

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 24 | Summer 2025

I recently had the pleasure of attending The Fed's Annual Conference in Birmingham. It was fantastic to reconnect with so many familiar faces and meet new colleagues from across the retail sector. I was truly heartened by the high regard so many of you expressed for NewstrAid and the work we do to support trade colleagues in times of hardship.

One concerning theme that echoed throughout the two-day event was the growing threat of **retail crime**. It's clear this is affecting retailers nationwide, and there were strong calls for government intervention to tackle this escalating issue head-on.

If you've been affected by retail crime, or are facing challenges such as **ill health, family crisis, or bereavement**, please remember that **NewstrAid's Retailer Support Scheme** may be able to help. Since its relaunch last year, we've awarded **149 grants** totalling **£67,400** to retailers and retail staff in need. Please do get in touch if you need our support.

We're also proud to share that **NewsTeam** has joined us as our latest

Corporate Sponsor, committing to support our work for the next three years. Their contribution and that of all our sponsors plays a vital role in ensuring we can continue to deliver assistance where it's needed most.

One of the most valued aspects of our support is our **Welfare Volunteer network**. A phone call or home visit from this friendly bunch can make a world of difference to someone who may be feeling isolated or overwhelmed. If you can spare a little time to join our team of volunteers, you'll find all the details on how to get involved inside this newsletter.

Lastly, we're excited to announce the return of our **Scavenger Hunt**, back by popular demand and bigger than ever! If you're looking for a fun and rewarding way to support NewstrAid, grab a few friends, register a team, and get ready for a great time. Full details are also in this newsletter.

Stay safe and remember, whether it's you or a colleague in need, NewstrAid is here to help.

Neil Jagger and The NewstrAid Team

Every quarter we update you on what the charity has been up to by distributing these newsletters via your tote boxes. However, we never underestimate the vital role you all play in everything we do.

Putting it simply, we would not be able to operate without the financial support we receive from you and thousands of independent retailers throughout the country.

So, with that in mind a huge **THANK YOU** on behalf of all our beneficiaries, Trustees, staff and volunteers.



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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Win £150 of
Amazon Vouchers!



Free
Helpline:
**0800
917 8616**



www.newstraid.org.uk

NewsTeam becomes NewstrAid's latest Corporate Sponsor

NewstrAid has welcomed leading distribution company NewsTeam Group (NTG) as its newest corporate sponsor.

The partnership includes an annual £20k payment to the charity and reinforces NTG's commitment to the industry at a time when NewstrAid's work is more vital than ever.

Neil Jagger, CEO of NewstrAid, said "We are thrilled to welcome NewsTeam as a corporate sponsor, especially given their close relationships with retailers, who remain among the primary beneficiaries of our support. Their backing helps us extend our reach and impact at a grassroots level."

NewsTeam Managing Director, Jon Kennett, added: "Having seen first-hand the incredible support NewstrAid provides to those in the news industry, NTG has decided to provide an annual and ongoing payment of £20k direct to the charity with immediate effect.

In addition to this direct funding, NTG will continue to support additional NewstrAid fundraising endeavours such as their Annual Fishing Competition and Lingfield Race days along with various other events and initiatives."



We help Shop Staff too!

You don't have to be a shop owner to benefit from NewstrAid support, financial, emotional or practical.

If you work in a shop selling newspapers and magazines you are still entitled to ask us for help.

Find out more on our website or call **0800 917 8616**

www.newstraid.org.uk



AGM and Area Committee awards



NewstrAid's AGM took place on June 25th at the Rubens Hotel in London. Following the meeting a number of trophies were presented to the Area Committees and individuals who had made significant contributions to the charity's work during 2024. Certificates were also given to each Area Committee recognising their contribution to NewstrAid through the 200 club lotteries. Find out more on our website: www.newstraid.org.uk/area-committee-awards-2025/

NewstrAid Retailer Support Scheme

An Employee Assistance Programme at no cost to you or your business.

Wellbeing Suite

Struggling to balance work and life?

Coping with retail crime?

Feeling the strain from challenging workdays?

NewstrAid's **Wellbeing Suite** offers resources to help manage emotional challenges and ensure you and your staff receive **the support you need** every step of the way.

24hr Wellbeing Helpline:
0808 196 2016

Our friendly counsellors* are available around the clock to offer confidential advice for any challenges you are facing, including:

- Anxiety & Stress
- Work-life balance
- Relationship & marital problems
- Grief and bereavement

Provided in partnership with
 spectrum.life



Wellbeing Website:

More than 400 hours of **free mental health and lifestyle resources**, including podcasts, self-paced courses, fitness tips, nutritious recipes, and exclusive discounts.

It's easy to access the online resources!

Sign up for FREE using organisation code: news2021
<https://newstraid.spectrum.life/login?org=news2021>

*All counsellors are clinically trained.



Did you know?

