

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 22 | Winter 2025

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2025, let's take a moment to reflect on the achievements of NewstrAid in 2024. It was a milestone year for us, marking NewstrAid's 185th anniversary. We celebrated in style with a variety of events, including a Scavenger Hunt that saw 20 teams participating across the UK, a special lunch for our Welfare Volunteers, and a Christmas Hamper distributed to our regular beneficiaries.

Our Retailer Support Scheme (more details on this later) was relaunched with the help of Newtrade Media, The Fed, and Asian Trader. The NewstrAid team also attended numerous retail events throughout the year. Thanks to these efforts, we were able to award more than 100 grants to retailers facing hardship, a significant increase from the previous year.

With the support of Menzies, over 800 retailers joined NewstrAid's lotteries, and we were delighted to receive generous corporate donations totalling £60,000 from Tindle Newspapers, DC Thomson, and Menzies Distribution.

Looking ahead to 2025, we remain committed to supporting our newstrade colleagues who are experiencing difficult times. There are several ways you can get involved—whether participating in our lottery scheme, becoming a Welfare Volunteer, or getting involved with one of our Area Committees. If you know someone who could benefit from our support, please encourage them to get in touch so we can explore how we can assist.

Together, let's make 2025 an even more special year for our newstrade colleagues in need.

Neil Jagger and The NewstrAid Team

If you have any concerns about paying your energy bills or staying safe and warm this winter, please contact our welfare team.

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616
Email: mail@newstraid.org.uk
www.newstraid.org.uk



How your money helped in 2024

In 2024, NewstrAid...



Helped **1,597** people from the newspaper and magazine industry



Awarded **112** grants to support retailers through the Retailer Support Scheme



Paid out **£816,414** to assist newstrade households facing hardship



Supported **108** children in need



Helped **87** pensioners who missed out on the Government winter fuel payment

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

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Winter Support
for those in need

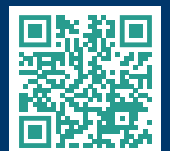
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Wellbeing
spotlight

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stories

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Win £150 of
Amazon Vouchers!



Free
Helpline:
0800
917 8616



www.newstraid.org.uk

Winter Support for those in need

In December 2024 we distributed a winter payment to almost 500 industry colleagues to help them through the colder months. This regular grant is one of three payments distributed throughout the year to those who are struggling to cover ongoing everyday living costs and whose circumstances are unlikely to change.

To mark the end of our 185th year we also despatched a special box of Christmas treats to these beneficiaries, in celebration of our special birthday. The Christmas box was filled with a selection of festive goodies and our Finance Director, Laura (pictured),



headed up the packing team to ensure that the special gifts were delivered in time for Christmas.

We received lots of lovely thank you cards and messages from the recipients who were very grateful for both the financial support and the box of treats.

"Thank you all so much for the box of goodies. What Treats!!!"

"The Christmas box is really lovely and there's so much there... Please pass on my thanks to everyone and a Happy Christmas to you all."

"Many thanks for the lovely letter and financial help enclosed, I was moved by your kindness, the gift helped me a lot. NewstrAid is a wonderful caring charity."

Special thanks go to InterSend for their support in storing, packing and distributing the boxes.

Practical Advice and Signposting available from NewstrAid

NewstrAid can offer a comprehensive advice service to anyone in need of support and when we cannot help directly, every effort will be made to refer people on to other relevant organisations.

Our Advice and Signposting service includes:

Debt Advice

A FREE, impartial debt helpline in partnership with UK debt charity the Debt Advice Foundation.

Tel: 0800 987 5685

State Benefits Advice

Guidance on working age schemes as well as benefits for those facing retirement and advice for those who work part time and have children or elderly relatives to care for.

Tel: 0800 917 8616

Support for the Disabled & their Carers

Guidance on state benefit entitlement as well as funding for equipment and adaptations.

Tel: 0800 917 8616

Call the welfare team on **0800 917 8616** for more information.

Wellbeing Spotlight

There is a wealth of information and support available through our Wellbeing Suite and in each edition of our newsletter this year, we will be highlighting a different resource that you can access, completely free of charge.

This month we focus on the Wellbeing Series which are filmed discussions covering a host of topics to enhance your mental, social, and financial health.

Each discussion can be found on the wellbeing website and lasts around 40 minutes. January topics ranged from 'Taking a break from social media' to 'Investment strategies for beginners' and



any of the discussions you have missed from past months remain on the site so you can access them when most convenient to you.

In addition, this section of the site also includes downloadable help sheets like the "Better Budgeting" one shown left.

