

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 21 | Autumn 2024

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

It's hard to believe we are already in November and 2024 is drawing to a close. It's been a successful year for the NewstrAid team as we have been able to reach out and support many new applicants who have found the charity through colleague referrals, social media posts, the Lightning Reach portal or one of our many marketing campaigns.

The recently launched Retailer Support Scheme is one example of how new applicants are benefiting from NewstrAid. The support we have had from Better Retailing, The Fed and Asian Trader has enabled us to get the message to many more current and former retailers who are facing hardship or have been victims of retail crime. As a result we have seen a significant spike in new applications for the scheme.

The NewstrAid team attended the Better Retailing Festival in Birmingham recently. It was fabulous to meet many of the 200 retailers attending the festival



and it was particularly pleasing that almost everyone we spoke to was aware of the charity and how it helps retail colleagues who need our support.

Christmas is coming and so is the NewstrAid Carol Service on Monday 2nd December at St Bride's Church in London. We would love to see you there and details of how to secure your ticket are contained in this newsletter. If you can't attend, why not enter our Christmas Raffle with the chance of winning some fabulous prizes. Again, details can be found in this newsletter.

That's all from me. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and if you have any suggestions or ideas for content in future editions, please get in touch.

**Neil Jagger and
The NewstrAid Team**



Wellbeing Support

NewstrAid's FREE Wellbeing Website provides support on a wide variety of topics and includes resources on Work/Life Balance, Grief and Loss, Budgeting and even Sleep.

If you haven't already signed up, visit:
<https://newstraid.spectrum.life/login?org=news2021>



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Amazon Vouchers!



NewstrAid 
The helping hand of the Newstrade

We are the helping hand of the newstrade



**Financial
Support**



Grants



**Welfare
Volunteer
Home Visits**



**Support For
Disabled
& Carers**



**Help For
Children**



**State Benefits
Advice**



**Debt
Advice**



**Emotional
Support**

**Free
Helpline:**
**0800
917 8616**



www.newstraid.org.uk

Help for Victims of Crime

With retail crime sadly on the rise, this Autumn we are highlighting the support available to retailers who have experienced shoplifting and retail crime.

In October, you should have received a leaflet in your tote box featuring details of some of the retailers we have helped recently. In addition, you may have seen some coverage in the trade press.

Our **Retailer Support Scheme** can provide emotional, practical and financial assistance to retailers and their staff who experience shoplifting and retail crime.



Who can get help? Assistance is available to retailers and their staff involved in the sale and distribution of newspapers and magazines throughout the UK.



Free emotional support Our freephone emotional support helpline is manned by trained counsellors and our Wellbeing Website includes hundreds of mental-health resources.



Non-repayable financial grants Regular and one-off grants are available if your household income has been adversely affected and you are struggling to make ends meet.



Practical advice We can offer advice on claiming benefits if you need to stop working or you need to close your business, and we can also offer access to impartial debt advice.



Signposting to other agencies The NewstrAid team has a wealth of knowledge and can refer you to other organisations if the issues you are facing require additional support.

For more information, visit www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-support-scheme or call 0800 917 8616



Better Retailing Festival

We were delighted to meet many of you at the Better Retailing Festival in Birmingham on October 14th.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our stand to pick up some information about the support NewstrAid can provide to retailers and their staff.



Beneficiary stories

Retailer Support Scheme - Help For Victims of Crime



Shop assistant Remy was just 20 years old when he was stabbed in the neck by the elderly gentlemen he was helping with some heavy items. Thankfully Remy was discovered quickly by the shop owner, however, his injuries were very serious. His parents, who lived abroad, came to the UK to be with him whilst he made a slow recovery but they had nowhere to stay and Remy was not able to fund their stay himself.

NewstrAid awarded a grant to help with accommodation costs for his parents whilst he was in hospital and unable to work.

Beneficiary names have been changed.



Maria had taken on her husband's business after he was attacked and killed whilst working in the shop. Tragically, four years later she too was attacked and suffered terrible injuries. Although she was determined to go back to work, her children were terrified of losing another parent and persuaded her to close the shop and put it on the market. Maria had no income until the premises was sold.

NewstrAid funded some counselling for Maria who was suffering with mental ill health following her attack, as well as awarding a one-off grant to help with living costs whilst she looked for alternative employment.

Did you know?

All our financial grants are **NON-REPAYABLE** and will not affect other benefits you are receiving.

True or False?

