand which options are available to you and because they are a charity, you can be sure that the advice they give is impartial and based solely on what is best for you.

If you are struggling to keep up with credit card or loan repayments, have arrears or are facing legal action as a result of being unable to pay your creditors, their debt helpline advisors are standing by waiting to help.



Did you know?

During 2023, NewstrAid paid out more than **£93,000** in cold weather booster grants.

True or False?

NewstrAid offers access to a FREE Debt Advice Helpline?

True!

This is provided in partnership with the Debt Advice Foundation.

Regular Financial Help

NewstrAid provides regular financial help to retailers and newtrade colleagues who are facing constant hardship and are struggling to cover ongoing everyday living costs for themselves and their family.

Ongoing assistance is awarded to those whose circumstances are unlikely to change such as the elderly and those who are unable to work due to long term health issues.

Back in December we sent a winter payment to almost 500 of our regular beneficiaries just in time for Christmas.

As always, we received many lovely messages of thanks from the recipients and have included extracts from a couple of these below.

"With the receipt of my December benefit, I once again feel blessed that I can face the winter months in relative comfort... your kindness and invaluable help make me a better person, because regardless of my own problems, there will always be others in worse situations, who are not lucky enough to have your ongoing support. Thank you so very much."
NewstrAid Beneficiary

"Thank you very much for my regular benefit payment. It is obviously most welcome in the present climate as it will be a great help with the forthcoming winter bills. Once again thank you all."
NewstrAid Beneficiary

"I so appreciate your continued help. Without this I would seriously be struggling, especially with the cost of living being so bad. It's thanks to your help that I have managed to stay debt free for a good while now, and this takes a huge weight off my shoulders."
NewstrAid Beneficiary

Get Involved

NewstrAid are always looking for new volunteers to help with a range of functions including fundraising, marketing and visiting beneficiaries. Two of the most popular ways to get involved are as follows:



Join an Area Committee:

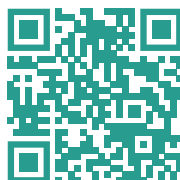
There are 13 Area Committees across the country and they have two roles; to raise funds for the work of the charity and to raise awareness.



Become an Almoner:

Almoners are volunteers, associated with the newtrade, who visit and telephone existing beneficiaries and new applicants on our behalf.

Full details on both of the above roles and all the other ways to 'Get Involved' as a NewstrAid volunteer can be found on our website <https://www.newstraid.org.uk/get-involved/> Alternatively contact the NewstrAid Team via email at: mail@newstraid.org.uk



Beneficiary Stories

Support for Retailers



Home Improvements

Amar, an ex-retailer, had only been awarded a handful of one-off grants from NewstrAid since becoming a beneficiary over 30 years ago. His almoner reported that he had been saving for a number of years for a new kitchen to be fitted and that although the main refitting had now taken place, some areas were in need of plastering which he could not afford at the current time.

After reviewing the case, funding for a plasterer was approved by the Welfare Committee chair who also suggested awarding a £250 Cost of Living Crisis Fund grant to allow Amar some breathing space and to purchase a few items for the new kitchen. Amar was incredibly grateful for these awards.



Electrical Goods

Jenny is a long-standing beneficiary with an 11 year trade connection as a retailer. During a recent almoner visit, it came up in conversation that her vacuum cleaner was not working very well, meaning it was difficult to properly clean her house. Her almoner suggested she provide some options of a new model to NewstrAid's welfare team, as this was something the charity may be able to help her to purchase.

Jenny provided the required information and after consideration, the Welfare Committee agreed to award her with a Samaritan Grant to cover the cost of replacing the Hoover.

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.

Christmas Raffle Thanks

A huge thank you to everyone who entered our Christmas raffle at the end of last year, both online and at our Carol Service in London. We managed to smash 2022's total by over £500 and raised more than £1,300 which was fantastic. All the winners have now been notified and we hope they are enjoying their prizes!



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 prize in January.

The question was: *What is the date of NewstrAid's Carol Concert this year?*
The correct answer was: *Monday 4th December 2023.*

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

What anniversary is NewstrAid celebrating this year?

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

All correct answers received before 31st March 2024 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/

Are you struggling to stay warm and cover your heating bills during the colder weather?

Have you been affected by the recent Floods?

NewstrAid is here to help and can provide **FINANCIAL**, **EMOTIONAL** and **PRACTICAL** support to retailers and their staff this winter.

NewstrAid 
The helping hand of the Newstrade

For more info visit www.newstraid.org.uk
call us FREE on 0800 917 8616
or email mail@newstraid.org.uk



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 or
Smiths News: 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/
- Email NewstrAid at: 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 Tel: 01279 879569 mail@newstraid.org.uk



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

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