To download the help sheet and access the full range of support available, simply register on the site and visit the Wellbeing Series pages. It is completely free to sign up.

<https://newstraid.spectrum.life/login?org=news2021>



Did you know?

During 2024, NewstrAid provided advice to

425
colleagues
from the newstrade.

True or False?

You have to pay to access resources on the Wellbeing website?

False!

All the resources are free, you simply have to sign up to use the site.

Volunteers wanted

We are looking to expand our team of Welfare Volunteers in 2025. Could you spare a few minutes to call or visit a newstrade colleague a couple of times a year?

Full training is provided, and you will be part of a fabulous group of volunteers who provide a much-valued service to people who are often lonely and really appreciate a chat with a colleague from the newstrade. For more information on what's involved visit <https://www.newstraid.org.uk/welfare-volunteers/> or call 01279 879569.

Retailer Support Scheme

Launched last May, we are delighted to report that this scheme has already awarded 112 grants to retailers who have experienced a drop in personal income as a result of an unexpected change to their circumstances.

Whether you are facing illness, bereavement, have been a victim of crime or are living with a disability, this scheme could help. Visit our website or call 0800 917 8616 for more information.

<https://www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-support-scheme/>



NewstrAid Retailer Support Scheme

Financial & emotional assistance for retailers and their staff



£50k awarded to retailers in 2024

For more information contact us for **FREE** on **0800 917 8616** or email: mail@newstraid.org.uk

www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-support-scheme/

NB. Financial support must be for commitments outside the business and will be subject to eligibility checks.

Beneficiary stories



One off 'in the moment' grants

Ex retailer Harry, who was recently widowed, contacted NewstrAid as he urgently needed to replace his oil tank which was over 24 years old and the only source of heat in his property.

As he was already a regular beneficiary and his financial situation was known to the charity, he was asked to get some quotes for a new tank for consideration. The Welfare Committee agreed to award a one off grant to replace the tank as well as a small grant from the Cost of Living Crisis fund to help pay for some oil.



Grants for Children

Retailers Shaheed and Kareena both worked full time but they were struggling to repay a debt that had built up when Shaheed had not been able to work for a long period of time following a near fatal car accident. Their daughter, who has learning difficulties, was due to start a new school and they were struggling financially.

Following an assessment, NewstrAid was able to award them with a children's grant to help with the school costs. They were also given details of the Debt Advice Foundation and access to the Wellbeing website for guidance on how to stay on top of their finances and find a manageable way to pay off their debt.



Cost of Living support

Shop assistant Zeinhab contacted us after her husband of 30 years left without warning. She and her daughter were relying on local food banks to help with the cost of living and her boiler had recently broken so she had no hot water or heating.

She was advised to complete a Cost of Living Crisis Fund application form and once this had been assessed, she was awarded a small grant from the Cost of Living fund to help with her bills during this difficult time.



Regular Benefit

Leo and Helen had worked in the family newsagents for many years, however Helen began to struggle to work full time hours due to ill health which was affecting her mobility. The couple's flat was old and cold with no central heating and just a gas fire in the living room. They contacted NewstrAid because they were struggling to make ends meet and were very worried about being able to stay warm over the winter months.

After a full financial assessment, it was clear that the couple's financial situation was unlikely to improve any time soon and that Helen's condition meant that she would not be able to return to full-time work. The couple had a long trade connection and so were awarded regular benefit (three payments a year) to give them some financial security moving forward. They were also awarded a winter comfort grant to help with their heating bills.

NB All beneficiary names have been changed

Christmas Raffle THANK YOU!



Many thanks to everyone who entered our Christmas Raffle in December which raised over £1,300 for the charity. The winners were notified immediately after the draw and received their prizes in time for Christmas.

All the proceeds from our raffles and events are very gratefully received as every penny is used to support colleagues from the trade who are struggling to make ends meet.



Why not remember NewstrAid in your will?

A properly drawn up Will allows you to decide exactly how you want things shared out amongst the people you love and the causes that you care about.

Every year, NewstrAid helps hundreds of people from the newstrade who are facing hardship. By remembering NewstrAid in your Will, you can help us continue to support people who are struggling to cope or who are going through a difficult time.

<https://www.newstraid.org.uk/wills-and-legacies/>



Thinking of leaving retail?

If you are thinking of leaving retail, don't forget that NewstrAid can offer financial help, emotional support and practical advice to anyone who has worked in the sale and distribution of newspapers and magazines.

Visit the website or call
0800 917 8616 for more information



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:

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

The correct answer was: *No.*

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

How many people did NewstrAid provide advice to in 2024?

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

All correct answers received before 31st March 2025 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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