In 2025 we have already awarded grants totalling **more than £17,000** to retailers in need

True or False?

The NewstrAid Wellbeing Suite provides a free Employee Assistance Programme for retailers and their staff.

True!

Volunteers' Week 2025

Back in June, we proudly joined thousands of charities and voluntary organisations across the UK in celebrating the power of volunteering during Volunteers' Week.

Throughout the week on social media, we featured a different welfare volunteer every day and highlighted the personal fulfilment each gained from the role.

Katie Babooram, who manages the scheme, said: "Whether it's a friendly



"It feels good to know you are helping people in need."
Kevin



"We all have busy lives, but the reward of being fortunate enough to help others far outweighs any time you put into the role."
Darren

phone call or a home visit, these volunteers make a real difference, easing loneliness and acting as the charity's eyes and ears to ensure we're delivering the right help to those who need it most."

All the Welfare Volunteer stories can be found on our website.

www.newstraid.org.uk/our-volunteers



Interested in volunteering yourself?

Find out more here:
www.newstraid.org.uk/welfare-volunteers



Join in our Scavenger Hunt!



On **Thursday 11th September** we will be running our second nationwide Scavenger Hunt. The interactive, team-based event will include a series of app-based challenges for participants to complete in their local town.

Simply download the app, pay the entry fee and join us on Zoom for the 4.30pm briefing on the day.



Get Involved

Registration is now open!

Download the flyer
<https://tinyurl.com/2fff9thk>
for more information or contact
mail@newstraid.org.uk

Event sponsored by **NewsTeam**

How your money helps



RETAILER SUPPORT SCHEME

Trading retailer and single mum Kirsten was struggling to make ends meet and whilst she had only been trading for a short while, she had come to the difficult decision to sell up the business as she simply couldn't afford to keep going. Although she managed to secure a buyer for the business and lined up a new full-time job, her first pay packet was not due for a number of weeks and her finances were tight as she was coping on state benefits until starting the new role.

NewstrAid awarded her with a grant from the Retailer Support Scheme to help her make ends meet before she received her first pay packet.



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Retailer and business owner Ushma had been a victim of domestic abuse and was sole carer for her two children. When she ran into financial difficulties, she contacted the Debt Advice Helpline who provided her with some useful budgeting advice and guidance on which priority debts to pay off. However, she was still struggling financially.

To assist her whilst she tried to get back on her feet, NewstrAid awarded her a small grant from the Children's Fund to assist with her children's costs and a grant from the Retailer Support Scheme to help her with her ongoing bills.



GENERAL HARDSHIP FUND

James and his wife were already struggling financially when James had to take sick leave for which he only received statutory sick pay. The couple were trying to save money by keeping the heating switched off unless temperatures were in single figures. They had no savings or cash for emergencies and were struggling to make it through each month. Their shower had recently broken and so they had resorted to travelling half an hour to his Mum's house in order to use hers.

NewstrAid awarded a grant from the General Hardship Fund to help with the repair of the shower and provide some support for day to day living expenses whilst James was off sick.

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.

Area Committee events

Our 13 area committees, which are located across the UK, raise funds and awareness about the charity in their local area. Each committee is made up of volunteers from across the sector including retail.

Recent events have included:



Surrey & Sussex Charity Dog Walk

On 8th June a group in Sussex, including some furry friends, enjoyed a delightful walk along the river Ouse in Lewes. The 3-mile route offered a perfect blend of nature and tranquillity only disturbed when the dogs went for a swim! After the walk, a raffle was held before some well-earned refreshments at a local pub.

Thames Valley Golf Day

On 11th June, golfers of all skill levels from across the trade and their guests enjoyed a sunny day of laughter and camaraderie at Farleigh Golf course in Surrey. After bacon butties and coffees, the morning's team event was won by InPost Newstrade with individual prizes up for grabs over 18 holes in the afternoon.

East Of England Fishing Day

On 10th July, crews from retail, wholesale and publishing enjoyed a sunny day of fishing off Ramsgate harbour to raise money for NewstrAid. Organised by the East of England Area Committee, the day saw a mixture of beginners and seasoned anglers take part, with crew members from Smiths News, Goldkey Media and NewsTeam winning prizes for their catch on the day. A raffle following the event raised over £650 thanks to prizes generously donated by NewsTeam, InPost Newstrade, Smiths News, the Federation and Reach plc.



If you would like to join your local area committee please email: mail@newstraid.org.uk

Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY

£150 of Amazon Vouchers!

Thank you to everyone who entered our Spring edition prize draw and congratulations to the winner who received their prize in July.

The question was:

How many grants has NewstrAid awarded through the Retailer Support Scheme since its launch in 2024?

The correct answer was: 112.

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

On what date will this year's Scavenger Hunt take place?

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

All correct answers received before 30th September 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:
InPost / 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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www.facebook.com/newstraid.benevolentfund