NewstrAid can help with business debts.

False!

We cannot help with business related costs but we may be able to help if an incident has caused a drop in your household income.

Beneficiary stories



Retailer Support Scheme - Help During Illness

Sanam and her husband had run their newsagents for 20 years but when Sanam and her daughter were involved in a serious car accident, they had to close the business whilst they recovered. The family contacted NewstrAid as, with no income from the business, they were having to rely on credit cards to pay their priority household bills and were struggling to make ends meet.

NewstrAid were able to award a financial grant from the Retailer Support Scheme to help them cover their bills whilst the shop was closed and Sanam and her daughter recovered from their injuries.

Beneficiary stories



One-off Grants

Following changes to the payment date for their housing benefit, retired retailers Ian and Coleen, who already receive regular benefit from NewstrAid, fell into rent arrears and were finding it impossible to get back on track. Their Welfare Volunteer contacted NewstrAid to see if there was any help available.

Following an assessment of their situation, NewstrAid were able to award a one-off grant to clear the arrears for the couple who are now back on top of their finances.



Regular Benefit

Meera recently lost her husband to cancer and was caring for their autistic son who was struggling with his mental health following the death of his father. She was also in poor health herself and had very recently been in hospital for emergency surgery. The family were really struggling financially.

As her husband had worked in the newstrade for more than 10 years, Meera was eligible for support. Following a visit from a Welfare Volunteer, the family were awarded regular benefit along with a grant from the Cost of Living Crisis Fund.

Beneficiary names have been changed.

The Horizon Post Office Scandal

For more than a decade, the Horizon Post Office Scandal has impacted many small business owners across the country. During that time we have done our best to support those who also sell newspapers and magazines and so are eligible for assistance from NewstrAid.

We were delighted to hear from one such beneficiary who contacted us recently to let us know they no longer needed our support because they had finally received compensation from the Post Office Horizon Shortfall Scheme.

"I would just like to say that you have been fantastic to us over the last 10 years and I do not know what we would have done without you. Your help and support has kept us solvent and sane."

Help for those struggling to stay warm this winter

Each Autumn, NewstrAid distribute a Winter Comfort Grant to around 400 of the charity's beneficiaries, providing them with a financial boost to help them stay warm during the colder months. This year, in celebration of our 185th birthday, the grant amount was raised to £185 for each household. In addition, we are providing another small payment to those worst affected by the means testing of the Government's Winter Fuel Payment, to try and bridge the shortfall these pensioners are experiencing.

NewstrAid is part of the Lightning Reach 'Winter Warmth Network' which unites local government, housing associations, charities, energy companies etc to work



together against fuel poverty and support vulnerable individuals and families to find holistic financial support this winter.

If you are worried about staying warm this winter, don't forget we can provide small grants and practical advice to anyone from the newstrade who is finding it difficult to cope during the colder weather.



Winter Warmth Network

Christmas Carol Concert

Monday 2nd December at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street

As usual, our annual carol concert will be followed by wine and mince pies at the Bridewell Hall next door. To book your tickets visit our online ticket page <https://tinyurl.com/3e3myz8s> or email Joanne@newstraid.org.uk

Many thanks to all our sponsors who make this event possible.



Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas Raffle is back and there are lots of great prizes to be won. The draw will take place at the reception following the Carol Concert. Tickets cost £5 each or £10 for five.

Buy your tickets here www.newstraid.org.uk/xmas2024/
All proceeds will be used to support NewstrAid beneficiaries.



NewsTeam Show Support for NewstrAid

Newspaper and magazine delivery company NewsTeam raised more than £1,000 for NewstrAid during their recent staff conference.

Involving 60 staff members, the conference included a presentation from NewstrAid CEO, Neil Jagger, and concluded with a fundraising event in the evening which raised more than £1,000 for the charity's work.

Neil Jagger, CEO for NewstrAid, said:
"We are so grateful for the generosity of

those who attended and helped to raise over £1,000 for our work."

The event also saw three members of NewsTeam staff sign up to become Welfare Volunteers for NewstrAid.

Anyone interested in becoming a Welfare Volunteer for NewstrAid should visit our website for more information.

<https://www.newstraid.org.uk/welfare-volunteers/>



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 area committees does NewstrAid have across the UK?

The correct answer was: 13

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

If you receive a grant from NewstrAid do you have to pay it back in the future?

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

All correct answers received before 31st December 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/

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, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 7TD

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616

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



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